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No. 150

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 15, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEPHANIE I. BICE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### NATIONAL ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK 2025

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, "Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me."

Madam Speaker, like many of you, I grew up singing that song. We sang it at camp, on holidays, and in school. It has no genre. It has been performed by country, soul, gospel, and Latin rock artists like Carlos Santana, Pat Boone, Johnny Mathis, Gladys Knight, Nat King Cole, and Mahalia Jackson.

Here is its history. It was written back in the 1950s for a group of teenagers from different religions and racial and economic backgrounds. They were brought together in California at a workshop designed to create friendship and understanding through education.

The teens said that singing helped them to create a climate where they would have world peace and understanding.

I have been thinking about that a lot this past week, especially in the context of education. This is National Arts in Education Week. It is a time to celebrate and recognize the importance of arts education.

Maybe you wonder why, Madam Speaker.

There are many reasons, and here are three:

Students do better in school when they have arts education.

Arts education inspires creativity, which is important for economic growth and innovation.

Importantly, the arts help heal, and students and our Nation need healing.

First, scores of studies over several years show that students do better in all subjects when they have arts education. Unfortunately, arts education is often seen as an extra, or it is cut because it is not included in the national test scores, but that is very shortsighted.

Arts education has a remarkable and positive effect on students' academic, social, and emotional outcomes, including higher test scores, more compassion for others, and fewer disciplinary problems. It also keeps students interested in school, improves attendance, and increases graduation rates.

Arts education benefits every student, even in preschool. A recent study shows that students in an arts-integrated preschool show three times the growth in vocabulary compared with a similar program without the arts. That is something to celebrate.

Second, arts education will prepare students for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Many people talk about the four Cs of job skills for the 21st century: collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking. I will add a fifth: confidence.

I visited Quatama Elementary School, an arts-integrated STEAM school in my home State of Oregon, where two sixth-grade students explained how they made a stop-motion animation film about cell division. Now, that was very impressive, and they were very confident. With more technology and artificial intelligence, students will need skills to observe, analyze, question, and consider multiple perspectives. It is not just answering questions, it is knowing what questions to ask. These skills are all enhanced with arts education.

There are millions of jobs in arts and culture sectors across the country. Madam Speaker, when you listen to music or watch a TV show or a movie or play a video game, those are all created by artists. However, collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking, and confidence help in any career and in life.

Finally, the arts heal, and we need that now. The brain research is there; the arts improve health and well-being.

A few years ago I met two students at Aloha High School in Oregon. They were in a music class. They were high school students, and I asked them what they liked about the class. They told me they had both lost family members during COVID, so they wrote a song about it. They said that when they sang, it made them feel better.

In fact, the former Surgeon General, Vivek Murthy, said that music is medicine, and research continues to show the healing power of the arts.

The VA runs a successful arts therapy program for veterans with PTSD. World-renowned soprano, Renee Fleming, recently released "Music and

□ 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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Mind", a new book about harnessing the arts for health and wellness. It is full of examples, stories, and research.

For today's children and young adults who will be tomorrow's leaders, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the bipartisan Arts Education for All bill. For those keeping track, it is H.R. 2485, and to fully fund the Every Student Succeeds Act, especially title I and title IV-A.

This is so students do better in school and become creative, critical thinkers. It is so our economy can thrive because the next generation will know how to collaborate, communicate, and come up with new ideas and new ways to solve problems. It is also so young people and people of every generation can learn more about each other's ideas and culture, and we can work on healing.

#### UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECOGNIZES PATRICK McHENRY

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a dear friend and former colleague, Patrick McHenry.

This week, the United States Capitol Historical Society is recognizing Patrick as a recipient of the Freedom Award.

The award serves to recognize and honor individuals and organizations that have advanced greater public understanding and appreciation for freedom as represented by the U.S. Capitol and Congress.

Madam Speaker, there is no question in my mind that Patrick McHenry deserves this award and continued praise for his service to the Nation and to North Carolina.

I congratulate Patrick on this recognition for his patriotism, for being a wonderful role model, and for his overall service to the Nation.

May God continue to bless Patrick, and may He continue to bless his wonderful family.

#### GREATER SANCTION PRESSURE ON RUSSIA

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, in 1958, former Prime Minister of Great Britain, Harold Macmillan, paraphrasing a remark from Winston Churchill 4 years earlier, left us with the great expression: jaw-jaw is better than war-war.

It is because of our great power that our rivals seek to end the American way of life through direct or gray zone war attacks or by cyber or economic destruction, and we certainly should routinely jaw-jaw with those great powers about our possible shared objectives and deep concerns.

However, in the instance of Czar Putin, he has never been interested in

jaw-jaw. He is a creature of his KGB upbringing. There was no jaw-jaw with the Chechens in 1999, and there was no jaw-jaw with the Georgians, only tanks, in 2008. There was no jaw-jaw, only propaganda, corruption, and death in Putin's approach to Ukraine during President Obama's administration.

Under President Obama, Putin conducted his overt and covert actions in Ukraine with some 10,000 Ukrainians killed in the fighting, including 2,000 civilians, yet Obama and his European allies simply looked down at their shoes. In 2014, Putin took Crimea without firing a shot. He is a disgrace to the rich, cultural history of the Russian people, and he has thoroughly corrupted a false and bordering-on-insane historic narrative regarding his threats and ambitions in Ukraine.

America, as the instrumental force inside the transatlantic alliance, remains ready to stand shoulder to shoulder to back this European resolve. This is something that neither Obama nor Biden would do. They simply took the easy way out by agreeing to whatever the weakest European voice was at the time.

This European attitude of: Here, let me hold your coat, has plagued and frustrated all American Presidents from Eisenhower to Trump. Jack Kennedy famously called out their unwillingness to pay for their own defense stating how wrong it was to let the Europeans live off the fat of the land in American economic and military security.

□ 1210

Madam Speaker, here is what needs to happen now. The United States and our European allies must agree that we will not support the immoral importation of Russian oil and gas. Europe has affordable, effective alternatives.

The United States and our European allies should work through sanctions and other forms of economic statecraft to communicate firmly and consistently to large non-European buyers of Russian oil and gas that the time to act is now.

Congress should act by immediately passing Congressman ZACH NUNN's bipartisan PEACE Act. This proposal would finally kneecap Russia's energy revenues, which still total some \$200 billion per year. This would impose secondary sanctions on the country, including on Gazprom and Rosneft.

It passed out of my committee, the Financial Services Committee, by a vote of 53-1. It would be the first intensive sanctioning of the Russian banking industry since the invasion.

Under Congressman NUNN's PEACE Act, the U.S. would take Russian sovereign assets that have been immobilized and let the Ukrainians use them to purchase defensive weapons.

Congress should also fully consider, debate, amend, and pass the sanction legislation offered by Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, which has 84 cosponsors, and its companion bill in the House spon-

sored by Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK.

The President should, as a part of a newfound backbone in the G7, fully implement the REPO Act, which I worked on diligently with former Foreign Affairs Chairman MICHAEL MCCAUL and Senate Foreign Relations Chair JIM RISCH. This measure, signed into law in 2024, puts direct and immediate heat on Russian sovereign assets held outside the country.

Here again, we need the Europeans to step forward. In the spring of 2024, the Council of Europe actually fully supported this idea with a 100 percent vote.

Congress should also authorize funding for the U.S. Geological Survey to fully review all Soviet-era geological surveys of Ukraine, both in the contested Donbas region, as well as free Ukraine, and provide Congress and the administration with an up-to-date assessment of the strategic minerals available for Ukraine's further economic development.

The time for action is now. Apparently, Putin needs more unified pressure to convince him that, in fact, jaw-jaw is better than war-war.

Let's not look back with regret that Congress did not act in the face of Putin's corrupt, catastrophic, and contemptuous regime that laughs in the face of his European neighbors and our American President.

#### HONORING JULIE TAGEN

(Mr. RASKIN of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary public service of Julie Tagen, who served over the last 9 years in a succession of critical posts for me: as my chief of staff, as my staff director when I was the ranking member of the House Oversight Committee, as my staff director when I was the ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee, and always as a cherished friend, a trusted adviser, and an active constituent.

A native of Philadelphia, who unfortunately never recovered from her love of Philly sports teams, Julie is a graduate of the University of Maryland. She is a devoted Terp, a lover of the Eastern Shore, and a true-blue Marylander.

She has had a dazzling career in politics and public service. A Capitol Hill veteran of 20 years, she has been a powerful force for good on the Hill who has always worked to bring our government closer to the needs and the values of our people.

I first met Julie in 2016 when I was running for Congress in Maryland's Eighth District. I was fortunate that Terry Lierman, who was chief of staff to STENY HOYER, introduced me to Julie from Silver Spring, and off we went.

I will never forget the long hike that Julie and I took through Rock Creek

Park as we discussed her storied career in public life working for former Congressman Alan Grayson, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Democratic National Committee, Howard Dean, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, and the Human Rights Campaign.

For this freshman Member of the House from Maryland in 2017, Julie quickly amassed a top-tier team and got our House office up and running. With my amazing district chief, Kathleen Connor, Julie saw my office through good times and bad, legislative victories and government shutdowns, the COVID-19 pandemic, the January 6 insurrection and the second impeachment trial, through sickness and through health, and all of the public and private trials and traumas of our days.

Julie has great political instincts and amazing historical awareness. She is unflappable. She is understated, and she is always kind. She has a marvelous sense of humor. She is quick to laugh. She always finds the time to help a friend or colleague in need, and she has been a mentor to generations of junior staffers. Countless young, eager public servants have sought her out for advice and insight. She has taken many of them under her wing and connected them with different ways to serve on Capitol Hill and our people in the government.

Finding someone like Julie is a very special thing on Capitol Hill. She can get almost anybody in Washington on the phone, but she always makes time for all of our constituents in Maryland's beautiful Eighth District.

I will miss her daily compassion, her wisdom, and her excellent advice. I will miss her irrepressible love for Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. We went to several concerts together.

I know Julie has many new adventures ahead of her and many great battles to fight with her amazing wife, Dee, and their two fantastic kids, Carly and Natasha.

On behalf of the people of Maryland's beautiful Eighth Congressional District, on behalf of all of the members of Team Raskin past and present, I thank Julie Tagen for her remarkable service to our country, our Congress, our people, and our democracy. We wish her Godspeed in all of her projects ahead.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH AGENDA

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of the National Defense Authorization Act that I proudly supported on the House floor just last week.

This bill will implement President Trump's Peace Through Strength agenda by restoring our military's lethality and accountability. Components of the

NDAA will bring an end to the dangerous, leftwing ideologies that have been incorporated into our military. For far too long, woke-ism has been prioritized in our military. This bill signals the change that once again puts our servicemembers first.

Additionally, the NDAA secures made-in-America military equipment to provide our troops with the best tools that are made by hardworking American hands, not by foreign companies. This bill tackles our Nation's weak supply chains and diminishing manufacturing by bringing American industries back to the table.

This legislation will save billions of taxpayer dollars by reducing inefficient and unnecessary funding for defense programs. The NDAA builds on efforts started in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act to stimulate our economy and to bring jobs back home.

□ 1220

#### ADDRESSING MISLEADING ADVERTISING FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, President Trump took executive actions last week to address misleading prescription drug advertisements.

This action will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that full and accurate information is available on the risks associated with prescription drugs. It works to prohibit pharmaceutical companies from promoting drug usage over lifestyle changes.

This will also eliminate the inappropriate intervention between a patient and the patient's doctor. Unregulated prescription drug advertising often misinforms the public about a drug's full risks and potential benefits.

This initiative by President Trump delivers on a promise to put Americans first by promoting a high degree of transparency. I strongly support President Trump's action to address this issue to ensure that patients can once again rebuild their trust in the American health system.

#### HONORING CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF FAYETTE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fayette Volunteer Fire Company of McAlisterville in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, for their 100 years of service.

The selfless spirit of the officers and members has characterized the company since it was founded in the summer of 1925. Whether responding to calls, participating in training, or sponsoring fundraising, these incredible volunteers engage at the highest level of commitment.

A faithful observance of duty has been the keystone of the Fayette Fire Company's mission. These initiatives will continue to positively influence current and future members.

On behalf of everyone in the 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the Fayette Fire Company of Juniata

County on its 100th anniversary and express my personal thanks for their distinguished legacy of community service.

#### RECOGNIZING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the milestone anniversary of the Williamsburg Public Library in Blair County, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate 75 years of service.

The methods that Blair County residents use to access information have changed since the library system was established in 1950. However, the mission of the library system remains the same: to provide materials and information services for lifelong learning, enrichment, and reading.

It has often been stated that libraries aren't about the books but about the people. Nowhere is that perspective more clearly evident, in form and function, than in the Williamsburg Public Library.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the residents of the borough of Williamsburg on this incredible milestone and express gratitude to the library team for their enduring commitment to promoting the joys of lifelong learning through reading.

#### CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF CHARLIE KIRK

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, first and foremost, I rise today with our deepest condolences for the family of Charlie Kirk.

Violence of any kind, especially violence that we have seen in this country way too often, should never be condoned. Whether it is the Kirk family or the families of the kids who were shot in Colorado, it is gut-wrenching and sorrowful that our Nation continues to go through this plague of gun violence.

Madam Speaker, it has been 13 years since Sandy Hook in my home State of Connecticut. It is long overdue for Congress to have a vote. Universal background checks are a commonsense way that we can deal with this, and I see no reason why we can't pass this as a Congress. Frankly, I believe that we should ban assault weapons, as well.

Hopefully, people in this body will come to their senses and have Congress take a vote, at a minimum, for the families who were impacted and for our future. That is all that is required of us.

Again, our hearts go out to the Kirk family and, certainly, the families of the students at Evergreen High School in Colorado.

#### DEMANDING ANSWERS FROM DOGE

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning because Democrats have introduced a resolution of inquiry to get the information

from the whistleblower who has talked about what happened to the more than 300 million Americans who depend on Social Security. This impacts all 435 congressional districts.

Madam Speaker, you have 161,000 Social Security recipients in your district. I know that you do not stand for having their personal information gone through, looked over, and utilized for anything that was unintended, let alone having been taken from its secure position in Social Security and stored in a cloud that no one from the Social Security Administration has access to. That makes everyone's information vulnerable.

Democrats are calling for DOGE to come before the Committee on Ways and Means so that they can tell the American people, number one, why they needed to look at their personal data to begin with and, number two, what they are doing with it and why they took it from a secure location.

No one on DOGE has been vetted by the United States Senate or Congress. None of them are accountable for what they are doing. For the President to allow them to have access to every American's personal data is an outrage.

Democrats and Republicans should join together and do our responsibility as a separate branch of government and the branch of government that has control over Social Security to make sure that these DOGE individuals are held accountable.

Democrats demand answers, and I am proud to be joined by RICH NEAL in making sure that, on the Committee on Ways and Means, the committee of cognizance for Social Security, we have DOGE come before us. If they are doing such a great job and are exposing all of this fraud and abuse, why aren't they in front of Congress to tell us about it? Democrats demand that DOGE be held accountable for what they have stolen and put into a cloud.

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#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

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

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#### PRAYER

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

God of justice and love, You have told us what is good, that we are to love You, O Lord our God, with all our

heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind. This first and greatest commandment is written on our hearts. This day and always may we follow Your law.

But help us to see that to fulfill this law, we are obliged to follow with as much devotion the second law, to love our neighbor as ourselves.

These days, when neighbors are often our opponents, when loving them requires us to set aside our anger, when our own wounds bind our hearts from reaching out, help us to realize that to follow Your law is to reorient ourselves to what it means to love You.

As You have blessed us, sinners that we are, may we bless those who have sinned against us. As we stand in debt to Your mercy, may we show mercy to those who have taken something from us. And as we ourselves have violated Your law, yet You love us. May we love even those neighbors who have deeply offended us.

To Your laws we dedicate our lives, and in Your love may we live them.

In Your merciful name we pray.  
Amen.

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#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

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#### CHARLIE KIRK: MARTYR FOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a consequence of liberal, hateful bias and bigotry in campus academia is deranged radicalization, leading to violence as "the ends justify the means."

In 2009, David Horowitz, in his book "One-Party Classroom," warned of indoctrination. The solution is mutual respect to disagree, ending liberal discrimination.

Sadly, I have endured liberal intolerance, with no philosophical diversity of faculty, where liberalism is dictated. Yelling "fascism" foolishly 3,000 times by liberals has resulted in the assassination of Charlie Kirk, as he courageously proclaimed God, family, country. He is a martyr for freedom.

President Donald Trump and his supporters are the opposite of fascist, national-socialist. Conservatives implement limited government, expanded freedom, and peace through strength, devolving power from Washington to the people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, speaking lovely as Iranian-designed Russian drones invade Poland, also Romania Saturday, threatening American troops.

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#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McDOWELL). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. BOYLE, Pennsylvania

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#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. CUELLAR, Texas  
Mr. CORREA, California  
Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ, Texas  
Ms. ESCOBAR, Texas  
Mr. CARBAJAL, California

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#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas) at 3 p.m.

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#### 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.

#### EXTENSION OF SBIR AND STTR AUTHORITY

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5100) to extend the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 5100

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

#### SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF SBIR AND STTR AUTHORITY.

(a) SBIR.—Section 9(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(m)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(b) STTR.—Section 9(n)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2025” and inserting “through fiscal year 2026”.

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

(a) PHASE FLEXIBILITY.—Section 9(cc) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(cc)) is amended by striking “through 2025” and inserting “through 2026”.

(b) COMMERCIALIZATION READINESS PROGRAM FOR CIVILIAN AGENCIES PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 9(gg)(7) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(gg)(7)) is amended by striking “fiscal year 2025” and inserting “fiscal year 2026”.

(c) ACCELERATED AWARDS.—Section 9(hh)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(hh)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(d) PHASE 0 PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 9(jj)(7) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(jj)(7)) is amended by striking “fiscal year 2025” and inserting “fiscal year 2026”.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE.—Section 9(mm)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(mm)(1)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(f) INCREASED MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—Section 9(qq)(3)(I) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(qq)(3)(I)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(g) COMMERCIALIZATION ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAMS.—Section 9(uu)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(uu)(3)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(h) DUE DILIGENCE PROGRAM.—Section 9(vv)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(vv)(3)(C)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(i) STTR PARTICIPATION OF MILITARY RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 9(yy)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(yy)(2)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(j) BUDGET CALCULATION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 9(zz)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(zz)(3)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5100. This bill extends two programs critical for American innovation, the Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, and the Small Business Technology Transfer, STTR, programs, for 1 year.

I thank my colleagues, Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ and Chairman BABIN and Ranking Member LOFGREN of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for cosponsoring this bipartisan legislation.

Since the 1980s, the SBIR and the STTR programs have fueled American innovation by providing early-stage funding to small businesses. These investments have led to groundbreaking technologies that grow our economy and strengthen our national defense.

SBIR and STTR programs have been regularly reauthorized by Congress to include many reforms to drive small business. However, the programs will expire at the end of this month, on September 30, just 15 days away.

As my colleagues and I continue to work toward the goal of a long-term reauthorization, one thing has become clear: Time is working against us. We cannot allow these critical programs to expire. Failing to extend these programs would be a disservice to small businesses across the country. Put simply, American innovators cannot operate in uncertainty, and national security cannot afford an innovation gap.

As chairman of the Small Business Committee, I am committed to ensuring these programs remain strong and uninterrupted. H.R. 5100 will allow Congress the additional time to work toward a meaningful long-term and bipartisan reauthorization while also ensuring that small businesses can continue to do what they do best, and that is innovate.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues in the House again for joining me in reintroducing this legislation. Their partnership shows the SBIR and the STTR programs' strong bipartisan support and our shared commitment to keeping America at the forefront of discovery.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5100, a simple bill to extend the

Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs for an additional year.

Over the course of its 40-year history, the SBIR and STTR have been among the Federal Government's most effective engines for driving innovation. By channeling a small portion of research and development budgets into highly competitive awards, the government is able to utilize our nimble and innovative small businesses to drive forward technological innovation and meet critical agency needs.

These programs have been endlessly scrutinized since their founding, but economic analysis has shown an overwhelmingly successful program with an outsized return on investment for taxpayers.

Unfortunately, the SBIR and STTR programs are set to expire on September 30. If these programs are allowed to expire, agencies would lose the ability to issue new awards, cutting off a vital source of early-stage funding for small businesses. It would also delay commercialization of promising technologies and weaken the United States' competitiveness with foreign adversaries.

Despite this fast-approaching deadline, negotiations for a comprehensive reauthorization are ongoing, and while I attempted to start the process early by introducing a bill last December, formal negotiations didn't start until last month.

There are many areas of overlapping priorities between the majority and minority on this bill. We share a desire to lower the barrier to entry for new entrants and bridging the valley of death for the most promising ideas.

However, there are some outstanding issues we are working through that will take additional time. That is why I am grateful to our chairman, Mr. WILLIAMS, as well as Chairman BABIN and Ranking Member LOFGREN for their support for a 1-year extension.

This program has always been bipartisan, and it is imperative that we continue to work together to bridge our differences in a thoughtful manner. A 1-year extension is the most responsible course forward, one that five out of six corners agree on. It gives agencies and small businesses the certainty they need, while giving us adequate time to make the best decisions we can.

While we have heard arguments that this could be added to the NDAA, the timeline simply does not make sense. The programs will expire long before final passage of the NDAA, and doing so will result in a lapse in the program, something that has never happened before.

A 1-year extension does not mean that the work ends. We will continue to be at the table, ready to negotiate and ultimately pass a bipartisan, bicameral comprehensive reauthorization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), my good friend and the chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS, my good friend from Texas, as well, for yielding.

The Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, and Small Business Technology Transfer, STTR, programs are the Federal Government's largest source of funding for small businesses focused on early-stage technology development and commercialization.

They offer small businesses an opportunity to participate in Federal research and development, facilitating the transition of federally funded R&D into innovative products and services. For this reason, these programs are often referred to as America's seed fund, as they invest in research and emerging technology ideas that may be too risky for private sector funding.

These SBIR and STTR programs are funded from set-asides of the extramural research budgets at Federal agencies, providing billions of dollars in awards every year. This substantial investment by taxpayers necessitates diligent oversight by Congress to ensure that these programs are operating efficiently and are protected from theft and abuse by our adversaries, such as the Chinese Communist Party.

The reauthorization Congress passed in 2022 for these programs addressed some vulnerabilities, but more work needs to be done. Both the Small Business Committee and the Science, Space, and Technology Committees are dedicated to addressing these issues and ensuring that taxpayer funds support American small businesses rather than being funneled to foreign adversaries.

While we continue our work, it is critical that we do not allow this vital program to expire. Therefore, we have introduced this 1-year extension of SBIR and STTR programs and encourage all Members to vote "yes" on this bill.

I look very much forward to working with Chairman WILLIAMS, Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman ERNST, Ranking Member MARKEY, and Ranking Member LOFGREN to get a full reauthorization completed and through Congress as soon as possible.

□ 1510

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by reminding everyone that this is a bipartisan program that has never seen a lapse in its over 40-year history. The House is taking the responsible step of extending this program for a year to give us time to negotiate a longer-term reauthorization.

I appreciate the partnership of Chairman WILLIAMS and of my colleagues on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Chairman BABIN and Rank-

ing Member LOFGREN, for keeping this vital source of capital for our Nation's most promising innovators alive. I look forward to continuing discussions in the coming weeks and months to reach a bipartisan agreement.

Allowing this program to lapse is simply not an option. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this common-sense measure.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation to continue uplifting small business innovation across America.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5100, a bill that I cosponsored along with the Chair of the Science Committee, Representative BABIN, and the Chair and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, Representatives WILLIAMS and VELÁZQUEZ. Like my colleagues, I am a strong supporter of the SBIR and STTR programs and it is my priority to see these programs continue without disruption.

For more than 40 years, and Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR), and later its companion program the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR), have been contributing to U.S. leadership in technological innovation through support for small business research and development.

My home state of California has long been one of the Nation's leading states for science and technology. Because of our rich and diverse culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, our small companies—across sectors—have successfully competed for SBIR/STTR funds since the programs' inception. In 2022, California companies won a total of \$887 million in SBIR/STTR awards. I celebrate the success of California's small businesses. But more importantly, I celebrate the return on investment (ROI) that benefits the entire Nation. While estimates vary depending on the scope and methodology of each study, the studies I have seen report a ROI of at least 10:1. That is a remarkable win for the taxpayer for a relatively small investment.

While the Small Business Administration administers the overall program, it is the science agencies themselves that solicit and fund SBIR/STTR award proposals. As the Ranking Member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I am familiar with the diversity of our Federal scientific enterprise and the vast differences in missions and needs across our science agencies, including the Department of Defense (DOD). So, it is no surprise to me that over the lifetime of the SBIR/STTR programs, each agency has evolved the particulars of their individual programs to align with their specific needs. That also applies to how they approach risk assessment in their due diligence programs. While clear, standard definitions are an important goal that I share, an agency like NSF is rightfully going to assess and mitigate risk differently than an agency like DOD.

It is with that context in mind that I have serious concerns about the INNOVATE Act as currently proposed by the Chairs of the House

and Senate Small Business Committees. Even DOD itself has flagged significant concerns. I do support a long-term comprehensive reauthorization of the program, and I am committed to taking a serious look at where the program has challenges and needs good governance updates. I am also committed to discussing the opportunities to continue to strengthen the outcomes of the program, including by doing more to attract new entrants across the Nation. I have instructed my staff accordingly and they have been at the table for more than a month negotiating in good faith with staff from the other committees. However, we remain far apart on certain key issues and simply need more time to work through them. At the moment, we don't even have agreement on the fundamentals. What I do not accept is a repeat of the 2022 process, in which one corner out of six effectively dictated the process and rammed through a bill that narrowly reflected only their priorities and completely omitted Science Committee priorities, among others.

That is why I am encouraging all of my colleagues, in the House and the Senate, to support a clean one-year reauthorization of the SBIR/STTR programs. We must be allowed time to engage in the kind of thoughtful deliberation and debate that the public and the stakeholders expect from us before we enact monumental changes to a program that has been an undisputed success for more than 40 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5100.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MIRACLE ON ICE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 452) to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Miracle on Ice Congressional Gold Medal Act".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress finds the following:*

(1) *The United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team competed at the 1980 Winter*

Olympics, officially the XIII Olympic Winter Games and known as the 1980 Lake Placid games, from February 13 to 24, 1980, in Lake Placid, New York.

(2) Team USA, comprised of collegiate players, defeated the defending Olympic champion the Soviet Union 4–3 on February 22, 1980, in the final round of the 1980 Winter Olympics men's ice hockey tournament.

(3) The 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team roster included—

- (A) Bill Baker (Grand Rapids, Minnesota);
- (B) Neal Broten (Roseau, Minnesota);
- (C) Dave Christian (Warroad, Minnesota);
- (D) Steve Christoff (Richfield, Minnesota);
- (E) Jim Craig (North Easton, Massachusetts);
- (F) Mike Eruzione (Winthrop, Massachusetts);
- (G) John Harrington (Virginia, Minnesota);
- (H) Steve Janaszak (Saint Paul, Minnesota);
- (I) Mark Johnson (Madison, Wisconsin);
- (J) Rob McClanahan (Saint Paul, Minnesota);
- (K) Ken Morrow (Flint, Michigan);
- (L) Jack O'Callahan (Charlestown, Massachusetts);
- (M) Mark Pavelich (Eveleth, Minnesota);
- (N) Mike Ramsey (Minneapolis, Minnesota);
- (O) Buzz Schneider (Grand Rapids, Minnesota);
- (P) Dave Silk (Scituate, Massachusetts);
- (Q) Eric Strobel (Rochester, Minnesota);
- (R) Bob Suter (Madison, Wisconsin);
- (S) Mark Wells (St. Clair Shores, Michigan);

and

(T) Phil Verchota (Duluth, Minnesota).

(4) The "Miracle on Ice" United States and Soviet Union final round game aired on tape delay on Feb 22, 1980, from Lake Placid and drew 34,200,000 average viewers. The match is remembered as a "miracle" as collegiate ice hockey players defied expectations in defeating a Soviet team that won 4 consecutive gold medals dating back to 1964.

(5) Team USA defeated Finland 4–2 in its final game to win the gold medal, its first gold medal since 1960 in men's ice hockey.

(6) Herb Brooks, the last player cut from the 1960 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team that won gold at Squaw Valley, guided the 1980 team to its historic gold medal. Known as a motivator, Brooks molded a team built around hard work, belief in oneself, and belief in teammates. He reminded his team when they played the Soviets, "you were born to be hockey players, everyone one of you . . . and you were meant to be here".

(7) The tournament occurred at a time when the United States was struggling with rampant stagflation, high gas prices, hostages held in Iran, and increased tensions with the Soviet Union whose invasion of Afghanistan led to the boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics.

(8) The Miracle on Ice was a turning point for ice hockey in the United States. The game was named the greatest sports moment of the 20th century by Sports Illustrated.

(9) The historic win brought ice hockey to the front-page of newspapers everywhere, and forever opened the door to the National Hockey League for players born in the United States. The impact of the event was far-reaching and is still being felt today.

(10) Since 1980, interest in the United States in the sport of ice hockey has increased exponentially. Registrations with USA Hockey have increased by nearly 400 percent since 1980 from 136,000 to over 564,000, and the number of National Hockey League players from the United States has increased from 72 in 1980 to 245 in 2024.

### SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of 3 gold medals of appropriate design to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic

Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) DISPOSITION OF MEDALS.—Following the award of the gold medals under subsection (a)—

(1) one gold medal shall be given to the Lake Placid Olympic Center in Lake Placid, New York, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate;

(2) one gold medal shall be given to the United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum in Eveleth, Minnesota, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate; and

(3) one gold medal shall be given to the United States Olympic & Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate.

### SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

### SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

### SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 452, a bill that awards three Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking Congressman STAUBER and

the numerous original sponsors for getting this important bill to the floor today.

"Great moments are born from great opportunity." With those words, Coach Herb Brooks rallied the young, underdog U.S. hockey team during a dark chapter of the Cold War, a time when Americans faced nuclear threats, economic uncertainty, and a crisis of confidence.

The Soviet Union's hockey team had dominated for decades, beating the U.S. in their last 12 matchups, including a crushing 10–3 exhibition win just 3 weeks earlier. No one expected the Americans to win.

However, on February 22, 1980, in Lake Placid, Team USA shocked the world, defeating the Soviets in a stunning upset.

It wasn't just a hockey game. It was a symbolic victory for democracy, resilience, and national pride.

Just days later, they claimed Olympic gold for the United States.

These 20 young men reminded a shaken Nation that its greatest moments weren't in the past. They were still within reach.

Mr. Speaker, the players of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey Team are deserving of these Congressional Gold Medals as the highest recognition of national appreciation for their determination, courage, and patriotism.

My hope is that what this team achieved on that ice in 1980 will continue to inspire Americans today and for generations yet to come.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill. I even remember where I was at that very moment.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of concurring in the Senate amendment and passing H.R. 452, the Miracle on Ice Congressional Gold Medal Act, sponsored by our friend, PETE STAUBER.

This bill was considered on the floor of this House, and I was pleased to manage it on the Democratic side, back on April 28. We sent an excellent bill over to the Senate, and for the first time ever, the Senate actually improved a House bill. Now, it is appropriate for us to concur in their amendment, pass the bill, and send it to the President.

Today, we vote to honor the legacy of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team and their victory that inspired a country at the height of the Cold War.

This legislation awards three Congressional Gold Medals. Each of these gold medals will be displayed at different locations for community members and visitors to commemorate for generations to come. These locations are the Olympic Center in Lake Placid, New York; the Hockey Hall of Fame Museum in Eveleth, Minnesota; and the Olympic & Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs.

The victory we are recognizing today took place on February 22, 1980, when

the U.S. hockey team heroically defeated the Soviet Union 4-3 at the Lake Placid Winter Olympic Games.

The talented yet untested U.S. team was initially deemed the underdog. Many of them were young college players and had only played together for a few months.

Leading up to the game, the U.S. players took part in a 7-month training program designed to confront a Soviet team considered to be the best conditioned hockey team in the world. However, through steadfast determination and grit, the U.S. team won.

Even decades later, when our country is facing political division and economic difficulties, I hope these events can serve as a reminder that we can overcome great challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the sponsor of this bill and urge my colleagues to support the passage of this measure.

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

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, normally, when you come up to talk about a bill, you raise the podium here and put your papers down. Mr. Speaker, when you talk about the 1980 Olympic game, I don't need any notes. I don't need any recollection.

"Eleven seconds. You've got 10 seconds. The countdown is going on right now! Morrow, up to Silk. Five seconds left in the game. Do you believe in miracles? Yes!"

Friday, February 22, 1980, the game started at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, 4 p.m. Central Standard Time, where I was a bantam hockey player, playing in the Pine Valley Ice Shelter. We had one of our parents come out of the locker room, "We beat the Russians. We beat the Russians," because it was on tape delay.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud for this body to pass this. As my colleague, Mr. SHERMAN, said, it is also coming from the Senate. It came from the Senate.

The fact of the matter is, as Chairman WILLIAMS says, it was more than a hockey game. It was the height of the Cold War. The United States needed that lift, and those American heroes gave us that lift.

Those 12 Minnesotans gave us that lift. Coach Herb Brooks from the University of Minnesota gave us that lift. All of those players standing on that gold medal platform on Sunday, February 24, all of them on that small platform, gave America the lift.

A couple of weeks ago, I had dinner with some of the members of the gold medal team. Captain Mike Eruzione said this to me: Pete, that hockey game gave me life. Had we not won, I was going to be either a firefighter, police officer, or go into the military, but that game changed my life. I made a lot of money. This Congressional Gold Medal will be the cherry on top for our team.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their unwavering support to get this across the finish line. It was 40-plus years since they did that, and 3 weeks, 2½ weeks before these games, the Soviets dominated them at Madison Square Garden.

□ 1520

Mr. Speaker, named after Coach Herb Brooks, we call them Herbies. Blue line back, red line back, far blue line back, and far goal line back are Herbies.

Who do you play for? Who do you play for? Team USA. That name on the front of the jersey meant more than the name on the back—USA.

Dare I say, Mr. Speaker, we in Congress have to do that same thing. Who do we play for? Who do we play for? The United States of America.

I thank my friend and colleague from upstate New York, Representative ELISE STEFANIK, because she was originally going to carry this bill. Mr. Speaker, she let me carry it.

After a conversation with her, I said: ELISE, Minnesota is the State of Hockey. Herb Brooks comes from the State of Hockey. There were 12 Minnesotans. There was Duluth hometown hero Phil Verchota. There was Mark Pavelich, John Harrington, Buzz Schneider, and Bill Baker. The list goes on and on from our great State of Minnesota.

ELISE STEFANIK said: Pete, you have made a great statement. Carry that bill.

Representative STEFANIK has no idea what it means to me to be able to deliver this bill with my colleagues across the House floor. That game meant more to this country than those heroes realized. Yes, it was just a hockey game, but it was a hockey game that we needed to win at that moment at that time for this great Nation.

Remember, Mike Eruzione scored with 10 minutes left. The Soviets were just pressuring us. What did Coach Herb Brooks say up and down the ice? He said: "Play your game. Play your game."

They were the best conditioned. They were a team. Nobody was going to win that game other than the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, hockey is a great game. I know that my good friend and colleague, Chairman WILLIAMS, thinks, probably rightfully so, that baseball is America's pastime. For anyone who comes from Minnesota, hockey is America's pastime. We banter back and forth. I actually think he is right, but give me some grace.

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, to KEVIN CRAMER and CHUCK SCHUMER, who delivered this across the aisle in the Senate, I think and believe that we in America, especially with the events that have happened recently, that name on the front of our jersey means more than the name on the back. On the front of our jersey, it says: "USA."

Those college kids on that Friday had no idea of the impact they were

going to have across this great Nation. Those men went on to do great things. Some went on to win Stanley Cup championships, such as Kenny Morrow; my hero, Neal Broten, from Roseau, Minnesota; my hero, Mark Pavelich, from Eveleth, Minnesota; and my other hero, Phil Verchota, from my hometown of Duluth. It was integrity, honesty, hard work, dedication, and the will to win.

Mr. Speaker, the name on the front of our jersey, USA, means more than the name on the back. I am thrilled to be able to vote on this piece of legislation. These Olympic heroes deserve this because, as Captain Eruzione says, it will put the cherry on top of their accomplishment. It is the highest honor we can give.

As was alluded to earlier, the Olympic Center in Lake Placid is going to have a Congressional Gold Medal. The United States Olympic & Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs will have a Congressional Gold Medal. Yes, the United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum in Eveleth, Minnesota, will have a Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited about this opportunity. Hockey is a great game. This changed the history of our country. We can never forget what it meant to us.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have never heard a speech on the floor of this House spoken with such enthusiasm. As a Los Angeles Dodgers fan, I do have to disagree. America's pastime remains baseball. We will see that at 10:10 eastern time, when the Dodgers defeat the Philadelphia Phillies tonight.

This legislation honors the members of the 1980 U.S. Men's Olympic Hockey Team, whose hard-fought work and commitment reigned a country at the height of the Cold War. In recognizing this victory, I hope their legacy will continue to inspire us.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to reiterate the importance of the 1980 United States Olympic Hockey Team uniting during such a challenging and turbulent period in American history. Their unforgettable victory solidified the Nation's legacy of excellence both on the ice and on the global stage. We owe these men a debt of gratitude for transforming and shaping the landscape of American hockey over the past four decades.

I thank Congressman STAUBER for his leadership and his speech. It was very good. I thank all of my colleagues in advance for supporting this measure.

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 Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the

rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 452.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW ACT

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3427) to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3427

*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 "Water Resources Technical Assistance Review Act".*

##### SEC. 2. GAO REPORT ON CLEAN WATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate a comprehensive review of all covered technical assistance.

(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The Comptroller General shall include in the review required under subsection (a) the following:

(1) A description of all covered technical assistance available to States, Tribes, local governments, and non-governmental organizations, including—

(A) the regions and populations that are served through the provision of technical assistance; and

(B) a summary of the activities and actions carried out through covered technical assistance during the 5-year period preceding this Act.

(2) A comprehensive review of how the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, through the Water Technical Assistance initiative (known as "WaterTA initiative"), identifies, selects, and partners with technical assistance providers to support communities, including—

(A) a description of the criteria, evaluation process, and contracting mechanisms used for selecting such providers;

(B) a description of the extent of coordination with State, Tribal, and regional partners in the selection and deployment of such providers;

(C) a description of how such providers are matched to meet the needs of local communities, including any pre-engagement scoping activities or community consultations;

(D) a description of how such providers identify communities in need of technical assistance, including economically distressed communities, and conduct outreach to such communities;

(E) a description of the scope and types of assistance delivered through such initiative; and

(F) a list of communities that received technical assistance support through such initiative, including the type and cost of assistance received by each such community and a summary of the outcomes associated with the provision of such assistance.

(3) *An analysis of any duplication of covered technical assistance available through multiple programs of the Environmental Protection Agency.*

(4) *An evaluation of how the provision of covered technical assistance builds capacity in com-*

*munities to access other water infrastructure programs carried out by the Administrator.*

(5) *An assessment of the needs of economically distressed communities eligible to receive assistance under a clean water infrastructure program carried out by the Administrator that are not addressed through covered technical assistance.*

(6) *An evaluation of how the Administrator carries out covered technical assistance in coordination with other Federal agencies providing technical assistance related to water infrastructure.*

(7) *An evaluation of how covered technical assistance supports communities in understanding, identifying, and implementing alternative and cost-effective technologies and features of treatment works that achieve long-term savings and improved outcomes in addressing water quality challenges.*

(c) *REPORT.*—Upon the completion of the review conducted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the findings of such review; and

(2) any recommendations to improve covered technical assistance.

(d) *PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE.*—Not later than 90 days after the Comptroller General submits the report required under subsection (c), and annually thereafter for a period of 5 years, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a plan detailing any actions the Administrator has taken to comply with the recommendations contained in such a report.

(e) *COVERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEFINED.*—In this section, the term "covered technical assistance" means a technical assistance authority, initiative, or program of the Environmental Protection Agency that is related to clean water infrastructure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TAYLOR) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

□ 1530

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 3427.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 3427, the Water Resources Technical Assistance Review Act, would instruct the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, to conduct a study reviewing the EPA's technical assistance programs.

Access to clean and safe water should not be determined by where you live, Mr. Speaker. During my time in Congress, I have heard from elected officials across southern Ohio about the difficulties they face navigating the Federal grant process due to budgetary constraints, insufficient time, and lack

of technical expertise. This bill would change that by helping Appalachian regions get connected to resources they need to join the modern economy.

The EPA established technical assistance programs to connect rural communities like those in my district and across the United States with experts to help them navigate the Federal funding process to obtain water infrastructure.

Unfortunately, some of these technical assistance programs have failed to provide adequate assistance, hindering communities from obtaining critical water infrastructure funding.

My bill would direct the GAO to conduct a comprehensive study reviewing how the EPA identifies, selects, and partners with technical assistance providers, and provide recommendations on how the EPA can improve these technical assistance programs.

Once concluded, the EPA must submit a plan to Congress on how it intends to reform its technical assistance programs, helping connect communities with necessary resources to build and repair critical water infrastructure.

I am proud to lead legislation that helps alleviate the struggles that rural communities face in obtaining the infrastructure needed to survive. When water infrastructure ages well past its intended lifespan, Congress should support and advocate for programs that help rural communities, not leave them behind.

I thank my friend and colleague, Representative FIGURES, for joining me in this effort, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation to help communities across the United States receive the assistance they need to obtain water infrastructure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3427, as amended, a bill which I am co-leading with my colleague from Ohio (Mr. TAYLOR). I thank Congressman TAYLOR for his leadership on this issue and for recognizing the importance of this issue.

This bill directs the Government Accountability Office to review the technical assistance programs created to help underserved, rural, and Tribal communities obtain critical investment for their water infrastructure needs.

In March, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment heard testimony from witnesses across the country on how these programs are critical to economically disadvantaged communities and rural communities.

Without the seed money and discretion provided by EPA, many underserved, rural, and Tribal communities simply do not have the staff, the resources, or the capacity to even apply for Federal assistance when it is available.

Unfortunately, in its fiscal year '26 budget request, the administration proposed to virtually eliminate funding for clean water-related infrastructure projects, but it also proposes to cut the Technical Assistance for Treatment Works Grant Program by over 60 percent.

These cuts ignore the water infrastructure needs of our most vulnerable communities, which includes a large part of the communities that I have the privilege of serving in Alabama. Rural communities, Tribal, and economically distressed communities in every State need this sort of assistance.

The message from the administration to these communities is: We will no longer help you meet your critical infrastructure needs. You are on your own.

I don't think that should be the case. Mr. Speaker, many of the communities that I have the privilege to represent historically have been passed over for critical infrastructure investments, and they need these investments, communities like Prichard, Alabama, and Greenville, Alabama, who are struggling with clean water issues and infrastructure issues as we sit here today.

The technical assistance provided by the EPA to be able to affordably meet their basic clean water and drinking water needs is something that they must have.

This GAO study will help identify how EPA implements the technical assistance programs established in the Clean Water Act, as well as any essential services for economically distressed, rural, and Tribal communities that continue to go unmet through these programs.

My hope is that these findings will, again, demonstrate how critical clean water infrastructure and technical assistance investments are to struggling American communities, especially to our rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3427, as amended. I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3427, the Water Resources Technical Assistance Review Act, is a good government bill that would help ensure that the EPA technical assistance programs effectively connect rural communities with experts to help them access water infrastructure funding. It is a step toward equal opportunity for areas that have long been denied it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TAYLOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3427, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COURTHOUSE AFFORDABILITY AND SPACE EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2025

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3426) to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3426

*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 "Courthouse Affordability and Space Efficiency Act of 2025" or the "CASE Act".

#### SEC. 2. REDUCING COSTS RELATED TO COURTHOUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, as amended by this act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

##### "§ 3320. Reducing costs related to courthouses

"(a) LIMITATION ON NEW COURTHOUSES.—The Administrator of General Services may not commence construction of any new courthouse if—

"(1) construction has not begun on or before the date of enactment of this section; or

"(2) the design and construction of the new courthouse fails to comply, at a minimum, with the courtroom sharing requirements described in subsection (b).

"(b) COURTROOM SHARING REQUIREMENTS DEFINED.—The term 'courtroom sharing requirements' means—

"(1) in courthouses with 10 or more active district judges, 2 courtrooms per 3 active district judges, except such courthouses may contain not less than 9 courtrooms for active district judges;

"(2) in courthouses with 3 or more bankruptcy judges—

"(A) 1 courtroom per 2 bankruptcy judges;

"(B) 1 courtroom for emergency matters; and

"(C) if there is an odd number of bankruptcy judges, the number of courtrooms required pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be rounded down;

"(3) in courthouses with 3 or more senior district judges, 1 courtroom per 2 senior district judges; and

"(4) in courthouses with 3 or more magistrate judges—

"(A) 1 courtroom per 2 magistrate judges;

"(B) 1 criminal duty courtroom; and

"(C) if there is an odd number of magistrate judges, the number of courtrooms required pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be rounded down.

"(c) UNITED STATES COURTS DESIGN GUIDE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Design Guide for courthouses shall be updated to incorporate courtroom sharing requirements to the maximum extent practicable.

"(d) UTILIZATION.—If a new courthouse will add capacity in the inventory of the General Services Administration, existing space in the same courthouse complex must be fully utilized or relinquished from the inventory of the General Services Administration."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"3320. Reducing costs related to courthouses."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TAYLOR) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 3426, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3426, the CASE Act, limits the size of courthouses, by directing the General Services Administration, or GSA, to only build new courthouses that accommodate courtroom sharing.

Specifically, the CASE Act codifies the judiciary's current courtroom sharing policies for magistrate, senior, and bankruptcy judges.

For large courthouses, the legislation also directs there can only be two courtrooms for every three district court judges.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, on a bipartisan basis, has conducted oversight of the Federal courthouse construction program across multiple administrations.

Historically, courthouses have been significantly overbuilt, costing the American taxpayers billions of dollars to build, operate, and maintain. In 2010, the GAO, Government Accountability Office, found that courthouses built from 2000 to 2010 were overbuilt by 3.56 million square feet, costing an additional \$800 million in addition to \$51 million annually to operate and maintain.

Despite oversight, and even at one point a moratorium on authorizing new courthouses, the courts issued an updated courthouse design guide in 2021 that did just the opposite of consolidating the judiciary's space.

A GAO review of the updated design guide revealed the changes in the design guide actually increase space in courthouses by 6 percent and will cost the taxpayer 12 percent more. The Government Accountability Office found one of the key driving forces in the overbuilding of courthouses to be the overprojection of future judges.

Proposals for new courthouses are driven not by building condition, security, or even the need for more space for current judges, but by the court's projection of future judges. The court's own methodology for prioritizing the need for a new courthouse, for example,

relegated security concerns to just 10 percent of a weighted formula, but in contrast courtrooms and chambers account for 50 percent.

In reality, the courts' projections have been shown to be wrong. As a result, the taxpayer pays for space that sits vacant.

The CASE Act directs GSA, which builds and owns Federal courthouses, to only design and build courthouses that strictly comply with courtroom sharing requirements.

The committee has reported out similar language in the past and a hearing before the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management earlier this year on courthouses reinforced the need for this legislation.

H.R. 3426, as amended, also incorporates reasonable revisions recommended by the courts.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SHREVE) for his leadership on this legislation and the gentleman from D.C. (Ms. NORTON) for working on this bipartisan bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3426, the Courthouse Affordability and Space Efficiency Act of 2025, or CASE Act.

I thank my colleague from, I almost want to say Louisiana because of his familial ties to the naming of Shreveport, but my across-the-hall neighbor in the Cannon Building, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SHREVE), I thank him for his leadership and support on this issue.

This bill develops space-sharing guidelines to prevent overbuilding of new Federal courthouses. As a former Department of Justice staffer and a former Federal law clerk myself, I have had the privilege to see many beautiful courthouses and courtrooms across this country, and so I have seen how empty and underutilized many of those spaces are.

By implementing these standards into the design guide for Federal courthouses, the GSA will be able to reduce construction costs and ensure that existing spaces in courthouse complexes are being fully utilized.

Over the last 45 years, the GAO has compiled a large body of work on Federal courthouse construction, much of it at the request of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

GAO has found that the judiciary has requested and received courthouses that are larger than the size authorized by Congress, more expensive to build, and more expensive to operate than Congress was aware of.

The judiciary has tried, however, to meet the concerns of Congress over the last several years. Recently, the judicial conference revised its courtroom allocation planning assumptions. New courtroom construction projects are to

be designed to facilitate courtroom sharing for senior district judges, magistrate judges, and bankruptcy judges.

□ 1540

There is still some cause for concern. This legislation, by establishing sharing guidelines for active district court judges, will certainly help.

I support this legislation because this is about making the American taxpayer dollar go further and making more sensible investments. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SHREVE).

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, it sounds like my case in salesmanship is going to be modest with the support that this act enjoys from colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I am someone who has built a business from the ground up, including several million square feet of space. It is a reality that to construct space is one thing; the carry cost of maintaining it is quite another.

There is general recognition increasingly within this Congress that we have more space than our Federal Government needs. That is certainly the case at the courthouse level in our Federal courthouses and the supporting office space.

My legislation, the CASE Act, directs the GSA to construct the courthouse space that is necessary and no more. I worked with the U.S. courts on this bill. The resulting legislation is straightforward. It is clearly bipartisan, and it is commonsensical.

The CASE Act codifies the court's sharing policies for our magistrates, seniors, and bankruptcy judges. For the larger courthouses, it limits the number of courtrooms to two for every three judges.

The bill codifies this administration's approach to rightsizing our Federal Government. That is something that we share in common, both sides of the aisle, toward being good stewards of our taxpayer dollars.

The GSA, as was noted, is still forced to build to standards that account for potential judges, despite Congress not having authorized any additional judgeships over the past 30 years. This act is a move toward making taxpayer dollars go further.

I thank my colleague, Ms. NORTON, for joining me on this legislation and for her good work on this issue. I urge passage.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3426, the CASE Act, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 3426 as amended, will rightsize Federal courthouses, reducing unneeded space and potentially saving the taxpayer billions of dollars.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed reforms to begin the process of rightsizing the Federal Government's real estate portfolio last Congress. This legislation continues that work of ensuring a more efficient use of taxpayer resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 3426, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TAYLOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3426, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROTECTING VETERAN ACCESS TO TELEMEDICINE SERVICES ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1107) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to deliver, distribute, or dispense to veterans certain controlled medications via telemedicine under certain conditions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1107

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. DELIVERY, DISTRIBUTION, AND DISPENSATION OF CONTROLLED MEDICATIONS BY COVERED DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS VIA TELEMEDICINE.

Subchapter III of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section (and conforming the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

#### “§ 1730D. Delivery, distribution, and dispensation of controlled medications via telemedicine

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section 1730C of this title and subject to the requirements of title II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), a covered health care professional may use telemedicine to deliver, distribute, or dispense to a patient eligible to receive medical treatment under this chapter a controlled substance that is a prescription drug as determined under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) regardless of whether such covered health care professional has conducted an in-person medical examination of such patient if—

“(1) such covered health care professional is—

“(A) authorized to prescribe the basic class of such controlled substance under an active, current, full, and unrestricted State license, registration, or certification; and

“(B) acting in the usual course of professional practice; and

“(2) such substance is delivered, distributed, or dispensed for a legitimate medical purpose.

“(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish in regulations guidelines and a process for the delivery, distribution, and dispensation of a controlled substance pursuant to subsection (a).

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to remove, limit, or otherwise affect any obligation of a covered health care professional under the Controlled Substances Act.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.— In this section:

“(1) The terms ‘controlled substance’, ‘deliver’, ‘dispense’, and ‘distribute’ have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, respectively.

“(2) The term ‘covered health care professional’ means—

“(A) a health care professional who—

“(i) is an employee of the Department appointed under section 7306, 7401, 7405, 7406, or 7408 of this title or under title 5;

“(ii) is not a contractor of the Department;

“(iii) is authorized by the Secretary to provide health care under this chapter;

“(iv) is required to adhere to all standards for quality relating to the provision of health care in accordance with applicable policies of the Department;

“(v) has an active, current, full, and unrestricted license, registration, or certification or meet qualification standards set forth by the Secretary within a specified time frame; and

“(vi) with respect to a health care profession listed under section 7402(b) of this title, has the qualifications for such profession as set forth by the Secretary; and

“(B) a health professions trainee who—

“(i) is appointed under section 7405 of this title; and

“(ii) is under the clinical supervision of a health care professional described in subparagraph (A).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1107, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1107 offered by Representative WOMACK.

This bill would allow telemedicine prescriptions for controlled substances at VA even before an in-person medical exam.

During the COVID pandemic, VA waived requirements for an in-person appointment. As a result, providers could prescribe controlled substances by telemedicine. This waiver was helpful for continuity of care during the pandemic.

We also realized that many veterans received more access than before due

to this waiver. I cannot tell you how many times veterans in rural areas have told me stories about hours they have to drive to receive care or a prescription from the VA.

Representative WOMACK’s bill would close the loop and modernize the delivery of prescriptions by making the current waiver permanent.

While telemedicine will never totally replace in-person care, the VA must be granted the tools to deliver 21st century healthcare. This bill would remove burdens on veterans who need VA care so they can get it sooner by telemedicine.

I will continue to do whatever I can to ease access to care and critical treatment for veterans living in rural areas of this country. This bill would give VA power to meet the moment and the use of the latest medicine and technology for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1107, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that we are considering H.R. 1107, the Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025, as amended. It will enable VA providers to prescribe substances to veterans through telemedicine without first conducting an in-person exam. This bill will make permanent a flexibility that has been extended to VA and non-VA prescribers alike since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current waiver, which has been extended by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services, is set to expire in December of 2025. This legislation will make permanent VA prescribers’ authority to prescribe controlled substances via telehealth, if and when DEA and HHS end the temporary authority.

Telemedicine has helped VA to greatly increase veterans’ access to a variety of types of care, providing a critical lifeline for veterans, especially those who may have difficulty leaving the house or who live in extremely rural areas.

We can clearly recognize that after the pandemic, we must be open to changing the way we provide care to everyone, especially veterans, to reflect technological advancements, individual preferences, and the necessity of expanding access to care. In fact, telehealth is the industry standard for many providers and categories of care, including many in the VA’s community care network. Veterans should expect nothing less when they receive care from the VA.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1107, which is the Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK),

the sponsor of this legislation and my good friend.

□ 1550

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1107, the Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is pretty simple. I argue that it is a very commonsense bill. Most importantly, it is vital. It ensures that our veterans, whether they live in the heart of our largest cities or in the most rural, remote communities, have uninterrupted access to the healthcare that they have earned.

I thank my good friend Chairman BOST and Ranking Member TAKANO for their support in advancing this bill as one part of the effort to support our veterans.

I also thank my friend Mark Berry, a former adjutant general for the great State of Arkansas and a former State representative, for his advocacy on behalf of our veterans on this issue. Mark brought this to my attention, and I wouldn’t be standing here today without his encouragement.

In 2008, Congress passed the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act to address the rise of rogue online pill mills and the potential for abuse in prescribing controlled substances. At the time, it was the right step to safeguard public health. Yet, the world of 2008 is not the world of today, and the law has not kept pace with the realities of modern medicine or the unique needs of our veterans.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person requirement for prescribing controlled substances under the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act was temporarily waived. This flexibility allowed VA doctors and specialists to reach veterans where they are through secure, effective telemedicine. The Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services have continued to extend this waiver. Yet, without further action, it will expire at the end of this year.

My bill would permanently extend the exemption for VA healthcare professionals with the appropriate safeguards so that they can continue to prescribe medically necessary treatments to veterans via telemedicine.

For veterans in our urban communities, letting this waiver expire means longer wait times, fewer appointment slots, and even more strain on an already overburdened VA system.

For veterans in rural America, the consequences are even more serious. Many of these men and women live hours away from the nearest VA provider. For them, the exemption has meant timely care without the cost and hardship of traveling hundreds of miles for a single appointment.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just a matter of convenience. It is a matter of necessity. It is about ensuring that every

veteran, regardless of where they live, has equal access to the care that they have earned through their service and sacrifice to this Nation. Our veterans have given this Nation their best. It is our duty to give them our best in return.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and to act swiftly to make sure that our veterans never see their care delayed, denied, or diminished because of outdated laws.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1107, Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1107, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to deliver, distribute, or dispense to veterans certain controlled medications via telemedicine under certain conditions, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SERVICEMEMBER RESIDENCE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2334

*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 "Servicemember Residence Protection Act".

#### SEC. 2. SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT: TOLLING OF PERIOD OF ADVERSE POSSESSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 206 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3936) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) TOLLING OF PERIOD OF ADVERSE POSSESSION.—The period of a servicemember's military service may not be included in computing a period of adverse possession of such servicemember's real property."

(b) WEBSITE.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with the Attorney General and update the website of the Department of Veterans Affairs and other relevant websites to include information and resources regarding—

(1) how a member of the uniformed services may secure real property while absent for a period of military service;

(2) leasing real property;

(3) landlord-tenant rights and obligations; and

(4) any other relevant information determined necessary by the Secretary and the Attorney General.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2334, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2334, as amended, offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), my friend and colleague.

This bill would protect servicemembers' homes from squatters while they are away on Active Duty. Under current law, servicemembers are not clearly protected under various State adverse possession laws. Due to this lack of protection, a squatter might be able to move in and make a claim to that servicemember's home when that servicemember is deployed.

This is outrageous. We must ensure that servicemembers can return to their homes following a deployment without the worry that someone might be occupying their home and that they will be forced to get into a costly legal battle to get their home back.

Mr. Speaker, it should go without saying that this should not be happening, and I will do what I can to protect our servicemembers.

This important bill would also require the VA and Department of Justice to work together to provide updated information to servicemembers about their rights.

I thank Chairman MAST for bringing this issue to the committee's attention and championing this legislation. We must ensure that servicemembers' homes are not occupied by squatters while a servicemember is away serving our great country.

I look forward to continuing to work with the ranking member this fall on a bipartisan piece of legislation like this one that puts veterans' and servicemembers' needs first.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2334, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 2334, the Servicemember Residence Protection Act, as amended. However, I still have many concerns that the bill, while well-intentioned, does not live up to the promises made by some supporters.

I appreciate the work of the majority to improve this bill during our markup. All of us want to ensure that servicemembers do not return home from serving their country to find trespassers or squatters living in their homes. We also want to ensure that servicemembers who are confronted with this situation have the tools and resources to seek legal relief.

However, I want to be clear that neither the original bill nor the amended text that we are considering today will eliminate the possibility that a servicemember will need to seek judicial or other legal relief to evict a trespasser.

The ability of Congress to legislate a solution to that particular issue is legally difficult. The text of H.R. 2334, based on my amendment in committee, was drafted so as to avoid creating confusion where courts have already ruled in Servicemembers Civil Relief Act cases involving adverse possession by codifying existing legal interpretations of SCRA tolling provisions.

What that means is that many State courts across the country have already found that the SCRA applied to adverse possession and that the period of time while the servicemember was away from their property did not count toward adverse possession. The amended bill simply makes this existing legal interpretation law.

Since acquiring title to property through adverse possession is a long and involved process, in practice, this legislation would likely apply to servicemembers in rare circumstances, such as when an adverse possessor was able to satisfy all the elements of adverse possession, including possession for the lengthy statutory period, which is likely longer than the time that most servicemembers are stationed away from home.

Mr. Speaker, the other type of trespassing case that a servicemember may encounter is a holdover tenant, such as may happen if a servicemember rents out their property while they are away from home.

□ 1600

Now, many of the stories presented to the committee to support this bill were of that type of trespass. A servicemember invited someone to stay at their property while they were gone and then the tenant did not want to leave.

It is important to follow good practices when becoming a landlord, such as using a written legal lease agreement, and this legislation does provide instruction for the Department of Veterans Affairs to work with the Department of Justice to provide resources on

landlord-tenant practices and securing vacant property.

However, nothing in this bill removes the requirement that someone seeking an eviction will need to follow a legal process to do so, which may include seeking assistance from law enforcement or going to local courts. Evicting someone from property requires due process. In addition, the SCRA is not self-enforcing. A servicemember must seek to enforce all of its protections through a legal process.

Ultimately, servicemembers will need to seek legal assistance to deal with trespassing cases. We owe it to servicemembers to provide them with the information and resources to navigate that process.

This legislation, unfortunately, does not bolster access to legal assistance, but I hope the sponsors of this legislation will join us on those efforts in the future.

I will be supporting this legislation today, as it does make some improvements for those servicemembers who find themselves in the rare occurrence of adverse possession. I hope we can do more in the future, but I don't want to give the servicemembers the false impression that this bill will immediately solve the trespassing issues presented to the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate, as well, to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST for his work on this piece of legislation and Ranking Member TAKANO for working with the majority on this piece of legislation, the Servicemember Residence Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, why this bill? Why do this? It is designed to help those servicemembers that are affected by somebody squatting in their home, trespassing, illegally staying in their home, it will help them get those individuals out in a less costly way and a less intrusive way to their life.

Why does all of that matter? Why do any of this? These are servicemembers. I have yet to meet the servicemember that got rich spending their time in uniform. The work that they do is always dangerous. It is very often deadly, and it requires them to be away from home for large amounts of time: whether being away from home is somewhere around the world doing something dangerous or deadly, or whether that work is around the country in training for something that is dangerous and deadly, or whether it is incurring a permanent change of station to somewhere across the country or the globe where maybe they have a home that they have to leave and put it up for sale or they have to rent it out while they are gone. There are a great number of circumstances that af-

fect our servicemembers with their homes when they are not around to be the immediate tenants of their homes.

This piece of legislation comes in to help protect them to make sure that they can get squatters out of their home when these squatters illegally go into their homes, overstay their time in those homes, or whatever it might be.

Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the work, again, from the committee on this. It is a big deal to help our servicemembers in any way, shape, or form that we can to get people illegally out of their homes. It just takes an undue stress off our servicemembers so that they can focus on the missions at hand, which, again, they are dangerous missions. They are often deadly missions. They deserve the right to focus on those missions without worrying about anything else.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the time to speak on this and for working with me, as well.

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

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2334, the Servicemember Residence Protection Act, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2334, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### WOMEN VETERANS CANCER CARE COORDINATION ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1860) to designate Regional Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinators to expand the work of the Breast and Gynecologic Oncology System of Excellence at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1860

*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 "Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act".

##### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL BREAST CANCER AND GYNECOLOGIC CANCER CARE COORDINATORS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall hire or designate a Regional Breast Cancer

and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinator at each Veteran Integrated Services Network (hereinafter in this section referred to as "VISN"). Each Care Coordinator hired or designated under this subsection shall report directly to the Director of the Breast and Gynecologic Oncology System of Excellence (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "BGOSoE").

(b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—A veteran is eligible to receive care coordination provided by a Care Coordinator hired or designated under subsection (a) if the veteran—

(1) is diagnosed with a breast or gynecologic cancer, or has been identified as having a precancerous breast or gynecologic condition; and

(2) is eligible for health care furnished through the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, at a non-Department facility.

(c) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish regions for purposes of care coordination provided by Regional Breast Cancer and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinators hired or designated under subsection (a). In establishing such regions, the Secretary shall—

(1) assign all Department facilities to an appropriate region under the supervision of the BGOSoE Director and a designated Regional Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinator; and

(2) take into account existing VISNs and the specific needs of veterans in each region, including veterans living in rural communities.

(d) DUTIES OF REGIONAL BREAST AND GYNECOLOGICAL CANCER CARE COORDINATORS.—The Regional Breast Cancer and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinator hired or designated under subsection (a) shall be responsible for carrying out the following duties:

(1) Ensuring the coordination of care between clinicians of the Department and breast and gynecologic cancer community care providers.

(2) Working with the Office of Community Care of the relevant medical facility of the Department regarding care furnished under such section.

(3) Making regular contact with each veteran based on the veteran's specific medical needs when the veteran receives care from a community care provider.

(4) Monitoring—

(A) the services furnished to veterans by the Department and community care providers;

(B) the health outcomes of veterans with respect to a cancer diagnosis, including remission, metastasis, and death; and

(C) the data relating to breast and gynecologic cancer care (using relevant databases of the Veterans Health Administration or other Department databases), including—

(i) the demographics of veterans who have breast or gynecologic cancer; and

(ii) the number of veterans being treated for breast or gynecologic cancer.

(5) Providing particular information to veterans with breast or gynecologic cancer, including—

(A) how to seek emergency care at the emergency department closest to the residence of the veteran, including that it is generally advisable for veterans to notify the Department of emergency care received at a non-Department facility within 72 hours of receiving care to facilitate the authorization of payments for such emergency treatment; and

(B) information about mental health resources, including with respect to information encouraging follow-up care for depression.

(6) Documenting certain information on veterans receiving care for breast or

gynecologic care in the electronic health records of the Department, including—

(A) the documentation of the contact described in paragraph (3);

(B) the contact information of the breast or gynecologic cancer care community care providers of such veterans; and

(C) the breast or gynecologic cancer diagnosis of veterans.

(7) Carrying out such other duties as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing the following:

(1) A comparison of the health outcomes of veterans who received cancer care at a Department facility and those who received care furnished by non-Department medical providers pursuant to section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, include with respect to the following:

(A) Treatment and types of health outcomes, including (for the most recent three years of available data)—

(i) the number of veterans who were diagnosed with a breast or gynecologic cancer, or precancerous breast or gynecologic condition;

(ii) the percentage of such veterans who have experienced a cancer-related death; and

(iii) the percentage of such veterans who have entered remission for gynecologic cancer.

(B) Timeliness of care furnished under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, including how quickly initial post-diagnosis appointments and appointments to develop a treatment plan are scheduled and provided.

(C) Patient safety associated with such care at Department facilities or community care providers, including the number of errors in medical care that rise to the level of “never events” (such as a foreign body left in a veteran during surgery).

(2) An evaluation of what changes or additional resources are needed to further improve breast and gynecologic cancer care and coordination.

(3) Any other matter the Secretary determines appropriate.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “community care provider” means a health care provider described in section 1703(c) of title 38, United States Code, who has entered into a contract or agreement to furnish hospital care, medical services, or extended care services (other than care related to breast and gynecologic cancer) to veterans under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “breast and gynecologic cancer community care provider” means a breast or gynecologic cancer care provider described in section 1703(c) of title 38, United States Code, who has entered into a contract or agreement to furnish hospital care, medical services, or extended care services to provide care related to breast or gynecologic cancer to veterans under section 1703 of title 38F, United States Code.

(3) The term “breast cancer” has the meaning given such term by the Director of the Breast and Gynecologic Oncology System of Excellence.

(4) The term “gynecologic cancer” means cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, vaginal cancer, vulvar cancer, and gestational trophoblastic neoplasia.

(5) The term “non-Department facility” has the meaning given that term in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

### SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting “September 30, 2032”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1860, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1860, as amended, offered by Representative SYLVIA GARCIA of Texas.

This bill would create coordinators within each of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks to help veterans navigate cancer care. Specifically, this bill aims to improve care coordination for common cancers in women.

No person wants to hear that they have or that their loved one has cancer. Having the resources to navigate such a difficult time can make all the difference in the treatment journey.

VA must give women veterans who have to navigate cancer treatments the highest quality care that we can offer them. Whether it is screening, diagnosis, treatment, or recovery, our women veterans have earned top-notch support from VA every step of the way. More women veterans than ever before are using VA.

My friend, the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS), recently hosted a hearing to discuss improving care for women veterans. This bill builds on our work to ensure this population of veterans has access to the modern care that they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 1860, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1860, the Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act, as amended, introduced by my colleague from Texas, Representative SYLVIA GARCIA.

Through VA's Breast and Gynecological Oncology System of Excellence, the VA oncology, surgical, and nursing specialists are already providing world-class care for these types of cancers directly through VA. The System of Excellence also helps connect veterans with care in the community when necessary.

A cancer diagnosis is always a difficult and complicated journey, and, unfortunately, all too common for veterans, in particular.

The VA's Breast and Gynecological Oncology System of Excellence is well positioned to handle the clinical aspects of coordinating veterans' cancer treatment, both at VA and its specialists in the community.

However, regardless of where individuals are receiving care, cancer treatment is often very complex and requires veterans to regularly see many different providers for various treatments, as well as different specialized labs and imaging centers.

Veterans may need assistance covering the expenses associated with traveling to receive care at another VA facility or in the community, obtaining medical records from community providers, ensuring that community providers' claims are paid on time, and accessing mental health services to help cope with the emotional aspects of their diagnoses.

This can be very difficult for patients to navigate, and our veterans deserve the highest levels of support throughout this time.

Representative GARCIA's bill will strengthen the System of Excellence by requiring VA to appoint regional breast and gynecologic cancer care coordinators to assist veterans in navigating all of these aspects of their treatment. These trained professionals help ensure that patients can access resources available to them and that their providers are always updated on the patients' latest health updates.

Veterans deserve compassionate, well-coordinated care when dealing with their cancer journey, and I am glad to support this legislation to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1860, the Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act of 2025, as amended.

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

□ 1610

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA), my good friend and author of H.R. 1860. She serves on the House Financial Services Committee.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding, along with subcommittee ranking member and the co-lead of this bill, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Chairman BOST.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my bill, the Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordinator Act of 2025. Women veterans are the fastest growing group using VA healthcare services today, and I am proud to say more of them call Texas home than any other State in the Nation.

As this population ages—keep in mind the average woman veteran is 54—they become more likely to develop cancers. The average age of women veterans diagnosed with breast cancer is 58, and the average age for reproductive cancers is 55.

For many of these veterans, the road ahead is not as clear as it should be. Many VA centers are still building out their services, so often women are connected with community care.

However, when they move outside the VA network, problems start to pile up. Records don't transfer and systems don't update with the latest data. That means more phone calls, more waiting, more back and forth, more frustrations.

Women veterans and their families could be using this energy and time on their treatment and their journey to recovery. A cancer diagnosis shakes your sense of stability. These women need a care system that works for them, not one that makes them fight to get the care that they need.

By connecting them with dedicated coordinators at VA to guide them on their path to remission, we can help these mothers, sisters, and heroes stay in the fight. We made a commitment to these women veterans. Now we must do everything in our power to keep that promise and to save their lives.

This is a commonsense bill. It passed out of committee on voice vote, and I trust the same will happen here. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1860, the Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act of 2025, as amended. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1860, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TERRITORIAL RESPONSE AND ACCESS TO VETERANS' ESSENTIAL LIFECARE ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3400) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs to temporarily serve as traveling physicians in the territories and possessions of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3400

*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 "Territorial Response and Access to Veterans' Essential Lifecare Act" or the "TRAVEL Act of 2025".*

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS ASSIGNMENT OF TRAVELING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

##### **"§ 7415. Traveling physicians**

*"(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary may assign a physician appointed under section 7401 or section 7431 of this title to serve as a traveling physician for a period of not more than one year at a time. A physician assigned to serve as a traveling physician under this section may be assigned to provide health care to veterans residing in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, or any other territory or possession of the United States at Department facilities or other approved facilities located in such territory or possession.*

*"(2) The Secretary may assign multiple physicians to serve as traveling physicians under this section and may assign each such physician to serve in a specific territory or possession.*

*"(b) COORDINATION OF CARE.—In providing care under this section, traveling physicians shall coordinate with non-Department medical providers to the extent practicable and necessary to ensure high quality and coordinated care for veterans receiving hospital care and medical services.*

*"(c) PAY.—In addition to pay under section 7431 of this title, the Secretary shall provide a relocation or retention bonus to traveling physicians under this section. Such relocation or retention bonus shall be substantially similar to a relocation or retention bonus offered under section 7410(a) of this title, as the Secretary considers appropriate."*

*(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7414 the following new item:*

*"7415. Traveling physicians."*

*(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended as follows:*

*(1) In section 7410(a)(1), by—*

*(A) by striking "retention allowances" and inserting "retention bonuses"; and*

*(B) by striking the second comma after "section 7401(1) of this title"; and*

*(2) In section 7431(e)(5)(B), by striking "retention allowances" and inserting "retention bonuses".*

#### SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

*Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "December 31, 2032".*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3400, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3400, as amended, offered by my colleague on the Veterans' Affairs Committee Representative KING-HINDS.

This bill would give the VA Secretary the power to assign traveling physicians for up to 1 year at a time in the U.S. territories to deliver care.

The VA provides healthcare in five U.S. territories in the Pacific and Atlantic. In the Pacific, the VA has one medical center in Honolulu, Hawaii. There are three outpatient clinics in American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. In the Atlantic, the VA has one medical center in Puerto Rico. There are 10 outpatient clinics across Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Based on the most recent data we have, the VA Pacific system served 7,200 enrolled veterans. The VA Caribbean system serves 61,000 enrolled veterans. The veterans in these parts of the world are forced to spend time and money to get their hard-earned care. For example, a veteran in Guam must travel 4,000 miles for care in Honolulu. A veteran in the Virgin Islands has to fly to Puerto Rico to receive care at the VA Medical Center there. The TRAVEL Act would expand the reach of VA care by putting physicians where the veterans live.

I thank Representative KING-HINDS, my friend, for her leadership on this bill to get veterans in remote parts of the world the healthcare they have earned. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3400, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3400, the TRAVEL Act of 2025, as amended.

The VA estimates that as of June 2023, there were at least 100,000 veterans living in U.S. territories, but it is likely that this number is even higher. However, only Puerto Rico has a VA Medical Center, and only American Samoa and Guam have outpatient clinics or CBOCs. Therefore, veterans living in the territories have limited access to VA medical care.

While eligible veterans can receive care through the VA's community care program, access to specialty care, even in the community, is extremely limited, given the lack of such services in the territories.

This legislation authorizes the VA to appoint traveling physicians to provide care to veterans residing in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States. It will also allow the traveling VA physician to coordinate with non-department medical providers as necessary to provide care. I thank Representative KING-HINDS for introducing this bill.

Individuals from the territories generally enlist in the military at higher

per capita rates than residents of most U.S. States. However, veterans in the territories have long struggled to access the VA healthcare they have earned. This legislation could help reduce the rate at which these veterans must be referred to community providers or endure lengthy travel to access services at VA medical facilities thousands and thousands of miles away from home.

Veterans deserve access to the care and benefits they have earned, regardless of where they live. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3400, the TRAVEL Act.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Ms. KING-HINDS).

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 3400, as amended, the Territorial Response and Access to Veterans Essential Lifecare Act, otherwise known as the TRAVEL Act of 2025.

This legislation is a vital step toward improving healthcare access to veterans residing in U.S. territories, including my district, the Northern Mariana Islands.

Our veterans have served our country with honor, but too many of them still struggle to receive even the most basic care close to home.

The TRAVEL Act directly addresses the critical shortage of specialized medical care in remote and underserved areas. It authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to temporarily deploy VA physicians and medical specialists to the territories. These professionals would receive travel bonuses and provide much-needed care, helping close persistent gaps in the VA service network.

When I meet with veterans back home, I often hear the same heart-breaking stories: long travel, long waits, and feeling forgotten by the very system meant to care for them. This bill is driven by those voices. Their needs, their experiences, and their dignity are at the heart of the TRAVEL Act. This bill brings care to them rather than asking them to sacrifice even more.

I extend my deep appreciation to the Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman MIKE BOST and Ranking Member TAKANO, as well as their dedicated staff, for their work and support of this legislation. This bipartisan effort reflects a shared commitment across the aisle and across the country ensuring that no veteran is left behind, no matter where they live.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the TRAVEL Act.

□ 1620

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3400, the TRAVEL Act.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this 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 Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3400, 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. BOST. 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.

#### HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3767) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a time frame for the employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of participants in the Health Professionals Scholarship 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. 3767

*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 "Health Professionals Scholarship Program Improvement Act of 2025" or the "HPSP Improvement Act of 2025".*

#### SEC. 2. TIME FRAME FOR EMPLOYMENT OF PARTICIPANTS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7616 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

*"(d)(1) The Secretary shall ensure that a participant in the Scholarship Program receives a contract for employment in the full-time clinical practice of such participant's profession at a Department facility with the highest need, as determined by the Secretary, by not later than 90 days after the later of the following dates:*

*"(A) The date on which the participant completes the course in the Scholarship Program.*

*"(B) The date on which participant obtains all required licensure, certification, or credentialing necessary to practice independently in their field.*

*"(2) A contract referred to in paragraph (1) shall include a competitive salary and benefits package consistent with the employment standards of the Department."*

*(b) REPORT.—*

*(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter until the termination date specified in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the implementation of subsection (d) of section 7616 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).*

*(2) TERMINATION DATE.—The termination date specified in this paragraph is September 30, 2027.*

#### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON SMOKING IN FACILITIES OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

*(a) PROHIBITION.—Section 1715 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:*

#### **"§ 1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration**

*"(a) PROHIBITION.—No person (including any veteran, patient, resident, employee of the Department, contractor, or visitor) may smoke on the premises of any facility of the Veterans Health Administration.*

*"(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

*"(1) The term 'smoke' includes—*

*"(A) the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and any other combustion or heating of tobacco; and*

*"(B) the use of any electronic nicotine delivery system, including electronic or e-cigarettes, vape pens, and e-cigars.*

*"(2) The term 'facility of the Veterans Health Administration' means any land or building (including any medical center, nursing home, domiciliary facility, outpatient clinic, or center that provides readjustment counseling) that is—*

*"(A) under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs;*

*"(B) under the control of the Veterans Health Administration; and*

*"(C) not under the control of the General Services Administration."*

*(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—*

*(1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1715 and inserting the following:*

*"1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration."*

*(2) CONFORMING REPEAL.—*

*(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 526 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585; 38 U.S.C. 1715 note) is repealed.*

*(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to such section.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3767, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3767, as amended, offered by my friend and colleague, Representative HAMADEH.

This bill would hold the VA to a deadline to hire participants in the Health Professionals Scholarship Program.

The scholarship was created to address chronic workforce shortages. Critical healthcare jobs, like nurses, physician assistants, and mental health providers, continue to be short-staffed and need good people in these roles.

Right now, VA pays for scholarship enrollees' education in return for several years of service to the VA.

Unfortunately, there have been cases where VA can take months before offering them a position. Sometimes, people in the program are forced to break the agreement because of bureaucracy delays at the VA. They seek work elsewhere just to make ends meet.

Representative HAMADEH's bill would ensure that VA is properly staffed by making VA fulfill its end of the bargain.

This bill also includes language from Representative NEAL DUNN's bill, which would prohibit smoking on VHA campuses.

Since the nineties, VA has issued policies to provide safer smoking environments. Then, in March 2019, VA issued its most recent policy for a smoke-free VHA. This bill would align law with the current VA practice.

Patients and VA employees have a right to be protected from the harmful medical effects of secondhand smoke. This bill would do just that. Many private-sector healthcare systems already have smoke-free policies.

This bill, as amended, would take important steps to improve VA healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3767, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3767, the Health Professionals Scholarship Program Improvement Act of 2025, as amended.

For many years, the Health Professionals Scholarship Program has allowed VA to provide financial assistance to future medical professionals in return for a promise of service at VA facilities to ensure VA can meet its staffing needs. The program has had longstanding success in both ensuring prospective providers can complete their training and bolstering VA's workforce, especially in difficult-to-hire areas and for difficult-to-recruit professions.

However, some participants have expressed concerns that hiring delays at VA have prevented them from receiving their employment contracts in a timely manner. While there are many steps to onboarding new clinicians at VA, including necessary processes such as credentialing and privileging, we must make sure that VA does everything in its power to bring new staff on quickly, especially in the case of prospective providers who have proven themselves willing to serve the veteran community.

This legislation will ensure that VA provides employment contracts to graduates of the Health Professionals Scholarship Program within 90 days of completion of their programs or within 90 days of completing all necessary licensing and credentialing processes, whichever is later.

Participants in the Health Professionals Scholarship Program are dedi-

cated to service to the veteran community and are vital to ensuring VA has sufficient staffing across the Nation.

We should continue to seek additional ways to improve the hiring and onboarding process at VA, including through additional workforce investments and improving the use of expedited hiring authorities.

However, in the meantime, there is an important step in ensuring this program fulfills its purpose, both for participants and for VA's workforce needs.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAMADEH), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 3767, the Health Professionals Scholarship Program Improvement Act of 2025.

As too many taxpayers well know, the VA spends millions of our hard-earned taxpayer dollars training healthcare professionals through scholarships, yet, these same qualified professionals are forced to wait months for employment contracts after graduation. All the while, our veterans suffer.

It is government inefficiency at its worst, and our veterans seem to always be paying the price. Veterans are sent to emergency rooms while skilled doctors are waiting to serve patients.

That is why I introduced this bipartisan legislation with my colleague, Congresswoman NIKKI BUDZINSKI, because we saw a program that required action. Bureaucratic red tape is the enemy.

The reports by the inspector general are a testament to what veterans in my district already know: Staffing shortfalls are more than a figure. They are missed appointments, endless long waits, and canceled procedures.

American heroes' lives are at stake. Back home in Arizona, the Phoenix VA Health Care System covers 100,000 veterans. The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System covers yet another 170,000. Every one of them deserves access to qualified providers.

Arizona's Eighth District alone has 65,000 veterans. These patients deserve better than bureaucratic incompetence when they need medical care. They did not wait to defend America, and America should not make them wait for healthcare.

My bill offers a simple and common-sense fix. HPSP scholarship recipients will be given offers of jobs within 90 days post-graduation. They will not wait. Veterans will not be forgotten. We are going to drain the VA swamp one regulation at a time.

Our bill also requires an annual report to Congress on hire dates and placement rates. Transparency generates performance.

We are not just addressing the issue today. We are ensuring bureaucrats cannot hide and escape tomorrow.

To those who would say 90 days is too aggressive, my response is: How long should a veteran wait? How long should a trained physician sit idle? The current state is intolerable. The status quo has failed, and it is time for genuine reform.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, I have seen firsthand what occurs when the systems fail for those on the front lines overseas. We cannot allow failure at home. When I served as an Army intelligence officer overseas, we lived by a simple creed: Mission first, and no Americans left behind.

My bill is an embodiment to that promise. This isn't partisan posturing. This is about doing right by America's warfighters. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs agreed. They voted for my bill by voice vote without opposition. There was zero dissent. There was complete consensus and stakeholder support. It is now time for the entire House to deliver.

Mr. Speaker, every day of delay is another day a veteran waits for care. It is another day a qualified professional can't serve. It is another day the system fails those who have served and protected us all. It is another day the swamp wins and our heroes lose.

We ask our veterans to wait for many things. Quality healthcare shouldn't be one of them, not in President Trump's America and not on our watch.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the HPSP Improvement Act. Our veterans have waited long enough. We must deliver on the promise we made to the brave men and women who served our country. It is time to put veterans first.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3767, the Health Professionals Scholarship Act of 2025, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3767, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING OUR HEROES ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2721) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a pilot program to furnish a headstone or burial marker to veterans who died on or before November 1, 1990, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 2721

*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 "Honoring Our Heroes Act of 2025".*

**SEC. 2. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO FURNISH HEADSTONES AND BURIAL MARKERS TO CERTAIN VETERANS.**

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—*During the period of seven years following the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall furnish, pursuant to section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, and without regards to section 8041(b) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-508), an appropriate headstone, burial marker, or medallion for a veteran—*

- (1) eligible for burial in a national cemetery;
- (2) who died on or after December 7, 1941; and
- (3) for whose grave the Secretary has not already provided a headstone, burial marker, or medallion.

(b) **WEBSITE.**—*During such period, the Secretary shall ensure that the website of the National Cemetery Administration indicates the effect of this Act on eligibility for a headstone, burial marker, or medallion under such section.*

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.**

*Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "February 29, 2032".*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2721.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2721, as amended. This bill would establish a 7-year pilot program to allow eligible survivors or veteran representatives to request a VA-furnished headstone or marker for veterans buried in private cemeteries, who died during or after World War II.

Under current law, the National Cemetery Administration may only furnish a headstone or marker for graves of eligible veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990. If this veteran and their family have not already received an equivalent benefit, this bill would allow the veteran's family to honor their military service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2721, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2721, the Honoring Our Heroes Act of 2025, as amended, offered by Represent-

ative TIM KENNEDY, who is an outstanding member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, most Americans would be shocked to hear this, but servicemembers who passed away before 1990 are currently ineligible by law to request a government-issued headstone from the National Cemetery Administration.

In the haze of grief after a loved one passes away, families are often unaware of what benefits they may be eligible for. Oftentimes, they make short-term decisions they intend to revisit later but, for varying reasons, they do not.

Unfortunately, for the families of veterans, that sometimes means that they could have applied for a headstone for their loved one, only to find out years later they were arbitrarily cut off from accessing that benefit simply by the passage of time.

I think we can all agree that when a veteran passes away, they deserve the benefits they earned. That includes marking their place in history with a headstone or other marker that pays respect to their service. That should be true, regardless of when that veteran passes away.

Mr. Speaker, that is what the Honoring Our Heroes Act of 2025 seeks to do. It gives late veterans the burial rights they deserve, and it gives families a sense of pride and closure after their loss. We on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs are continually guided toward equity in the veteran population. When our constituents bring an issue to us that highlights inequity or injustice, it is our duty to correct it.

It is with this change in mind that my esteemed colleague Representative KENNEDY took up the fight and spearheaded this effort on behalf of the families of veterans who, before November 1, 1990, by statute cannot request a headstone from the National Cemetery Administration.

I am thankful to Representative KENNEDY for his dedication to veterans' families on an issue that has been overlooked for far too long. I am also thankful to the families who highlighted this issue and who testified in support of this legislation.

As we continue to strive for veterans, their families, and survivors to access their earned benefits and as we continue to push commonsense changes that allow more of these deserving people to get what they are owed, we must remember that from military separation through healthcare and in death, they matter.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY), my good friend

and author of H.R. 2721. He currently serves on our Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and our Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we as a body have an obligation to honor our servicemembers for the sacrifices they have made for our country. This responsibility is always top of mind for me and my colleagues on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

About a year ago, I discovered that military families in my district faced a painful reality. After their loved one's passing, they could not honor their service with a headstone issued by the VA. These are families who, often years or even decades after the death of a loved one, came to fully grasp the depth of that veteran's service and sacrifice to our Nation.

These include families like that of Technical Sergeant Florian J. Fenclau, a World War II veteran, a prisoner of war, a Purple Heart recipient, and proud member of the Greatest Generation.

Under current Federal law, the VA only provides a government-issued headstone for veterans who died after November 1, 1990. This wasn't always the case. That arbitrary date was put in place as a cost-saving measure to pass legislation that same year. It is just one more item cut on a spreadsheet to make the math work at the expense of our military families.

Our veterans deserve better than this. They are men and women who bravely answered the call to serve. As Members of Congress, we have a moral obligation to fully honor the heroes who fought for this country.

The families left behind are simply asking our government to properly recognize the bravery and dedication of their loved ones. These are Americans who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we all hold dear. The quality of a veteran's memorial should not be based on when they die but, rather, every memorial must provide dignity, respect, and lasting recognition for all who wear the uniform.

That is why I introduced the Honoring Our Heroes Act. It ensures veterans who passed before 1990 receive the VA-issued headstone they earned and to guarantee that no veteran's memory is ever forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST and Ranking Member TAKANO for working with me in advancing this commonsense legislation. With their help, we are now that much closer to helping our military families correct the wrongs of the past.

□ 1640

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, in closing, once again, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2721, the Honoring Our Heroes Act of 2025, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

In closing, once again, I stand in strong support of this legislation, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2721, 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. BOST. 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.

#### VETERANS READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM INTEGRITY ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3579) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the Veterans Readiness and Employment program of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3579

*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 "Veterans Readiness and Employment Program Integrity Act".*

##### SEC. 2. APPLICATION REQUIREMENT UNDER VETERANS READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

*Section 3106(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

*(1) by striking "necessary (1) to determine" and inserting "necessary to determine";*

*(2) by striking "and (2) in the case" and inserting "and, in the case";*

*(3) by inserting "(1)" before "The Secretary"; and*

*(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

*"(2) The Secretary may not provide an initial evaluation of a veteran under paragraph (1) before the veteran submits to the Secretary an application containing the substantive work record and educational transcripts of the veteran that the Secretary determines appropriate."*

##### SEC. 3. MAXIMUM DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE UNDER VETERANS READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

*Section 3117(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

*"(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), a veteran may not receive assistance under this subsection for more than 365 days.*

*"(B) A veteran may receive an additional 180 days of such assistance if an individual who provides counseling under this chapter to such veteran certifies that the veteran is actively seeking employment."*

##### SEC. 4. REPORTING AND DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS UNDER VETERANS READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

##### "§3123. Requirements for data collection and reporting

*"(a) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding the employment of veterans who participate in a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter. Such information shall include, for each such veteran—*

*"(1) the regional office responsible for the provision of the program; and*

*"(2) the annual wages of the veteran before and after the completion of the program.*

*"(b) PUBLICATION OF WAIT TIMES.—On an annual basis, the Secretary shall make publicly available, on an appropriate website of the Department, the average time between the date on which a veteran requests a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter and the date on which the veteran first meets with a counselor as part of the veteran's program."*

*(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item: "3123. Requirements for data collection and reporting."*

##### (c) INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF PROGRAM.—

*(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into a contract, with a non-Department entity that has expertise in vocational rehabilitation, pursuant to which the entity shall conduct a review of rehabilitation programs (as such term is defined in section 3101 of such title) under such chapter.*

*(2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of such a contract, the entity shall submit to the Secretary a report containing recommendations regarding how to improve and modernize such rehabilitation programs.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3579, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3579 offered by my friend and colleague, Representative CISCOMANI of Arizona. This bill would make needed modernizations to the VA's Veterans Readiness and Employment program, the VR&E program.

Over the last 2 years, our committee has uncovered disastrous wait times, fraud, waste, and abuse in the VA's VR&E program. This bill would steer the ship in the right direction by establishing more oversight of the program.

It is the duty of Congress to make sure that veterans who complete this

workforce program are earning more and are in a better spot than they were before entering the program. VR&E currently does not track those results.

At a recent hearing, VA told the committee that 45 percent of veterans who successfully complete the program reenter it later. This does not show that the program is working for veterans. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it shows that the VR&E needs an overhaul. It is time to reform VR&E so that veterans can receive the training they need to find a meaningful career field that is fit for them.

This bill would also implement better practices for transparency on wait times to allow veterans to better plan for their future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Representative CISCOMANI, for sponsoring this bill to improve job training access for veterans. My committee will continue to seek ways to level the playing field for veterans seeking employment so that every veteran has access to the opportunity they want all the while protecting the taxpayers' investment in these programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3579, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3579, as amended, the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program Integrity Act.

The VA Veteran Readiness and Employment program, otherwise known as VR&E, is also known as Chapter 31. It is a comprehensive benefits program designed to help veterans with service-connected disabilities find and maintain suitable employment. It offers personalized assistance, including career counseling, vocational training, and educational support to help veterans overcome employment barriers.

The program's ultimate goal is to empower disabled veterans to achieve independence and a successful career in the civilian workforce.

I take great pride in my work on the Honoring our PACT Act that resulted in hundreds of thousands of veterans finally having their disability recognized, making them eligible for the VR&E program. However, that massive influx of new applicants has brought to light improvements that are needed for the VR&E program.

This legislation seeks to add some good-governance steps to the program, to make sure veterans are aware of how the benefit works upon sign up and ensures that veterans are actively seeking employment as they are prepared to exit the VR&E program.

This legislation also includes data reporting for Congress and veterans so wait times and wage data are public.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House, and Senate as well, to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI).

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3579, the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program Integrity Act. This bipartisan bill ensures that veterans have the tools and resources they need to successfully transition to civilian life.

This legislation does so by providing much-needed oversight over the VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment program, which offers specific job training and counseling to veterans with a service-connected disability. This bill requires the VA to track employment outcomes and wait times for participants in order for us to know if this program is fulfilling its core mission, and it enables better evaluation of all tracks in the VR&E so that we can do a better job in understanding what is working and also what is not working.

Far too many veterans wait for months just to meet with a program counselor. I have heard this over and over again in my district. Far too many leave programs without confidence that they have the skills to have a stable civilian career. This bill fixes that.

It is not about giveaways, it is about getting return on our investment in veterans, in dignity, in opportunity, in real jobs. It is about ensuring our veterans transition with the resources that they need, not just to survive, but to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in support of H.R. 3579. Stand behind our veterans not just with words but with this important oversight, with accountability, and especially with action.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK), who serves on our Subcommittee on Health and our Technology Modernization Subcommittee.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-lead H.R. 3579 the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program Integrity Act alongside Congressman CISCOMANI.

This bipartisan bill expands economic opportunities for our veterans and brings much-needed transparency for the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program which helps veterans with service-connected disabilities transition to civilian careers.

Serving over 125,000 veterans each year, the VR&E program is critical, especially for veterans in Florida and nationwide, helping them gain the skills and opportunities needed to build successful and dignified lives after service.

To ensure veterans receive the support they deserve, the Department of Veterans Affairs must provide timely and accurate data on program outcomes. Veterans should not have to endure excessive wait times before ac-

cessing their critical services. This requires the VA to report on employment rates, wages, and average wait times, guaranteeing that veterans receive prompt and effective assistance.

These measures will improve program effectiveness and ensure veterans benefit from high quality and timely support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I encourage the Senate to act quickly.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3579, as amended, the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program Integrity Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I, once again, encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3579, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1650

#### RURAL VETERANS' IMPROVED ACCESS TO BENEFITS ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3951) to amend the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 and the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 to improve the temporary licensure requirements for contract health care professionals who perform medical disability examinations for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3951

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural Veterans' Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO TEMPORARY LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACT HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO PERFORM MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) EXPANSION.—Section 504 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note), as amended by paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law

116-315; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note), is further amended, subject to the sunset in paragraph (4) of such subsection, by striking paragraph (2) of subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(2) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL DESCRIBED.—A health care professional described in this paragraph is a person who is eligible for appointment to a position in the Veterans Health Administration covered by section 7402(b) of title 38, United States Code, who—

“(A) has a current and unrestricted license to practice the health care profession of the health care professional;

“(B) is not barred from practicing such health care profession in any State; and

“(C) is performing authorized duties for the Department pursuant to a contract entered into under subsection (a).”.

(b) DELAYED SUNSET OF AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking “On the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “On September 30, 2031”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of such subsection is amended by striking “physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, audiologists, and psychologists” and inserting “health care professionals”.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding the use of the authority under section 504 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note), as temporarily amended by section 2002(a)(1) of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) and this section. Such report shall include, with respect to the one-year period after the date of the enactment of this Act, the following elements:

(1) The number of examinations conducted pursuant to a contract under such authority.

(2) The cost, timeliness, and legal adequacy of such examinations, disaggregated by—

(A) health care professional; and

(B) contract.

(3) The number of such examinations conducted in each State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(4) The numbers of each kind of health care professionals who conducted such examinations.

(5) The number of examinations that were erroneously conducted by a health care professional—

(A) without such a contract; or

(B) unauthorized to enter into such a contract.

(6) The plan of the Secretary to correct errors in the use of such authority.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3951, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3951, introduced by my colleague Representative CISCOMANI from Arizona.

This bill would extend the license portability authority for contracted medical professionals conducting compensation and pension examinations for veterans until 2031. These exams are a vitally important part of going through the VA benefits process.

Veterans living in rural or underserved areas often need to travel far distances for their exams. Veterans in my district know this hurdle firsthand and the impact it can have on dragging out the timeline for them to receive their disability benefits.

Congress created the authority to expand the net for qualified, contracted medical professionals. By ensuring more contracted medical professionals can perform these exams, veterans would have greater access to their benefits closer to home.

Under current law, license portability only applies to physician assistants, nurse practitioners, audiologists, and psychologists. This bill would expand that authority to include even more providers who are eligible for employment at the VA to perform medical disability examinations. This is a necessary expansion to the VA's exam programs to get even more qualified people serving veterans.

I thank Representative CISCOMANI for his leadership on this bill and his efforts to increase access to disability benefits for our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3951, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3951, the Rural Veterans' Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2025, as amended.

There are few things we on both sides of the aisle agree on completely, and I am happy to report this bill highlights one of them.

Veterans in rural areas deserve the same access to care that someone living near a VA facility in a large city does. Rural populations are particularly vulnerable because of unreasonable travel distances for appointments, especially specialists.

For some veterans, this can be a reason to delay or forgo routine exams or care, later resulting in poorer health outcomes. We hear many stories of veterans who have appointments scheduled hours away, requiring them to secure transportation, which can often be difficult. We have also heard incredibly frustrating stories of these same appointments being canceled or rescheduled at the last minute.

What does that mean for our veterans and their families? It can mean

rescheduling childcare, leave, work, transportation, as well as other appointments they may have grouped together for ease and convenience. It also means that any follow-up appointments begin the cumbersome cycle all over again.

We should not tolerate rural veterans being treated as secondary purely because of their location. They should have the same access to care that other veterans have in more densely populated areas.

The Rural Veterans' Improved Access to Benefits Act attempts to rectify part of this problem by expanding license portability, allowing practitioners to perform exams for veterans across State lines.

At a time when medical professionals in many specializations are particularly difficult to access at the VA, it is vital that we ease access to these practitioners where possible.

This bill mandates a report regarding the number of exams completed through this license portability agreement. This data will surely prove beneficial in highlighting communities with greater needs for care.

We will continue to work to ensure all veterans get access to the care they need, whether it be through legislative levers like this or continued efforts of outreach and advocacy.

I am thankful to all of those who worked on this effort to ensure that no one is left behind. I support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3951, the Rural Veterans' Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2025.

This bipartisan bill aims to ensure rural veterans have access to quality and timely physician examinations so that they are able to receive the care they are entitled to, regardless of where they live.

This legislation does this by permanently allowing VA providers to perform cross-State disability exams and expanding the pool of providers who can perform medical disability examinations for the VA to include all licensed healthcare professionals.

These changes will help to address the shortage of qualified examiners in rural areas, specifically thereby reducing wait times and increasing the timely release of benefits to our veterans.

I have witnessed firsthand the challenges rural veterans in Arizona's Sixth Congressional District face in getting their medical exams completed in a timely manner.

This bill takes an essential first step toward eliminating these regional healthcare disparities and ensures that all veterans receive the quality care they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 3951.

We owe it to our servicemen and -women to make this commitment to timely healthcare access.

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3951, the Rural Veterans' Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2025, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3951, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MODERNIZING ALL VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CLAIMS PROCESSING ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3854) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a plan to expand the use of certain automation tools in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3854

*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 "Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT ON CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### "§ 534. Annual report on causes of death among veterans

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate an annual report that contains data and information on causes of death among veterans.

"(b) ELEMENTS.—Such report shall include—

"(1) for each veteran that died during the period covered by the report an identification of—

"(A) whether such veteran had a service-connected disability rated as total;

"(B) the primary cause of death;

"(C) the secondary cause of death, if applicable; and

"(D) the manner of death;

"(2) for each primary cause of death identified pursuant to paragraph (1), a statement of the total number of veterans that died from such primary cause of death during the period covered by the report; and

"(3) for each manner of death identified pursuant to paragraph (1), a statement of the

total number of veterans that died in such manner during the period covered by the report.

“(c) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of the Justice for America’s Veterans and Survivors Act of 2025.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 533 the following new item:

“534. Annual report on causes of death among veterans”.

**SEC. 3. PLAN FOR USE OF AUTOMATION TOOLS TO PROCESS CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the plan of the Secretary to make available, to the maximum extent practicable, an automation tool described in subsection (b) to elements of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of processing claims under laws administered by the Secretary.

(b) AUTOMATION TOOL DESCRIBED.—An automation tool described in this subsection is a technology developed for the Compensation Service of the Veterans Benefits Administration that—

(1) automates the retrieval of the service record or health records of a veteran;

(2) compiles evidence relevant to the determination of a claim for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary;

(3) provides automated decision support relevant to such a determination;

(4) automates information sharing between Federal agencies; and

(5) assists in generating correspondence regarding such a claim.

(c) ANALYSIS.—In developing the plan required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct an analysis of each of the following:

(1) The feasibility and benefits of the use of an automation tool described in subsection (b) by elements of the Department for the purpose of processing claims under laws administered by the Secretary.

(2) Any modification to an existing automation tool that could render such tool usable for such purpose by such an element.

(3) Any requirement of any such element pertaining to such purpose that cannot be addressed by using an automation tool.

(4) The extent to which the technology offices of such elements may need to collaborate with the technology office responsible for developing an automation tool in the course of the development and use of the tool by the element for such purpose.

(5) A timeline for modifying and implementing any automation tool for use by such elements for such purpose.

(d) PRIORITY.—In providing an automation tool described in subsection (b) to elements of the Department pursuant to the plan required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to the following elements:

(1) The Pension and Fiduciary Service of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

(2) The Education Service of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

(3) Program offices of the Veterans Benefits Administration, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) The Debt Management Center.

(5) The Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

**SEC. 4. OTHER REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) AUTOMATIC NOTICES REGARDING BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VETERANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement policies, processes, and technological capabilities, including in the National Work Queue (or successor system), to ensure that, in the case of any covered situation, a claims processor is made aware of, and assigned to address, such covered situation.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) The term “covered situation” means—

(i) any increase in the amount of dependency compensation paid to a beneficiary for a child under the laws administered by the Secretary; and

(ii) any educational assistance paid to the child of a veteran under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(B) The term “child” has the meaning given such term in section 101(4)(A)(iii) of title 38, United States Code.

(b) CORRECT LABELING OF DOCUMENTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a plan to ensure that documents in the Veterans Benefits Management System (or any successor system) are correctly labeled when such documents are uploaded, including when such documents are labeled using automation tools.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3854, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3854, as amended, sponsored by Representative VALADAO.

This bill would require the VA to review existing claims, automation tools, and submit a plan to Congress on improving, modifying, or creating new tools to support claims processors.

□ 1700

These improvements would, in return, help the VA automatically retrieve veterans’ records, compile evidence, automate Federal Government data sharing, and generate notice letters to veterans. These improvements are common sense and would lead to more efficient and accurate decisions on benefit claims.

This bill would require the VA to detail how it would provide these improvements to other benefit programs in the Veterans Benefits Administration.

This bill also includes Representative EDWARDS’ bill, the Justice for American Veterans and Survivors Act of 2025. Importantly, this provision would require the VA to publish an annual re-

port for the next 5 years on the cause and manner of death among veterans rated 100 percent, our totally disabled veteran community.

The VA currently supports over 506,000 surviving spouses. However, the VA does not track the cause and manner of death among recently deceased totally disabled veterans. Data like this is critical to ensuring that the VA programs for surviving family members meet their needs.

The report would also require the VA to publish the total number of prevalent causes and manners of death among these veterans to better identify trends.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their work to ensure that the VA continues to develop the tools it needs to effectively deliver benefits. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3854, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3854, the Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act, as amended.

We are living in an era of remarkable technological advancement. It seems every day that there is a new story about how artificial intelligence is shaping data visualization or modeling. In fact, there are AI models that are helping to detect diseases before traditional detection periods.

As the world around us continues to advance in this way, we cannot handcuff the Department of Veterans Affairs and bar them from utilizing this remarkable technology, but neither can we let them proceed unfettered without considering all the implications of its use.

H.R. 3854 directs the VA to plan for the use of automation tools to aid in retrieving service records, medical evidence, and claims decision support, and to generate correspondence to the veteran. It requires the VA to share this report with Congress so that we may provide the proper oversight of this burgeoning technology.

This bill also provides an analytical structure to assess the feasibility and extent of collaboration required between offices utilizing artificial intelligence.

Lastly, it seeks to modernize and expedite the processing of benefits for certain children of veterans, a uniquely vulnerable community.

Beyond just addressing the use of emerging AI technology at the VA, H.R. 3854, as amended, also seeks to bolster the VA’s data collection. Currently, the VA does not collect cause-of-death data on veterans. This is problematic, and it creates a challenge when assessing trends in veteran deaths.

The collection of cause-of-death data would allow the VA to begin to build datasets that can be tracked and assessed, a promising thing in this era of rapid technological advancement.

It is not a stretch to say that this data can one day be used to anticipate and prevent potentially catastrophic diagnoses in veteran populations with similar markers. I, for one, look forward to a day when we are preventing deaths from occupational exposures instead of merely tracking them. This bill begins to tackle that.

This isn't a magic wand to fix and modernize all of VA, but it is a start. I am confident that with modernization efforts like this legislation, as well as my colleagues' efforts in other areas, we can make a concerted effort to give our veterans the best care and experience they deserve.

There is one very large caveat in this effort to modernize the VA and its systems that I would be remiss not to mention, which is any push to increase the use of automation, artificial intelligence, and big data at the VA must not simultaneously remove the humanity from the system. AI is no substitute for a well-trained workforce, especially one that is as mission-driven and dedicated as the one we have at the VA.

Even as chaos unfolds around them, I know that VA employees are trying hard to continue to deliver for veterans. We should not lose sight of that. Even with the promise of evolving technologies, we know that the human element is still the most important when delivering world-class care and service to veterans. It is what veterans want, and it is what serves them best.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), my good friend.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge support for my bill, the Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act.

Our veterans put their lives on the line to defend this country. When they come home, they shouldn't have to fight another battle just to get the benefits that they deserve.

Unfortunately, outdated systems at the VA are causing unnecessary delays that create real hardships for both veterans and their families.

To speed up disability claims, the VA has used automation tools, like AI, to draft letters and gather documents. That same technology has not been applied to other types of claims, such as pensions or survivor benefits. This has led to a growing backlog and, in some cases, missed benefits altogether.

My bill takes steps to fix this. It requires the VA to expand the use of automation tools, ensure that documents are properly labeled in the system, and improve coordination between offices. It also directs the VA to use the tools for pensions and survivors' benefits, so families aren't left behind.

By improving coordination across the VA and other Federal agencies, we can reduce overpayments and prevent families from being hit with unexpected debt notices.

This is a commonsense bill that would help to ensure that our veterans and survivors receive the benefits that they deserve in a timely and efficient manner.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I also thank Chairman BOST and his staff at the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for their work on this very important issue.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MORRISON), my good friend who serves on our Health Subcommittee and our Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3854, the Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act.

The bill before us includes the provisions of the Justice for America's Veterans and Survivors Act, which I co-led with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS). Our bipartisan bill will improve the VA's data collection efforts on the prevailing causes of death among veterans.

As a physician myself, I can tell you firsthand that thorough and accurate data is critical to delivering the best possible care for patients. I believe it is incumbent upon us as lawmakers to take the same approach with policymaking, especially when it comes to crafting legislation to help care for our veterans.

The information provided under this report will help us to better understand the most serious threats facing our veterans, whether it be suicide, toxic exposure, or other life-threatening conditions.

This reporting will also include important information on veterans with service-connected disability, which will help to ensure that surviving family members receive the benefits that they are entitled to in a timely fashion.

This commonsense legislation will provide the information that we need to ensure that our veterans are getting the best possible care, which is a goal that we all share.

Mr. Speaker, I will end by thanking the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) for his partnership and the chair and ranking member for their support. I also thank the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation.

□ 1710

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. VALADAO from California for his leadership on Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act. This important legislation streamlines the VA claims process, helping veterans and their families receive the benefits that they have earned and deserve.

I am especially grateful to Mr. VALADAO for his collaboration in including my bill, the Justice for America's Veterans and Survivors Act, in this package.

My legislation improves how the Department of Veterans Affairs collects and reports data on the causes of death among veterans with a particular emphasis on accurately identifying when suicide is a primary or contributing factor.

The mental health crisis among America's veterans has reached an alarming level. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death for veterans under the age of 45.

Despite ongoing efforts, the Department of Veterans Affairs struggles to accurately track and report veteran suicides. This not only hinders the development of effective policies but deprives survivors and families of the support that they have earned and deserve.

Currently, the VA relies on county-level reporting that fails to identify veteran status in nearly one in five cases. Additionally, many self-harm deaths such as drug overdoses are excluded from suicide data.

The Justice for America's Veterans and Survivors Act fixes that issue by requiring the VA to publish an annual report on causes of death among veterans and it clarifies when suicide is a primary or a secondary cause, including in cases of self-harm related deaths.

Proper cause-of-death reporting ensures families have access to the benefits and resources that they are entitled to, and understanding the full scope of the veteran suicide crisis is essential to creating effective policies to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, once again, to vote "yes" on H.R. 3854, Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act, as amended.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3854, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EDITH NOURSE ROGERS STEM  
SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2034) to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2034

*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 “Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act”.*

**SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO EDITH NOURSE ROGERS STEM SCHOLARSHIP.**

*Section 3320 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

- (1) in subsection (b)—*
- (A) by striking paragraph (2);*
- (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and*
- (C) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, in subparagraph (A)(ii)—*
  - (i) by striking “60” and inserting “45”; and*
  - (ii) by striking “90” and inserting “67.5”;*
- (2) in subsection (c)(1)—*
  - (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and*
  - (B) by inserting before subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, the following new subparagraphs:*
    - “(A) Individuals who have used the most number of months of the educational assistance to which they are entitled under this chapter.*
    - “(B) Individuals who are using their entitlement under this chapter to pursue a program of post-secondary education and who have declared a major in a field referred to in subsection (b)(3)(A)(i).”;* and
    - (3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*
      - “(5) An individual who receives a benefit under this section may only use such benefit after the individual has used all of the educational assistance to which the individual is entitled under this chapter.”.*

*“(A) Individuals who have used the most number of months of the educational assistance to which they are entitled under this chapter.*

*“(B) Individuals who are using their entitlement under this chapter to pursue a program of post-secondary education and who have declared a major in a field referred to in subsection (b)(3)(A)(i).”;* and

*(3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

*“(5) An individual who receives a benefit under this section may only use such benefit after the individual has used all of the educational assistance to which the individual is entitled under this chapter.”.*

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.**

*Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting “March 31, 2033”.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2034, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2034, as amended, offered by my colleague, Representative NIKKI BUDZINSKI of Illinois.

This bill would make needed improvements to the Edith Nourse Rogers

STEM Scholarship education benefits program.

Currently, the program is underused because of bureaucratic red tape that limits who is eligible for the scholarship. This mistake made by previous Congresses has prevented the STEM scholarship from helping those who are most in need.

While I believe more information is necessary to fully improve the program, this bill is a step in the right direction. I thank our colleague, NIKKI BUDZINSKI, for her support of this legislation. Additionally, I thank my friend and fellow Representative, ABRAHAM HAMADEH of Arizona, for cosponsoring this legislation.

Representative HAMADEH’s advocacy on this bill has been pivotal to getting it on the House floor today to cut through the red tape and improve education benefit access.

Finally, I thank The American Legion and Paralyzed Veterans of America for their support of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 2034, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 2034, the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act, as amended.

Edith Nourse Rogers was a trailblazer for veteran benefits, and the program we are amending today that bears her name was created to support the next generation of veteran trailblazers. She was instrumental in the creation of the original GI Bill and advocated for a greater role for women in the Armed Forces.

Congress created the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship in 2017 as part of the Forever GI Bill. However, since creation, we have learned of cases where improvements to the program would encourage more veterans to pursue dual degrees, degrees in STEM education, and degrees in healthcare.

Representative BUDZINSKI’s legislation would improve the program to better fit student veteran needs by making two fundamental changes to the program to increase access.

First, the legislation allows veterans to apply for the scholarship while they are still finishing their undergraduate degrees. That means students won’t have to delay their education for no reason or hit an arbitrary completed credit hour requirement if they are accepted into the program. Veterans can seamlessly progress to their next degree.

Second, the legislation removes the requirement that a student exhaust all credit hours on their GI Bill benefits, which makes enrollment easier for STEM-seeking students.

The scholarship is a wonderful tool, but these requirements, originally well-intended, have made the scholarship onerous to use and limited enrollment far below projections.

H.R. 2034 fixes those issues and clears the way for more trailblazers like Congresswoman Edith Nourse. I thank Representative BUDZINSKI for introducing this important bill, and I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate, as well, to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BUDZINSKI), my good friend and the author of the bill, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization.

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act.

With the start of the new school year, the time is now to pass this bipartisan legislation that will help student veterans who are training for high-demand STEM fields.

I thank my colleague on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Congressman HAMADEH, for his collaboration and partnership on this bill. I also thank our veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, this bill removes barriers for student veterans seeking a STEM education by modifying eligibility requirements for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.

This scholarship has proven crucial to getting more veterans involved in STEM fields, but feedback from veterans in a 2022 GAO report has shown that current eligibility requirements are barriers for many of our student veterans.

The Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act would address these barriers by lowering the minimum number of credit hours required. It would also allow student veterans to apply for the scholarship before their post-9/11 GI Bill benefits run out.

This would allow for a smooth transition of funding for their education. They have so greatly served us. It is time for us to serve them.

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

□ 1720

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers at this time. I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2034, the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, once again I encourage all Members to support this legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2034, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE RESTORATION ACT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2701) to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2701

*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 "Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) An estimated 900 American-Jewish servicemembers of the Armed Forces, killed in World War I and World War II and buried overseas in United States military cemeteries were, for various reasons, mistakenly buried under Latin Crosses. In most instances, those mistakes were made inadvertently.

(2) In 2022, more than 2,000,000 people visited the United States World War I and World War II cemeteries in foreign countries.

(3) American-Jewish servicemembers played a vital role in the Allied victories in World War I and World War II.

(4) American-Jewish servicemembers who fought and died for the United States must have their heritage properly recognized and honored.

(5) The United States Government has a solemn responsibility to ensure that every American servicemember killed in action and buried overseas is properly honored.

(6) The work of properly identifying American-Jewish servicemembers buried overseas is vital and integral to the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission to ensure that past mistakes in honoring those servicemembers who died in the line of duty are corrected.

#### SEC. 3. FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The American Battle Monuments Commission shall establish a program to identify covered members and to contact survivors and descendants of such covered members. Such program shall be known as the "Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Program".

(b) DURATION.—The Commission shall carry out the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Program during the first five fiscal years that begin after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### (c) CONTRACTS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—During each fiscal year described in subsection (b), the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization under which such nonprofit organization shall carry out the purpose described in subsection (a).

(2) TERM; AMOUNT.—Each contract under this subsection shall be for one year and in the amount of \$500,000 to the nonprofit organization.

(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding a contract under this subsection, the Commission shall give priority to a nonprofit organization that has demonstrated capability and expertise in carrying out the purpose described in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "covered member" means a deceased member of the Armed Forces who was Jewish and buried—

(A) in a United States military cemetery located outside the United States; and

(B) under a marker that indicates such member was not Jewish.

(2) The term "nonprofit organization" means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

#### SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "January 31, 2032".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2701.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2701, as amended, offered by Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

This bill would propel VA to identify and correct the gravestones of fallen American-Jewish servicemembers who were killed in World War I and World War II.

An estimated 900 American-Jewish servicemembers were mistakenly buried under a Latin cross headstone at overseas U.S. veterans cemeteries. This bill would seek to right this wrong by creating the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Program. It would direct the ABMC, which maintains our cemeteries overseas, to contract with nonprofit organizations to identify these servicemembers and correct this to properly honor them.

Since the Revolutionary War, Jewish Americans have fought to defend our Nation's freedoms. Madam Speaker, it should go without saying that they deserve to be honored properly with the dignity that they have earned.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, H.R. 2701, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2701, the Fallen Servicemembers

Religious Heritage Restoration Act, as amended. I thank my good friend and colleague Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for introducing this bill.

Madam Speaker, oftentimes veterans who were buried overseas during World Wars I and II were put to rest on foreign soil without the full picture of who they were as people. In life, these servicemen and -women showed courage, honor, respect, dignity, and sacrifice. In death, some have been unfortunately misrepresented.

Not because of malice, but more often circumstances of time, space, and uncertainty, roughly 900 American-Jewish servicemembers were buried under a Latin cross that does not accurately reflect their religious heritage.

The Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act seeks to correct this oversight. It formalizes a program with the American Battle Monuments Commission to identify and establish contact with descendants of those fallen servicemembers who were mistakenly buried under the Latin cross and works in partnership with a nonprofit organization to obtain the grave marker that accurately represents their religious heritage and replace the inaccurate headstone.

Acts like this provide a structure to identify our veterans not merely as markers in cemeteries, but as whole humans, with their belief in something greater than even their service—their creator.

I am thankful to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for championing this effort and for ensuring we are accurately capturing the history and dignity of those who served overseas in some of our most trying conflicts.

Far too often, we think of Arlington National Cemetery or maybe your local veterans cemetery and don't even realize that we have servicemembers buried overseas in plots around the world.

The work of the American Battle Monuments Commission is broad, reaching across 26 permanent American military cemeteries, over 30 memorials, monuments, and markers, in 17 different countries. I encourage all those who have the opportunity to do so to visit one of these cemeteries.

If you find yourself overseas, do an internet search and see if you can stop by an ABMC location. You will be awed and humbled by the emotional sight of seeing the true cost of freedom and sacrifice. I can assure you, you will find a passionate group of caretakers, educators, historians, and advocates who take such care to keep these lands sacred.

It is people like this who continually work to ensure those buried far from home are done so in dignity and with their true heritage represented. Their efforts and the efforts of those who have worked so hard to bring this program and legislation to this point assure that we, as a nation, with our

overseas partners, will work continuously for accurate representation and history for our veteran community.

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

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), my very good friend and author of H.R. 2701. She serves as ranking member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his indulgence in yielding time to speak in support of my bill, the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act. I thank Chairman BOST for advancing this legislation through his committee and for his indulgence in reordering its consideration on the floor so that I could make it here to actually speak on the bill. I very much appreciate it.

My bill, as you have heard, is straightforward and bipartisan. It rights a wrong that occurred in some cases by accident where a Jewish servicemember was laid to rest under a headstone misidentifying their religion.

It ensures the United States properly honors the religion and heritage of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. It does so by creating a program with the American Battle Monuments Commission to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in U.S. military cemeteries in ABMC purview under headstones that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage.

World War I and World War II were brutal and devastating, leading to challenges of ensuring every fallen American servicemember received the honor and respect of a proper burial.

From World War II alone, it is estimated that 600 American-Jewish servicemembers killed in action remain improperly buried under Latin crosses rather than Stars of David. While some of these improper burials were due to clerical errors, we have heard many stories of Jewish war heroes not wanting to display their faith on their dog tags while fighting against the anti-Semitic and genocidal Nazi regime.

Sadly, this issue is not limited to World War II.

This past spring, I had the honor of participating in a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to properly honor two World War I fallen American-Jewish servicemembers, Private David Moser and Private First Class Adolph Hanf. Both were laid to rest for over 100 years under a headstone etched with a Latin cross.

In a moving ceremony sponsored by Private Moser's family, these American heroes' headstones were replaced,

properly honoring their heritage after all these years. It was so moving to honor the tremendous sacrifices Jewish Americans paid in service to our Nation, fighting for the same rights and freedoms every American cherishes.

At a moment when anti-Semitism is at record highs, this moment of healing was incredibly special. Knowing that there are hundreds of additional fallen Jewish servicemembers who deserve the same recognition as Private Moser and Private First Class Hanf makes this bill all the more important.

□ 1730

I have been honored by all the wide-ranging organizational support for the bill and for my colleagues who have partnered with me on this mission.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman MAX MILLER for being my co-lead and Senators MORAN and ROSEN for championing this bill in the Senate.

As the ranking member of Appropriations' Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, which provides funding for the ABMC, I am acutely aware that the programs that Congress authorizes require funding to ensure proper implementation.

In both fiscal year 2026 House and Senate MILCON-VA appropriations bills, we secured \$500,000 to carry out this mission with ABMC, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that it stays in the bill as we continue consideration during conference negotiations.

It is critical that Jewish Americans who served our Nation in uniform and paid the ultimate price are able to be laid to rest honoring their religious heritage. Unfortunately, due to the fog of war, hundreds of Jewish servicemembers were denied that last opportunity.

This bill is an important step to allow for the research necessary to correct these errors and ensure there are resources for that work. This will make it possible for these brave Jewish servicemembers' descendants to know that their loved one's military service, life, and religious heritage are properly honored.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 2701 so we can properly honor our fallen Jewish-American servicemembers.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers. I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2701, the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST)

that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2701, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DELIVERING DIGITALLY TO OUR VETERANS ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3481) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for electronic communication relating to educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3481

*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 "Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act of 2025".*

#### SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT TO CERTAIN OUTREACH UNDER SOLID START PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

*Section 6320(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

*(1) in paragraph (1)(B)—*

*(A) by striking "calling" and inserting "communicating with"; and*

*(B) by inserting "through the use of tailored lines of communication, including mailings, text messaging, virtual chatting, and other electronic forms of messaging" after "Armed Forces"; and*

*(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "tailored mailings" and inserting "tailored lines of communication, including mailings, text messaging, virtual chatting, and other electronic forms of messaging,".*

#### SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS USE OF TAILORED LINES OF COMMUNICATION FOR CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.

*Section 3680 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

*"(i)(1) The Secretary shall provide a mechanism by which an eligible veteran or eligible person may use tailored lines of communication to send and receive correspondence with the Department of Veterans related to entitlement to and use of educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary. The Secretary shall ensure that an eligible veteran or eligible person is provided with an opportunity to opt into sending and receiving such correspondence using such lines of communication rather than by mail.*

*"(2) The Secretary shall provide to eligible veterans and eligible persons who are enrolled in a course or program of education or training notice of the opportunity to opt in to sending and receiving correspondence using tailored lines of communication pursuant to paragraph (1).*

*"(3) In this subsection, the term 'tailored lines of communication' includes mailings, text messaging, virtual chatting, and other electronic forms of messaging."*

#### SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

*Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "January 31, 2033".*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3481, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3481, as amended, offered by my friend and colleague, Representative TOM BARRETT from Michigan.

This bill would allow veterans to opt in to receive messages digitally regarding the GI Bill education benefit.

Under current law, veterans in education programs can only receive time-sensitive information from VA through the mail. The outdated practice forces veterans to wait weeks for information they could receive in minutes through a text message.

Further, this bill would modernize VA's Solid Start program by authorizing it to communicate with veterans via text message. Right now, VA is only able to reach out to veterans in Solid Start by calling them. While the older generation of veterans pick up the phone, the VA Solid Start program has seen a concerning drop-off among younger veterans. This bill would bridge the gap in communication.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BARRETT for championing this bill and for finding solutions in the technology space to ensure student veterans and transitioning servicemembers are receiving up-to-date and timely information.

Madam Speaker, this bill is in lock-step with the Republican majority's efforts to properly propel VA to meet veterans where they are.

Madam Speaker, I also thank Representative VAN ORDEN for his continued efforts to make necessary improvements to the Transition Assistance Program, or the TAP program.

Under my leadership, my committee will continue to honor its commitment to all veterans, ensuring the VA is working for our veterans.

Madam Speaker, I also give special thanks to The American Legion, the PVA, and the VFW for their support.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3481, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3481, the Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act of 2025, as amended.

Veterans should not have to fight to get information about their earned GI Bill benefits, and this legislation looks to ease access to information from the VA to veterans by allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs to do outreach using digital messaging, such as text messages, direct messages, and virtual chat, in addition to direct mail.

VA is already doing much of this, but H.R. 3481, as amended, looks to codify these efforts into law to ensure they are available to veterans in the future.

H.R. 3481, as amended, also includes the text of H.R. 3386, the Streamlining the Solid Start Communications Act. Then-Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin and Senator HASSAN permanently authorized the Solid Start program, which has been a critical outreach to newly separated veterans. Solid Start allows VA to stay connected with veterans as they navigate their transition to civilian life.

H.R. 3481, as amended, expands VA Solid Start outreach efforts to include the same texts and digital options included in the underlying text.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House, and the Senate, as well, to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARRETT), who is the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. BARRETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3481, the Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act.

This important legislation is a bipartisan effort to finally bring the VA into the 21st century by changing the way veterans are notified about their benefits.

Right now, under current statute, veterans across America are left digging through the mail, often intermixed with junk mail and other notices that they may receive, just to find important updates from the VA, which often leads to things getting lost and delays in their benefits.

In fact, it was not that long ago when I was in college and required to manually call in to a hotline for the VA every month to notify them that I was still a student enrolled in courses to receive my GI Bill benefits.

H.R. 3481 fixes these issues by authorizing the VA to send GI Bill and Solid Start updates to veterans digitally through their devices that so many of us carry around every single day.

This is an opt-in program that doesn't obligate any veteran to do this, but it is an easy and effective solution that will help veterans take advantage of the benefits they need when transitioning back into their communities after service.

As the chairman said, this is also supported by The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America because they understand the importance of what we are trying to do in this legislation.

By updating the way the VA communicates, we are guaranteeing veterans receive convenient and timely updates wherever they are, on their computer, phone, or tablet. Like so many students, they may live remotely from their home address, which would prevent them from receiving these updates.

It will also reduce postage costs, allowing the VA to spend money in ways that better serve our Nation's heroes. It is a win-win overall.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. TRAN, for their help in introducing this bill as we continue to work to improve the lives of veterans everywhere.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

□ 1740

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 3481, the Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3481, 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. BOST. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

VA HOSPITAL INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3494) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an information technology system and prioritize certain requirements to manage supply chains for medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3494

*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 "VA Hospital Inventory Management System Authorization Act".

**SEC. 2. MANAGEMENT OF SUPPLY CHAINS FOR MEDICAL FACILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized to—

(1) purchase or develop for the Veterans Health Administration a cloud-based information technology system for the management of inventory, including expendable and nonexpendable items; and

(2) implement such system.

(b) PILOT.—If the Secretary purchases or develops a system under subsection (a), the Secretary shall carry out a pilot program at one Veterans Health Administration facility before implementing the system throughout the Veterans Health Administration. The pilot program shall be designed to determine whether the functions of the system are satisfactory.

(c) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary purchases or develops a system under subsection (a), the Secretary shall complete the implementation of the system by not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not exercise the authority under subsection (a) or subsection (b) until the date on which the Secretary submits to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a comprehensive supply chain strategy to guide enterprise-wide implementation, as recommended in the report of the Comptroller General of the United States titled "VA Acquisition Management: Comprehensive Supply Chain Management Strategy Key to Address Existing Challenges" (GAO-21-445T; published March 24, 2021), which includes success metrics, a plan for data standardization, and staffing models;

(2) a cost estimate and implementation schedule for the supply chain modernization program of the Department;

(3) a comprehensive staffing assessment of the supply chain and information technology modernization workforces of the Department that includes—

(A) monthly staffing gains and losses since October 1, 2022;

(B) the current staffing level of each such workforce as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(C) an estimate of future staffing requirements for the implementation of the supply chain modernization program, disaggregated by each such workforce; and

(4) an independent assessment of the review carried out by the Secretary with respect to failures of the supply chain modernization program of the Department.

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.**

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 30, 2031" and inserting "December 31, 2032".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3494, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3494, as amended, offered by Representative KIGGANS. This bill would ensure VA finally has a reliable system to track hospital supplies and equipment.

For too long, an unreliable system has wasted taxpayer dollars and left doctors and nurses searching for basic tools they need to care for our veterans. That kind of mismanagement is unacceptable. Veterans should never face delays in treatment because a hospital can't find the supplies and equipment it needs.

A modern supply chain means stronger care for our veterans, smarter spending for taxpayers, and greater accountability at the VA. It means no excuses, no wasted dollars, and no veterans left waiting because the system failed them. That is exactly what this bill delivers for our Nation's heroes.

I thank Representative KIGGANS for her continued leadership on the committee and her tireless commitment to solving this problem at the VA. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3494, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in cautious—I emphasize cautious—support for H.R. 3494, the VA Hospital Inventory Management System Authorization Act, as amended.

Throughout my time on this committee, I have seen the importance and necessity of an accessible and efficient supply chain system. Without these tools, hospitals remain ill-equipped to handle demand.

This became painfully evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when VA facilities were forced to use Excel spreadsheets to report PPE inventory up to the central office.

VA patients and providers deserve a modernized supply chain, and it has yet to be proven that VA has the capacity to provide this solution. I emphasize this has occurred, regardless of which party was in charge of the department.

After a canceled procurement effort last year, VA has told us that it plans to restart its supply chain modernization effort for a fifth time. As far as I can tell, they have not done much of the work needed to avoid making the same expensive mistakes again.

Representative KIGGANS' bill in its introduced form would have authorized tens of millions of dollars to VA for a pilot on a program VA does not even yet have a plan for. That is millions of dollars to the Department simply with the hope that VA was ready to get it right this time.

However, I am glad my Republican colleagues chose to incorporate critical accountability measures initially proposed by my colleague, Representative NIKKI BUDZINSKI, for consideration on the floor today after these measures

were voted down on party lines in our most recent committee markup.

With the help of committee Democrats, this bill will now ensure that the Department has critical measures in place before it embarks on implementing the untested and unproven pilot program this bill authorizes.

Representative BUDZINSKI's input requires that VA develop a comprehensive strategy for its supply chain program, a cost estimate and implementation schedule, reports on VA's internal staffing levels after support workforces were heavily depleted by the Deferred Resignation Program and other attrition, and an assessment of its recent failures in this modernization effort.

These updates represent just the most basic levels of oversight and planning that VA should have done once it decided to restart this modernization effort. I am glad my Republican colleagues are joining us in pushing for the Department to conduct these necessary assessments and plans before overhauling such an important program as supply chain management.

I also applaud Representative BUDZINSKI for inserting these commonsense checks into this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS), the sponsor of this bill.

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the VA Hospital Inventory Management System Authorization Act.

As a Navy veteran, a nurse practitioner, and the proud Representative of a district that is home to more than 78,000 veterans, I know how essential it is to ensure our veteran health system works efficiently and effectively.

Unfortunately, outdated systems and fragmented logistics have created real obstacles within the VA. These failures aren't just technical. They are personal. They affect real people and real families.

Over the past several years, millions of dollars in medical equipment have gone missing from VA facilities across the country. These are not isolated incidents. They are symptoms of a broader issue, one where a lack of modern infrastructure has led to waste, delay, and avoidable gaps in care.

That is why I introduced this bipartisan and commonsense approach to improving how the VA manages medical supplies. This bill authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop or acquire a cloud-based inventory management system to help ensure VA clinicians always have the right tools at the right time to provide high-quality care.

This system will offer better tracking, better forecasting, and better accountability. We are not reinventing the wheel. We are simply asking the VA to adopt the same kinds of tools

and best practices that are already being used in the private sector and to do so in a way that is transparent, results-driven, and veteran-focused.

The benefits are clear. A modern inventory management system will reduce waste, prevent delays in care, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently. Most importantly, it will help restore trust in a system that too often leaves veterans feeling frustrated and forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully urge my colleagues to support this bill and join me in making a practical, bipartisan improvement to the care our veterans receive.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 3494, the VA Hospital Inventory Management System Act, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3494, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1750

**FOCUSED ASSISTANCE AND SKILLS TRAINING FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION SUCCESS ACT**

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4446) to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4446

*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 "Focused Assistance and Skills Training for Veterans' Employment and Transition Success Act" or the "FAST VETS Act".

**SEC. 2. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL REDEVELOP INDIVIDUALIZED VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PLAN.**

Section 3107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended in subsection (b)—

(1) by striking "The Secretary shall review" and inserting "(1) The Secretary shall review";

(2) by striking the second sentence; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) On the basis of such review, the Secretary shall—

"(A) redevelop such plan with such veteran if the Secretary determines the achievement of the long-range rehabilitation goals for such veteran is—

"(i) no longer feasible due to changes in the employment handicap of the veteran; and

"(ii) likelier under a different plan formulated under subsection (a); or

"(B) disapprove redevelopment of such plan if the Secretary determines such redevelopment is not appropriate."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4446.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4446 offered by my colleague, Representative MAXINE DEXTER, from Oregon.

H.R. 4446 would allow a veteran who has changed in their disability rating to apply for changes in their Veterans Readiness and Employment, or the VR&E plan, instead of being forced to complete their current rehabilitation plan first.

This bill is a simple fix that would remove the outdated practice that requires disabled veterans to complete their current plan before switching to a plan that may better fit the changes in their disability.

During the Biden Administration, VA damaged their relationship with veterans in the VR&E program. Under President Trump's Secretary Collins' leadership, VA is rebuilding that trust and is working to fix the program.

This Congress, the Republican majority has worked hard to improve VR&E by modernizing the program, increasing transparency, and introducing accountability to both the VA and the veterans. While this bill is a step in the right direction, I hope my colleagues recognize that there is much more work to be done to get VA to work for the veterans first.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4446, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 4446, the Focused Assistance and Skills Training for Veterans' Employment and Transition Success, or FAST VETS Act. Introduced by Veterans' Affairs Committee member Representative DEXTER, the

VA Veterans Readiness and Employment, or VR&E program, is perhaps the greatest resource disabled veterans have to seek a new career path, but veterans are dealing with historic wait times due to program popularity and expanded eligibility under the PACT Act.

I respectfully disagree with how the chairman has framed the VR&E program and its shortcomings, but let me just proceed to the virtues of this bill.

The program is incredibly important for disabled veterans because it provides a comprehensive, individualized pathway to overcome employment barriers caused by service-connected disabilities, but with wait times weeks, or even months in some areas of the country, veterans risk missing out on the program's benefits.

Representative DEXTER's bill would make it easier for veterans to find employment while in the program and to graduate faster from the program, freeing up counselors at VA to assist the next class of disabled veterans seeking a new career.

One of the primary goals of the PACT Act was to recognize the sacrifice of so many more veterans who were injured during their time serving our Nation and to make them eligible for many of the programs offered to help them find meaningful employment such as VR&E. Now the VR&E program must keep pace with this new influx of veterans and ensure that it is meeting their needs.

I thank Representative DEXTER for her work on this bill, and I know she is already at work on additional solutions for the program, such as measures to maintain and support the staff at VA tasked with carrying out the program.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate as well to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER), who is the author of H.R. 4446 and who serves on our Health Subcommittee and our Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.

Ms. DEXTER. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their words of support today for the FAST VETS Act.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of the FAST VETS Act, Focused Assistance and Skills Training for Veterans' Employment and Transition Success, or FAST VETS Act.

I am grateful to Representatives MESSMER, MCGARVEY, and VAN ORDEN for joining me in this bipartisan effort to better serve our Nation's veterans.

Like many physicians, I trained at the VA where the sign on the door said: The price of freedom is visible here. Our veterans gave everything for this country. Our promise in return is that they will not just get by in civilian life, they will thrive.

Congress must ensure employment readiness programs truly work for veterans, and that is exactly what the

FAST VETS Act does. I am heartened that my first bill to come to the floor of the House advances our commitment to those who served.

The FAST VETS Act is about delivering on our promise to those who have served. Veterans who live with service-connected disabilities deserve every opportunity to succeed in civilian life. That includes access to the Veterans Readiness and Employment, VR&E, program, which provides job training, education, employment accommodations, and the resources to build a meaningful career. However, too often, that support comes too late. In Portland, it currently takes more than 65 days for a veteran to be connected with a vocational rehabilitation counselor. That is at least 2 months of missed income, missed classes, and missed opportunity. That is unacceptable.

The FAST VETS Act is a critical first step to addressing the backlog. It establishes clearer standards and prioritizes outcome-focused planning to support more veterans successfully and efficiently moving through the program and into the workforce.

Ensuring every veteran gets the support they deserve helps prevent housing instability, reduces food insecurity, and strengthens mental health. We owe it to them to act with urgency and purpose.

I am committed to continuing this work until every veteran has a clear, supported path to meaningful and gainful employment. The FAST VETS Act moves us closer to that goal, and I am proud to have led this effort.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate my good friend from the State of Oregon on what will become the passage of her first bill.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. In closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 4446, the FAST VETS Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. In closing, Madam Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support the legislation. I want to congratulate the gentlewoman for passing her first piece of legislation in the House, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4446.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### RELATING TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY BY THE PRESIDENT ON JULY 30, 2025

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Meeks of New York moves that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of House Joint Resolution 117.

#### MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. MAST

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Mast of Florida moves to table the motion to discharge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules with respect to H.R. 3400.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 200, nays 198, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 265]

YEAS—200

Aderholt	Crane	Gonzales, Tony
Alford	Crank	Gooden
Allen	Crawford	Gosar
Amodei (NV)	Crenshaw	Greene (GA)
Arrington	Davidson	Griffith
Babin	De La Cruz	Grothman
Baird	DesJarlais	Guest
Balderson	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie
Barrett	Donalds	Hageman
Baumgartner	Downing	Hamadeh (AZ)
Bean (FL)	Edwards	Haridopolos
Begich	Ellzey	Harrigan
Bentz	Emmer	Harris (MD)
Bergman	Estes	Harris (NC)
Bice	Evans (CO)	Harshbarger
Biggs (AZ)	Ezell	Hern (OK)
Biggs (SC)	Fallon	Higgins (LA)
Bilirakis	Fedorchak	Hill (AR)
Boebert	Feenstra	Hinson
Bost	Fine	Houchin
Brecheen	Finstad	Hudson
Bresnahan	Fischbach	Huizenga
Buchanan	Fitzgerald	Hunt
Burchett	Fitzpatrick	Hurd (CO)
Burlison	Fleischmann	Issa
Calvert	Flood	Jack
Cammack	Fong	Johnson (LA)
Carey	Fox	Jordan
Carter (TX)	Franklin, Scott	Joyce (OH)
Ciscomani	Fry	Joyce (PA)
Cline	Fulcher	Kean
Cloud	Garbarino	Kelly (MS)
Clyde	Gill (TX)	Kelly (PA)
Cole	Gimenez	Kennedy (UT)
Comer	Goldman (TX)	Kiggans (VA)

Kiley (CA)	Moolenaar	Smith (NE)
Kim	Moore (AL)	Smith (NJ)
Knott	Moore (NC)	Smucker
Kustoff	Moore (UT)	Stauber
LaHood	Moore (WV)	Stefanik
LaLota	Moran	Steil
LaMalfa	Murphy	Steube
Langworthy	Nehls	Strong
Latta	Norman	Stutzman
Lawler	Nunn (IA)	Taylor
Lee (FL)	Ogles	Tenney
Leflow	Onder	Thompson (PA)
Lucas	Owens	Tiffany
Luna	Palmer	Timmons
Luttrell	Patronis	Turner (OH)
Mace	Perry	Valadao
Mackenzie	Pfluger	Van Drew
Malliotakis	Reschenthaler	Van Dyne
Maloy	Rogers (AL)	Van Orden
Mann	Rogers (KY)	Wagner
Mast	Rose	Walberg
McCaul	Rouzer	Weber (TX)
McClain	Rulli	Webster (FL)
McClintock	Scalise	Westerman
McCormick	Schmidt	Wied
McDowell	Schweikert	Williams (TX)
McGuire	Scott, Austin	Wilson (SC)
Miller (IL)	Self	Wittman
Miller (OH)	Sessions	Womack
Miller (WV)	Shreve	Yakym
Miller-Meeks	Simpson	Zinke
Mills	Smith (MO)	

#### NAYS—198

Adams	Frankel, Lois	Nadler
Aguilar	Friedman	Neguse
Amo	Frost	Norcross
Ansari	Garamendi	Ocasio-Cortez
Auchincloss	Garcia (CA)	Olsewski
Bacon	Garcia (IL)	Omar
Balint	Garcia (TX)	Pallone
Barragan	Gillen	Panetta
Beatty	Golden (ME)	Pappas
Bell	Goldman (NY)	Perez
Bera	Gomez	Peters
Beyer	Gonzalez, V.	Pingree
Bishop	Goodlander	Pou
Bonamici	Harder (CA)	Pressley
Boyle (PA)	Hayes	Quigley
Brown	Himes	Ramirez
Brownley	Horsford	Randall
Budzinski	Houlihan	Raskin
Bynum	Huffman	Riley (NY)
Carbajal	Ivey	Rivas
Carson	Jackson (IL)	Ross
Carter (LA)	Jacobs	Ruiz
Casar	Jayapal	Ryan
Case	Jeffries	Salinas
Casten	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez
Castor (FL)	Johnson (TX)	Scanlon
Castro (TX)	Kamlager-Dove	Schakowsky
Cherfilus-	Kaptur	Schneider
McCormick	Kelly (IL)	Scholten
Chu	Kennedy (NY)	Schrier
Cisneros	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Clarke (NY)	Landsman	Sewell
Cleaver	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Clyburn	Larson (CT)	Simon
Cohen	Latimer	Smith (WA)
Conaway	Lee (NV)	Sorensen
Correa	Lee (PA)	Soto
Costa	Levin	Stansbury
Courtney	Liccardo	Stanton
Craig	Lieu	Stevens
Crockett	Lofgren	Strickland
Crow	Lynch	Subramanyam
Cuellar	Mannion	Suozy
Davids (KS)	Massie	Swalwell
Davis (IL)	Matsui	Sykes
Davis (NC)	McBath	Takano
Dean (PA)	McBride	Thanedar
DeGette	McClain Delaney	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	McClellan	Thompson (MS)
DelBene	McCollum	Tlaib
Deluzio	McDonald Rivet	Tokuda
DeSaulnier	McGarvey	Tonko
Dexter	McGovern	Torres (CA)
Dingell	McIver	Torres (NY)
Doggett	Meeks	Trahan
Elfreth	Menendez	Tran
Escobar	Min	Underwood
Espallat	Moore (WI)	Vargas
Evans (PA)	Morelle	Vasquez
Fields	Morrison	Veasey
Figures	Moskowitz	Velázquez
Fletcher	Moulton	Vindman
Foster	Mrvan	
Foushee	Mullin	

Walkinshaw  
Wasserman  
Schultz

Watson Coleman  
Whitesides  
Williams (GA)

Wilson (FL)

## NOT VOTING—34

Barr  
Carter (GA)  
Collins  
Dunn (FL)  
Gottheimer  
Graves  
Gray  
Green, Al (TX)  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Jackson (TX)  
James

Johnson (SD)  
Keating  
Leger Fernandez  
Loudermilk  
Magaziner  
Meng  
Messmer  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Neal  
Newhouse  
Obernolte

Pelosi  
Pettersen  
Pocan  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Sherrill  
Spartz  
Titus  
Waters

□ 1856

Mrs. HAYES, Messrs. CASE, CLYBURN, and Ms. CLARKE of New York changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. MOORE of Alabama and Mr. BURLISON changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## TERRITORIAL RESPONSE AND ACCESS TO VETERANS' ESSENTIAL LIFECARE 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. 3400) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs to temporarily serve as traveling physicians in the territories and possessions of the United States, 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 Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 371, nays 21, not voting 40, as follows:

[Roll No. 266]

YEAS—371

Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguilar  
Alford  
Allen  
Amo  
Ansari  
Arrington  
Auchincloss  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Balint  
Barragan  
Barrett  
Baumgartner  
Bean (FL)  
Beatty  
Bell  
Bentz  
Bera  
Bergman  
Beyer  
Bice

Bilirakis  
Bishop  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Boyle (PA)  
Bresnahan  
Brown  
Brownley  
Buchanan  
Budzinski  
Burchett  
Bynum  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Carbajal  
Carey  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Carter (TX)  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)

Cheerful-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Ciscomani  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyburn  
Cole  
Comer  
Conaway  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crane  
Crank  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar

Dauids (KS)  
Davidson  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
De La Cruz  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Dexter  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donalds  
Downing  
Edwards  
Elfreth  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Escobar  
Espaillat  
Estes  
Evans (CO)  
Evans (PA)  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Fedorchak  
Feenstra  
Fields  
Figures  
Fine  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Fong  
Foushee  
Foxy  
Frankel, Lois  
Franklin, Scott  
Friedman  
Frost  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Garamendi  
Garbarino  
Garcia (CA)  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gillen  
Gimenez  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Goldman (TX)  
Gomez  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez, V.  
Gooden  
Goodlander  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Hamadeh (AZ)  
Harder (CA)  
Haridopolos  
Hayes  
Hern (OK)  
Hill (AR)  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houchin  
Houlihan  
Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Hunt  
Hurd (CO)  
Issa  
Ivey  
Jack  
Jackson (IL)  
Jacobs  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jordan

Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Kean  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy (NY)  
Kennedy (UT)  
Khanna  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kiley (CA)  
Kim  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
Landsman  
Langworthy  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latimer  
Latta  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Letlow  
Levin  
Liccardo  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lucas  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Mackenzie  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Mannion  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
McBath  
McBride  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClain Delaney  
McClellan  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McDonald Rivet  
McDowell  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McGuire  
McIver  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Min  
Moolenaar  
Moore (NC)  
Moore (UT)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran  
Morelle  
Morrison  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Neguse  
Nehls  
Norcross  
Obernolte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Ogles  
Olshewski  
Omar  
Onder  
Owens  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Patronis  
Perez  
Peters

Pfluger  
Pingree  
Pou  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Randall  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Riley (NY)  
Rivas  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Ruiz  
Rulli  
Ryan  
Salinas  
Sanchez  
Scalise  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schmidt  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sessions  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Shreve  
Simon  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Strong  
Stutzman  
Subramanyam  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Taylor  
Tenney  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Tran  
Underwood  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dуйne  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Vindman  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walkinshaw  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Omar  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Westerman  
Whitesides  
Wied  
Williams (GA)  
Williams (TX)

## NAYS—21

Biggich  
Biggs (AZ)  
Biggs (SC)  
Boebert  
Brecheen  
Burlison  
Clyde

Gill (TX)  
Gosar  
Harrigan  
Harris (MD)  
Harris (NC)  
Harshbarger  
Higgins (LA)

Knott  
McCormick  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (WV)  
Norman  
Perry  
Self

## NOT VOTING—40

Amodei (NV)  
Barr  
Carter (GA)  
Cohen  
Collins  
Dunn (FL)  
Foster  
Gottheimer  
Graves  
Gray  
Green, Al (TX)  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Jackson (TX)

James  
Johnson (SD)  
Keating  
LaMalfa  
Roy  
Leger Fernandez  
Loudermilk  
Magaziner  
Meng  
Messmer  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Neal  
Newhouse  
Nunn (IA)

Pelosi  
Pettersen  
Pocan  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Sherrill  
Spartz  
Steube  
Titus  
Turner (OH)  
Van Orden

□ 1903

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 266.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 265 and YEA on Roll Call No. 266.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed Roll Call Nos. 265 and 266. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 265, the Republican Motion to Table the Democratic Motion to Discharge H.J. Res. 117 and YEA on Roll Call No. 266, H.R. 3400.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled medical procedure, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Nos. 265 and 266. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 265 and YEA on Roll Call No. 266.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend the vote series today. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 265 and YEA on Roll Call No. 266.

## PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1558

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 1558, the Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act, a bill originally introduced by Representative CONNOLLY of Virginia, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

#### RECOGNIZING CELEBRATE COMMUNITY WEEK

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

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

As co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Service Organization Caucus, Congressman JIMMY PANETTA and I introduced a resolution to designate the week of September 14 through September 20 as Celebrate Community Week, where we honor the efforts of local service organizations across the country.

The resolution recognizes the role of service organizations in promoting humanitarian assistance, while also showing our youth the value of giving back.

We specifically applaud Kiwanis International, Lions Clubs International, Optimist International, and Rotary International for encouraging and promoting community service and humanitarian assistance through their local chapters.

The Celebrate Community Week resolution highlights the critical work of our community service organizations.

Mr. Speaker, volunteer service is the cornerstone of a successful, strong, and healthy community, and it is an important staple of American life.

Mr. Speaker, I commend our community service organizations for everything they do to help our communities flourish.

#### OUR DEDICATED AND EXTRAORDINARY MARINES AND AIRMEN

(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, our marines and airmen are extraordinary. I co-lead a congressional delegation to Camp Lejeune and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base with Representative ELLZEY.

The V-22 Osprey, with its tilt rotor, is a remarkable aircraft with a statistically sound safety record and was the perfect ride from Onslow to Wayne County.

Congress must ensure the future of our F-15Es at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Touring marine barracks, visiting the child development center at Seymour Johnson, and hearing directly from our marines and airmen reminded me why we fight every day to ensure that we have the resources, housing, and equipment that it takes to win anywhere, anytime.

Our servicemembers sacrifice so much for our freedom.

It was great seeing such dedicated servicemembers, because when we take

care of our men and women in uniform and their families, we take care of the future of our country.

□ 1910

#### RECOGNIZING LISA DUCKWORTH

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and recognize a proud U.S. Army veteran, Lisa Duckworth, who was recently named Military Friendly's 2025 Veteran of the Year for the State of Utah. From her role as a chaplaincy resources manager in the Army for close to 6 years to her current role as Utah's veteran employment representative, Lisa has demonstrated her outstanding devotion to education and empowerment.

As Utah's veteran employment representative, Lisa advocates for the veteran and military community by working with organizations that provide them with employment, training, and development opportunities.

This award given to Lisa recognizes the tangible difference she makes every day for those in Utah's military community.

Her unwavering dedication to those who have served our country reminds us that all public service continues beyond uniform, whether it be through advocacy or community. She reminds us that when we support our veterans and military members, we strengthen our communities.

I am proud to have Lisa Duckworth representing our beautiful State and thank her for her continued service. I thank Lisa for all she does to ensure a supportive environment for our veterans in Utah.

#### GIVE 'EM HELL WRAP-UP

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I just wrapped up the Give 'Em Hell Tour, 10 townhalls over the last 3 months from every corner of my district. We welcomed all Oregonians, and we were thankful to have community leaders participating and local law enforcement keeping us safe.

From Bend to Portland, Silverton to Albany, over 42,000 people joined and made their voices heard. Mr. Speaker, the message was clear: Quit messing with our healthcare and start making life more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, hear me when I say this: We will not back down—not on healthcare, not on costs, and not on making our voices heard.

My message to my fellow Oregonians is: I hear you, and I got you. Even though the Give 'Em Hell Tour is over, there is always an open line of communication between you and me.

#### CALIFORNIA IS NATION'S LEADER IN SPECIALTY CROPS

(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, as I often tell you, California is the leader in specialty crops important to all Americans, to their diet and their enjoyment. For many of these crops, 90 percent plus are grown in my home State. If we didn't grow them there, you would not have them or you would have to import them from somewhere else at higher cost and lower quality.

Farmers in my State know how to grow food better than anyone, but I think my Midwest folks would probably dispute that a bit. The American farmer is extremely important, and we need to have what they need, the inputs for that.

In my home State, water is the key element that seems to be shorted not so much by nature but by bad, man-made decisions on how we manage our reservoirs or even not to bother to build reservoirs. We need new reservoirs to feed our growing Nation and a growing State. When we get the water cut off, as happens frequently, you have farmers left literally high and dry and the crop having to come from somewhere else or not at all.

It doesn't have to be this way. Let's build water supplies and be a little smarter about actually allocating to farmers instead of to fish and things like that.

Lastly, remember Iryna Zarutka, needlessly killed by a guy who had been arrested 14 times.

#### CDC'S DANGEROUS TURN ON VACCINES

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, as a parent and a grandparent and as a former county executive who led the COVID response in one of the first epicenters of that outbreak, I am concerned by recent developments at the CDC and the future of public health.

Decades of sound science and public health progress are being cast aside in favor of conspiracy theories and pseudoscience.

Last month, the CDC Director was dismissed after just weeks on the job. This week, the agency's vaccine advisory committee is considering changes that could weaken or even eliminate requirements for lifesaving childhood vaccines.

It is easy to forget the fear and devastation of measles and polio, not because these diseases are harmless but because vaccines have kept them at bay.

Today, parents worry about vaccine side effects largely because they have never seen the horrors these vaccines

prevent. That doesn't make vaccines any less necessary.

The science is clear. Vaccines are safe, effective, and essential. Every major medical association agrees, yet fringe ideologies are gaining influence inside the very agencies charged with protecting our health.

Mr. Speaker, I fear our children and grandchildren will bear the cost of these reckless decisions.

#### CHARLIE KIRK'S RELIGIOUS MESSAGE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said the last few days about the horrible assassination of Charlie Kirk.

I was able to attend two ceremonies over the weekend in which people gathered to memorialize him.

I hear a lot of people talking about Charlie Kirk exercising his right to political free speech, and we have to respect people's ability to engage in political speech.

I think if you look at some of his videos, and certainly if you attended these ceremonies, Charlie Kirk was a much more religious person than a political person. I think that is lost on a lot of people, lost on a lot of political commentators.

I think particularly in this era of declining church attendance, a time when so many young people are raised in families that don't even go to church, I think his speaking about Christianity and his faith and the importance to carry on his mission is more important than his political statements.

#### ONE BIG, BEAUTIFUL REPEAL

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, Virginians are already paying the price for the one big, ugly bill.

Two small-town clinics and one regional urgent care center in Virginia just closed as a direct result of the bill. Now, six more rural hospitals around the Commonwealth are at risk of closure. That means mothers, children, and Virginians with urgent healthcare concerns have to drive further to get urgent care or wait months to see a specialist.

Remember, this majority and this President said that this bill wouldn't take away benefits or close rural hospitals. Well, they were wrong. We don't need more broken promises. What we need is a different approach, a one big, beautiful repeal instead.

Let's pass the Protecting Healthcare and Lowering Costs Act, which will restore people's benefits and access to care, ensuring that people in small towns and rural communities will have more access to quality care, not less.

#### COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION FUNDING

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the counselors, outreach workers, and credible messengers who save lives as community violence interrupters in Michigan and across the Nation.

These programs, supported by the Community Violence Intervention funding, deescalate conflicts, mediate retaliation, and connect people to essential services like jobs, housing, and mental health care to break cycles of violence.

The impact is undeniable. From May to July of this year, Detroit's CVI zones saw about a 30 percent drop in homicides and shootings with some neighborhoods faring even better.

Despite this, cuts are taking their toll. This spring, the Department of Justice rescinded over \$800 million in grants, including \$150 million for CVI efforts. Michigan programs lost millions, forcing layoffs and cuts. Worse, the current budget would slash dedicated CVI funding even further, jeopardizing these lifesaving efforts.

Congress must act to restore funding and protect proven prevention strategies.

□ 1920

#### RECOGNIZING DONNA MINTER ON COMPLETING "GRAMMY CLIMATE RIDE"

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donna Minter from Minneapolis for her extraordinary feat of completing the Grammy Climate Ride. Inspired by her love for her grandchildren and a vision for a healthier, more sustainable planet for future generations, Donna spent 64 days traveling 3,000 miles by bicycle to raise awareness and support for climate justice.

From California to Florida, Donna struck up conversations with those whom she met along the way to raise the alarm on the climate crisis. Through this year's ride, Donna raised \$25,000 for various Minnesota-based climate nonprofits.

Please join me in celebrating the extraordinary achievement and spirit of Donna Minter and her strength and preservation that made this possible.

#### RECOGNIZING MORE ACTION FOR STUDENTS ORGANIZATION

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege of sitting down with a group of dedicated youth, who created

and inspired the More Action for Students organization in northwest Indiana.

I was greatly impressed with their knowledge of many important issues and their sincere advocacy.

We discussed a variety of topics, including the significant cuts to Federal Pell grants, the programs designed to help first-generation college students.

They also shared their concern that Congress is not fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities by allowing this administration to rescind approved Federal funding for minority-serving institutions of higher learning in Indiana's First Congressional District.

Since this administration is also rescinding Federal funds for economic development projects that are approved and signed into law and when the OMB is picking and choosing how appropriations laws are implemented, they are right to be concerned.

This meeting has filled me with a renewed sense of optimism for the days ahead, for it is clear that these young women and men are not waiting for the future to arrive. They are shaping it. They labor to build a society that is more just, more inclusive, and more responsive to the needs of all people.

Let us take the inspiration from their dedication. The strength of our Nation rests in the courage and the vision of its youth.

#### RESISTING THE TEMPTATION TO DIVIDE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as I returned home to northwest Ohio this weekend, I found soul searching among people who I represent following the tragedies of last week in Colorado and Utah.

Then, in the Point Place neighborhood of Toledo, I saw a church sign that read:

Love Always Heals. Hate Always Harms. All Welcome Sunday.

These are simple words but profound.

Governor Spencer Cox of Utah observed that social media is a cancer on our society right now, and he encouraged people to log off, turn off, touch grass, hug a family member, and go out and do good in their community, and I couldn't agree more.

Today in Toledo, we did exactly that. We celebrated the completion of a \$13.5 million water project to restore the Delaware, Clark, and Horseshoe Islands in Walbridge Park on the Maumee River, the largest river that flows into the Great Lakes.

This restoration means cleaner water, aquatic and wildlife habitats renewed, and a healthier Lake Erie. As co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, I am profoundly grateful that our citizens united to restore the heart of our islands along the mighty Maumee by, quite literally, constructing bridges for the future. Our

community keeps delivering progress, and we all must lift our Nation's motto up: "e pluribus unum"; "out of many, one."

Not against one another but working together for the future of America.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JUAN LÓPEZ

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

Ms. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Juan López.

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

I rise today to honor the life of Juan López—a Honduran, a Catholic leader, a human rights defender, an environmental activist—a year after his brutal assassination.

Today, I declare we will not forget Juan López. As Juan said, "They can tear me up, they can cut me down. But I'll always come back."

Today, I honor all those who carry on Juan's legacy to live without fear of powerful companies and corrupt officials stealing and polluting their land and murdering courageous leaders for peacefully defending natural resources that are rightfully theirs.

Today, I stand in solidarity with all those who loved Juan López, who continue his struggle, and who will not back down until we realize justice for Juan, for Berta Cáceres and for all those land defenders murdered.

Me levanto hoy para honrar la vida de Juan López—hondureño, líder católico defensor de los derechos humanos y activista ambiental—un año luego de su brutal asesinato.

Hoy, declaro que no olvidaremos a Juan López. Como dijo: "Pueden destrozarme, pueden derribarme. Pero siempre volveré".

Hoy, rindo homenaje a todos aquellos que continúan el legado de Juan, viviendo sin temor a que empresas poderosas y funcionarios corruptos les roben y contaminen sus tierras y asesinen a líderes valientes por defender pacíficamente los recursos naturales que les pertenecen por derecho.

Hoy, me solidarizo con todos aquellos que amaron a Juan López, que continúan su lucha y que no cederán hasta que se haga justicia para Juan, para Berta Cáceres y para todos los defensores de la tierra asesinados.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will provide a translation.

#### HONORING VICTIMS OF 16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH BOMBING

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. McCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this CBC Special Order hour. For the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC will have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people.

Today, the Congressional Black Caucus is remembering an anniversary. It was a terrible anniversary that happened 62 years ago today in Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, to begin our commemoration, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES).

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of those speeches that I wish we did not have to give and one of those moments in our history that I wish we did not have to acknowledge in the first place. By acknowledging it, we are reminded of its occurrence.

This is one of the more tragic acts in American history: the bombing of four little girls, made worse by the fact that it happened in a place of worship, that it happened in a church, and that it happened in an African-American church.

When you grow up Black in Alabama, this is one of the seminal events that you hear about in our State's history that you cannot ever forget. It is important to me that we sit here in this Chamber today to acknowledge this disastrous event and to remember the names of the little girls who were killed and one who was injured.

As a son of Alabama and a Representative of the birthplace of the civil rights movement today, which is the city of Montgomery, I know the names of Carole Robertson, Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, and Cynthia Wesley. These are names that you have to know. They are names that all of America should know, and they are names that all of us should recognize and appreciate and honor here in this House.

They are names that must be said. They are names that must be said repetitively. They are names that must be ingrained into the fabric of this Nation: Carole Robertson; Denise McNair; Addie Mae Collins; Cynthia Wesley; and Sarah Collins Rudolph, who took from that day not only the loss of her friends and family member but also injuries that she still carries with her to this day as she advocates for justice.

Let us not forget that this was merely one example of tragic violence that was used as a means to suppress the greatest movement that this world and that this Nation has ever seen, which is the civil rights movement.

Though these are names that we know and names that we speak of in one of the more noteworthy or notable or well-known events that happened, there were several others who were the victims of such violence, and we also cannot forget them as we sit here today and honor the four little girls in Birmingham.

These are names, some of which you know and some of which you don't.

These are names like Medgar Evers, who was assassinated in his fight for equal access to the ballot box; and Rev. James Reeb, who was a minister who was beaten to death while standing with the marchers in Selma.

These are names like Viola Liuzzo. These are names like Jimmie Lee Jackson and Jonathan Daniels. These are people who put it all on the line and whose deaths are the reason that I am able to stand here today.

Whenever we have the opportunity, we should always sit here in this Chamber and recognize these individuals.

□ 1930

I cannot close without quoting the speech that Martin Luther King gave in his eulogy of these four little girls. Speaking at a time when racial tensions in the country were enormously, enormously high and never did anyone think that those tensions would result in such a cowardly act as a bomb being placed in a church and set to detonate on a Sunday morning as four little girls were down there getting ready for Sunday school, but he took to the pulpit and he gave these powerful words that I will quote, in part.

He said: "These children—unoffending, innocent, and beautiful—were the victims of one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity.

"And yet they died nobly. They are the martyred heroines of a holy crusade for freedom and human dignity. And so this afternoon in a real sense, they have something to say to each of us in their death.

"They say to each of us, Black and White alike, that we must substitute courage for caution. They say to us that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered them but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murderers. Their death says to us that we must work passionately and unrelentingly for the realization of the American Dream.

"And so my friends, they did not die in vain.

"God still has a way of wringing good out of evil. And history has proven over and over again that unmerited suffering is redemptive. The innocent blood of these little girls may well serve as a redemptive force that will bring new light to this dark city."

Those are the words of Martin Luther King as he eulogized these four little girls. I think a lot of what he references is still true to this day, that we have to, by all means, continue to be unrelenting in our pursuit of the realization of the American Dream for everyone.

These four beautiful little girls, who unknowingly became one of the galvanizing symbols of the civil rights movement, these are names that we must know. These are names that we must continue to say: Carole Robertson, Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, and Cynthia Wesley.

I obviously never had the opportunity to meet any of them. I have had the privilege to meet several of their family members throughout my life, but to them I owe an enormous debt of gratitude because without acts like this, as violent and as vicious and as terrible as it was, without moments like that, there would not have been a Civil Rights Act. There would not have been a Voting Rights Act. There would not have been the progress in this Nation that we saw in terms of rights being secured for African Americans, and all people for that matter, the same rights which led to the possibility of myself and many others being able to stand here in Congress.

This is about more than an anniversary of celebrating the lives of those that were killed in the explosion. This is about celebrating the galvanizing force for progress in this Nation. This is about celebrating the lives of people who are responsible for many of us being here.

Whether you like it or not, the civil rights movement embodied everything that America should be, and it is because of these four little girls that I am able to stand here today.

It is also worth noting about this tragic event, to add insult to the injury of four little girls being murdered in a church, justice was not served immediately. Justice was not served a year late or 5 years late or even 20 years late. It took nearly 40 years, nearly 40 years, for all of the perpetrators involved in this case to be brought to justice.

Let's think about that. Mr. Speaker, 40 years after four little girls were killed in a church and the leaders at the time knew not only that it was the Klan that was responsible but they knew the individuals who were responsible, but for lack of courage, for lack of cooperation, for lack of willingness, that justice was delayed for nearly four decades, 39 years. It took the involvement of the Federal Government to finally make that happen.

That story, both the viciousness of this crime, the delayed justice, that story is a story that is not uncommon, especially during acts of violence during the civil rights movement, but despite there being the delay in justice, what was not delayed was the impact that they had on the broader realm of justice and the broader realm of rights that we were able to secure. Though unfortunate and certainly unnecessary, certainly unwarranted, their deaths shine a bright light on the injustices that were happening across this Nation in how Black people were being treated in the South, especially in the State of Alabama, and we were able to get through this body and the Senate and across the President's desk the biggest and most beautiful piece of legislation that this Nation has ever seen, and that is the Civil Rights Act and that is the Voting Rights Act.

As I close, I will again thank Carole Robertson, Denise McNair, Addie Mae

Collins, Cynthia Wesley, and Sarah Collins Rudolph.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I first really just thank the Congressional Black Caucus for commemorating this 62nd anniversary of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church with this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I indeed rise with my colleagues to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and to honor the legacy of the four precious little girls killed in that attack.

Sixty-two years ago today, parishioners of the 16th Street Baptist Church gathered within its sacred walls ahead of its 11 a.m. service. It was youth day that day, that day 62 years ago. It was youth day, so the youth were in charge of that service.

There were lots of little girls and little boys running around the church. At approximately 10:23 a.m., while the four little girls were getting dressed in the church basement restroom, 19 sticks of dynamite placed by the KKK exploded.

As the walls of the church caved in, more than 100 parishioners rushed for safety. While most of them escaped unharmed, under the debris lay five little girls.

Today, we must remember all five, four were killed that day and one is still alive today.

Today, we remember the name of Addie Mae Collins, of Denise McNair, of Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Morris Wesley. We also remember the name of Sarah Collins, who was the younger sister of Addie Mae Collins.

□ 1940

In response to the attack, hundreds of African Americans took to the street to demand justice, only to be met with more violence at the hands of law enforcement. Within hours of the bombing, two more children lost their lives in Birmingham, Alabama: Johnny Robinson and Virgil Ware were killed in clashes with the police.

Dr. King described the bombing as one of the most vicious crimes ever perpetrated against humanity. Yet, despite the horrific nature of the attack, it took more than 34 years for the perpetrators to be faced with justice. In fact, it was only 34 years later that they really all were brought to justice.

Make no mistake, the four little girls did not die in vain, as my colleague from Alabama, SHOMARI FIGURES, so eloquently said. They didn't die in vain. Their murder focused the eyes of the Nation on the racial terror being waged against African Americans in the Jim Crow South, and their legacy galvanized the civil rights movement, giving voice to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

It was because of their death that the Nation in horror saw four little girls,

who were simply going to church, killed. It was senseless violence by the KKK. We had a Birmingham campaign because of that, a crusade of children who marched and protested in Kelly Ingram Park.

It was because of their efforts and the efforts of so many, the sacrifices of so many, it is never lost on Shomari or myself that we get to walk the Halls of Congress because four little Black girls cannot. Four little Black girls cannot.

Congresswoman McCLELLAN, we are blessed to be able to represent our home districts, but we know that we are not the first who deserve to be here in Congress. No, we are the lucky ones who stand on the shoulders of those who were murdered, who marched, who bled, who prayed for the opportunity of African Americans to have an equal voice in this society.

The sacred right to vote is just as sacred today as it was then. I think all of us in this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats alike, respect the late, great Congressman John Lewis, who had the audacity to believe that he could march across a bridge unfettered by the viciousness of the State troopers.

When he was met with that viciousness, it was John, with a backpack on his shoulder—that image is seared in my mind. I have the great honor of being a daughter of Selma, growing up in Selma. You can't grow up in Selma, Alabama, without really understanding its place in American history.

I often tell my constituents that we are custodians of America's history. What happened on that bridge, the blood that was shed for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, is commemorated year after year after year. The first Sunday in the month of March is Bloody Sunday, a sacred day that for so many years John Lewis would bring Republicans and Democrats, a bipartisan group, to walk across that bridge. We didn't just come to Selma. He would take us first to Birmingham where we would sit in the 16th Street Baptist Church, and we would see the beautiful stained glass that was donated by the people of Wales to the church.

I have heard Pastor Price, who is the current pastor of the 16th Street Baptist Church, regale that the sermon that day 62 years ago, the sermon that day was: A love that forgives. That was the title of the sermon: A love that forgives. Now, we know that political violence has no place in this society, but how ironic that the pastor was preaching a sermon about forgiveness.

As I reflect on our painful past, I am reminded that every gain in the battle for civil rights and voting rights has come at a high cost, paid for by the sacrifices of others.

As a direct beneficiary of the legacy of the four little girls, I am honored that my very first piece of legislation that I passed in Congress bestowed

upon the four little girls a Congressional Gold Medal on the 50th anniversary of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church.

Oh, it was a grand day. I was able to watch as President Barack Obama signed that bill into law in the Oval Office. Standing to my right was none other than the mother of Denise McNair and the sister of Denise McNair. Standing to my left was a cousin of Carole Robertson. Standing right beside me was Eric Holder, the Attorney General, and his wife, Sharon Malone, a distinguished doctor whose sister, Vivian Malone, was the very first African American to integrate University of Alabama. Also there was the Surgeon General, another very proud native of Alabama. The Surgeon General at the time was Regina Benjamin.

It was a proud day to be an Alabamian. It was a proud day to be an African American. It was a proud day to be an American. It took us 50 years to acknowledge the four little girls on this House floor.

I have to say that perhaps one of the most poignant memories that I have not just of that day—and, yes, Pastor Price was there as well—it was really the opportunity to bestow a Congressional Gold Medal to Sarah Collins, and lots of our colleagues came with us that day, came with me, flew to Birmingham months later to actually bestow the Congressional Gold Medal to Sarah Collins.

History is riddled with the bodies and blood of those who sacrificed for this country to live up to its creed, the creed of this country to honor its principles of justice and equality. At a time when some would seek to whitewash our history and roll back our progress, it has never been more important for us to remember, to ensure that the memory of the four little girls lives on. Their loss paved the way for the freedoms and opportunities that we enjoy today, and their legacy reminds us that the price of freedom is not free. It has been paid for by the sacrifices of others.

I thank my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for hosting tonight's Special Order hour, and I ask both sides of the aisle to join us in honoring the memory of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, and the life of Sarah Collins.

I look forward to having a colloquy with my colleagues about what this really means to all of us. I have to say that as the Member of Congress who represents Birmingham, Alabama, and Selma and Tuscaloosa, I was never more proud than to remember the legacy, the amazing legacy that is Alabama's Seventh Congressional District.

□ 1950

While I am honored to represent the constituents of today, I carry with me and know that the legacy of this district is something that must be ad-

vanced. It needs to be protected. It needs to be known. It needs to be advanced.

I never thought that 60 years after John Lewis was bludgeoned on a bridge, or 62 years after four little girls were killed in the bombing—assassinated in the bombing—of the 16th Street Baptist Church, that the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act would be in jeopardy.

The *Shelby v. Holder* decision struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act. As we speak, the Supreme Court is considering striking down or nullifying section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

It is on our collective watch that we say no, that we must say hell no, that this body must act. This body can come up with a modern-day formula to determine voter discrimination, such that we can put life back into section 4, which allowed us to say that those States that had a history of voting discrimination must pre-clear every voting law.

That provision had no teeth because they struck down the formula. States across this Nation started voter suppression laws, voting on voter suppression laws that didn't have any remedy other than after the fact. We could only sue after the fact.

In my portion tonight, I join my colleagues for a colloquy by just saying that we who are beneficiaries of this important legacy have a very special role to play. Ours is to legislate, but ours is also to motivate and mobilize our constituents and this Nation, to mobilize and realize that the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act are similar pieces of legislation that all Americans should acknowledge as the reason why the arc is bending toward justice, as Martin Luther King would say. We know that the moral arc doesn't bend by itself. It bends at the will, at the sacrifice, at the demands of the people.

As I close, I want us not only to remember their names but remember their sacrifice, and let's pay it forward. I think we who are beneficiaries must pay it forward. I don't know about you, but just looking at their faces gives me a pep in my step.

We may be living through very troubling times, but we do so because others sacrificed. It was because of their sacrifice that we get to enjoy the freedoms we do.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressional Black Caucus for acknowledging today as the 62nd anniversary of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Virginia has 31 minutes remaining.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I will put today's anniversary in a larger context, but first, I will center on these four little girls again.

As the congregation of the 16th Street Baptist Church greeted each

other before the start of Sunday's service, five little girls gathered in the ladies' room in their best dresses. They chatted about the first few days of the school year. They were excited about Youth Day. They were excited to take part in the Sunday adult service.

Rather than rising to begin prayers, just before 11 o'clock, the congregation was knocked to the ground when a bomb exploded under the steps of the church.

In the basement, 14-year-olds Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and 11-year-old Cynthia Wesley were killed. Addie's sister, Sarah, survived but lost her right eye. Between 14 and 22 other people were injured.

Dr. King described the attack as "one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity."

Two years later, the FBI shut down its investigation after determining that the bombing had been committed by four members of the local Ku Klux Klan: Thomas Edwin Blanton, Jr., Herman Frank Cash, Robert Edward Chambliss, and Bobby Frank Cherry.

They chose the church because it had been a rallying point for the civil rights activities of that tumultuous spring of 1963.

In 1971, Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley reopened the case and requested evidence from the FBI. After building trust with witnesses who had been reluctant to testify, they were able to convict Robert Chambliss on November 14, 1977, of his part in the crime. It would be decades later before the other suspects were tried.

On May 1, 2001, Thomas Blanton was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. In 2002, Bobby Frank Cherry was convicted. He boasted that he was the one who planted the bomb next to the church wall. That brag is what sent him to prison.

Justice was delayed, but ultimately, justice for these little girls was had.

Putting this in a larger context, as we grapple with the fact that political violence has reared its ugly head in America yet again, yet again, we see anger, fear, hatred, and division across the Nation. We have been here before multiple times. We don't have enough hours in the day to do a Special Order hour on everyone who has suffered because of political violence.

Focusing on how we move forward, Dr. King's words have been on my mind a lot in the past few years. In response to the violence of Charlottesville after the Unite the Right rally, in response to assassination attempts, in response to school shootings, in response to hate crimes, whether political violence, racial violence, or just violence grown out of hate, Dr. King gave us a way forward in two speeches that I come back to as being relevant today. He gave two speeches, one in 1957 called "Loving Your Enemies," and he gave one in 1967 called "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?"

That question is relevant today. We see a lot of chaos around us. We have

lost sight of community, but we come out of chaos when we focus on community.

I am going to read some of Dr. King's words. His speech "Loving Your Enemies" was rooted in the Sermon on the Mount. It was rooted in the commandment that Jesus added on the Sermon, in addition to love God, love God as you love yourself, to love your enemies.

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, he talked about how difficult it is to love our enemies. How do we do it? He gave some practical suggestions.

He said: "In order to love your enemies, you must begin by analyzing self. And I'm sure that seems strange to you, that that I start out telling you this morning that you love your enemies by beginning with a look at self. It seems to me that that is the first and foremost way to come to an adequate discovery to the how of this situation."

He went on to talk about how sometimes there is something in the way a person carries himself that triggers a hate response or anger in someone else. He said that the first thing we have got to do is look at ourselves. Was it something I said, even if I didn't mean it? Was it something I posted? Take a look at whether we are embodying love. He said that sometimes we have got to admit there are people that just aren't going to like us, and that is okay.

The second, and much more important one, was that an individual must discover the element of good in his enemy.

"Every time you begin to hate that person and think of hating that person, realize that there is some good there and look at those good points which will overbalance the bad points." . . . "We're split up and divided against ourselves. And there is something of a civil war going on within all of our lives."

He put it in the context of what was happening in the south. I think we have heard rumblings over the past few years and questions: Are we facing another civil war in ourselves?

He said: "So somehow the 'isness' of our present nature is out of harmony with the eternal 'oughtness' that forever confronts us." . . . "That within the best of us, there is some evil, and within the worst of us, there is some good. When we come to see this, we take a different attitude toward individuals. The person who hates you most has some good in him; even the nation that hates you most has some good in it; even the race that hates you most has some good in it.

"And when you come to the point that you look in the face of every man and see deep down within him what religion calls 'the image of God', you begin to love him in spite of. No matter what he does, you see God's image there."

Mr. Speaker, I think that is really important. I regret the fact that I

never got to meet John Lewis or Dr. King because I want to ask both of them one question: How did they come to love people who physically threatened or attacked them? They both found a way to do it.

I think it was rooted in the fact that they recognized—and I think all of us watching in this Chamber, and around the world, should remember what John F. Kennedy said, which is that we all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future.

We may violently disagree in theory, but that does not mean we should put that violence into action solely because we don't like what someone has said or what they have done. I think we all need to take a step back and see the face of God in one another.

Growing up, I remember listening to my parents tell stories of my great-grandparents and the racial terror and lynchings that they faced. I remember them telling me stories of the violence of the 1960s. I remember being lulled into this false sense of security as a Gen X child of the seventies and the eighties of how great it is we moved beyond that.

Unfortunately, this week reminded us we haven't. We never will if we don't acknowledge and hold onto the basic decency that tells us, yes, we should love our neighbors but also love our enemies. If we don't, I don't know that we will survive as a country. That is one of the things Dr. King talked about.

As a historian, he talked about how different civilizations fell. He talked about the destructive nature of hatred not only toward the person that is hated but toward ourselves.

One of my favorite quotes from him is how in both of these speeches he said: "And I say to you, I have also decided to stick with love.

"Hate is too great a burden to bear."

Hate twists us up. It eats us up and destroys us. He told a story about how he and his brother were traveling in Tennessee. Every time they would go down a road, the oncoming car would leave their bright lights on. His brother said: The next time somebody does that, I am going to leave my bright lights on.

He said: Hold up. Somebody has got to have sense enough to turn down the lights. If we don't, we will both be blinded and run off the road.

I think we are at a point where we need to have sense enough to turn off the lights, to turn down the temperature, and remember our children are watching. Our children are watching.

As we see a rise in gun violence, I have been particularly disturbed by how many children have gotten to the point where they let their hatred allow them to kill other children.

As I raise a teenager and a tween, as a preacher's daughter, I try to instill in them the same message of love our neighbors and love our enemies. It is really hard to do that.

When I am away from home, making sacrifices to make their lives easier,

they see not only the violence that we have become numb to but they see people, their mother included, get threatened. They see people that they have seen in this body say the most vicious things on social media. These are people who were kind to them when I was sworn in and when they stood beside me. They ask some pretty tough questions.

As leaders in this country, we have a responsibility to understand that when we stand in this well, at this podium, in our committees, at a press conference, or post on social media, we are not just trying to get clicks, or we shouldn't be. We are not just trying to get attention, or we shouldn't be. We are setting an example for the next generation of leaders. We are setting an example for our children.

I think we need to think about that before we post or say something in anger. If somebody doesn't have sense enough to turn on the lights, our hatred is going to blind us to the point where we tear each other and ourselves apart.

□ 2010

I get asked all the time: How do you stand it on the Hill?

How do you stand in the same room with this person or that person?

It is because I do what Dr. King says, which is rooted in love. I look at that person, even if they give me a reason not to, and I recognize: You and I breathe the same air. We both cherish our children's future. We are all worthy of love and respect.

We need to get back to that, Mr. Speaker, because if we don't, then I don't know where that leads.

Does it lead to a civil war?

Does it lead to chaos and everybody just being afraid to leave the house, give a speech, go to a rally, to a movie theater, to school, or to church?

Violence isn't new, but in the past, we have found a way to come together and focus on community in the midst of chaos. I am afraid we are losing the ability to do that. We have a responsibility as Members of Congress and as leaders in our community to show the way, to show a way toward community and to show a way out of chaos.

It is up to us. It is up to us whether we make it to 2026 where we can celebrate a revolutionary idea that the power of government was derived from the people. I don't know if we can do that if we allow hatred to tear us apart. I think we owe it to everyone who has suffered at the hands of violence, political, racial or otherwise.

I want to end with something Dr. King said at the funeral of these four little girls whose lives we celebrate on the 62nd anniversary of when they died:

"Now I say to you in conclusion, life is hard, at times as hard as crucible steel. It has its bleak and difficult moments. Like the ever-flowing waters of the river, life has its moments of drought and its moments of flood. Like the ever-changing cycle of the seasons,

life has the soothing warmth of its summers and the piercing chill of its winters. And if one will hold on, he will discover that God walks with him, and that God is able to lift you from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope, and transform dark and desolate valleys into sunlit paths of inner peace."

I think there are a lot of people this week who need that hope. I think there are a lot of people who worry and fear: Will they feel the same despair that so many others have felt when a loved one is killed because of hatred?

We owe it to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley to do our best every day to build what Dr. King called the "beloved community," where someone will not go to a college campus, a church, or to the movie theater and have their lives snuffed out solely because someone hated them.

We can get there if we focus on building community out of chaos, if we focus on the goodness of everybody, and if we focus on love.

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

#### HONORING THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH, H.H. BARTHOLOMEW I

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. BILIRAKIS of Florida was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

##### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman from Virginia. Well said this evening. I appreciate the gentlewoman's kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on International Religious Freedom and the Hellenic Caucus, but, more importantly, as an Orthodox Christian. I am here to honor and welcome His Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch, who is visiting the United States this week.

This visit is a huge blessing for the Orthodox family in the United States, Mr. Speaker. Not only is His All Holiness a great spiritual leader, but he is also an unparalleled ambassador for peace, interfaith dialogue, and religious freedom. As we honor him today for a lifetime of achievements, Mr. Speaker, I think of his legacy in three words: faith, peace, and endurance.

First, faith; His All Holiness has led millions of the faithful in the global Orthodox church for more than 34 years, conscientiously carrying the leg-

acy of Saint Andrew the Apostle and upholding the 2,000-year-old traditions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Holy See for over 300 million Orthodox faithful worldwide.

His leadership of the Eastern Orthodox community has impacted and will continue to impact this ancient church and doctrine for centuries to come.

However, his role extends far beyond the Orthodox church, which brings me to the second point, peace. Throughout his selfless service, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been at the forefront of interreligious dialogue, setting the stage for a more peaceful and cohesive world. He has a record of reaching out and working for peace and reconciliation amongst all faiths and has fostered dialogue among Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

Just last month, Mr. Speaker, he hosted the annual Religions for Peace World Council, bringing together leaders of diverse faiths to address global challenges.

His All Holiness' leadership in these groundbreaking conventions has not only been about theology, but to engage faith with humanity's most pressing challenges.

From his historic visit to the Korean Demilitarized Zone in 2018 to his current efforts promoting coexistence in the Middle East, His All Holiness' pursuit of global peace in the world's most challenging conflicts has truly touched the lives and hearts of millions.

In fact, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received, on his first official visit to the United States in 1997, the Congressional Gold Medal presented by my father, Michael Bilirakis, and many, many others. It was presented by the United States on behalf of the Congress in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to religious understanding and peace and was recognized by the United States in a manner reserved for a very small number of world leaders, as you know, Mr. Speaker, leaders such as George Washington, Winston Churchill, and Pope John Paul II.

Most dear to my heart, however, is his life of enduring advocacy for his persecuted church, as well as other oppressed religious minorities.

□ 2020

Recently, when the Egyptian Government confiscated the holy Saint Catherine's Monastery in Sinai, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew stood as defender of Christian heritage. This monastery is not just a Greek Orthodox treasure but an ancient house to Christianity's most valued heritage, including the sacred tree, the Burning Bush, where our God revealed himself to Moses.

For months now, Mr. Speaker, His All Holiness has led a global movement demanding that the Egyptian Government honor this heritage and protect the autonomy of the monastic community in Sinai. For those of us in Congress who have worked to preserve the

monastery's independence and existence, his advocacy is a source of inspiration.

His All Holiness' mission to protect the Christian community and its heritage in Turkiye is just another example of his noble pursuit. In the last hundred years, the Turkish state has systematically exploited its Christian communities unfortunately, reducing them from 20 percent of the population to a mere 2 percent.

To this day, the Turkish Government refuses to recognize His All Holiness' ecumenical jurisdiction, stripping him of the universal title that is acknowledged by more than 300 million faithful across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, His All Holiness has endured in silence discrimination under Erdogan's regime. This body must insist that Turkiye eliminate all forms of discrimination, particularly discrimination based on race or religion, grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate appropriate recognition and ecclesiastical succession, grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate the right to train clergy of all nationalities, not just Turkish nationals, by reopening the famed and beautiful Theological School at Halki, which I visited in 2019 with my beautiful wife.

Turkiye must absolutely reopen the jewel of Christendom, the Hagia Sophia, Church of the Holy Wisdom of God, as a church, not a mosque. The Hagia Sophia was the world's largest cathedral for nearly 1,000 years. It served as a center for all Christians until the Ottoman invasion in 1453, which saw the collapse of Constantinople as well as the church.

For decades, it had been converted to a museum and has been a UNESCO Heritage site until Erdogan illegally converted it into a mosque 5 years ago.

I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker, about the persecution His All Holiness and the Ecumenical Patriarchate has faced under Erdogan's rule. It is maddening, as far as I am concerned.

But Ankara's violations go far beyond just Christian communities. Just over the summer, Mr. Speaker, the government authorities in Istanbul arrested 41 Muslim women, including 15 minor girls, solely based on their religious expression.

As the Turkish Government converts ancient churches to mosques, intimidates clergy, and displaces religious and ethnic minorities, His All Holiness has continued to peacefully advocate for the voiceless, which is why I take this occasion to call on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to designate Turkiye as a country of particular concern under U.S. law.

It is incumbent upon us to recognize His All Holiness as a living testament for Turkiye's explicit mission to erase its native Christian community and to respond to such cynical plans with the seriousness they deserve.

As we honor His All Holiness today, let us not only celebrate his faithfulness and mission of peace but commit

ourselves to defending the rights of his church and the protection of all persecuted religious minorities.

The timing of the Ecumenical Patriarch's visit could not be more ideal as America is grieving the loss of a true warrior of God, Charlie Kirk, who through his death has shown all of us that we must be defenders of our faith, even if that puts us in danger. I am going to say it again. We must be defenders of our faith, even if it puts us in danger.

We have to be a voice for the voiceless. We must be convicted and stay the course so that our faith is not extinguished by bad actors.

To honor both His All Holiness and America's martyr, Charlie Kirk, is to take up their cause, the cause of religious freedom, the cause of peaceful co-existence, and the cause of standing up to those who oppress others.

I wish my friend and my spiritual father, Ecumenical Patriarch, a safe and fruitful visit as he inspires not only the Orthodox faithful but all who love peace, understanding, and humanity.

May God bless His All Holiness, our Patriarchate in Constantinople, now Istanbul, our beautiful 2,000-year old faith and Orthodox Church.

May God bless the United States of America.

I also wanted to say that Archbishop Iakovos stood with Martin Luther King and marched at Selma. He was called by Martin Luther King. It is depicted in the movie, Mr. Speaker, "Selma." He was called by Martin Luther King. He showed up for the march. Martin Luther King apparently told him: Wow, I am surprised—something to that effect. He said his final words were, before the march: You called, and I came.

We must stand up to racism. We must stand up to any form of discrimination, in this case religious freedom.

I appreciate all of you. I know there are others that will speak at a later time, but I want to welcome this wonderful individual who visited the White House today with President Trump, just an outstanding person and a wonderful role model for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, God bless you and God bless America.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Submitted September 12, 2025]

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5342. A bill making ap-

propriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-272). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted September 15, 2025]

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 3494. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an information technology system and prioritize certain requirements to manage supply chains for medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment (Rept. 119-273). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 2721. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a pilot program to furnish a headstone or burial marker to veterans who died on or before November 1, 1990, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-274). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3427. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-275). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 528. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Program, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-276, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 655. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the City of The Dalles, Oregon, with an amendment (Rept. 119-277). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 831. A bill to establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-278). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 972. A bill to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-279). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1045. A bill to amend the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act (Rept. 119-280, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1276. A bill to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky, with an amendment (Rept. 119-281). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1676. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to approve the wildlife conservation and restoration program of a State within a certain period of time, with an amendment (Rept. 119-282). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1809. A bill to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin (Rept. 119-283). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2290. A bill to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-284). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2293. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities, with an amendment (Rept. 119-285). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2302. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-286). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2388. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-287). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2389. A bill to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Quinault Indian Nation, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-288). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2400. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pit River Tribe, with an amendment (Rept. 119-289). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2876. A bill to confirm the use of certain non-Federal land in Salt Lake City, Utah, for public purposes, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-290). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3176. A bill to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System (Rept. 119-291). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3187. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey a parcel of property of the Forest Service to Perry County, Arkansas, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-292). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3857. A bill to amend the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act, with an amendment (Rept. 119-293). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4285. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate an entrance-fee free date in 2026 at National Park Service sites in order to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America,

with an amendment (Rept. 119-294). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1047. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-295). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GARBARINO: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4058. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance outreach for the Urban Area Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-296). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3668. A bill to promote interagency coordination for reviewing certain authorizations under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-297, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. LANGWORTHY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 707. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4922) to limit youth offender status in the District of Columbia to individuals 18 years of age or younger, to direct the Attorney General of the District of Columbia to establish and operate a publicly accessible website containing updated statistics on juvenile crime in the District of Columbia, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to prohibit the Council of the District of Columbia from enacting changes to existing criminal liability sentences, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5143) to establish standards for law enforcement officers in the District of Columbia to engage in vehicular pursuits of suspects, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5140) to lower the age at which a minor may be tried as an adult for certain criminal offenses in the District of Columbia to 14 years of age; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5125) to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to terminate the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1047) to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3015) to reestablish the National Coal Council in the Department of Energy to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters related to coal and the coal industry, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3062) to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity; and for other purposes (Rept. 119-298). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 528 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1045 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3668 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 Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. YAKYM, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 5343. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare program; to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 5344. A bill to amend the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Act to extend the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Pilot Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 5345. A bill to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 5346. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform certain penalty and interest provisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 5347. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the availability of appropriate collection types for quality reporting under the Medicare Shared Savings Program, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 5348. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 5349. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve services provided to taxpayers by the Internal Revenue Service by providing greater judicial review; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms.

PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):  
H.R. 5350. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FONG (for himself, Ms. SALINAS, and Ms. PETERSEN):

H.R. 5351. A bill to support National Science Foundation education and professional development relating to artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 5352. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for entities that employ individuals who condone and celebrate political violence and domestic terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5353. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program to support evidence-based mental health peer support activities for students; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and Workforce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 5354. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks against prospective and current employees for the purposes of making adverse employment decisions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself and Ms. VAN DUYN):

H.R. 5355. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out activities to promote screenings for liver diseases in newborns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. TONKO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. FROST, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. AMO, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 5356. A bill to facilitate efficient investments and financing of infrastructure projects and new job creation through the establishment of a National Infrastructure Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, Education and Workforce, Natural Resources, and the Budget.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself, Mr. BACON, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 5357. A bill to provide limited licensing reciprocity for a college mental health provider to furnish mental health services through telehealth technology to students of the institution of higher education that employs such provider; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and Workforce.

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 5358. A bill to provide that a project to remove and replace communications equipment or services listed under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks

equipment or services listed under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 is not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 5359. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require biannual financial disclosure reports for Federal officials, to prohibit certain acts by the President, the Vice President, and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS):

H.R. 5360. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to develop and make available to the public educational resources for parents, educators, and minors with respect to the safe and responsible use of AI chatbots by minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. IVEY (for himself, Ms. ADAMS,

Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BALINT, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELUZZO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TONKO, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. RANDALL):

H.R. 5361. A bill to hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct in court, improve transparency through data collection, and reform police training and policies; to

the Committees on the Judiciary, Armed Services, and Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JACK, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, and Mr. BISHOP):

H.R. 5362. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs multispecialty clinic in Marietta, Georgia, as the "Colonel Michael H. Boyce Department of Veterans Affairs Multispecialty Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. PEREZ (for herself, Mr. MANN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 5363. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out an initiative to develop, expand, and improve rural childcare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5364. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to direct State Medicaid fraud control units to investigate and prosecute instances of beneficiary fraud; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 5365. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 with respect to the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 5366. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify and extend the rules for personal casualty losses arising from major disasters and the rules for the exclusion from gross income of compensation for losses or damages resulting from certain wildfires; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. FIGURES, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 5367. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide for a pilot program under which development loans and loan guarantees may be made to beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 5368. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to rename the Community Liaison Services within the Office of Pipeline Safety of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration as the Office of Public Engagement, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5369. A bill to provide for a review of sanctions with respect to Azerbaijan; to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RULLI, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PATRONIS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MCGUIRE, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas):

H. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in honor of the remains of the late Charles James Kirk, a lifelong advocate for freedom of speech, civil political discourse, and the political engagement of youth; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. BICE, Mr.

MCDOWELL, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H. Res. 706. A resolution removing a certain Member from certain standing committees of the House; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SMUCKER, and Ms. DELBENE):

H. Res. 708. A resolution recognizing the contributions of medical research and observing "Medical Research Week" from September 15 through September 19, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. CLYDE):

H. Res. 709. A resolution condemning the September 10, 2025, political assassination of Charlie Kirk and honoring his life and legacy; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MENG, and Ms. PINGREE):

H. Res. 710. A resolution expressing support for the designation of "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week"; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Ms. FOX, Ms. ROSS, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. HUDSON):

H. Res. 711. A resolution honoring the victims of Hurricane Helene and expressing condolences and support for the affected communities in western North Carolina, specifically North Carolina's 11th Congressional District, 1 year after the hurricane made landfall in the State on September 27, 2024; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 712. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 14, 2025, as "National Food is Medicine Day"; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture.

By Ms. MACE:

H. Res. 713. A resolution censuring Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and removing her from the Committee on Education and Workforce and the Committee on the Budget; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mrs. MCBATH (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MRVAN, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MANNION, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL, and Mr. BISHOP):

H. Res. 714. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 14 through 20, 2025, as "National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week"; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. RUIZ):

H. Res. 715. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 15, 2025, as "National Latino Gastronomic Cuisine Week", and celebrating the vibrant and diverse culinary traditions of Latino gastronomy; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. LATTA, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. KIM, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. EVANS of Colorado,

Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SORENSEN, and Mr. KEAN):

H. Res. 716. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 15 through September 19, 2025, as “National Clean Energy Week”; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CASAR, and Ms. OMAR):

H. Res. 717. A resolution honoring Juan López, a Honduran Catholic leader and human rights advocate murdered in the Tocoa municipality of the Bajo Aguán region of Honduras and commemorating one year since his assassination; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. RIVAS (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FROST, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MANNION, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H. Res. 718. A resolution expressing support for increasing the number of Latino students and young professionals entering careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields; to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Education and Workforce.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:  
H.R. 5342.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .” In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: “The Congress shall have the Power . . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .” Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 5343.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 5344.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Cl. 18

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 5345.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have the

power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 5346.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 5347.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 5348.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 5349.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 5350.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 1.

By M. FONG:

H.R. 5351.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 5352.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 5353.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 5354.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 5355.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of Rule XII the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the U.S. Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5356.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 5357.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 5358.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 5359.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 5360.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. IVEY:

H.R. 5361.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 5362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18: Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 5363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 5364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 5365.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5366.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 5367.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 5368.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5369.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 45: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas and Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 211: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 227: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 247: Ms. TLAI, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. LIU, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. BERA, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. SWALWELL.

- H.R. 392: Ms. TLAIB.  
H.R. 516: Mr. MORAN and Mr. BELL.  
H.R. 589: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 630: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 631: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.  
H.R. 637: Ms. MATSUL, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. BERA, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. MCCLELLAN.  
H.R. 647: Mr. SHREVE.  
H.R. 718: Mr. CISCOMANI.  
H.R. 740: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 783: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 842: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mrs. LUNA.  
H.R. 857: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 909: Mr. RULLI and Ms. SEWELL.  
H.R. 944: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 979: Mr. CROW and Mr. VARGAS.  
H.R. 987: Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, and Mr. MCGUIRE.  
H.R. 1013: Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
H.R. 1028: Mr. BURLISON, Mr. HARRIGAN, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1046: Mr. HUNT and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 1055: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
H.R. 1065: Ms. BROWN and Ms. CROCKETT.  
H.R. 1077: Mr. GRAY.  
H.R. 1144: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 1151: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 1163: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H.R. 1171: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 1189: Ms. BYNUM.  
H.R. 1219: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 1229: Mr. MENENDEZ.  
H.R. 1232: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.  
H.R. 1262: Mr. KEAN and Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 1266: Mr. LUCAS.  
H.R. 1307: Ms. PETERSEN and Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 1340: Mr. KUSTOFF.  
H.R. 1346: Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 1348: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. FROST, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.  
H.R. 1355: Ms. MCCLELLAN.  
H.R. 1383: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 1397: Mr. RULLI.  
H.R. 1414: Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
H.R. 1422: Mr. CAREY and Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 1423: Mr. MASSIE and Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 1477: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
H.R. 1502: Mr. MANN and Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
H.R. 1506: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 1509: Mr. SOTO, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. BALINT, and Ms. PETERSEN.  
H.R. 1529: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
H.R. 1530: Mr. HUNT and Mr. MANNION.  
H.R. 1548: Mr. ARRINGTON and Mr. MCDOWELL.  
H.R. 1551: Mr. VAN ORDEN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. LEE of Florida, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.  
H.R. 1564: Mr. CARSON and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.  
H.R. 1566: Ms. LEE of Nevada and Mr. CRAWFORD.  
H.R. 1627: Ms. BALINT.  
H.R. 1657: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 1674: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 1685: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 1703: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 1706: Ms. GILLEN, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. RYAN.  
H.R. 1773: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.  
H.R. 1782: Mr. BELL and Mr. FIGURES.  
H.R. 1845: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. MASSIE.  
H.R. 1965: Mr. CONAWAY.  
H.R. 1987: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1991: Mr. MCGUIRE.  
H.R. 1993: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SCANLON, and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 2003: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 2061: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 2086: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
H.R. 2089: Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
H.R. 2092: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 2189: Mr. MACKENZIE and Mr. MCGUIRE.  
H.R. 2192: Mr. BELL.  
H.R. 2203: Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 2314: Mr. MCGUIRE.  
H.R. 2319: Mr. CISCOMANI.  
H.R. 2350: Mr. MEUSER.  
H.R. 2353: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
H.R. 2362: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 2381: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 2477: Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 2478: Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 2485: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 2505: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 2538: Ms. BYNUM and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 2548: Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Ms. SCANLON.  
H.R. 2551: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 2577: Mrs. KIM and Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 2598: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. BISHOP.  
H.R. 2601: Mr. WALKINSHAW.  
H.R. 2605: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BELL, and Ms. ESCOBAR.  
H.R. 2642: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 2736: Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 2767: Mr. MAGAZINER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. PETERSEN, and Mr. SOTO.  
H.R. 2814: Mr. OWENS.  
H.R. 2818: Ms. TLAIB.  
H.R. 2837: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 2843: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 2853: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 2879: Mr. MEUSER.  
H.R. 2881: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 2896: Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 2902: Ms. BYNUM.  
H.R. 2936: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 2978: Mr. SHREVE.  
H.R. 3045: Mr. CLYBURN.  
H.R. 3049: Ms. JAYAPAL.  
H.R. 3078: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. HARRIGAN.  
H.R. 3102: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3104: Mr. BERA.  
H.R. 3105: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 3107: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3108: Mr. WITTMAN.  
H.R. 3112: Mr. MEUSER.  
H.R. 3125: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3131: Mr. BERGMAN and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
H.R. 3139: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 3151: Mr. LANDSMAN.  
H.R. 3164: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 3184: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 3188: Ms. CHU.  
H.R. 3234: Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 3241: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3281: Ms. SIMON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Ms. BYNUM.  
H.R. 3312: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3353: Mr. MEUSER.  
H.R. 3427: Ms. GILLEN.  
H.R. 3474: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. KEAN.  
H.R. 3508: Ms. TLAIB.  
H.R. 3509: Mr. GRAY.  
H.R. 3514: Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. RULLI, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
H.R. 3519: Mr. FINE.  
H.R. 3526: Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
H.R. 3551: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3569: Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. RANDALL, and Mr. BELL.  
H.R. 3592: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. SELF.  
H.R. 3597: Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 3604: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
H.R. 3634: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3682: Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. BYNUM, and Mr. DOWNING.  
H.R. 3740: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3773: Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 3808: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3826: Mr. POCAN and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3866: Ms. ESCOBAR.  
H.R. 3868: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 3873: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3876: Mr. GRAY.  
H.R. 3885: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3906: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. BISHOP.  
H.R. 3912: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3921: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. QUIGLEY.  
H.R. 3930: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
H.R. 3931: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 3954: Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 3962: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 4008: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H.R. 4032: Ms. BYNUM.  
H.R. 4033: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Ms. MALOY.  
H.R. 4092: Mr. HUNT.  
H.R. 4099: Mr. NEGUSE.  
H.R. 4101: Ms. NORTON and Ms. BALINT.  
H.R. 4105: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4145: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
H.R. 4168: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4169: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4176: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. NEAL.  
H.R. 4180: Mr. HIMES.  
H.R. 4194: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 4253: Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 4288: Mr. ISSA.  
H.R. 4327: Mr. TAYLOR.  
H.R. 4329: Mr. PETERS and Mr. MCCAUL.  
H.R. 4335: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 4398: Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 4425: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 4440: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 4441: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4443: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. KHANNA.  
H.R. 4503: Mr. CALVERT and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 4577: Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 4606: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. SWALWELL.  
H.R. 4639: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4667: Mr. GRAY.  
H.R. 4669: Mr. GUTHRIE.  
H.R. 4680: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. SORENSEN.  
H.R. 4681: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4688: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 4696: Ms. TLAIB.  
H.R. 4712: Mr. HURD of Colorado and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
H.R. 4717: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 4721: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4760: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
H.R. 4781: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 4782: Mr. LATIMER and Mr. ELLZEY.  
H.R. 4796: Mr. LATIMER.  
H.R. 4821: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.  
H.R. 4843: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 4849: Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. MENG, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SWALWELL, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. PETERSEN.  
H.R. 4879: Mrs. LUNA.  
H.R. 4922: Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mrs. LUNA.  
H.R. 4924: Mr. MCDOWELL.  
H.R. 4936: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4949: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4952: Mr. HARIDOPOLIS.  
H.R. 4955: Mr. DUNN of Florida.  
H.R. 4957: Mr. STUTZMAN and Mr. RILEY of New York.  
H.R. 4977: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 4986: Ms. FEDORCHAK.  
H.R. 4989: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
H.R. 4993: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4994: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 5013: Mr. CASE and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
 H.R. 5024: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.  
 H.R. 5068: Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 5075: Mr. RULLI.  
 H.R. 5080: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 5081: Ms. ROSS.  
 H.R. 5093: Mr. LIEU.  
 H.R. 5097: Mr. VINDMAN.  
 H.R. 5105: Mr. HIMES, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GRAY, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H.R. 5106: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. MCGARVEY.  
 H.R. 5116: Mr. MCDOWELL and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 5138: Mr. VINDMAN.  
 H.R. 5140: Mrs. LUNA.  
 H.R. 5143: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 5146: Mr. VINDMAN.  
 H.R. 5152: Mr. VINDMAN.  
 H.R. 5156: Mr. RULLI.  
 H.R. 5158: Ms. MALOY.  
 H.R. 5195: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 5199: Mr. VINDMAN.  
 H.R. 5206: Mr. KENNEDY of New York and Ms. ELFPRETH.  
 H.R. 5208: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 5220: Mrs. FLETCHER.  
 H.R. 5233: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 5237: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BARRAGAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
 H.R. 5238: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BARRAGAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
 H.R. 5242: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 5257: Mr. MANN.  
 H.R. 5260: Mr. HUNT.  
 H.R. 5267: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
 H.R. 5270: Mr. SESSIONS.  
 H.R. 5271: Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 5279: Mr. PATRONIS.  
 H.R. 5281: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 5284: Mr. CLINE, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. MOORE of Utah.  
 H.R. 5291: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
 H.R. 5298: Mr. CASAR and Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 5312: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.  
 H.R. 5322: Mr. KENNEDY of New York and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.  
 H.R. 5323: Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H.R. 5332: Ms. MCBRIDE and Mr. LIEU.  
 H.R. 5334: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 5336: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. CASAR.

H.J. Res. 108: Mr. CARBAJAL.  
 H.J. Res. 111: Mr. CLINE.  
 H.J. Res. 113: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FROST, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MULLIN, and Ms. SIMON.  
 H.J. Res. 115: Mr. BELL, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FROST, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LIEU, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H. Res. 100: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
 H. Res. 120: Mr. CALVERT.  
 H. Res. 473: Ms. MORRISON.  
 H. Res. 575: Mr. LALOTA.  
 H. Res. 651: Mr. LALOTA.  
 H. Res. 670: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.  
 H. Res. 671: Ms. MCBRIDE.  
 H. Res. 677: Mr. CARSON.  
 H. Res. 684: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.  
 H. Res. 695: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BARR, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. COLLINS, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. GUTHRIE.  
 H. Res. 697: Ms. BALINT.  
 H. Res. 700: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Ms. MACE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. RULLI, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. STEIL, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. CRANK, Mr. WIED, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.  
 H. Res. 702: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JACK, Mr. BERGMAN, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. FALLON, Mr. STUTZMAN, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. SELF, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. CAREY, Mr. RULLI, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of

Missouri, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. STEIL, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. BACON, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. GUTHRIE.  
 H. Res. 704: Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. KHANNA.

#### CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

##### OFFERED BY MR. COMER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in H.R. 4922, the DC CRIMES Act of 2025, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

##### OFFERED BY MR. COMER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in H.R. 5125, the District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act of 2025, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

##### OFFERED BY MR. COMER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in H.R. 5140, to lower the age at which a minor may be tried as an adult for certain criminal offenses in the District of Columbia to 14 years of age, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

##### OFFERED BY MR. COMER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in H.R. 5143, the District of Columbia Policing Protection Act of 2025, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

No. 150

## Senate

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who fulfills the desires of those who have reverence for Your Name, let Your will be done today on Capitol Hill. Lord, give our Senators a clear understanding of Your providential purposes so that they will not deviate from Your desired plan. Inspire them to seek Your guidance and depend on You to bring them through the myriad challenges of our time. Infuse them with the spirit of reconciliation that will break down divisive walls, bringing harmony and cooperation. Strengthen them for this day's journey as Your Spirit empowers them to faithfully honor You. And, Lord, bring peace to our Nation and world.

We pray in Your majestic 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. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of S. Res. 377, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 377) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this week, we are privileged to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, DC.

He is the spiritual leader and the first among equals of Orthodox Christianity worldwide. The patriarch is coming to receive the Templeton Prize, a very prestigious award in religion and science. I know many Orthodox Americans hold him in very high regard and will be very excited to have him visit our country.

Now, because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, I really appreciate the fact that he has used his spiritual authority to ensure that Orthodox believers in areas of Ukraine, formerly dominated by Russia, have the opportunity to practice their Orthodox faith through institutions that do not answer to the Kremlin as the Russian Orthodox Church has since Stalin's time.

On behalf of Greek Orthodox Iowans, such as those who attend the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Des Moines, IA, I welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States.

May God bless his ministry.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the September 30 government funding deadline is rapidly approaching, and Republicans will be putting forward a continuing resolution to fund the government until mid-November and give Congress time to complete additional work on appropriations bills, and I hope my Democrat colleagues will work with us to quickly pass this legislation.

We will be putting forward a clean resolution to ensure there is no reason for Democrats to oppose this bill and delay passage. My hope would be that we can get this done as soon as this week and then continue bipartisan work on appropriations bills.

But I have some concerns because incredible as it may seem, Democrats seem to be looking to shut down the government. That is right. At least a portion of their base seems eager to pick a fight with the Trump administration and congressional Democrats—or at least congressional Democrat leadership seems to be following along.

I can't imagine what Democrats think they are going to gain from this. Do they think that hard-working Americans are going to thank Democrats for shutting down the government? Apparently, Democrats think "that it's perfectly fine to have VA offices close or to endanger nutrition programs that help seven million moms and kids or suspend disaster aid for farmers."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Oh, wait. That last line wasn't actually mine. That is a quote from the Democrat leader just last year. He was deeply concerned about the consequences of shutting down the government then. But now? Well, apparently, VA offices and nutrition programs and disaster aid for farmers can be sacrificed when Democrats want to make a political point.

During a funding debate in 2023, the Democrat leader had this to say:

If we are going to keep the lights on beyond this Friday, our Republican colleagues will have to work with Democrats in a bipartisan way to pass a clean extension.

"To pass a clean extension"—well, that is exactly—exactly—what we are offering Democrats, a clean extension.

Two years ago, that seems to have been the standard for CRs, according to the Democrat leader. But today? Well, today, the Democrat leader is ready to hold the CR hostage and shut down the government over extraneous policy measures.

It really is amazing how the rules change for Democrats depending on their perceived political advantage; although, again, it is hard to imagine what Democrats think they are going to gain from doing this. The Democrat leader is not the only Democrat who has spoken at length about the negative effects of a shutdown on the American people. Democrats' far-left base might be enthusiastic about a shutdown, but I don't think Democrats should expect a lot of thanks from mainstream voters—the very same voters the Democrats lost in the last election.

I have spoken many times about my commitment to restoring regular order in the Senate and, in particular, regular order on appropriations bills. We have made progress on that this year, passing a package of three bipartisan appropriations bills before the August State work period—the first time that has happened, literally, in years. And just last week, the House passed a motion to go to conference on that package. And I intend for the Senate to do the same so that we can pass these bills into law. But we need more time to consider the 2026 bills, which is why we are considering this short-term continuing resolution—this short-term, clean continuing resolution for just 7 weeks.

This should be an easy bipartisan vote. We should pass this bill on a bipartisan fashion and then get back to work on the fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills and the other essential work here in the Senate.

I hope that Democrats will think better of their shutdown plans and join us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Federal Bureau of Investigation is in crisis. Tomorrow will be the first time the Director, Kash Patel, will come before the Senate Judiciary Committee as Director to be questioned about his management of the Bureau.

In just the first weeks of this administration, we witnessed the unprecedented and forced removal of dozens of senior FBI officials—decorated career professionals who spent their lives protecting this country from terrorism, espionage, and cyber attacks. These patriots swore an oath to defend the Constitution and served Republican and Democratic Presidents alike.

They were shown the door for one reason: political retribution. Don't take my word for it. Just last week, former Acting FBI Director Brian Driscoll filed a Federal lawsuit accusing Director Patel and other Trump officials of orchestrating the politically motivated purge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Those who are familiar with the history of this Agency know that we went to great lengths to depoliticize the ranks of the FBI, the Director having a 10-year term, which meant that he or she would outlast any single President.

Time and again, we have set standards for the FBI that were above and beyond those across the ranks of government. There was a time when an FBI agent had to either have a law degree or a degree in accounting to qualify to be an FBI agent. It was a professional operation. There were questions raised about J. Edgar Hoover and other in the past, but basically the FBI has enjoyed the reputation of being one of the best law enforcement Agencies in the world.

According to Driscoll, though, Mr. Patel said:

The FBI tried to put the President in jail, and he hasn't forgotten it.

It makes sense. And no one up and down the chain of command has been spared from his retribution at every level of government. All six of the FBI's Executive Assistant Directors—gone under the Trump administration. At least 18 special agents in Chicago of major field offices—gone. As many as 5,000 nonpartisan career public servants—gone.

This brain drain at the FBI took place under Patel. It represents thousands of years of institutional knowledge wiped away in the blink of an eye. And when the FBI Director is so clearly ill-prepared to lead when under pressure, this deliberate razing of law enforcement expertise from his organization is even more shocking and dangerous for national security.

Brian Driscoll dedicated his professional life to serving his country. For nearly two decades, he held some of the Bureau's most demanding and sensitive assignments—serving on a SWAT team, leading the elite Hostage Rescue Team,

and serving as Tactical Section Chief for the Critical Incident Response Group. For his bravery under fire during tactical operations, Mr. Driscoll was awarded both the FBI Medal of Valor and the Shield of Bravery—among the highest honors the Bureau can bestow.

Mr. Driscoll was forced out after he resisted Patel and the White House's demand that he produce a list of thousands of FBI personnel who worked on investigations related to the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Keep the record straight in your mind. On January 6, an insurrectionist mob crashed into this building and drove Congress away at time when we were actually counting the ballots for the electoral college to determine the next President.

President Trump had rallied these demonstrators down on the Mall, and they marched up here, crashed through the windows, beat up on our police, and actually came into this Senate Chamber, aping themselves around here, sitting in the chair of the Presiding Officer. It was a sad and embarrassing day in the history of the United States.

I will just draw an analogy. If we heard that a mob crashed through the doors of Parliament in the House of Commons in London, what would we think? My goodness. What has happened to that great country?

Well, it happened here. I was an eyewitness to it, as were hundreds of others—driving out the Senators and the Vice President of the United States, Vice President Pence, from that chair that the Presiding Officer is sitting in.

That was the reality. Over 140 Capitol and DC police were injured in the process. Several gave their lives as result of it.

It was a serious moment. It was an embarrassing moment in our history. And now there is an effort to whitewash it. The first stop was with the FBI.

When the FBI prosecuted these mobsters who crashed into this building and sent some of them to jail, there was a steady beat from Mr. Patel and others that it was unfair. He even went so far as to organize those who had been arrested and prosecuted successfully or pled guilty into a choir. Yes, that is right—a singing group. He had them making some kind of musical selection from time to time, trying to diminish the seriousness of the charges against them.

So what happened when Mr. Patel—totally unqualified—became head of the FBI? He went out looking for FBI agents who investigated those mobsters and those insurrectionists. That is what was behind Mr. Driscoll's decision not to cooperate with him—so that those agents who were simply doing their duty and handing out successful prosecutions would not be penalized.

Mr. Driscoll's removal deprived the FBI of a leader whose expertise, courage, and judgment were forged over

decades on the frontlines defending America's security.

After leaving a promising career in finance, Mehtab Syed dedicated nearly 20 years to the FBI, rising from counterterrorism assignments and overseas postings in Islamabad and Amman to senior leadership in cyber and counterintelligence. She was a special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City field office and now should be leading the investigation of the horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk, but she was forced out this summer because, in the words of someone at the Bureau, she was "not a good fit." She was a woman of color. They don't fare well in the Trump administration.

We don't even know exactly what impact her steady and experienced leadership could have had on this investigation. But we lost a talented and dedicated person whose talents were applied for the safety of our country. We do know that the person who pushed her out—Director Patel—who will be testifying tomorrow, quickly took to social media and falsely announced that the suspect was in custody—remember that?—only to be forced to walk back those claims shortly thereafter.

At least 18 special agents in charge at the FBI—the top leaders in the field—have been forced into retirement or reassigned to diminished roles.

This hollowing out of the FBI creates a danger to the security of this country. These are not midlevel bureaucrats; these men and women oversee hundreds of agents and manage some of the most sensitive and complex investigations in the country. Many of these special agents in charge have spent their careers in counterintelligence and cyber operations, defending this country against hostile foreign powers, espionage, and cyber attacks.

Many devoted decades to civil rights enforcement, public corruption, and violent crime investigations, ensuring that State and local law enforcement across the country were working closely with seasoned Federal law enforcement leaders they can trust. Still others rose from frontline criminal work to lead major field offices. Their backgrounds range from forensic science to counterintelligence—skills not easily replaced and desperately needed.

Director Patel's foolhardy decision to force out these leaders within the FBI has hollowed out this important Agency. It has cost the Bureau decades of institutional knowledge and diminished its capacity to respond to the greatest threats facing our Nation.

Tomorrow at the hearing, I will go into detail about some of the Bureaus and Agencies within the FBI that have been diminished and hollowed out. Instead, many of the professionals of that Agency have been transported to the President's mass deportation crusade.

These dedicated professionals and so many more were fired, forced out, or reassigned to diminished roles because they had the courage to do their jobs,

whether that meant investigating the January 6 riot, preventing domestic terrorism, pursuing corruption, or upholding the rule of law.

The FBI Agents Association has warned that the Patel-Trump purge of the FBI will "severely weaken the Bureau's ability to protect the country from national security and criminal threats and ultimately risk setting up the Bureau for failure."

At a moment when foreign adversaries are shredding our cyber defenses, when terrorist organizations remain determined to strike, when violent crime continues to threaten our communities, we are losing the very people best equipped to respond.

The American people deserve an FBI that is focused on keeping them safe and protecting our Constitution. Instead, what they are getting is an FBI that prioritizes political retribution and the Director's social media clout.

Tomorrow, I will press Director Patel on his decisions to weaken the FBI, which was designed to protect our American families, by forcing out its most experienced public servants at the expense of our national security and public safety.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHY OTTELE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to recognize and honor an exceptional Oregonian. For 27 years, Kathy Ottele has served as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society and has been instrumental to the work and accomplishments of this unique organization.

The mission to eradicate cancer is deeply personal to Kathy. She is a seven-time skin care survivor, and she lost her dad, her mom, and her two younger sisters to this horrible disease. Kathy understands the importance of sharing her story.

From local community events to the halls of government in both Oregon and the Nation's Capital, she has made it her personal mission to connect with as many people as possible about the critical work at the American Cancer Society.

I have personally seen through my time with Kathy how her advocacy has helped families in a very positive way. Oregonians will long feel the positive impact of her tireless dedication to finding a cure for cancer. At home, we call it the Oregon Way.

She has also made it a personal priority to raise awareness and funding for the cause each year. I could stand here all day and announce a long list of things she has achieved during her 27 years of service. I will name just a few.

Through her efforts, she has consistently been one of the American Cancer Society's top fundraisers. Last year, she raised over \$17,000 for this cause. In recognition of her steadfast volunteer and advocacy efforts to help make cancer a national priority, she was named the State Lead Ambassador by the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network in 2020.

She has also been a member of the American Cancer Society's organization in Oregon and Southwestern Washington. She has been on the board of directors for the last 7 years.

Part of the reason why she is so deserving of all these important honors and responsibilities has been because of her advocacy and fight for early cancer detection blood testing—hugely important—such as in the bipartisan bill that I sponsor with our colleagues Senators CRAPO and BENNET. It is one of the best ways we know of to make sure people can stop cancer early and save lives.

For the last 5 years, Kathy aimed her advocacy efforts at promoting groundbreaking early cancer detection advances—known as Multi-Cancer Early Detection tests—to help more cancer victims learn their diagnosis far earlier and survive the disease at far higher rates. Kathy actually participated in a clinical trial of the new technology conducted at Oregon Health Sciences University, and she came away from that experience committed to winning broader access to this life-saving, groundbreaking advance.

Kathy has played a critical role in educating community and policymakers in Oregon about the importance of access to multi-cancer early detection screening coverage, and I am proud to be a lead sponsor with Senators CRAPO and BENNET, S. 339, the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection—MCED—Screening Coverage Act that will help ensure access to screenings that can detect cancer at earlier, more treatable stages. As a testament to Kathy's advocacy, every single Member of the Oregon delegation serves as a cosponsor of our legislation.

As Kathy celebrates her 27th year as a Society volunteer, she shows absolutely no signs of slowing down. Her rigorous dedication in service continues to make a lasting impact on the mission to ending cancer as we know it, and she does that for everyone.

I know that I speak for Oregonians in every nook and cranny in our State as we express our gratitude for her commitment, her talent, her mentorship, her leadership, and particularly in the constant effort to better cancer research and treatment.

So on behalf of our whole State, this afternoon here on the floor of the U.S. Senate, I would like to thank Kathy Ottele for her tireless work and service. She has literally dedicated her life to this cause, and the people of Oregon are better for it. I look forward to our

continued partnership on these important efforts as I work as a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee, and she continues her incredible volunteering at home.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Democratic leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I would like to begin by reiterating where Democrats stand on government funding.

Our position remains this: We want to keep the government open by engaging in bipartisan negotiation where we can address some of the grave harms Donald Trump has caused to our healthcare system and help Americans with the cost of living.

We haven't seen that to date. Republicans, so far, have refused to have any conversations about issues we have clearly outlined—healthcare, most of all.

Speaker JOHNSON said recently he hopes Democrats won't politicize the process, but Speaker JOHNSON has already done that by refusing multiple requests to sit down and talk and doing his own CR without consultation, without any inclusion of what the Democratic leader in the House or I are asking for—total, total partisan proposal. And so is President Trump.

When Donald Trump said on FOX News that Republicans “don't even bother” dealing with Democrats, then he is responsible for making a shutdown more likely. This afternoon, he doubled down again, posting online that Republicans should go at it alone in their partisan CR, instead of engaging with Democrats to keep the government open.

Now to pass a CR in the Senate, as everyone knows, requires votes from both sides. If one side refuses to negotiate, they are the ones causing the shutdown. Because, again, Democrats are happy to negotiate. We want to have a conversation with Donald Trump and Republicans about things we have been talking about for months, like healthcare, Medicaid, and the cost of living. And the American people know this.

They know that if Donald Trump refuses to talk—even to talk—with Democrats, it will be him shutting things down. They know he needs to negotiate. They know he needs to compromise. He is not a dictator, much as he thinks he would like to be. He needs to work with Democrats if he doesn't want to get blamed for shutting the government down.

And if Republicans follow Donald Trump's orders not to even bother dealing with Democrats, they, too, will be putting our country on a path to a shutdown.

And let me finish with this: I heard my friend the Republican leader come to the floor and cherry-pick some of my old quotes about keeping the government open with a CR. He zeroed in on the phrase “clean extension.”

Well, the Republican leader glossed over the key point. I said in the past that Republican colleagues have to “work with the Democrats in a bipartisan way” to extend government funding.

I said they actually have to work with us, and it has to be bipartisan. That is not happening right now. It was happening then in 2023. That is the difference, and the majority leader conveniently forgets that extremely important point.

And it is not happening right now because Donald Trump is shutting down—shutting down—any hopes of negotiation. Leader THUNE wants to wonder what has changed? A lot. A lot. Including Donald Trump's actions, which have dramatically harmed this country and undermined the appropriations process.

He has canceled congressionally appropriated funding. He is redirecting and stealing funds. Russell Vought says that he wants to see the appropriations process less bipartisan, and we know he is running the show. And now he says that Republicans shouldn't even bother to deal with Democrats. Meanwhile, the cost of people's healthcare has gone way up. Rural hospitals are already closing because of this Big Beautiful Bill. Job reports continue to show warning signs. Trump's tariffs are a mess, and the economy is headed in the wrong direction.

That is all because of the choices Donald Trump has made as President. We need to have a negotiation, which is what we are asking for right now—bipartisan, the only way you can get this done—and that is what we talked about back then as well.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MIRAN

Madam President, today the Senate will vote on Donald Trump's nominee for the Federal Reserve Board: Stephen Miran. Miran's nomination is bad news for every American who is suffering from Donald Trump's disastrous economic agenda.

He serves as chairman of the CEA, the Council of Economic Advisors, and is the chief architect of so many policies of this administration's failed economics that are raising prices for families.

Miran was heavily involved in the rollout of Trump's tariffs, and he even claimed that “there continues to be no evidence whatsoever of any tariff-induced inflation.” Ask the average American family.

What kind of bubble is Miran living in? Companies have explicitly cited tariffs for the reasons prices are going up. That sure sounds like pretty significant evidence to me.

No evidence of inflation. Tell that to grocery shoppers, to people buying coffee, to shoppers at Walmart and Amazon. Sticker shock has been the story of the summer for many Americans, all because of those awful tariffs.

Miran will be nothing more than Donald Trump's mouthpiece at the Fed. He has no independence. No sym-

pathy for American families and businesses suffering from his policies and a fundamental misunderstanding of how the American economy works.

I strongly oppose Miran's nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORENO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE KIRK

Mr. MORENO. Madam President, as you know, like I do, we had a terrible tragedy that occurred last week. I don't think that it is quite understood by people who Charlie's life didn't affect and what that meant to all of us.

Not only is it that a 31-year-old died—which, of course, would be tragic to anybody—but to see him publicly assassinated, gunned down, where his death is captured on video after video after video—you look at that and you think: Where is the humanity?

I think one of the things that is most important to understand is that there was a private person named Charlie Kirk. He wasn't just the leader of an incredible movement that we now are familiar with, Turning Point USA. He was a son. He was a father. He was a husband. I got to know Charlie about 13 years ago. I was in my office in Cleveland, OH, and my receptionist said to me: There is a young man to see you. He wants to talk about an idea he has.

In my business, typically, I am seeing people who are interested in purchasing automobiles from one of my dealerships.

I said: Who is this guy? My office went right to the showroom so I said: Come into my office.

Charlie Kirk shared with me a vision that he had. He had built out the entire concept of what we know as Turning Point USA in his head. He visualized hundreds of chapters in every major college and university throughout America where students could actually debate ideas. It wasn't about everybody had to have one point of view or a different point of view, but they could actually discuss an idea in a collaborative way, not with hatred, not with animosity but rather the idea that people would listen to each other.

This is a time over a decade ago where we didn't understand the extent of the indoctrination that was going on in our colleges and universities. But I was so impressed by that young man's vision, by his conviction, by his energy, by his charm that I happily wrote him what he thought was a big check. By today's dollars, it was definitely not. I referred a few friends to him. He was very excited. We stayed in touch during the years.

Lo and behold, he builds this incredible organization, and I ended up running for Senate. He activated that

group and helped me tremendously in Ohio. If you look at what he did—I am certain for you, Madam President, the same way for me—the way young people really took to his message. They want to have a voice in the future of our country. That is what Charlie wanted for them.

I will tell you, it is extremely sad and quite disappointing to see some of the reactions online—people actively cheering that a 31-year-old husband, father, and son would die; that the pejoratives used against him comparing Nazism or fascism—a stain on human history that shouldn't be compared quite frankly with anything. I think it is fair to say that Hitler and Nazis should have a special dark place in history and not be compared to anyone or anything because you see when you do that, you are inviting people, crazy people, to take actions into their own hands like what we saw tragically in Utah.

I hope that what comes out of what we just went through is that colleges and universities all over America heed to Charlie's call. Let's have our American colleges and universities be the one place—the one place—where freedom of speech is respected, where people can debate ideas, and even if we don't agree—for example, you and I may not agree that Ohio State University is the best college football team in America. You may have a different point of view. It is wrong. I know it is wrong, but, sadly, you may have a different idea. But we can be friends. We can have a dinner together. We don't have to be mad at each other because we have different points of views.

Of course, I am being flippant because there are more difficult conversations for us to have. It should never go to hatred. Look, I don't want to make this remark about partisan politics. But let me say to my Democratic colleagues: When you say we are at war; you must do anything you can to make certain that we protect our democracy, that is a bat signal. It is crazy. When a Democratic leader says that President Trump is Hitler or a Nazi—bat signal to crazy people. When the media, for example, in my State, the Cincinnati Enquirer said after President Trump was almost assassinated, much like Charlie was, that he “brought it on himself,” this sends a message to crazy people. When the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the largest newspaper in Ohio, analogizes JD VANCE, our great Vice President—your friend, my friend, whom we know personally—and says he is a Nazi sympathizer, that he reminds the editor of what it must have been like to be with Nazis in the thirties, it is a bat signal to crazy people. It puts us all in danger.

That is unacceptable. We can have vigorous debates. In fact, I would say we should have more vigorous debates on the floor. In fact, when we are doing confirmations to nominees, I welcome Democrats to come out here and defend

their position as to why they are not going to confirm somebody. For 81 to 100-plus nominees, they don't bother to debate. For the ones they do, it is 2 minutes of debate.

Let's have more debate. Let's do it respectfully, from the point of view that this is what I believe; tell me what your beliefs are, not just yelling at the Presiding Officer when nobody else is on the floor. That is not a debate. That is trying to get a 30-second clip on social media.

That is not what this institution should represent. This should be, like those college campuses, a free exchange of ideas. Maybe sometimes—but I find it hard to believe—my colleagues make a point that would maybe change the minds on this side. It would be great to see that. I hope that when we make points, that they listen. That is what Charlie wanted.

What I would like to do now is ask unanimous consent that the Senate observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Charlie Kirk, Erika Kirk, and her two young children who had to ask their mom when their dad was going to come home and understand we had a great tragedy.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
CHARLIE KIRK

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for a moment of silence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(Moment of Silence.)

Mr. MORENO. 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. WARREN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MIRAN

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of Dr. Stephen Miran to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

President Trump has run a monthslong campaign to turn the Fed into his personal piggy bank in an attempt to escape accountability for his own economic failures. He has tried to intimidate and threaten to fire Federal Chair Jerome Powell. And when that didn't work, he illegally attempted to fire Fed Governor Lisa Cook so that he could seize control of the Board. Both of those failed. So now he is attempting to install his own puppet on the Board with Dr. Miran, someone who intends to keep his White House job as the President's chief economic adviser open while serving at the Fed, setting up an unprecedented and unacceptable conflict of interest that will only ultimately cause more pain for American families.

Don't just take it from me. Take it from one of the President's closest advisers, Larry Kudlow, who said:

The bottom line is, President Trump's going to take the Fed over, as he should.

And Senate Republicans are facilitating it, including by jamming through this nomination at warp speed so that Dr. Miran can be sworn in literally hours before the Fed's meeting tomorrow morning to determine interest rates.

The facts are clear: Donald Trump promised that he would lower costs, in his words, “on day one.” Those were his words. He said them over and over as he ran for President: He would lower costs on day one. He didn't. Now the cost of groceries: up. The cost of utility bills: up. The cost of housing: up. The cost of healthcare: up. The cost of back-to-school shoes and backpacks and baby strollers: up and up and up.

He also promised a golden age for American workers. Again, he has failed. Job growth is down. The economy lost jobs in June. Unemployment is up. People are staying unemployed longer, and worker confidence in the labor market is at its lowest since the end of the great financial crisis.

Donald Trump can reverse course on his failing economic agenda. He could start helping families instead of turning everything over to his billionaire buddies. Instead, Trump wants to point the finger at everyone else and make the Federal Reserve his scapegoat.

If Republicans let Trump interfere with the Federal Reserve, American families and businesses will pay the price in terms of higher costs going forward. Here is why: Congress created an independent Fed to keep politicians from making shortsighted economic decisions that would benefit the politicians politically. Sometimes the Fed is called on to make really hard decisions about when to raise interest rates when fighting inflation, and the whole world needs to know that the Fed is making these decisions based on data rather than being influenced by politicians. If the Fed loses its credibility, businesses and consumers will stop trusting the Fed to control inflation, and they will start acting like inflation is here to stay, and that will make prices soar.

This is not a hypothetical. When autocrats take over their central banks, inflation follows. Türkiye hit nearly 80-percent inflation. Argentina reached nearly 200-percent inflation. Even here in America, back when Richard Nixon pressured the Fed to serve his political needs instead of American families', prices went up. If Trump can control the Fed, the cost of Americans' credit cards and car loans and home mortgages and student loans and more will all be higher.

So today's vote is not just about Dr. Miran; it is a question of whether the Senate allows President Trump to succeed in this next phase of his very public, very obvious, monthslong campaign to stack the Fed with loyalists who will prioritize Trump's personal whims over America's long-term economic health.

And throughout this confirmation process, Dr. Miran has spectacularly

failed to demonstrate independence from dear Leader Trump. During his confirmation hearing, Dr. Miran could not say the words “Donald Trump lost the 2020 election,” making Dr. Miran the first admitted election denier to sit on the Federal Reserve Board.

Dr. Miran refuses to resign from his current job at the White House as the President’s chief economic adviser at the Council of Economic Advisers. Dr. Miran’s so-called leave of absence from the Council of Economic Advisers is also just a joke. He will be sitting literally down the street from the White House, and he has refused to disclose any communications he has with the White House while he is at the Fed.

And, look, let’s be 100-percent clear here. The vote we are taking today is not to confirm Dr. Miran for a 4-month term at the Fed, the official vote. When the lights were off and the cameras stopped rolling, Dr. Miran confirmed in writing that he will not rule out staying in his seat after his term expires this January. That means he could serve as a Fed Governor and as the President’s chief economist simultaneously for an indefinite period.

Even if none of this were happening, Dr. Miran is a terrible choice for this job. He continues to callously dismiss the fact that Trump’s policies are raising prices for families. He compares tariff-driven inflation to a meteor strike while dodging questions about his own financial disclosures.

Now, look, you won’t hear me say this often, but I agree with the Wall Street Journal editorial board when it said that Dr. Miran “won’t be independent in any fair definition of the word.” Dr. Miran knows that if he is confirmed, every decision he makes and every vote he takes at the Fed determines whether or not he will be able to go back to his White House job later on. That is not independence—that is servitude—and he will have zero credibility with markets, zero credibility with businesses, and zero credibility with the public if he is ultimately confirmed.

Many Republican Senators have paid lip service to the importance of Fed independence. Well, if you actually mean it, then you should vote no. Otherwise, we are sentencing American families to years of higher prices and higher unemployment.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on Dr. Miran’s nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ENERGY

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President and colleagues, I am here to share some good news. This past weekend, Cali-

fornia State lawmakers passed a package of legislation to lower the cost of living for working families.

I say this is good news because every day, Americans continue to wake up to higher and higher prices in so many ways. We all feel it at the grocery store. Many of us felt it these past few weeks as we were back-to-school shopping. We, I think, are about to see it in our healthcare costs pretty soon. We are certainly feeling it in our monthly energy bills.

I can give a lot of examples, but I want to focus today on our energy bills and what California is doing and what we seem to be doing here in Congress.

I think it is timely because despite the fact that then-candidate Donald Trump promised to “slash prices by half within 12 months,” the reality is that, today, not only are we not seeing energy prices go down, we are actually seeing them go up. That is right. They are actually rising twice as fast as inflation. So much for keeping your promises.

Many Americans are struggling to keep up with these bills so much that they are now turning to payment plans just to keep the lights on. So in California this last weekend, lawmakers did something about it, and I think it is notable. Together, Governor Newsom and the legislature took several steps to strengthen our energy portfolio and lower prices for consumers.

I want to point out just some of the highlights of these significant but meaningful steps. This includes working to increase the supply of energy that Californians count on, and it includes working with counterparts more formally now in States like Oregon and Washington to create a regional electrical grid across the Western United States.

But even for the progress that we are making at the State level and at the regional level, what is so frustrating is that at the national level, Republicans continue to pursue policies that are increasing our energy costs.

This administration is shamelessly working to block one of our best defenses against rising energy bills: renewable energy. And I say so because renewable energy is absolutely affordable; renewable energy is abundant; and whether you want to admit it or not, renewable energy sources are our future.

I know I have heard a lot of my Republican colleagues for years say that, well, renewable energy is simply too expensive. But the reality is that, today, solar is half the cost of coal and significantly cheaper than natural gas. Wind power, too, is also cheaper than both coal and gas.

Having heard the counterarguments, again, for years, I know others will say: Well, we shouldn’t be subsidizing renewable energy sources, as if the fossil fuel industry hasn’t been propped up by subsidies over the years. And even more recently, I suggest look no further than Trump’s “Big Beautiful

Bill”—plenty of subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. And, finally, I have heard naysayers say that, well, we can’t depend on renewable energy because it is just not reliable. What happens when the Sun is not shining? What happens when the wind is not blowing? We have a genuine concern about intermittency. So do we.

But guess what. California—yes, the same California that has grown to be the fourth largest economy in the world—is showing how we can overcome those concerns and solve those problems. See, over the last few years alone, California has brought renewable energy capacity onto the grid in record numbers. In 2023, clean energy made up two-thirds of our retail electricity. And it is not just bringing more renewable energy onto the grid; we have simultaneously made the grid more reliable. That is in part because, since 2019, battery storage capacity in California has grown by nearly 2,000 percent. So we are harnessing the power of solar and wind and hydroelectric power and nuclear, geothermal—even hydrogen power—to our State.

It is exactly because of those investments that even in a year like 2024, just last year, when we experienced record heat waves, we also saw record renewable energy generation and we kept the lights on.

Now, we are not naive. We know that with a growing population and a growing economy, including but not limited to the future of an AI boom, demand will continue to grow. But we are committed to the kind of inclusive portfolio of energy options that has made our grid more reliable.

But despite that progress, despite that success story, Donald Trump and many of our Republican colleagues have continued to wage war on clean energy. This administration and Department of Energy Secretary Wright say they support an all-of-the-above strategy—this was actually a very intentional conversation we had at Secretary Wright’s confirmation hearing in committee months and months ago—but the facts show otherwise.

What we have seen over the last several months is the Trump administration cut historic tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act that were lowering costs and supercharging our clean energy transition.

This administration has canceled offshore wind projects, including one that was nearly complete off the coast of Rhode Island, and they are clawing back funding from job-creating solar projects that are lowering energy bills. This makes no sense. According to Climate Power, since Donald Trump was elected to his second term, over 120 clean energy projects across the country have either been canceled, delayed, or they are laying off staff. That is certainly not good for the economy and not good for job creation. It is not good for the grid. Taking nearly 14,000 megawatts off the grid—that is the

equivalent of removing power to supply 8.4 million homes in America. No wonder prices are rising. It is simple supply and demand. But at the same time, Donald Trump is paying to extend the life of older fossil fuel plants, which will only raise costs. When they are older, they tend to be dirtier. When they are older, they are more expensive to maintain. And all of this while ceding our global leadership in renewable energy production and innovation to China. Now, that is not just bad for consumers; it is not just bad for reliability; it is literally putting lives at risk.

Every year that we burn more fossil fuel than we need to, our climate crisis worsens. That means more frequent and more devastating extreme weather—not just in California but across the country. In California, it has led to a worsening drought, relentless atmospheric rivers, and—yes, all too often—life-threatening wildfires, just as we experienced in the Los Angeles region this past January.

It is no surprise that Donald Trump loves to attack California’s leaders on wildfire policy and our climate leadership. We also know he loves to play politics with disaster funding. That record is clear. He continues to dig us deeper and deeper into an energy policy that actually increases the risk of the next great disaster, and Californians will be left to clean up the mess.

So here in the Senate, I have worked hard to try to address that. We passed the FIRE Act a couple of years ago to help FEMA better prepare for and respond to wildfires. We secured the transfer of seven C-130 Hercules aircraft to strengthen our arsenal and to fight against deadly wildfires, adding to CAL FIRE’s largest aerial firefighting fleet in the world. I continue to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to build support for the Fix Our Forests Act to improve forest management practices, protect urban areas from devastation, and harness our technology and our expertise.

I am proud of that work we have been doing, but the backdrop of all of that is still an indisputable fact that reliance on fossil fuels comes at a cost, and Americans—not just Californians but Americans—are paying for it in the form of higher energy bills and in lives destroyed after these major disasters.

So no matter how many times Donald Trump says it, we can never and will never “drill, baby, drill” our way to cheaper energy costs. Our solution has to be a more inclusive approach to our energy portfolios, and we also need to streamline projects and speed up the timeline it takes to get them approved, to get them completed, and to get them online. We need to make our grid more efficient by supporting the build-up of our transmission system and the regionalization of our grid. Regional cooperation means improved efficiency and improved reliability. That is how we meet our growing demand—more options, not less; more cooperation,

not less; and more sources of energy, not less.

Trump might continue to lie to the American people about renewable energy, but Americans know that this energy crisis doesn’t have to continue forever, and California is proud to show the way forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Miran nomination and, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON S. RES. 377

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired. The question occurs on adoption of the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 517 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Curtis	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NAYS—44

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gallo	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—5

Daines	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Heinrich	Lee	

The executive resolution (S. Res. 377) was agreed to.

(The executive resolution is printed in the RECORD of September 8, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 366, Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John R. Curtis, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, James E. Risch, David McCormick, Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, Cynthia M. Lummis, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, John Boozman, Tim Scott of South Carolina, John Barrasso.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 518 Ex.]

## YEAS—50

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

## NAYS—44

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Reed
Baldwin	Kaine	Rosen
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Welch
Gallo	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

## NOT VOTING—6

Daines	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Heinrich	Lee	Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

## REMEMBERING CHARLIE KIRK

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, typically, when we come to this hallowed floor, we are speaking on behalf of ourselves as Senators, but tonight, I also want to speak on behalf of my good staff.

I would like to start with the Scripture from Psalms:

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Tonight, many of us indeed are brokenhearted and crushed in spirit. It is tonight that we gather with heavy hearts to honor the extraordinary life of Charlie Kirk—a visionary, conservative leader whose unyielding passion for freedom and faith ignited millions. Taken from us far too soon by a tragic political assassination on September 10, 2025, Charlie's light continues to shine as a beacon for all of us who cherish liberty.

Charlie was born in 1993 in a Chicago suburb, and he revealed his political fire early on. As a high schooler, he volunteered tirelessly for campaigns,

and he penned sharp insights for Breitbart—already challenging the status quo with the clarity of a born leader.

At just 18, in 2012, he founded Turning Point USA, a movement that would transform the landscape for young conservatives, millennials, and Gen Zers alike. Through electrifying campus activism, his influential podcasts, and nationwide tours, Charlie mobilized a generation to stand firm against the shadows of Big Government and socialism.

Today, many of those inspired young adults serve in our congressional offices, carrying forward the fight to safeguard our traditional values and constitutional rights from an ever-encroaching State. Many of these people will someday be speaking from this same floor.

Now, Charlie wasn't just a preacher; he was a soul shaped by faith. He was unafraid to declare himself a child of God. He opened his heart and mind to every voice, fostering a genuine dialogue amid division. As a champion of free speech and individual liberty, he urged the next generation to reclaim traditional family values—the bedrock of a thriving America.

Through Turning Point USA and his commanding media presence, he didn't merely shape conservative thought; he empowered a movement, defending our ideas against progressive overreach with grace, grit, and unwavering optimism.

Though an evil act sought to silence him, it only amplified his voice, transforming Charlie into a hero, a martyr whose sacrifice has kindled a fire in us all. His spirit endures in the hearts of those he empowered to fight for liberty, reminding us that true leaders don't fade; they inspire.

So I ask you, everyone listening today, including those of us who are brokenhearted and crushed in spirit, let us honor Charlie by living lives worthy of his legacy. Let not your anger turn into hate. Let me say that again. Let not your anger turn into hate. Please, don't let Charlie's distractors win. Rather, channel your emotions into fighting with renewed vigor—renewed vigor for the heart and soul of this great Republic, nurturing the next generation of conservative leaders.

Charlie's flame burns brighter through each of us. May Charlie Kirk rest in peace. And may God bless his memory, his family, and our shared mission.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

## NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MIRAN

Mr. KIM. Mr. President, I rise today to raise my concerns about a vote we are about to take on the nomination of Stephen Miran for the Board of the Federal Reserve.

I rise because the scarcest resource that we have in politics right now is trust, and, unfortunately, trust is also

the most important resource we need to heal our broken Nation.

I took part in a hearing 2 weeks ago for the nomination of Dr. Miran. I have had a chance to be a part of a lot of different confirmations here during my time in the Senate so far, and I have heard a lot of different crazy things, but, still, one part of this hearing really stood out to me.

Now, mind you, this is someone who previously said:

To pretend that one can easily shift between highly political and allegedly non-political roles without letting political biases inform policy is at best naive—and at worst sinister.

Those are the words of Dr. Miran himself talking about the concerns of politicization of the Federal Reserve, about the inability to be able to separate some of our political biases from the work that needs to happen at the Fed if we have people who are too close to the White House, too close to the President.

He is someone who criticized previous Democratic nominees to the Fed positions for their closeness to Democratic Presidents and for serving in their administrations. He even called for a cooling-off period that would ban service in the executive branch following service on the Fed Board.

But in this hearing, we heard something altogether different, and it is something that caught my attention, which is that Dr. Miran, who currently serves at the White House as the top economic adviser to President Trump, serving as the head of the Council of Economic Advisers, has no problem with himself being nominated for this role on the Fed Board.

In fact, because this role is to serve the remainder of a term on the Fed Board, which is a few months, Dr. Miran has stated and confirmed to us in the hearing that he will not resign his position at the White House, even if he takes upon this role of serving on the Federal Reserve Board. He will instead take a leave of absence from the White House, which means that he will technically still be attached to the White House, despite also serving on the Federal Reserve Board. This has never been done before.

I see this as a deep breach of trust. And I urge my colleagues, especially my Senate Republican colleagues, to demand that Dr. Miran resign from the White House if he is confirmed. This should be a requirement.

I asked Dr. Miran how he can square his past statements about concerns about the revolving door between politics and, in particular, the White House and nominees to Fed positions. He downplayed it and said, oh, he was just talking about a package of reforms that hadn't passed yet and that he shouldn't be held to the standard that he himself put forward.

I will be honest with you. It is straight-up painful to watch. He tried to excuse his behavior, saying that his attorneys had advised him to take this

leave of absence. He was saying he was just doing what his attorneys told him to do. That is misleading. What he didn't say is that these attorneys are telling him what is best for his career, not what is best for the American people.

I wanted to share the story because it is one of the most blatant examples that I have seen in my time in the Senate so far of a lack of integrity, to twist yourself in knots because you want a job, to betray beliefs that you previously stated that you hold central to your beliefs of the work that we are doing just because you want a job.

I will be honest with you. I don't understand that, and I think that that is a dangerous behavior. What bothers me is that it really shows who a person is: Someone who is willing to quickly and easily betray their previously held strong beliefs, what does it say about other things that they believe in? Why should I believe what Dr. Miran said about his positions on our economy, on interest rates, about Fed independence when I see how quickly he is willing to change his mind when it suits him? He believes something until it is inconvenient for his career.

This raises a question for all of us to consider, which is, Why does it matter to the rest of us? Why should we care? DC is filled with ambitious people. What does it matter at the Federal Reserve?

For those of you watching, maybe you have never heard of Dr. Miran. Maybe many of us in this country can't name other members of the Federal Reserve Board, so why should we care about this nomination and what he has said?

What I hope we understand is the importance of this choice. We need to understand the role that the Federal Reserve plays in this moment and how Dr. Miran can almost singlehandedly reshape it.

The Federal Reserve, in short, sets monetary policy. The conditions that banks use to decide interest rates for your mortgage or auto loans, it sets them. Your banks, it regulates them to make sure that they are being responsible; the prices of your everyday goods, it determines the amount of money in circulation to keep those at a stable and reasonable cost. All of those things are important. They are part of our day-to-day lives. The impact of the Federal Reserve has significant impact on our ability to save and to build wealth so we can pass on to our kids and our grandkids.

Because these things are important, it is critical that the Federal Reserve be allowed to act independently—dependent of political whims, independent of political pressures, independent of political motives. The Fed's job is to execute all of those important tasks with your priorities in mind.

We want people who have such a powerful role affecting our economy to be solely focused on what is best for our economy. That is why political interference must be constrained.

I hope all of us can agree that we don't want a President—or any politician, for that matter—being able to order interest rates to be lowered ahead of an election so that it could benefit them politically. Right? That is something I hope all of us can agree would be wrong. Then how is it that we can be OK with someone still listed as an employee at the White House to sit on the Federal Reserve Board? Oh, and the reason he gives, that this is a temporary appointment, that just makes things worse.

Dr. Miran is hoping to get President Trump to nominate him for the full term after this temporary term ends, but because he is staying on the White House staff on a leave of absence, he is doing so to hedge his bets just in case that doesn't work out for him, just in case President Trump decides to nominate someone else for the next term next year.

This exposes the heart of the problem, which is that this vote that we are about to take here in the Senate—Dr. Miran thinks of this as just a tryout, as just an audition, as just an opportunity for him to be able to do this and try to stay on President Trump's good side, keeping his fingers crossed for Trump to approve of his work so that he gets the full nomination next year.

Of course—of course—he will feel pressure to do as Trump wants him to do in the interim about interest rates and feel beholden to him.

So either Dr. Miran can decide that he wants to remove himself from consideration of the full term next year or he should do what he himself has said that we should have, which is a ban on people being able to go through this revolving door. He should at least step up and say that he will resign his position at the White House if this vote confirms him for this position because these challenges and these conflicts of interests are exactly why Dr. Miran previously called for a ban on this revolving door between the Fed and the White House and the executive branch.

There are many other reasons for Senators to oppose this nomination, but I wanted to focus on this one because I believe a majority of Senators agree with this lack of independence with this decision by Dr. Miran to be able to continue to stay at the White House.

Stephen Miran had every opportunity to do the right thing and ensure no conflicts of interest occur, but he refused. He had the chance to earn the trust of the U.S. Senate and the American people, but he refused.

But we here in this Chamber can do the right thing. If Dr. Miran wants his nomination to go forward, he should commit to resigning from the White House; otherwise, this Chamber should not move and vote his nomination through.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MIRAN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to President Trump's nomination of Stephen Miran to be a Governor of the Federal Reserve Board.

The Federal Reserve is among the most important economic institutions in the world, let alone the United States. Simply put, it is authorized to create money and determine the cost of that money by setting interest rates, all with a goal of achieving maximum employment and stable prices. When its seven Board members have a degree of protection from political interference, then the Fed is better able to contribute to sound economic policy of the Nation. That is because they have freedom to make tough decisions that may not be favored by the White House but that are necessary to achieve the Fed's dual mandate.

It is unfortunate that Dr. Miran demonstrated at his nomination hearing that he is a political partisan and that he will be President Trump's man at the Fed. As if to emphasize the point, Dr. Miran intends to perform this job while "on leave" from his current position as the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers at the White House. In other words, he will be keeping his job as the President's chief economic adviser while being able to vote on interest rates.

An architect of President Trump's tariffs, which have stoked inflation and under which American families and businesses are suffering every single day, Dr. Miran will now have one foot in the Fed and the other foot in the White House. And someone with this record—someone who has been a hard-core proponent of President Trump's policies that raise costs on everyday goods, that debase the value of the dollar, that are based on unconstitutional notions that Executive power has no limits—does not deserve a second job that comes with additional levers to damage the economy.

So I will be voting no on Dr. Miran, based on his track record and qualifications. I will also be voting no because he will be making a mockery of the law by refusing to relinquish his White House job.

The Federal Reserve Act says that "the members of the Board shall devote their entire time to the business of the Board." This means, quite simply, that Dr. Miran should not and cannot have contact with the White House whatsoever while at the Fed. In other words, there must be very strong firewalls separating Dr. Miran's Fed duties from his White House duties.

Those firewalls will not work for this President, who demands that his advisers serve his own personal interests, who demands total fealty, and who acts as if he is above the law. Those firewalls will not work for this Agency because President Trump is obsessed with browbeating the Fed into submission. He routinely demands that the Fed cut rates from 4.25 percent to 1 percent. He has tried to intimidate Chair Powell, a

Republican whom Trump first appointed, calling him a loser, stupid, corrupt, and incompetent, simply because he won't do exactly what President Trump wants.

And traditional firewalls will not work for this nominee. As the President's chief economist, Dr. Miran will almost certainly pick up the phone if Trump calls. He will be reading Trump's social media posts. He has every incentive to do Trump's bidding so he can return to his White House job. And even in the unlikely event that Dr. Miran acts independently, then Trump will simply fire him from the Council of Economic Advisers.

Most troubling, Dr. Miran has testified that he has received advice from White House lawyers blessing this arrangement. This kind of self-certification is dubious at best, but Dr. Miran has failed to produce it. That is why I joined Ranking Member WARREN and several of our Banking Committee colleagues in demanding that Dr. Miran share this analysis. And as is typical with this administration, he did not even respond to our request. Dr. Miran's stonewalling can only be read as a concession that this is a corrupt bargain.

Critical questions remain unanswered because of Dr. Miran's contempt of the Banking Committee, his evasion of our questions, and his refusal to provide details about this fraught proposal to retain his White House job while at the Fed. He must be straightforward and honest about how he intends to do this job, and he must acknowledge the reality that the President will have enormous influence and leverage over him.

We must have answers before the Senate votes on his nomination, which is minutes away, and we will not get those answers.

I will also be voting no because Dr. Miran has shown exceptionally poor integrity in this confirmation process. He tweeted in 2023 that no person "on the planet can go from highly political operative to politically neutral just because he or she gets a promotion. That's just not how human beings work." He said this during the Biden administration when a Fed Governor resigned to become an economic adviser to the President in the White House.

Dr. Miran himself now wants to move between the Fed and the White House. Under Dr. Miran's own standard, he would need to violate the laws of physics to be capable of acting independently.

Just last year, Dr. Miran wrote a 25-page paper proposing an overhaul of the structure and governance of the Fed. In that paper, he wrote that "short-circuiting the revolving door between the Fed and the executive branch is critical to reducing the incentives for officials to act in the short-term political interests of the president."

Yet, he is now racing through this revolving door. He called for specific re-

forms to shut this revolving door. Those reforms include prohibiting any Governor from returning to the executive branch for 4 years, removing the "for cause" removal protections for Governors, and the current President voluntarily refraining from removing any incumbent Board members or Reserve Bank leaders during his term.

At his confirmation hearing, Dr. Miran didn't even try to stand by his proposal. He testified that this "proposal was a package deal. It was a suite of checks and balances, and it's highly inappropriate to take one check or balance outside the context of the overall package."

However, Dr. Miran badly mischaracterized his own work. In his paper, Dr. Miran never said that these proposals were a "package deal" or that they must be implemented in an all-or-nothing manner. To the contrary, he wrote that this "proposal can be implemented in a piecemeal fashion, one policy at a time, if legislatively easier."

Well, he has a chance to implement it one point at a time by simply resigning from the Council of Economic Advisers.

This nominee is asking for the American people's trust to set the Nation's credit and monetary policy. By misleading the Banking Committee, which was deliberate, he has demonstrated that he cannot be trusted with this responsibility.

Like so many of this administration's nominees, Dr. Miran knew that standing by his previous views would take him out of the running, so he disavowed them to avoid getting crosswise with President Trump, who wants to get his man confirmed to the Fed today, which happens to be the day before the Fed's next meeting to vote on interest rates.

Trump's former economic adviser Larry Kudlow said the quiet part out loud on a podcast last week. He said:

The bottom line is: Trump is going to take over the Fed."

Dr. Miran's appointment is a critical piece of Trump's hostile takeover, along with the attempted ouster of Governor Cook and the continued attacks on Chair Powell.

When the Fed becomes controlled by Trump's yes-men, it won't speak with enough authority to achieve its mandate. Inflation will get out of control, higher prices will persist, and rates on credit cards, auto loans, and mortgages will go up. Americans will be asked to pay more to finance our Nation's enormous and growing public debt. This outcome is unacceptable while millions of Americans are struggling to cover increased costs on everyday expenses.

I would like to close by quoting former Republican Senator Pat Toomey from Pennsylvania, a native of Rhode Island who ably served as the ranking member of the Banking Committee. In 2021, he spoke against one of President Biden's nominees to the Federal Reserve and said:

"The American people deserve a serious nominee who . . . will serve without a political agenda. . . . It is exceptionally important to keep politics out of monetary policy."

Applying Senator Toomey's principles, Dr. Miran has not demonstrated his ability to "serve without a political agenda." He has not demonstrated that he is a "serious nominee," and he has not demonstrated that he "will serve without a political agenda." Instead, he has demonstrated his loyalty to President Trump and essentially thumbed his nose at the Senate. He has already compromised his independence through his plan to hold on to his White House position.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this nominee not only for the benefit of the Federal Reserve but for the integrity of the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. I know of no further debate on the nomination.

#### VOTE ON MIRAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cassidy nomination?

Mr. CASSIDY. 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 Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 519 Ex.]

#### YEAS—48

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeben	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McCormack	Tuberville
Curtis	Moody	Wicker
Ernst		Young

#### NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hassan	Murray
Baldwin	Heinrich	Ossoff
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hirono	Peters
Blunt	Kaine	Reed
Booker	Kelly	Rosen
Cantwell	Kim	Schatz
Coons	King	Schiff
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Schumer
Duckworth	Lujan	Shaheen
Durbin	Markey	Slotkin
Fetterman	Merkley	Smith
Gallego	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Gillibrand	Murphy	

Warner	Warren	Whitehouse
Warnock	Welch	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—5

Daines	Lummis	Sanders
Lee	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). 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 leader.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

**AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider the en bloc nominations listed in S. Res. 377.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dario Gil, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brandon Williams, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tristan Abbey, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leslie Beyer, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury the nomination of Andrea Travnicek, of North Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Justin Overbaugh, of Florida, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott Pappano,

of Pennsylvania, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Cadenazzi, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean O'Keefe, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Obadal, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine Sutton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William L. Doffermeyre, of Texas, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kyle Haustveit, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Donald Bergin III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Squires, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel Aronowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Dodd, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Gillis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jules Hurst III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brent Ingraham, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of George Wesley Street, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Peter Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey Bartos, of Pennsylvania, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the Rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Locetta, of Florida, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dudley Hoskins, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jovan Jovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2029.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Paul Roberti, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan Morrison, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jason Evans, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Edward Aloysius O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bryan Switzer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Textiles, Investment, Services, and Intellectual Property), with the rank of Ambassador.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Callista Gingrich, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christine Toretti, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Peter Lamelas, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

#### 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and the provisions of S. Res. 377 (119th Congress), do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar Nos. 89, 105, 107, 121, 122, 123, 124, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 139, 141, 142, 152, 153, 154, 156, 157, 161, 177, 180, 185, 251, 276, 277, 278, 279, 283, 285, 289, 290, 297, 298, 303, 305, 324, 344, 346, 352, 356, 362, 365, 149, 286, 302, 350, en bloc.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, John Kennedy, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, Shelley Moore Capito, Jim Banks, Roger F.

Wicker, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Tim Sheehy, Kevin Cramer, Eric Schmitt, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion is agreed to.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch, on the occasion of his official visit to the United States. His All-Holiness is a respected spiritual leader whose presence is deeply meaningful to many people across our great Nation. His visit coincides with his acceptance of the distinguished Templeton Prize, a testament to his lifelong dedication to advancing spirituality and humanity.

During his visit, he is scheduled to meet with administration officials, Members of Congress, distinguished leaders, and representatives from various faith communities. These meetings provide a wonderful opportunity to discuss ways to promote our shared values of faith, peace, and understanding. I hope these meetings will prove to be productive and insightful for all involved.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I want to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, DC. Since 1991, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has served as the 270th spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity, the world's second largest Christian denomination with 300 million Orthodox Christians living across the globe, including many in Rhode Island. He is an accomplished scholar, a devoted environmentalist, advocate for peace, and a leader who commands great respect around the world.

Over the past three decades, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has used his position to establish himself as a leading voice on many important issues and is recognized as a powerful force for good within the Orthodox Christian faith and beyond. As part of his efforts to advance cooperation and understanding between Christians,

Muslims, and Jews, he has cosponsored international peace conferences and advocated for peace-building efforts in order to promote mutual respect and religious tolerance on a global scale. Sometimes known as the "Green Patriarch," he has also championed environmental protection efforts, including by organizing international, interfaith summits to address climate change and call attention to pressing environmental concerns.

Once again, I join with Rhode Island's vibrant and important Greek community to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital. As the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch he has cemented himself as an influential leader who is highly respected within Orthodox Christian communities and beyond.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian Church. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will travel to Washington this week to receive the prestigious Templeton Prize, recognizing exceptional contributions to the fields of science and religion. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is widely known as the "Green Patriarch" for his longstanding commitment to protecting the environment. He has organized several international, interfaith summits to address some of the world's most pressing environmental problems. In his own wise words, "We must respond in an opportune manner to protect life on earth from the worst consequences of human recklessness. May God grant us the wisdom to act promptly." Thank you to His All-Holiness for emphatically voicing moral urgency on the climate crisis.

I would also like to honor the many contributions of Orthodox Christians to America, with a special recognition to the parishioners of the Church of the Annunciation in Cranston, RI. Last week this parish, with Father Andrew George, Father Nicholas Lanzourakis, Charlie Samaras, Denise Panichas, and other proud parishioners, celebrated a touchstone of Rhode Island summers, the Church's 39th annual Cranston Greek Festival. Thank you for all that you have done for the Cranston community and the State of Rhode Island.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I rise to join my constituents in New Hampshire, including those at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Manchester and the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Portsmouth, in welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on the occasion of his visit to the United States from September 15 to 17, 2025.

On behalf of the State of New Hampshire, I recognize His All-Holiness' efforts to strengthen humanity's relationship with nature through an approach that combines science and spirituality, for which he has been awarded the 2025 Templeton Prize.

His All-Holiness inspires millions of Orthodox Christians around the world as well those beyond the Orthodox Catholic Church. Through his engagement with Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists, Muslims, and Jews, he has built bridges in advancement of a more peaceful and interconnected world.

I am personally grateful for his continued prayers on behalf of the people of Ukraine, which provide hope and strength to the Ukrainian people as they defend their nation. His support for Ukraine provides a light in the dark to Ukraine's many faithful Orthodox Christians amidst one of the most trying periods in Ukrainian history.

As the 270th successor to the Apostle Andrew, His All-Holiness has been a voice for those without a voice and a champion of peace, love, and salvation. Deeply connected to the Sacred Theological School of Halki through his studies and teachings, he continues to provide guidance to the faithful.

On a per capita basis, New Hampshire is proud to host the largest Greek diaspora in the United States. On behalf of the Granite State, I wish him well on his visit to the United States and look forward to continued engagement between His All-Holiness and the people of the United States.

#### TRIBUTE TO RABBI DR. ARI BERMAN

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I share my gratitude with Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University, for his prayer for the Senate and for our country.

Faith and education together have been powerful forces for good in America. That truth is reflected in the mission of Yeshiva University, which joins knowledge with character by preparing young men and women to lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and strengthen their communities.

At a time of rising anti-Semitism on college campuses after the October 7 attack on Israel, Rabbi Berman founded a coalition of more than 100 university presidents—leaders united against terrorism and hate.

For more than a century, Yeshiva has shown that true education does more than expand the mind. It shapes character, builds responsibility, and equips the next generation to meet the challenges of their time.

I also want to give special recognition to my friend Anita Zucker for her dedication as a trustee of Yeshiva University, for her service to South Carolina, and for her commitment to education that strengthens our country.

May Rabbi Berman's words in the Senate Chamber, and Yeshiva's mission every day, continue to inspire faith,

courage, and hope for the future of America.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN ACTION

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 150th anniversary of Community Partners in Action, one of Connecticut's foremost criminal justice organizations, and the invaluable work of its staff.

Community Partners in Action was originally founded as the Prisoners' Friends' Society in Hartford, CT, in 1875, making Connecticut the fifth State to have an organization specifically dedicated to providing services for incarcerated individuals. Since then, CPA has become a leader in promoting accountability, dignity, and rehabilitation for individuals affected by the criminal justice system.

CPA combines direct services, community action, and restorative justice advocacy to create holistic, sustainable solutions for incarcerated individuals and their communities. The direct assistance they provide is essential to countless individuals' ability to obtain a brighter future. These services include transitional housing, reentry and resettlement support, workforce development and coaching, and partnerships with mental health and addiction services. In addition, CPA has built and led coalitions of relevant nonprofits, city departments, State agencies, and other stakeholders to create integrated networks and programming for the individuals they serve.

Community Partners in Action has truly set a gold standard for innovative leadership in reformative justice. The solutions they provide are both meaningful and authentic, meeting individuals where they are and tailoring programming to their specific needs. To this day, CPA continues to launch novel and effective projects, such as opening Greater Hartford and Waterbury Reentry Welcome Centers in 2018 and 2021, respectively, and opening additional residential locations for their REGIONS program in 2020.

Community Partners in Action has a remarkable history of creating opportunities, inspiring change, and making a difference in Connecticut and beyond. The organization has become an invaluable resource throughout Connecticut. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the crucial work that Community Partners in Action and its many staff perform and celebrating their 150th anniversary.●

#### REMEMBERING DANNY LYNN RENSHAW

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, on August 16, 2025, at 11:01 p.m., Danny Lynn Renshaw, of Bowling Green, KY, and

formerly of Madisonville, KY, passed away peacefully after a brave battle with lung cancer. The story he leaves behind is one of faith, love, perseverance, and generosity—an enduring legacy that will never be forgotten.

I met Danny when he reached out to offer support for my first run for the U.S. Senate in 2010. As the owner of the Renshaw Automotive Group, Danny loaned us a tour bus custom-wrapped with my campaign logo. I traveled the State with my family, meeting people in every county. It was a family affair for the Renshaws as well, with Danny's son-in-law Shawn Parker driving the bus and his son Ryan, daughter Deborah, and grandson Jagger joining us at campaign stops. My wife, our sons, and I had a great time with the Renshaw family as we traveled Kentucky together.

Danny was born December 9, 1946, in Nortonville, KY, the son of Ernest and Ethel Renshaw. From his earliest days, grit and determination defined his character. Those qualities carried him through his service to his country in the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of sergeant, trained as a paratrooper, and became an expert marksman while serving during the Vietnam war. He came home with the same strength and discipline he showed in uniform, ready to build a life of purpose.

The greatest chapter of Danny's life began when he married the love of his life, Victoria Ann "Vickie" Renshaw. While Danny had returned home from Vietnam uninjured, he soon lost his leg in a tragic coal mining accident early in their marriage. Despite being a young father with a life-changing injury, Danny showed the strength and positive mindset that defined the trajectory of his life. He began selling cars to support his young family, a humble start to an extraordinary business achievement that can only happen in America.

With hard work, determination, and vision, Danny and Vickie built a company that included eight dealerships across Kentucky, known as the Renshaw Automotive Group. Danny's career in the automotive industry spanned more than five decades, during which he became a respected leader and mentor. His influence reached far beyond his own dealerships; he served as Kentucky's NADA Director, chaired the Kentucky Automobile Dealers Association, sat on the NADA Board of Directors, and in 1999 was named Kentucky's TIME Dealer of the Year. For countless men and women in the industry, Danny was more than a businessman; he was a teacher, encourager, and exemplified what a leader should be.

Danny and Vickie's love story spanned more than 50 years, and together, they raised three children: Tommy, Ryan, and Deborah. They built a home filled with laughter, love, and faith. For Danny, family was everything; he cherished every moment as a husband, father, and eventually

“Pop” to his grandchildren and great-grandson. He found his deepest joy in watching them grow and thrive, always cheering them on with unwavering pride.

What truly set Danny apart was not just what he built, but how he gave. Following the loss of Vickie in 2020, Danny helped establish the Vickie Renshaw Foundation in her honor, ensuring her legacy of compassion would live on. He poured his time, resources, and heart into causes that mattered most: supporting children and families, education, the arts, and community programs across the region. He also served faithfully on the boards of Western Kentucky University Foundation, First United Bank, and Big Brothers Big Sisters, among others. His generosity was not simply financial; it was deeply personal. Danny had a way of making everyone he met feel valued, welcome, and cared for.

Friends and colleagues often describe Danny as an icon in the automotive industry, but also as a man whose kindness left a lasting imprint. Whether it was a family member, a lifelong friend, a customer walking onto a lot, or even a stranger in need, Danny had a way of making everyone feel seen and encouraged. His life was proof that true success is measured not only by what you accomplish, but by the lives you impact along the way. He cherished every visit, every meal and loved to light up the room by singing his favorite song, “Johnny B. Goode.”

Though his journey here is complete, Danny’s legacy continues—in the dealerships he built, the organizations he supported, and most of all, in the hearts of his family and friends who were shaped by his love.●

#### TRIBUTE TO HALEY BARBOUR

● Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, this August, Mississippi marked the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, one of the most devastating natural disasters in our Nation’s history. The Mississippi coast faced the brunt of the storm, but every county in the State felt the wrath of Katrina. Thousands of homes were leveled. Bridges and roads were demolished, severing the routes that connected our cities and towns. Most tragically, 238 Mississippians lost their lives. The State needed strong and steady leadership, and I am grateful that Governor Haley Barbour rose to the occasion.

Governor Barbour, along with his wife First Lady Marsha Barbour spearheaded recovery efforts, insisting that Mississippi would not only rebuild but would come back stronger than before. He formed the Governor’s Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal, which ensured that response efforts were not reactive but instead followed a proactive strategy. He secured significant Federal relief funds and maintained relationships with officials at all levels of government. That local, State, and Federal coordination continues to benefit Mississippi.

Governor Barbour helped transform the catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina into an opportunity. The storm will always remain in our memory, but we have worked hard to turn its impact into a relic of the past. Governor Barbour has been integral to that progress.

Today, the Mississippi Coast is even more of a bustling hub of commerce, innovation, and tourism. In the 20 years since Hurricane Katrina, families and companies have made it their home, private investment has flourished, and Amtrak passenger rail has returned, bringing visitors and business to our shoreline. Today, Mississippians are looking to the future of the gulf coast and our entire State. As we do, we commend Governor Barbour’s remarkable service in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3486. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties for individuals who illegally enter and reenter the United States after being removed, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following concurrent resolution was discharged from the Committee on the Budget pursuant to Section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act and placed on the calendar:

S. Con. Res. 22. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1790. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Interim Guidance Simplifying Application of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax to Partnerships” (Notice 2025-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1791. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary of State’s intent to designate Harakat al-Nujaba, Kata’ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, Harakat Ansar Allah al-Awfiya, and Kata’ib al-Imam Ali as Foreign Terrorist Organizations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1792. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary of State’s intent to designate Harakat al-Nujaba, Kata’ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, Harakat Ansar Allah al-Awfiya, and Kata’ib al-Imam Ali as Foreign Terrorist Organizations received in the office of The President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1793. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Hungary in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-042) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1794. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions to Saudi Arabia in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-046) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1795. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-077) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1796. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-089) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1797. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Germany in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-059) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1798. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada and the Republic of Korea in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-031) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1799. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea in the amount of \$25,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-087) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1800. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Singapore in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-052) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1801. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Malaysia in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-055) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1802. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Spain and the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-056) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1803. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d)(3) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the re-export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-061) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1804. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d)(3) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the re-export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Türkiye in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-037) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1805. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Jordan in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-

050) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1806. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-033) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1807. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Hungary, Luxembourg, and the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-020) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1808. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-025) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1809. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-045) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1810. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Oman in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-043) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1811. A communication from the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1812. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015 with respect to Venezuela; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1813. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014 with respect to Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1814. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare

and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Marketplace Integrity and Affordability" (RIN0938-AV61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1815. A communication from the Assistant Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office of Inspector General's budget request for fiscal year 2027; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## 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. WELCH:

S. 2797. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide for a pilot program under which development loans and loan guarantees may be made to beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2798. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks against prospective and current employees for the purposes of making adverse employment decisions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINÉ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2799. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2800. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2801. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the Canterbury Shaker Village National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUSTED:

S. 2802. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to disclose information about career and technical education and funding under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, and require FAFSA applications to include a career and technical education acknowledgment; to

the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2803. A bill to provide for congressional oversight of domestic use of the National Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2804. A bill to prescribe requirements with respect to plants detained by the Secretary of the Interior on suspicion of a violation of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BRITT, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2805. A bill to provide for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism; read the first time.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 2806. A bill to provide for automatic continuing appropriations; read the first time.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 386. A resolution designating the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 387. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17, 2025, as "Patriot Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 388. A resolution recognizing September 16, 2025, as "National Voter Registration Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. Con. Res. 22. A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035; placed on the calendar.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 526

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to prevent unfair and deceptive acts or practices and the dissemination of false information related to pharmacy benefit management services for prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 560, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

S. 742

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 742, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors 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. 769

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. CURTIS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to direct the Secretary of the State to seek to enter into negotiations with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to rename its office the "Taiwan Representative Office", and for other purposes.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 978, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1289

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1289, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and to support programs at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries

overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors 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. 1594

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1594, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit certain activities involving prohibited primate species, and for other purposes.

S. 1763

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1763, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the 7-year recovery period for motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 1866

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1866, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2026 through 2030, and for other purposes.

S. 1940

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1940, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Residential Emergency Asset-accumulation Deferred Taxation Yield (READY) accounts.

S. 1951

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1951, a bill to ensure the preservation and operational integrity of the aeromedical evacuation capabilities of the Department of the Army within the Medical Service Corps and to maintain the role of the Medical Service Corps as the primary joint service provider for intra-theater aeromedical evacuation, and for other purposes.

S. 2096

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2096, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the Transition Assistance Program and Solid Start Program to address mental health issues, and for other purposes.

S. 2269

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2269, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the criminal penalties for assaulting, resisting, or impeding an officer or employee of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

S. 2681

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2681, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the availability of certain clean energy credits.

S. 2690

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require that commercial driver's licenses be restricted to United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals authorized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to engage in employment in the United States that includes driving a commercial motor vehicle, and for other purposes.

S. 2744

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2744, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify and extend the rules for personal casualty losses arising from major disasters and the rules for the exclusion from gross income of compensation for losses or damages resulting from certain wildfires.

S. 2755

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2755, a bill to provide that no Federal funds may be obligated or expended to award a grant or contract to an institution of higher education for the specific purposes of conducting fundamental research in collaboration with a covered entity.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2777, a bill to exempt small business concerns from duties imposed pursuant to the national emergency declared on April 2, 2025, by the President and to refund small business concerns the amount of any such duties paid.

S. 2784

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2784, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Constance Baker Motley, in recognition of her enduring contributions and service to the United States.

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S.

Res. 236, a resolution calling for the return of abducted Ukrainian children before finalizing any peace agreement to end the war against Ukraine.

S. RES. 385

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 385, a resolution recognizing suicide as a serious public health problem and expressing support for the designation of September as "National Suicide Prevention Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 3097

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3097 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3592

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3592 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3693

At the request of Mr. KIM, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3693 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3694

At the request of Mr. KIM, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3694 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 386—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, AS "COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATORS APPRECIATION WEEK"

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, and

Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 386

Whereas community schools marshal, align, and unite the assets, resources, and capacity of schools and communities for the success of students, families, and communities;

Whereas community schools are an effective, evidence-based strategy for school improvement included under section 4625 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7275), as added by section 4601 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95; 129 Stat. 2029);

Whereas community schools that provide integrated student support, provide well-designed and expanded learning opportunities informed by rigorous community-connected classroom instruction, promote a culture of belonging and safety, have active family and community engagement, and use collaborative leadership and practices have positive academic and nonacademic outcomes, including improvements in student attendance, student behavior, academic achievement, school readiness, student mental and physical health, high school graduation rates, school climate, and reducing racial and economic achievement gaps;

Whereas community schools have the potential to close economic achievement gaps, as indicated in a 2024 report;

Whereas a 2023 study found that mental health care provided through community schools addresses disparities in school-provided service and improved academic performance and student conduct, including reducing the number of school suspensions and disciplinary referrals;

Whereas a 2022 report found that community schools and the community as a whole produce a positive impact on student attendance, on-time grade progression, and credit accumulation for high school students;

Whereas community schools have a positive impact on meeting the basic needs of students, including nutritional services and access to comprehensive health services, as indicated in a 2024 report;

Whereas community schools provide a strong social return on investment, with 1 study reporting a social return of \$10 to \$15 for every dollar invested over a 3-year period;

Whereas community school coordinators are essential to building successful community schools and creating, strengthening, and maintaining partnerships between community schools and their communities;

Whereas community school coordinators facilitate and provide leadership for the collaborative process and development of a system of supports and opportunities for children, families, and others within the community that allows all students to learn and the community to thrive;

Whereas community school coordinators, through their role, deliver a strong monetary return on investment for community schools and their communities, with 1 study reporting a return of \$7.11 for every dollar invested in the salary of a community school coordinator; and

Whereas Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week, celebrated from September 14 through September 20, 2025, recognizes, raises awareness of, and celebrates the thousands of community school coordinators across the country and the critical role of community school coordinators in the success of students: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week";

(2) gives thanks to community school coordinators for the work they do to serve students, families, and communities; and

(3) encourages students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in events that celebrate Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 387—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, AS “PATRIOT WEEK”**

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 387

Whereas the events that led to the signing of the Constitution of the United States by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, have significance for every citizen of the United States and are honored in public schools across the United States on Constitution Day, which is September 17 of each year;

Whereas the rule of law, the social compact, democracy, liberty, equality, and unalienable human rights are the essential values upon which the United States flourishes;

Whereas diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the United States, and the motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States, “E pluribus unum”, Latin for “out of many, one”, symbolizes that individuals in the United States from all walks of life are unified by shared values;

Whereas exceptional, visionary, and indispensable individuals such as Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry, John Adams, John Marshall, George Washington, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison founded or advanced the United States;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions signed in Seneca Falls, New York, the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr., express sentiments that have advanced liberty in the United States; and

Whereas the Bennington flag (commonly known as the “’76 flag”), the Betsy Ross flag, the current flag of the United States, the flag of the women’s suffrage movement, the Union flag (commonly known as the “Fort Sumter flag”), the Gadsden flag, and the flags of the States are physical symbols of the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17, 2025, as “Patriot Week”;

(2) recognizes that understanding the history of the United States and the first principles of the United States is indispensable to the survival of the United States as a free people;

(3) acknowledges, in great reverence to the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, that citizens of the United States should take time to honor the first principles, founders, documents, and symbols of their history;

(4) recognizes that each generation should renew the spirit of the United States based on the first principles, historical figures,

founding documents, and symbols of the United States; and

(5) encourages citizens, schools and other educational institutions, and Federal, State, and local governments and their agencies to recognize and participate in Patriot Week by honoring, celebrating, and promoting the study of the history of the United States so that all people of the United States may offer the reverence that is due to the free republic.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 388—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, AS “NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY”**

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 388

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 16, 2025, as “National Voter Registration Day”; and

(2) encourages each voting-eligible citizen of the United States—

(A) to register to vote;

(B) to verify with the appropriate State or local election official that the name, address, and other personal information on record is current; and

(C) to go to the polls on election day and vote if the voting-eligible citizen would like to do so.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 22—SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027 THROUGH 2035**

Mr. PAUL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was placed on the calendar:

S. CON. RES. 22

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*,

**SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026.**

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2026 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2026.

**TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS**

**Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses**

Sec. 1101. Recommended levels and amounts.

Sec. 1102. Major functional categories.

**Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate**

Sec. 1201. Social Security in the Senate.

Sec. 1202. Postal Service discretionary administrative expenses in the Senate.

**TITLE II—RESERVE FUNDS**

Sec. 2001. Deficit reduction fund for efficiencies, consolidations, and other savings.

Sec. 2002. Reserve fund relating to health savings accounts.

**TITLE III—BUDGET PROCESS**

Sec. 3001. Voting threshold for points of order.

Sec. 3002. Emergency legislation.

Sec. 3003. Enforcement of allocations, aggregates, and other levels.

Sec. 3004. Point of order against legislation providing funding within more than 3 suballocations under section 302(b).

Sec. 3005. Duplication determinations by the Congressional Budget Office.

Sec. 3006. Breakdown of cost estimates by budget function.

Sec. 3007. Sense of the Senate on treatment of reduction of appropriations levels to achieve savings.

Sec. 3008. Prohibition on preemptive waivers.

Sec. 3009. Adjustments for legislation reducing appropriations.

Sec. 3010. Authority.

Sec. 3011. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

**TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS**

**Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses**

**SEC. 1101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.**

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2035:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: \$3,756,167,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$3,934,080,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$4,055,219,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$4,234,262,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$4,513,449,000,000.  
Fiscal year 3031: \$4,767,738,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$4,968,198,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$5,174,963,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2034: \$5,381,082,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2035: \$5,600,674,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: \$0.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$0.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$0.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$0.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$0.  
Fiscal year 3031: \$0.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$0.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$0.  
Fiscal year 2034: \$0.  
Fiscal year 2035: \$0.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: \$5,382,953,651,663.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$5,048,756,970,742.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$4,737,448,476,002.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$4,523,399,511,711.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$4,254,175,440,640.  
Fiscal year 3031: \$4,471,260,391,210.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$4,636,841,349,813.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$4,772,073,829,353.  
Fiscal year 2034: \$4,969,934,092,880.  
Fiscal year 2035: \$5,190,839,604,171.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: \$5,289,358,496,000.  
Fiscal year 2027: \$4,993,154,420,224.  
Fiscal year 2028: \$4,713,537,772,691.  
Fiscal year 2029: \$4,449,579,657,421.  
Fiscal year 2030: \$4,200,403,196,605.  
Fiscal year 3031: \$4,414,665,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2032: \$4,565,583,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2033: \$4,723,979,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034: \$4,895,786,000,000.

Fiscal year 2035: \$5,081,349,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: \$1,533,191,496,000.

Fiscal year 2027: \$1,059,074,420,224.

Fiscal year 2028: \$658,318,772,691.

Fiscal year 2029: \$215,317,657,421.

Fiscal year 2030: —\$313,045,803,395.

Fiscal year 3031: —\$353,073,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032: —\$402,615,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033: —\$450,984,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034: —\$485,296,000,000.

Fiscal year 2035: —\$519,325,000,000.

(5) PUBLIC DEBT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(a)(5)), the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: \$39,023,478,168,835.

Fiscal year 2027: \$40,181,811,550,466.

Fiscal year 2028: \$41,096,043,114,088.

Fiscal year 2029: \$41,433,153,190,702.

Fiscal year 2030: \$41,224,795,461,274.

Fiscal year 3031: \$40,874,936,819,570.

Fiscal year 2032: \$40,567,353,561,165.

Fiscal year 2033: \$40,464,865,603,980.

Fiscal year 2034: \$40,294,608,783,237.

Fiscal year 2035: \$40,157,121,756,055.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: \$31,696,207,496,000.

Fiscal year 2027: \$32,969,693,916,224.

Fiscal year 2028: \$34,128,284,688,916.

Fiscal year 2029: \$34,677,266,346,336.

Fiscal year 2030: \$34,900,719,542,941.

Fiscal year 3031: \$35,005,732,542,941.

Fiscal year 2032: \$35,152,316,542,941.

Fiscal year 2033: \$35,395,008,542,941.

Fiscal year 2034: \$35,328,184,542,941.

Fiscal year 2035: \$35,231,296,542,941.

#### SEC. 1102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2026 through 2035 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, \$913,263,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$895,830,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, \$935,345,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$913,493,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, \$956,694,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$940,299,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, \$979,049,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$950,598,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,002,337,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$977,233,000,000.

Fiscal year 3031:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,026,119,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$996,535,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,050,408,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$1,016,235,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,076,299,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$1,050,728,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,101,659,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$1,067,701,000,000.

Fiscal year 2035:

(A) New budget authority, \$1,126,847,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$1,082,655,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, \$64,270,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$68,458,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, \$64,856,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$68,013,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,169,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$64,433,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, \$67,655,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$65,177,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, \$69,175,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$65,601,000,000.

Fiscal year 3031:

(A) New budget authority, \$70,699,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$66,643,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, \$72,220,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$67,916,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, \$73,809,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$69,332,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, \$75,431,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$70,768,000,000.

Fiscal year 2035:

(A) New budget authority, \$77,009,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$72,277,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, \$43,056,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$42,483,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, \$44,011,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$43,166,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, \$44,881,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$43,781,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, \$45,834,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$44,611,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, \$46,835,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$45,450,000,000.

Fiscal year 3031:

(A) New budget authority, \$47,840,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$46,405,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, \$48,853,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$47,377,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, \$49,907,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$48,391,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, \$50,997,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$49,436,000,000.

Fiscal year 2035:

(A) New budget authority, \$52,060,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$50,497,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,172,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$44,518,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, \$43,579,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$52,928,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, \$44,493,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$52,542,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, \$45,633,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$51,237,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, \$44,014,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$47,297,000,000.

Fiscal year 3031:

(A) New budget authority, \$45,460,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$46,521,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, \$50,176,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$48,864,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, \$35,184,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$34,040,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, \$27,122,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$26,021,000,000.

Fiscal year 2035:

(A) New budget authority, \$27,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$26,335,000,000.

(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, \$89,760,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$90,428,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, \$83,830,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$91,282,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, \$85,498,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$91,754,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, \$87,319,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$92,172,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, \$88,970,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$92,442,000,000.

Fiscal year 3031:

(A) New budget authority, \$91,016,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$92,640,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, \$92,975,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$91,686,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, \$95,254,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$93,640,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, \$97,211,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$94,831,000,000.

Fiscal year 2035:

(A) New budget authority, \$99,403,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$96,132,000,000.

(6) Agriculture (350):

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, \$59,875,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$58,018,000,000.

Fiscal year 2027:

(A) New budget authority, \$64,092,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$61,792,000,000.

Fiscal year 2028:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,014,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$64,140,000,000.

Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,999,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$63,775,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:

(A) New budget authority, \$65,213,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$62,065,000,000.

Fiscal year 3031:

(A) New budget authority, \$65,516,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$62,226,000,000.

Fiscal year 2032:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,979,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$63,432,000,000.

Fiscal year 2033:

(A) New budget authority, \$68,738,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$64,825,000,000.

Fiscal year 2034:

(A) New budget authority, \$70,130,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$66,347,000,000.

Fiscal year 2035:

(A) New budget authority, \$71,275,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$67,607,000,000.

(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):

Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, \$33,817,000,000.

- Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$32,990,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$2,586,000,000.
- (8) Transportation (400):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$176,249,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$154,625,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$178,411,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$162,925,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$180,607,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$171,610,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$182,610,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$175,967,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$179,144,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$174,442,000,000.
- Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$181,099,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$178,314,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$189,966,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$187,367,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$192,692,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$191,213,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$195,495,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$194,754,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$198,033,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$198,972,000,000.
- (9) Community and Regional Development (450):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$89,366,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$69,845,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$91,267,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$74,426,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$92,897,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$75,604,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$94,812,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$77,850,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$96,811,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$82,903,000,000.
- Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$98,774,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$86,364,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$100,621,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$88,685,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$102,711,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$90,723,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$104,818,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$93,005,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$106,932,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$94,918,000,000.
- (10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$152,714,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$151,605,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$155,153,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$150,979,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$157,971,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$152,819,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$160,952,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$155,502,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$163,865,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$158,383,000,000.
- Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$166,854,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$161,312,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$170,223,000,000.
- (B) Outlays, \$164,486,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$173,784,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$167,792,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$176,834,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$170,876,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$179,796,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$173,858,000,000.
- (11) Health (550):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$992,460,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$976,705,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,021,428,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,021,884,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,056,522,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,053,318,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,099,999,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,095,100,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,144,066,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,133,456,000,000.
- Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,177,723,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,176,648,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,228,051,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,218,203,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,278,134,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,267,299,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,311,280,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,300,233,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,372,257,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,358,762,000,000.
- (12) Medicare (570):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,007,431,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,009,161,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,067,229,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,066,832,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,210,420,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,208,952,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,126,357,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,125,928,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,276,602,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,276,291,000,000.
- Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,358,554,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,358,476,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,445,982,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,445,966,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,664,590,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,664,595,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,667,328,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,667,321,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,646,810,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,646,860,000,000.
- (13) Income Security (600):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$702,007,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$699,086,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$703,592,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$698,238,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$722,280,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$721,948,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$724,420,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$710,279,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$743,824,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$735,068,000,000.
- Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$757,021,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$747,723,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$775,456,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$765,416,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$796,775,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$793,408,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$805,597,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$795,238,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$813,831,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$793,513,000,000.
- (14) Social Security (650):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$81,690,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$81,690,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$89,447,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$89,447,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$94,419,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$94,419,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$100,138,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$100,138,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$106,208,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$106,208,000,000.
- Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$112,114,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$112,114,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$118,485,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$118,485,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$125,325,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$125,325,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$132,539,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$132,539,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$139,849,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$139,849,000,000.
- (15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$382,625,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$378,862,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$404,665,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$401,379,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$427,402,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$444,309,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$447,832,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$422,387,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$466,693,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$461,795,000,000.
- Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$486,796,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$481,715,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$507,269,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$502,734,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$528,816,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$548,814,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$550,747,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$547,878,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$572,898,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$540,857,000,000.
- (16) Administration of Justice (750):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$90,002,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$87,682,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$89,047,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$87,256,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$91,066,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$89,499,000,000.
- Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, \$93,553,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$91,849,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$96,019,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$94,292,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$98,328,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$96,277,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$105,979,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$103,293,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$108,710,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$105,827,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$111,020,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$108,460,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$113,796,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$111,157,000,000.  
 (17) General Government (800):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$30,678,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$38,289,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$32,078,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$38,267,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$33,007,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,965,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$33,784,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,804,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$34,628,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,998,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$35,261,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,038,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$36,204,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$36,321,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$36,975,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$36,772,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$37,697,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$37,281,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$38,495,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$38,037,000,000.  
 (18) Net Interest (900):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,072,324,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,072,324,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,136,326,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,136,326,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,222,930,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,222,930,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,301,403,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,301,403,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,375,360,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,375,360,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,457,559,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,457,559,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,543,538,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,543,538,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,624,747,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,624,747,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,716,001,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,716,001,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$1,807,339,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$1,807,339,000,000.  
 (19) New Efficiencies, Consolidations, and Other Savings (930):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, authority,  
 –\$503,691,348,337.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$494,933,504,000.

Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$1,047,519,029,259.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$1,035,982,579,776.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$1,619,580,523,998.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$1,611,406,227,309.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$2,016,853,488,289.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$1,983,939,342,579.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$2,623,503,559,360.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$2,590,342,803,395.  
 Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$2,679,230,608,790.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$2,645,318,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$2,834,658,650,187.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$2,791,096,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$3,116,387,170,647.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$3,084,979,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$3,122,787,907,120.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$3,076,198,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$3,110,570,395,829.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$3,044,959,000,000.  
 (20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$135,110,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$135,110,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$137,883,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$137,883,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$141,145,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$141,165,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$145,400,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$145,407,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$149,582,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$149,581,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$154,014,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$154,013,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$160,114,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$160,113,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$166,102,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$166,101,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$171,015,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$171,014,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority,  
 –\$175,904,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, –\$175,903,000,000.  
 (21) Transfers (990):  
 Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, –\$4,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, –\$4,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, –\$4,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2029:

(A) New budget authority, –\$4,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, –\$4,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.  
 Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, –\$4,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, –\$4,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, –\$5,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, –\$5,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, –\$6,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$0.

#### Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

##### SEC. 1201. SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE SENATE.

(a) SOCIAL SECURITY REVENUES.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), the amounts of revenues of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: \$1,303,924,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027: \$1,363,672,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028: \$1,418,444,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029: \$1,471,555,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030: \$1,530,067,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 3031: \$1,590,856,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032: \$1,653,864,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033: \$1,717,636,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034: \$1,781,872,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2035: \$1,848,256,000,000.

(b) SOCIAL SECURITY OUTLAYS.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), the amounts of outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: \$1,664,223,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027: \$1,760,878,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028: \$1,865,222,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029: \$1,967,506,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030: \$2,071,613,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 3031: \$2,179,337,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032: \$2,288,683,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033: \$2,399,465,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034: \$2,510,597,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2035: \$2,623,808,000,000.

(c) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,624,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,554,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,821,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,754,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$7,021,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,950,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$7,220,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$7,149,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$7,432,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$7,358,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$7,644,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$7,569,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$7,859,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$7,783,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:

- (A) New budget authority, \$8,085,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$8,006,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$8,316,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$8,234,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$8,553,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$8,469,000,000.

**SEC. 1202. POSTAL SERVICE DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN THE SENATE.**

In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Postal Service for discretionary administrative expenses are as follows:

- Fiscal year 2026:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$279,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$279,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2027:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$289,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$289,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2028:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$299,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$299,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2029:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$309,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$309,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2030:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$319,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$319,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 3031:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$330,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$330,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2032:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$341,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$341,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2033:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$352,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$352,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2034:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$364,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$364,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2035:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$376,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$376,000,000.

**TITLE II—RESERVE FUNDS**

**SEC. 2001. DEFICIT REDUCTION FUND FOR EFFICIENCIES, CONSOLIDATIONS, AND OTHER SAVINGS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to efficiencies, consolidations, and other savings by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would reduce the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

**SEC. 2002. RESERVE FUND RELATING TO HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to health savings accounts by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes.

**TITLE III—BUDGET PROCESS**

**SEC. 3001. VOTING THRESHOLD FOR POINTS OF ORDER.**

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “covered point of order” means a point of order—

(1) under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.), or a concurrent resolution on the budget; and

(2) which, but for subsection (b), may be waived only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn.

(b) VOTING THRESHOLD.—In the Senate—

(1) a covered point of order may be waived only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn; and

(2) an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a covered point of order.

**SEC. 3002. EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.**

(a) AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.—In the Senate, with respect to a provision of direct spending or receipts legislation or appropriations for discretionary accounts that Congress designates as an emergency requirement, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, in such measure, the amounts of new budget authority, outlays, and receipts in all fiscal years resulting from that provision shall be treated as an emergency requirement for the purpose of this section.

(b) EXEMPTION OF EMERGENCY PROVISIONS.—Any new budget authority, outlays, and receipts resulting from any provision designated as an emergency requirement, pursuant to this section, in any bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report shall not count for purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, section 3101 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, and sections 401 and 404 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010. Designated emergency provisions shall not count for the purpose of revising allocations, aggregates, or other levels pursuant to procedures established under section 301(b)(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(b)(7)) for deficit-neutral reserve funds and revising discretionary spending limits set pursuant to section 301 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

(c) DESIGNATIONS.—If a provision of legislation is designated as an emergency requirement under this section, the committee report and any statement of managers accompanying that legislation shall include an explanation of the manner in which the provision meets the criteria in subsection (f).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “direct spending”, “receipts”, and “appropriations for discretionary accounts” mean any provision of a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that affects direct spending, receipts, or appropriations as those terms have been defined and interpreted for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.).

(e) POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—When the Senate is considering a bill, resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the Houses, or conference report, if a point of order is made by a Senator against an emergency designation in that measure, that provision making such a designation shall be stricken from the measure and may not be offered as an amendment from the floor.

(2) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS.—

(A) WAIVER.—Paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any

provision of this subsection shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the bill or joint resolution, as the case may be. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this subsection.

(3) DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a provision shall be considered an emergency designation if it designates any item as an emergency requirement pursuant to this subsection.

(4) FORM OF THE POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under paragraph (1) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 644(e)).

(5) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

(f) CRITERIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, any provision is an emergency requirement if the situation addressed by such provision is—

(A) necessary, essential, or vital (not merely useful or beneficial);

(B) sudden, quickly coming into being, and not building up over time;

(C) an urgent, pressing, and compelling need requiring immediate action;

(D) subject to paragraph (2), unforeseen, unpredictable, and unanticipated; and

(E) not permanent, temporary in nature.

(2) UNFORESEEN.—An emergency that is part of an aggregate level of anticipated emergencies, particularly when normally estimated in advance, is not unforeseen.

(g) INAPPLICABILITY.—In the Senate, section 4001(a) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, shall no longer apply.

**SEC. 3003. ENFORCEMENT OF ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND OTHER LEVELS.**

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—During each of fiscal years 2026 through 2035, it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would cause the amount of new budget authority, outlays, or deficits to be more than, or would cause the amount of revenues to be less than, the amount set forth under any allocation, aggregate, or other level established under this resolution.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

**SEC. 3004. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION PROVIDING FUNDING WITHIN MORE THAN 3 SUBALLOCATIONS UNDER SECTION 302(b).**

(a) **POINT OF ORDER.**—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that appropriates amounts that are within more than 3 of the suballocations under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(b)).

(b) **WAIVER AND APPEAL.**—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

**SEC. 3005. DUPLICATION DETERMINATIONS BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.**

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section—

(1) the term “covered bill or joint resolution” means a bill or joint resolution of a public character reported by any committee of Congress (including the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget of either House);

(2) the term “Director” means the Director of the Congressional Budget Office;

(3) the term “existing duplicative or overlapping feature” means an element of the Federal Government previously identified as an area of duplication, overlap, or fragmentation in a GAO duplication and overlap report;

(4) the term “GAO duplication and overlap report” means each annual report prepared by the Comptroller General under section 21 of Public Law 111-139 (31 U.S.C. 712 note); and

(5) the term “new duplicative or overlapping feature” means a new Federal program, office, or initiative created under a covered bill or joint resolution that would duplicate or overlap with an existing duplicative or overlapping feature.

(b) **DUPLICATION DETERMINATIONS.**—For each covered bill or joint resolution—

(1) the Comptroller General of the United States shall, to the extent practicable—

(A) determine the extent to which the covered bill or joint resolution creates a risk of a new duplicative or overlapping feature and, if the risk so warrants, identify—

(i) the name of the new Federal program, office, or initiative;

(ii) the section of the covered bill or joint resolution at which the new duplicative or overlapping feature is established; and

(iii) the GAO duplication and overlap report in which the existing duplicative or overlapping feature is identified; and

(B) submit the information described in subparagraph (A) to the Director and the committee that reported the covered bill or joint resolution; and

(C) publish the information prepared under subparagraph (A) on the website of the Government Accountability Office; and

(2) subject to subsection (c), the Director may include the information submitted by the Comptroller General under paragraph (1)(B) as a supplement to the estimate for the covered bill or joint resolution to which the information pertains submitted by the Director under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653).

(c) **ESTIMATE BY DIRECTOR.**—If the Comptroller General of the United States has not submitted to the Director the information for a covered bill or joint resolution under subsection (b)(1)(B) on the date on which the Director submits the estimate for the covered bill or joint resolution to which the information pertains under section 402 of the

Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653), the Director may, on the date on which the Comptroller General submits the information to the Director, prepare and submit to each applicable committee the information as a supplement to the estimate for the covered bill or joint resolution.

**SEC. 3006. BREAKDOWN OF COST ESTIMATES BY BUDGET FUNCTION.**

Any cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office shall specify the percentage of the estimated cost that is within each budget function.

**SEC. 3007. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON TREATMENT OF REDUCTION OF APPROPRIATIONS LEVELS TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) H. Con. Res. 448 (96th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1981, gave authorizing committees reconciliation instructions which amounted to approximately two-thirds of the savings required under reconciliation.

(2) The language in H. Con. Res. 448 resulted in a debate about how reconciling discretionary spending programs could be in order given that authorizations of appropriations for programs did not actually change spending and the programs authorized would be funded through later annual appropriation. The staff of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the counsel to the Majority Leader advised that upon consultation with the Parliamentarian, the original instructions on discretionary spending would be out of order because of the phrase, “to modify programs”. This was seen as too broad and programs could be modified without resulting in changes to their future appropriations.

(3) To rectify this violation, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate reported S. Con. Res. 9 (97th Congress), revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1981, 1982, and 1983, to include reconciliation, which revised the language in the reconciliation instructions to change entitlement law and “to report changes in laws within the jurisdiction of that committee sufficient to reduce appropriations levels so as to achieve savings”.

(4) This was understood to mean changes in authorization language of discretionary programs would be permissible under reconciliation procedures provided such changes in law would have the result in affecting a change in later outlays derived from future appropriations. Further it was understood that a change in authorization language that caused a change in later outlays was considered to be a change in outlays for the purpose of reconciliation.

(5) On April 2, 1981, the Senate voted 88 to 10 to approve S. Con. Res. 9 with the modified reconciliation language.

(b) **SENSE OF THE SENATE.**—It is the sense of the Senate that committees reporting changes in laws within the jurisdiction of that committee sufficient to reduce appropriations levels so as to achieve savings shall be considered to be changes in outlays for the purpose of enforcing the prohibition on extraneous matters in reconciliation bills.

**SEC. 3008. PROHIBITION ON PREEMPTIVE WAIVERS.**

In the Senate, it shall not be in order to move to waive or suspend a point of order under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) or any concurrent resolution on the budget with respect to a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report unless the point of order has been specifically raised by a Senator.

**SEC. 3009. ADJUSTMENTS FOR LEGISLATION REDUCING APPROPRIATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations in effect under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) and the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution considered pursuant to section 2001 containing the recommendations of one or more committees, or for one or more amendments to, a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, by the amounts necessary to accommodate the reduction in the amount of discretionary appropriations for a fiscal year caused by the measure.

**SEC. 3010. AUTHORITY.**

Congress adopts this title under the authority under section 301(b)(4) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(b)(4)).

**SEC. 3011. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.**

Congress adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the Senate and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the Senate to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as is the case of any other rule of the Senate.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 3888. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 3889. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

**SA 3888.** Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 title X, insert the following:

**Subtitle H—FISH Act of 2025**

**SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025” or the “FISH Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—Unless otherwise provided, the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

(2) **BENEFICIAL OWNER.**—The term “beneficial owner” means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

(3) **FISH.**—The term “fish” means finfish, crustaceans, and mollusks.

(4) **FORCED LABOR.**—The term “forced labor” has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

(5) **IUU FISHING.**—The term “IUU fishing” means activities described as illegal fishing, unreported fishing, and unregulated fishing in paragraph 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2, 2001.

(6) **REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.**—The terms “regional fisheries management organization” and “RFMO” have the meaning given the terms in section 303 of the Port State Measures Agreement Act of 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7402).

(7) **SEAFOOD.**—The term “seafood” means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—Unless otherwise provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

**SEC. 1093. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the national and subnational levels), civil society, international organizations, international financial institutions, subnational coastal communities, commercial and recreational fishing industry leaders, communities that engage in artisanal or subsistence fishing, fishers, and the private sector, in a concerted effort—

(1) to continue the broad effort across the Federal Government to counter IUU fishing, including any potential links to forced labor, human trafficking, and other threats to maritime security, as outlined in sections 3533 and 3534 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8002 and 8003); and

(2) to, additionally—

(A) prioritize efforts to prevent IUU fishing at its sources; and

(B) support continued implementation of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries agreement, as well as joint research and follow-on actions that ensure sustainability of fish stocks in Arctic international waters.

**SEC. 1094. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IUU VESSEL LIST.**

Section 608 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

“(c) **IUU VESSEL LIST.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Labor, and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall develop, maintain, and make public a list of foreign vessels, foreign fleets, and beneficial owners of foreign ves-

sels or foreign fleets engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing (referred to in this section as the ‘IUU vessel list’).

“(2) **INCLUSION ON LIST.**—The IUU vessel list shall include any foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or beneficial owner of a foreign vessel or foreign fleet for which the Secretary determines there is clear and convincing evidence to believe that a foreign vessel is any of the following (even if the Secretary has only partial information regarding the vessel):

“(A) A vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management organization.

“(B) A vessel knowingly taking part in fishing that undermines the effectiveness of an international fishery management organization’s conservation and management measures, including a vessel—

“(i) exceeding applicable international fishery management organization catch limits; or

“(ii) that is operating inconsistent with relevant catch allocation arrangements of the international fishery management organization, even if operating under the authority of a foreign country that is not a member of the international fishery management organization.

“(C) A vessel, either on the high seas or in the exclusive economic zone of another country, identified and reported by United States authorities to an international fishery management organization to be conducting IUU fishing when the United States has reason to believe the foreign country to which the vessel is registered or documented is not addressing the allegation.

“(D) A vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet on the high seas identified by United States authorities to be conducting IUU fishing.

“(E) A vessel that knowingly provides services (excluding emergency or enforcement services) to a vessel that is on the IUU vessel list, including transshipment, resupply, refueling, or pilotage.

“(F) A vessel that is a fishing vessel engaged in commercial fishing within the exclusive economic zone of the United States without a permit issued under title II of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.).

“(G) A vessel that has the same beneficial owner as another vessel on the IUU vessel list at the time of the infraction.

“(3) **NOMINATIONS TO BE PUT ON THE IUU VESSEL LIST.**—The Secretary may receive nominations for putting a vessel on the IUU vessel list from—

“(A) the head of an executive branch agency that is a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031);

“(B) a country that is a member of the Combined Maritime Forces; or

“(C) civil organizations that have data-sharing agreements with a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing.

“(4) **PROCEDURES FOR ADDITION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may put a vessel on the IUU vessel list only after notification to the vessel’s beneficial owner and a review of any information that the owner provides within 90 days of the notification.

“(B) **HEARING.**—A beneficial owner may request a hearing on the evidence if the owner’s vessel is placed on the IUU vessel list under subparagraph (A) and may present new evidence to the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing described in paragraph (3)(A). Such Working Group shall review the new evidence and vote on whether the vessel shall remain on the IUU vessel list or not.

“(5) **PUBLIC INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall publish its procedures for adding vessels on, and removing vessels from, the IUU vessel list. The Secretary shall publish the IUU vessel list itself in the Federal Register annually and on a website, which shall be updated any time a vessel is added to the IUU vessel list, and include the following information (as much as is available and confirmed) for each vessel on the IUU vessel list:

“(A) The name of the vessel and previous names of the vessel.

“(B) The International Maritime Organization (IMO) number of the vessel, or other Unique Vessel Identifier (such as the flag state permit number or authorized vessel number issued by an international fishery management organization).

“(C) The maritime mobile service identity number and call sign of the vessel.

“(D) The business or corporate address of each beneficial owner of the vessel.

“(E) The country where the vessel is registered or documented, and where it was previously registered if known.

“(F) The date of inclusion on the IUU vessel list of the vessel.

“(G) Any other Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), if applicable.

“(H) Any other identifying information on the vessel, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(I) The basis for the Secretary’s inclusion of the vessel on the IUU vessel list under paragraph (2).

“(d) **ACTION.**—The Secretary may take the action described in subsection (c)(2) of this section in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025 against a vessel on the IUU vessel list, the owner of such vessel, and the operator of such vessel.

“(e) **PERMANENCY OF IUU VESSEL LIST.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet that is put on the IUU vessel list shall remain on the IUU vessel list.

“(2) **APPLICATION BY OWNER FOR POTENTIAL REMOVAL.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In consultation with the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant agencies, the Secretary may remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list if the beneficial owner of the vessel submits an application for removal to the Secretary that meets the standards that the Secretary has set out for removal. The Secretary shall make such standards publicly available.

“(B) **CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION.**—In considering an application for removal, the Secretary shall consider relevant information from all sources.

“(3) **REMOVAL DUE TO INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ACTION.**—The Secretary may remove a vessel from the IUU vessel list if the vessel was put on the list because it was a vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management organization, pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A), and the international fishery management organization removed the vessel from its IUU vessel list.

“(f) **REGULATIONS AND PROCESS.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025, the Secretary shall issue regulations to set a process for establishing, maintaining, implementing, and publishing the IUU vessel list. The Administrator may add or remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list on the date the vessel becomes eligible for such addition or removal.

“(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—Unless otherwise provided, the term ‘Administrator’ means

the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

“(2) **BENEFICIAL OWNER.**—The term ‘beneficial owner’ means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

“(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

“(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

“(3) **FOREIGN VESSEL.**—The term ‘foreign vessel’ has the meaning given the term in section 110 of title 46, United States Code.

“(4) **INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.**—The term ‘international fishery management organization’ means an international organization established by any bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, or agreement for the conservation and management of fish.

“(5) **IUU FISHING.**—The term ‘IUU fishing’ has the meaning given the term ‘illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing’ in the implementing regulations or any subsequent regulations issued pursuant to section 609(e).

“(6) **SEAFOOD.**—The term ‘seafood’ means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

“(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”

**SEC. 1095. VISA SANCTIONS FOR FOREIGN PERSONS.**

(a) **FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.**—A foreign person is described in this subsection if the foreign person is the owner or beneficial owner of a vessel on the IUU vessel list developed under section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i(c)).

(b) **INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

(1) **VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—A foreign person described in subsection (a) is—

(A) inadmissible to the United States;

(B) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(C) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(2) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The visa or other entry documentation of a foreign person described in subsection (a) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(B) **IMMEDIATE EFFECT.**—A revocation under subparagraph (A) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(i) take effect; and

(ii) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the person’s possession.

(C) **NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.**—The President may waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person if doing so is in the national interest of the United States.

(d) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **EXCEPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or national security activities of the United States.

(2) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.**—Sanctions under

subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or other international obligations.

(3) **EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND CREW.**—Sanctions under subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to a person providing provisions to a vessel identified under section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) if such provisions are intended for the safety and care of the crew aboard the vessel, or the maintenance of the vessel to avoid any environmental or other significant damage.

(4) **EXEMPTIONS.**—Sanctions under subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to a person described in subsection (a), if such person was listed as the owner of a vessel described in that subsection through the use of force, threats of force, fraud, or coercion.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.**—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, “alien”, and “lawfully admitted for permanent residence” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person” means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

**SEC. 1096. AGREEMENTS.**

(a) **PRESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATION.**—In negotiating any relevant agreement with a foreign nation or nations after the date of enactment of this Act, the President is encouraged to consider the impacts on or to IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor and strive to ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to combat IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor as long as such considerations do not come at the expense of higher priority national interests of the United States.

(b) **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT.**—The Federal Government should encourage other nations to ratify treaties and agreements that address IUU fishing to which the United States is a party, including the High Seas Fishing Compliance Agreement and the Port State Measures Agreement, and pursue bilateral and multilateral initiatives to raise international ambition to combat IUU fishing, including in the G7 and G20, the United Nations, the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and through voluntary multilateral efforts, as long as clear burden sharing arrangements with partner nations are determined. The bilateral and multilateral initiatives should address underlying drivers of IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor.

(c) **TRANSPARENCY FOR NON-BINDING INSTRUMENTS CONCLUDED UNDER THIS SECTION.**—Any memorandum of understanding or other non-binding instrument to further the objectives of this section shall be consid-

ered a qualifying non-binding instrument for purposes of section 112b of title 1, United States Code.

**SEC. 1097. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.**

(a) **INCREASE BOARDING OF VESSELS SUSPECTED OF IUU FISHING.**—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall strive to increase, from year to year, its observation of vessels on the high seas that are suspected of IUU fishing and related harmful practices, and is encouraged to consider boarding these vessels to the greatest extent practicable.

(b) **FOLLOW UP.**—The Administrator shall, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Secretary of State, coordinate regularly with regional fisheries management organizations to determine what corrective measures each country has taken after vessels that are registered or documented by the country have been boarded for suspected IUU fishing.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and in accordance with information management rules of the relevant regional fisheries management organizations, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report to Congress on—

(1) the total number of bilateral agreements utilized or enacted during Coast Guard counter-IUU patrols and future patrol plans for operations with partner nations where bilateral agreements are required to effectively execute the counter-IUU mission and any changes to IUU provisions in bilateral agreements;

(2) incidents of IUU fishing observed while conducting High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI), how the conduct is tracked after referral to the respective country where the vessel is registered or documented, and what actions are taken to document or otherwise act on the enforcement, or lack thereof, taken by the country;

(3) the country where the vessel is registered or documented, the country where the vessel was previously registered and documented if known, and status of a vessel interdicted or observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas by the Coast Guard;

(4) incident details on vessels observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas, boarding refusals, and what action was taken; and

(5) any other potential enforcement actions that could decrease IUU fishing on the high seas.

**SEC. 1098. IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AT THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.**

(a) **INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON IUU FISHING.**—Section 3551(c) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against IUU fishing, particularly focusing on nations identified under section 609(a) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(a)); and

“(16) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against associated abuses, such as fishing that involves the use of forced labor and other illegal labor practices, and increasing relevant enforcement, using as resources—

“(A) the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor produced pursuant to section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7112);

“(B) the Trafficking in Persons Report required under section 110 of the Trafficking

Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107);

“(C) United States Customs and Border Protection’s Forced Labor Division and enforcement activities and regulations authorized under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307); and

“(D) reports submitted under the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-145).”.

(b) SECRETARY OF STATE IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Administrator, shall—

(1) identify regional fisheries management organizations that the United States is party to that do not have a high seas boarding and inspection program; and

(2) identify obstacles, needed authorities, or existing efforts to increase implementation of these programs, and take action as appropriate.

**SEC. 1099. STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.**

Section 3552 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032) is amended by adding at the end:

“(C) STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025, the Working Group shall identify information and resources to prevent fish and fish products from IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor from negatively affecting United States commerce without increasing burdens on seafood not produced from IUU fishing. The report shall include the following:

“(1) Identification of relevant data streams collected by Working Group members.

“(2) Identification of legal, jurisdictional, or other barriers to the sharing of such data.

“(3) In consultation with the Secretary of Defense, recommendations for joint enforcement protocols, collaboration, and information sharing between Federal agencies and States.

“(4) Recommendations for sharing and developing forensic resources between Federal agencies and States.

“(5) Recommendations for enhancing capacity to conduct more effective field investigations and enforcement efforts with U.S. state enforcement officials.

“(6) Recommendations for improving data collection and automated risk-targeting of seafood.

“(7) Recommendations for the dissemination of IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor analysis and information to those governmental and non-governmental entities that could use it for action and awareness, with the aim to establish an IUU fishing information sharing center.

“(8) Recommendations for an implementation strategy, including measures for ensuring that seafood not linked to IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor is not affected.

“(9) An analysis of the IUU fishing policies and regulatory regimes of other countries in order to develop policy and regulatory alternatives for United States consideration.”.

**SEC. 1099A. INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, are encouraged to increase support to programs that provide technical assistance, institutional capacity, and investment to nations’ fisheries sectors for sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor. The focus of such support is encouraged to be on priority regions and priority flag states identified under section 3552(b) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032(b)).

(b) ANALYSIS OF US CAPACITY-BUILDING EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES.—In order to maximize efforts on preventing IUU fishing at its sources, the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) shall analyze United States capacity-building expertise and resources to provide support to nations’ fisheries sectors. This analysis may include an assessment of potential avenues for in-country public-private collaboration and multilateral collaboration on developing local fisheries science, fisheries management, maritime enforcement, and maritime judicial capabilities.

**SEC. 1099B. STRATEGY TO IDENTIFY SEAFOOD AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN VESSELS USING FORCED LABOR.**

The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant agencies, shall—

(1) develop a strategy for utilizing relevant United States Government data to identify seafood harvested on foreign vessels using forced labor; and

(2) publish information regarding the strategy developed under paragraph (1) on a publicly accessible website.

**SEC. 1099C. REPORTS.**

(a) IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, with support from the Administrator and the Working Group established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031), shall conduct a study to assess the impact of new technology (such as remote observing, the use of drones, development of risk assessment tools and data-sharing software, immediate containerization of fish on fishing vessels, satellite Wi-Fi technology on fishing vessels, and other technology-enhanced new fishing practices) on IUU fishing and associated crimes (such as trafficking and fishing involving the use of forced labor) and propose ways to integrate these technologies into global fisheries enforcement and management.

(b) RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FISHING INDUSTRIES’ INFLUENCE ON EACH OTHER AND ON THE UNITED STATES SEAFOOD AND FISHING INDUSTRY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with support from the Secretary of Commerce, shall—

(1) conduct a study on the collaboration between the Russian and Chinese fishing industries and on the role of seafood reprocessing in China (including that of raw materials originating in Russia) in global seafood markets and its impact on United States interests; and

(2) complete a report on the study that includes classified and unclassified portions, as the Secretary of State determines necessary.

(c) FISHERMEN CONDUCTING UNLAWFUL FISHING IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—Section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) THE IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING AND FISHING INVOLVING THE USE OF FORCED LABOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with relevant members of the Working Group, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the following:

“(A) An analysis that quantifies the occurrence and extent of IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor among all flag states.

“(B) An evaluation of the costs to the United States economy of IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor.

“(C) An assessment of the costs to the global economy of IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor.

“(D) An assessment of the effectiveness of response strategies to counter IUU fishing, including both domestic programs and foreign capacity-building and partnering programs.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$2,000,000.”.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (d) of section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act that includes—

(1) the findings of the National Academies; and

(2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry.

**SEC. 1099D. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.**

Section 212(a) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “for fiscal year 2025” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 THROUGH 2025”; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “fiscal years 2021 through 2025” and inserting “fiscal years 2026 through 2031”.

**SEC. 1099E. EXCEPTION RELATED TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements provided in this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not include any authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods or related to sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good”—

(1) means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment; and

(2) excludes technical data.

**SEC. 1099F. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority under, or otherwise affect, a provision of law that—

(1) is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) is not amended by this Act.

**SA 3889.** Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 6211 of division E and insert the following:

**SEC. 6211. REPORT AND CERTIFICATION ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA IS MEETING CERTAIN CONDITIONS FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS UNDER THE CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2019.**

(a) SUSPENSION.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, sanctions imposed

under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of division F of Public Law 116-92; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note) shall be suspended, and remain suspended, unless the conditions under subsection (d) are met.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 120 days thereafter, the President or his designee shall submit to Congress an unclassified report, with a classified annex if necessary, that certifies whether the Government of Syria—

(1) has committed itself to the goal of eliminating the threat posed by ISIS and other terrorist groups and has officially joined as a member of the Global Coalition To Defeat ISIS;

(2) provides security for religious and ethnic minorities and includes representation from both religious and ethnic minorities in the government;

(3) is maintaining peaceful relations with other states in the region, including the State of Israel, and is taking action against actors and groups within Syria that threaten the security of Syria's neighbors and the region;

(4) is not knowingly financing, assisting (monetarily or through weapons transfers), or harboring individuals or groups (including foreign terrorist organizations and specially designated global terrorists) that are harmful to the national security of the United States or allies and partners of the United States in the region;

(5) has removed, or is in the process of removing, foreign fighters from the Government of Syria, including those in the state and security institutions of Syria; and

(6) is in the process of investigating and has committed to prosecuting individuals or entities that have committed serious abuses of internationally recognized human rights

since December 8, 2024, including those responsible for the massacre of religious minorities.

(c) NOTIFICATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA.—The President or his designee shall inform the Government of Syria of the findings of the report required under subsection (b).

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—If the President or his designee is unable to make an affirmative certification under subsection (b) for two consecutive reporting periods, it is the sense of Congress that sanctions under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of division F of Public Law 116-92; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note) suspended under subsection (a) should immediately be reimposed and remain in effect until the President or his designee makes an affirmative certification under subsection (b).

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Amy Klobuchar:					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....	544.30			544.30
United States .....	US Dollar .....		2,447.08		2,447.08
Robert Nelson:					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....	544.30			544.30
United States .....	US Dollar .....		2,644.73		2,644.73
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....			695.60	695.60
Total .....		1,088.60	5,091.81	695.60	6,876.01

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN BOOZMAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, July 17, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Robert Karem:					
Philippines .....	US Dollar .....	765.00			765.00
Thailand .....	US Dollar .....	324.82			324.82
United States .....	US Dollar .....		11,526.31		11,526.31
Senator Gary Peters:					
France .....	Euro .....	7,779.00			7,779.00
Robert Leonard:					
France .....	Euro .....	7,580.00			7,580.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		1,060.31		1,060.31
Caitlyn Stephenson:					
France .....	Euro .....	7,779.00			7,779.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
France .....	Euro .....			14,258.25	14,258.25
Senator Chris Van Hollen:					
El Salvador .....	El Salvador Colon .....	434.00			434.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		1,477.35		1,477.35
Francesca Amodeo:					
El Salvador .....	El Salvador Colon .....	434.00			434.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		1,477.35		1,477.35
Delegation Expenses:*					
El Salvador .....	El Salvador Colon, US Dollar .....			3,782.95	3,782.95
Paul Grove:					
Haiti .....	US Dollar .....	555.00			555.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		560.31		560.31
Delegation Expenses:*					
Haiti .....	Gourde, US Dollar .....			4,687.50	4,687.50
Paul Grove:					
Cambodia .....	US Dollar .....	528.00			528.00
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	867.00	56.66		923.66
Jordan .....	US Dollar .....	324.46			324.46
Laos .....	US Dollar .....	250.00			250.00
Lebanon .....	US Dollar .....	106.00			106.00
Thailand .....	US Dollar .....	678.62	361.44		1,040.06
United States .....	US Dollar .....		10,081.13		10,081.13
Vietnam .....	US Dollar .....	712.96			712.96
Delegation Expenses:*					
Cambodia .....	Riel .....			448.09	448.09

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Egypt	Egyptian Pound			217.07	217.07
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			139.92	139.92
Laos	Lao Kip			259.92	259.92
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			23,961.50	23,961.50
Thailand	Baht			2,068.63	2,068.63
Vietnam	Dong			1,607.96	1,607.96
Senator Katie Britt:					
France	US Dollar	7,779.00			7,779.00
Senator Deb Fischer:					
France	US Dollar	7,779.00			7,779.00
Senator John Kennedy:					
France	US Dollar	7,779.00			7,779.00
Senator Jerry Moran:					
France	US Dollar	868.00			868.00
Hannah Allison:					
France	US Dollar	8,014.00			8,014.00
United States	US Dollar		1,140.60		1,140.60
Emily Leviner:					
France	US Dollar	7,779.00			7,779.00
Sean Ross:					
France	US Dollar	7,779.00			7,779.00
Ashleigh Weismiller:					
France	US Dollar	7,779.00			7,779.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			42,744.75	42,744.75
Alexander Carnes:					
Haiti	Gourde	555.00			555.00
United States	US Dollar		560.10		560.10
Delegation Expenses:*					
Haiti	Gourde, US Dollar			4,687.50	4,687.50
Alexander Carnes:					
Indonesia	Rupiah	550.25			550.25
Palau	US Dollar	872.28			872.28
Philippines	Philippine Peso	570.00			570.00
United States	US Dollar		9,894.01		9,894.01
Delegation Expenses:*					
Indonesia	Rupiah			148.84	148.84
Palau	US Dollar			872.28	872.28
Philippines	Philippine Peso			168.00	168.00
Katherine Bowles:					
Lesotho	US Dollar	220.12			220.12
Mozambique	US Dollar	570.00			570.00
South Africa	US Dollar	465.47			465.47
United States	US Dollar		3,489.61		3,489.61
Paul Denaro:					
Lesotho	US Dollar	220.12			220.12
Mozambique	US Dollar	570.00			570.00
South Africa	US Dollar	465.48			465.48
United States	US Dollar		3,472.01		3,472.01
Delegation Expenses:*					
Lesotho	Loti,Rand			620.50	620.50
Mozambique	Mozambique Metical			2,988.00	2,988.00
South Africa	Rand			240.09	240.09
Robert Leonard:					
Philippines	Philippine Peso	765.00			765.00
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar	828.82			828.82
United States	US Dollar		8,122.01		8,122.01
Delegation Expenses:*					
Philippines	Philippine Peso			108.81	108.81
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar			858.69	858.69
Andrew Platt:					
Colombia	Colombian Peso	988.04			988.04
El Salvador	El Salvador Colon	236.95			236.95
Guatemala	Quetzal	133.31			133.31
Peru	Sol	647.40			647.40
United States	US Dollar		2,337.18		2,337.18
Delegation Expenses:*					
Colombia	Colombian Peso			1,077.60	1,077.60
El Salvador	El Salvador Colon, US Dollar			286.42	286.42
Guatemala	Quetzal			461.27	461.27
Peru	Sol			224.20	224.20
Sarita Vanka:					
Japan	Yen	801.89			801.89
Mongolia	Tugrik	810.00			810.00
United States	US Dollar		11,129.11		11,129.11
* Delegation Expenses					
Mongolia	Tugrik			101.18	101.18
Sarita Vanka:					
Burundi	Burundi Franc	500.00			500.00
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	985.00			985.00
Uganda	Uganda Shilling	520.00			520.00
United States	US Dollar		11,739.48		11,739.48
Total		96,948.99	78,484.97	107,019.92	282,453.88

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS,  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Aug. 25 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Jacky Rosen:					
France	US Dollar	7,644.44			7,644.44
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:					
France	Euro	217.00			217.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Roger Wicker:					
France	US Dollar	7,839.32			7,839.32
Nicole Echeto:					
France	US Dollar	7,512.96			7,512.96
United States	US Dollar		3,468.30		3,468.30
Abigail Kane:					
France	US Dollar	7,317.00			7,317.00
Elizabeth Spivey:					
France	US Dollar	7,839.32			7,839.32
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			28,516.50	28,516.50
Senator Jim Banks:					
Germany	US Dollar	914.29			914.29
Slovakia	US Dollar	498.76			498.76
United Kingdom	US Dollar	580.54			580.54
United States	US Dollar		21,044.41		21,044.41
David Keller:					
Germany	US Dollar	914.29			914.29
Slovakia	US Dollar	498.76			498.76
United Kingdom	US Dollar	580.54			580.54
United States	US Dollar		10,452.71		10,452.71
Mike Tokar:					
Germany	US Dollar	914.29			914.29
Slovakia	US Dollar	498.76			498.76
United Kingdom	US Dollar	580.54			580.54
United States	US Dollar		10,452.71		10,452.71
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			7,233.60	7,233.60
Slovakia	Euro			3,200.89	3,200.89
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			2,959.43	2,959.43
Senator Richard Blumenthal:					
France	US Dollar	123.72			123.72
Poland	US Dollar	151.84			151.84
Ukraine	US Dollar	201.92			201.92
United States	US Dollar		17,804.81		17,804.81
Nate Guajardo:					
France	US Dollar	1,702.00			1,702.00
Poland	US Dollar	152.00			152.00
Ukraine	US Dollar	126.00			126.00
United States	US Dollar		18,681.77		18,681.77
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			1,504.33	1,504.33
Poland	Zloty			1,813.98	1,813.98
Ukraine	Hryvnia			111.06	111.06
Senator Kevin Cramer:					
Canada	US Dollar	174.00			174.00
United States	US Dollar		3,890.85		3,890.85
Colby Kuhns:					
Canada	US Dollar	174.00			174.00
United States	US Dollar		2,136.53		2,136.53
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			695.50	695.50
Senator Tammy Duckworth:					
Singapore	US Dollar	2,549.55			2,549.55
Taiwan	US Dollar	429.79			429.79
United States	US Dollar		15,746.11		15,746.11
Alexander Behle:					
Singapore	US Dollar	2,540.24			2,540.24
Taiwan	US Dollar	415.13			415.13
United States	US Dollar		15,875.41		15,875.41
Sara Plana:					
Singapore	US Dollar	2,490.87			2,490.87
Taiwan	US Dollar	417.34			417.34
United States	US Dollar		15,875.41		15,875.41
Delegation Expenses:*					
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			5,536.28	5,536.28
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar			1,913.74	1,913.74
Senator Joni Ernst:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	304.00			304.00
Israel	US Dollar	230.00			230.00
Jordan	US Dollar	176.00			176.00
United Arab Emirates	US Dollar	199.00			199.00
United States	US Dollar		22,353.99		22,353.99
Kendall Dehnell:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	304.00			304.00
Israel	US Dollar	230.00			230.00
Jordan	US Dollar	176.00			176.00
United Arab Emirates	US Dollar	199.00			199.00
United States	US Dollar		22,353.99		22,353.99
Delegation Expenses:*					
Bahrain	Bahraini Dinar			65.04	65.04
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			4,854.42	4,854.42
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			2,138.02	2,138.02
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham			272.37	272.37
Senator Tim Kaine:					
Germany	US Dollar	368.00	8,136.51		8,504.51
Poland	US Dollar	407.00	521.40		928.40
United States	US Dollar		3,111.00		3,111.00
Kaitlin Kleiber:					
Germany	US Dollar	368.00	8,136.41		8,504.41
Poland	US Dollar	407.00	521.00		928.00
United States	US Dollar		3,111.00		3,111.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			4,286.00	4,286.00
Poland	Zloty			5,370.72	5,370.72
Senator Angus King, Jr.:					
Jordan	US Dollar	507.08			507.08
Lebanon	US Dollar	145.00			145.00
Turkey	US Dollar	897.01			897.01
United States	US Dollar		14,791.49		14,791.49
Jeffrey Bennett:					
Jordan	US Dollar	487.19			487.19
Lebanon	US Dollar	145.00			145.00
Turkey	US Dollar	1,001.40			1,001.40
United States	US Dollar		13,606.99		13,606.99

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
<b>Delegation Expenses:*</b>					
Iraq	Iraqi Dinar			3,597.92	3,597.92
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			118.99	118.99
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			6,032.66	6,032.66
Turkey	Turkish Lira			6,416.54	6,416.54
<b>Senator Jacky Rosen:</b>					
Iraq	US Dollar	32.79			32.79
Israel	US Dollar	1,196.00			1,196.00
Jordan	US Dollar	865.33			865.33
United States	US Dollar		2,617.71		2,617.71
<b>Robert Waisanen:</b>					
Iraq	US Dollar	32.79			32.79
Israel	US Dollar	1,218.37			1,218.37
Jordan	US Dollar	968.83			968.83
United States	US Dollar		14,967.70		14,967.70
<b>Delegation Expenses:*</b>					
Iraq	Iraqi Dinar			2,281.34	2,281.34
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			5,736.73	5,736.73
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			999.20	999.20
<b>Senator Rick Scott:</b>					
Denmark	US Dollar	637.33			637.33
Estonia	US Dollar	233.19			233.19
Finland	US Dollar	263.94			263.94
United States	US Dollar		14,167.11		14,167.11
<b>Paul Bonicelli:</b>					
Denmark	US Dollar	693.22			693.22
Estonia	US Dollar	253.45			253.45
Finland	US Dollar	282.35			282.35
United States	US Dollar		14,290.17		14,290.17
<b>Matthew Harmon:</b>					
Denmark	US Dollar	643.26			643.26
Estonia	US Dollar	271.25			271.25
Finland	US Dollar	282.35			282.35
United States	US Dollar		14,377.11		14,377.11
<b>Delegation Expenses:*</b>					
Denmark	Danish Krone			7,531.00	7,531.00
Estonia	Euro			893.87	893.87
<b>Senator Tim Sheehy:</b>					
Egypt	US Dollar	2,184.00			2,184.00
Kenya	US Dollar	127.00			127.00
United States	US Dollar		16,101.89		16,101.89
<b>Delegation Expenses:*</b>					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound			12,656.19	12,656.19
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling			1,606.50	1,606.50
<b>Adam Barker:</b>					
Bahrain	US Dollar	425.48			425.48
Qatar	US Dollar	851.42			851.42
United States	US Dollar		16,926.01		16,926.01
<b>Jorie Feldman:</b>					
Bahrain	US Dollar	320.11			320.11
Qatar	US Dollar	683.98			683.98
United States	US Dollar		16,926.01		16,926.01
<b>Lauren Johnson:</b>					
Argentina	US Dollar	1,140.00			1,140.00
Chile	US Dollar	604.00			604.00
Panama	US Dollar	816.00			816.00
United States	US Dollar		13,152.53		13,152.53
<b>Meredith Werner:</b>					
Argentina	US Dollar	1,140.00			1,140.00
Chile	US Dollar	604.00			604.00
Panama	US Dollar	816.00			816.00
United States	US Dollar		7,642.00		7,642.00
<b>Delegation Expenses:*</b>					
Argentina	Argentine Peso			288.44	288.44
Chile	Chilean Peso			1,201.80	1,201.80
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar			741.41	741.41
<b>Jonathan Epstein:</b>					
Australia	US Dollar	1,239.44			1,239.44
United States	US Dollar		12,090.31		12,090.31
<b>Katie Karam:</b>					
Australia	US Dollar	1,669.00			1,669.00
United States	US Dollar		6,172.51		6,172.51
<b>Adam Trull:</b>					
Australia	US Dollar	792.00			792.00
United States	US Dollar		6,172.51		6,172.51
<b>Delegation Expenses:*</b>					
Australia	Australian Dollar			8,004.00	8,004.00
<b>Michael Noblet:</b>					
Japan	US Dollar	1,899.00			1,899.00
United States	US Dollar		16,353.51		16,353.51
<b>Michael Urena:</b>					
Japan	US Dollar	1,910.06			1,910.06
United States	US Dollar		16,785.71		16,785.71
<b>Delegation Expenses:*</b>					
Japan	Yen			2,597.09	2,597.09
<b>Total</b>		<b>87,645.83</b>	<b>420,815.59</b>	<b>131,175.56</b>	<b>639,636.98</b>

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Sept. 2, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
<b>Senator Andy Kim:</b>					
Germany	US Dollar	2,084.00			2,084.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Israel .....	US Dollar .....	1,150.00			1,150.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		6,856.21		6,856.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Germany .....	Euro .....			5,084.00	5,084.00
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....			1,364.78	1,364.78
<b>Total</b> .....		<b>3,234.00</b>	<b>6,856.21</b>	<b>6,448.78</b>	<b>16,538.99</b>

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TIM SCOTT,  
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,  
July 30, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Ruben Gallego:					
Germany .....	Euro .....	789.53			789.53
Slovakia .....	Euro .....	442.50			442.50
United Kingdom .....	Pound Sterling .....	463.66			463.66
United States .....	US Dollar .....		21,648.91		21,648.91
Raphael Chavez-Fernandez:					
Germany .....	Euro .....	785.14			785.14
Slovakia .....	Euro .....	442.50			442.50
United Kingdom .....	Pound Sterling .....	464.53			464.53
United States .....	US Dollar .....		14,105.11		14,105.11
Delegation Expenses: *					
Austria .....	Euro .....			91.87	91.87
Germany .....	Euro .....			2,009.00	2,009.00
Slovakia .....	Euro .....			4,754.82	4,754.82
United Kingdom .....	Pound Sterling .....			4,932.39	4,932.39
<b>Total</b> .....		<b>3,387.86</b>	<b>35,754.02</b>	<b>11,788.08</b>	<b>50,929.96</b>

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TIM SCOTT,  
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Aug. 1, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
France .....	Euro .....	1,637.72			1,637.72
Germany .....	Euro .....	455.83			455.83
Poland .....	Zloty .....	300.85			300.85
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....	201.92			201.92
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,059.81		13,059.81
Ryan Geary:					
France .....	Euro .....	1,648.51			1,648.51
Germany .....	Euro .....	559.29			559.29
Poland .....	Zloty .....	319.02			319.02
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....	201.93			201.93
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,059.81		13,059.81
Aaron Strickland:					
France .....	Euro .....	1,637.72			1,637.72
Germany .....	Euro .....	453.34			453.34
Poland .....	Zloty .....	336.73			336.73
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....	302.91			302.91
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,059.81		13,059.81
Delegation Expenses: *					
France .....	Euro .....			3,600.67	3,600.67
Germany .....	Euro .....			7,955.00	7,955.00
Poland .....	Zloty .....			3,265.20	3,265.20
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....			1,665.40	1,665.40
Taylor Reidy:					
France .....	Euro .....	1,701.52			1,701.52
Germany .....	Euro .....	453.08			453.08
United States .....	US Dollar .....		14,214.01		14,214.01
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Turkey .....	Turkish Lira .....	924.12			924.12
United States .....	US Dollar .....		5,319.71		5,319.71
Ryan Geary:					
Turkey .....	Turkish Lira .....	942.71			942.71
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,267.81		7,267.81
Delegation Expenses: *					
Turkey .....	Turkish Lira .....			1,838.02	1,838.02
<b>Total</b> .....		<b>12,077.20</b>	<b>65,980.96</b>	<b>18,324.29</b>	<b>96,382.45</b>

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM,  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, July 22, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
James Kelly:					
France	US Dollar	868.00			868.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			4,752.75	4,752.75
Total		868.00		4,752.75	5,620.75

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TED CRUZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,  
July 9, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Everett Price:					
United States	Dollar		6,745.84		6,745.84
Denmark	Krone	1,028.00			1,028.00
Patrick Hanish:					
United States	Dollar		10,211.21		10,211.21
Albania	Albanian Lek	1,426.00			1,426.00
Everett Price:					
United States	Dollar		11,332.41		11,332.41
Albania	Albanian Lek	1,426.00			1,426.00
Alanna Novetsky:					
United States	Dollar		10,176.21		10,176.21
Albania	Albanian Lek	1,426.00			1,426.00
Kyle Parker:					
United States	Dollar		8,652.61		8,652.61
Estonia	Euro	1,070.81			1,070.81
Shannon Simrell:					
United States	Dollar		8,600.91		8,600.91
Norway	Norwegian Krone	1,116.00			1,116.00
Austria	Euro	3,534.34			3,534.34
Kyle Parker:					
United States	Dollar		10,387.11		10,387.11
Norway	Norwegian Krone	1,488.00			1,488.00
Poland	Zloty				
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia	1,355.78			1,355.78
Alanna Novetsky:					
United States	Dollar		9,781.11		9,781.11
Norway	Norwegian Krone	1,116.00			1,116.00
Jordan Warlick:					
United States	Dollar		10,275.21		10,275.21
Czech Republic	Czech Koruna	557.04			557.04
Janice Helwig:					
United States	Dollar		6,984.51		6,984.51
Austria	Euro	41,092.00			41,092.00
Turkmenistan	Turkmenistani Man	1,100.00	4,369.00		5,469.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Albania	Albanian Lek			453.00	453.00
Norway	Norwegian Krone			5,891.00	5,891.00
Austria	Euro			41.70	41.70
Poland	Zloty			38.03	38.03
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia			383.84	383.84
Turkmenistan	Turkmenistani Mar			854.00	854.00
Totals		57,735.97	97,516.13	7,661.57	162,913.67

\*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER F. WICKER,  
Chairman, Commission  
on Security and  
Cooperation in Europe,  
July 18, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
James Cunningham:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,414.14			1,414.14
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham	663.04			663.04
United States	US Dollar		22,062.18		22,062.18
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			4,507.16	4,507.16
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham			1,099.05	1,099.05
Total		2,077.18	22,062.18	5,606.21	29,745.57

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MIKE LEE,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Aug. 4, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:					
France .....	US Dollar .....	2,256.00			2,256.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		12,058.31		12,058.31
Mariah Pfleger:					
France .....	US Dollar .....	2,118.70			2,118.70
United States .....	US Dollar .....		12,058.31		12,058.31
Delegation Expenses:*					
France .....	Euro .....			21,570.00	21,570.00
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:					
South Korea .....	US Dollar .....	1,090.59			1,090.59
United States .....	US Dollar .....		15,932.31		15,932.31
Mariah Pfleger:					
South Korea .....	US Dollar .....	1,069.24			1,069.24
United States .....	US Dollar .....		15,936.81		15,936.81
Delegation Expenses:*					
South Korea .....	Won .....			12,554.73	12,554.73
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>6,534.53</b>	<b>55,985.74</b>	<b>34,124.73</b>	<b>96,645.00</b>

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, July 21, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Peter Welch:					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....	315.21			315.21
United States .....	US Dollar .....		1,217.82		1,217.82
Jeffrey Van Oot:					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....	353.29			353.29
United States .....	US Dollar .....		1,656.96		1,656.96
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....			2,509.00	2,509.00
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto:					
France .....	Euro .....	7,451.26			7,451.26
Senator Peter Welch:					
France .....	Euro .....	7,251.76			7,251.76
Trevor Dean:					
France .....	Euro .....	7,779.00			7,779.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,279.51		8,279.51
Alexandra Golden:					
France .....	Euro .....	7,103.65			7,103.65
Delegation Expenses:*					
France .....	Euro .....			19,715.11	19,715.11
Senator Peter Welch:					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....	416.48			416.48
United States .....	US Dollar .....		1,252.82		1,252.82
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....			3,478.00	3,478.00
Isaiah Akin:					
Oman .....	Rial Omani .....	840.00			840.00
Saudi Arabia .....	Saudi Riyal .....	789.00			789.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		19,012.47		19,012.47
Virginia Lenahan:					
Oman .....	US Dollar .....	1,262.48			1,262.48
United States .....	US Dollar .....		17,344.51		17,344.51
Delegation Expenses:*					
Oman .....	Rial Omani .....			479.60	479.60
Saudi Arabia .....	Saudi Riyal .....			170.49	170.49
Rachel Lang:					
Argentina .....	US Dollar .....	992.82			992.82
Chile .....	US Dollar .....	729.92			729.92
Panama .....	US Dollar .....	889.90			889.90
United States .....	US Dollar .....		6,621.51		6,621.51
Molly Newell:					
Argentina .....	US Dollar .....	1,005.82			1,005.82
Chile .....	US Dollar .....	728.92			728.92
Panama .....	US Dollar .....	887.90			887.90
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,101.51		7,101.51
Delegation Expenses:*					
Argentina .....	Argentine Peso .....			288.44	288.44
Chile .....	Chilean Peso .....			1,117.49	1,117.49
Panama .....	Balboa, US Dollar .....			741.41	741.41
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>38,797.41</b>	<b>62,487.11</b>	<b>28,499.54</b>	<b>129,784.06</b>

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MICHAEL CRAPO,  
Chairman, Committee on Finance, July 31, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Megan Bartley:					
Belgium .....	US Dollar .....	969.58			969.58

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
United Kingdom	US Dollar	900.51			900.51
United States	US Dollar		4,286.01		4,286.01
Amy English:					
Belgium	US Dollar	969.58			969.58
United Kingdom	US Dollar	900.51			900.51
United States	US Dollar		4,830.10		4,830.10
Delegation Expenses:*					
Belgium	Euro			865.23	865.23
Joseph Biegun:					
Moldova	US Dollar	520.48			520.48
Romania	US Dollar	1,011.58			1,011.58
United States	US Dollar		9,247.41		9,247.41
Delegation Expenses:*					
Moldova	Moldovan Leu			793.71	793.71
Romania	Romanian Leu			932.48	932.48
Tyler Brace:					
Poland	US Dollar	250.46			250.46
Romania	US Dollar	688.75			688.75
Ukraine	US Dollar	202.00			202.00
United States	US Dollar		11,997.01		11,997.01
Delegation Expenses:*					
Poland	Zloty			1,077.01	1,077.01
Romania	Romanian Leu			696.83	696.83
Brian Cullen:					
Japan	Yen	2,761.60			2,761.60
United States	US Dollar		6,433.45		6,433.45
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen			910.81	910.81
Senator Steve Daines:					
Armenia	US Dollar	168.00			168.00
Azerbaijan	US Dollar	386.90			386.90
Georgia	US Dollar	70.91			70.91
United States	US Dollar		18,012.21		18,012.21
Darin Thacker:					
Armenia	US Dollar	256.43			256.43
Azerbaijan	US Dollar	377.23			377.23
Georgia	US Dollar	149.65			149.65
United States	US Dollar		7,153.71		7,153.71
Delegation Expenses:*					
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan Manat			1,654.44	1,654.44
Senator Steve Daines:					
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	1,879.14			1,879.14
United States	US Dollar		18,750.17		18,750.17
Darin Thacker:					
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	1,698.10			1,698.10
United States	US Dollar		16,209.67		16,209.67
Delegation Expenses:*					
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal			1,122.48	1,122.48
Grace Cason:					
Singapore	US Dollar	3,380.82			3,380.82
Taiwan	US Dollar	455.81			455.81
United States	US Dollar		15,902.71		15,902.71
Delegation Expenses:*					
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			2,153.00	2,153.00
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar			637.91	637.91
Naz Durakoglu:					
Angola	US Dollar	926.00			926.00
Ethiopia	US Dollar	177.00			177.00
Nigeria	US Dollar	666.69			666.69
South Africa	US Dollar	461.83			461.83
United States	US Dollar		11,760.61		11,760.61
Philip Oke-Thomas:					
Angola	US Dollar	926.00			926.00
Ethiopia	US Dollar	277.00			277.00
Nigeria	US Dollar	733.69			733.69
South Africa	US Dollar	561.83			561.83
United States	US Dollar		11,760.61		11,760.61
Delegation Expenses:*					
Angola	Kwanza			2,480.00	2,480.00
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Birr			146.40	146.40
Nigeria	Naira			442.77	442.77
South Africa	Rand			352.90	352.90
Jinanshu Jain:					
Germany	US Dollar	827.66			827.66
Poland	US Dollar	701.11			701.11
Ukraine	US Dollar	98.85			98.85
United States	US Dollar		11,724.91		11,724.91
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			2,143.00	2,143.00
Poland	Zloty			2,685.36	2,685.36
Senator Mike Lee:					
Denmark	US Dollar	943.00			943.00
Estonia	US Dollar	306.00			306.00
Finland	US Dollar	316.00			316.00
United States	US Dollar		14,668.01		14,668.01
Mark Wait:					
Denmark	US Dollar	943.00			943.00
Estonia	US Dollar	306.00			306.00
Finland	US Dollar	316.00			316.00
United States	US Dollar		14,668.01		14,668.01
Delegation Expenses:*					
Denmark	Danish Krone			5,020.66	5,020.66
Senator Dave McCormick:					
Israel	US Dollar	1,815.00			1,815.00
United Arab Emirates	US Dollar	487.62			487.62
United States	US Dollar		24,182.99		24,182.99
Mark Isakowitz:					
Israel	US Dollar	1,779.00			1,779.00
United Arab Emirates	US Dollar	451.62			451.62
United States	US Dollar		21,050.35		21,050.35
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			9,014.32	9,014.32
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham			2,804.74	2,804.74
Guy Mentel:					
Argentina	US Dollar	649.73			649.73

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Chile	US Dollar	926.92			926.92
Colombia	US Dollar	1,566.34			1,566.34
Panama	US Dollar	719.90			719.90
United States	US Dollar		5,416.31		5,416.31
Delegation Expenses:*					
Argentina	Argentine Peso			144.22	144.22
Chile	Chilean Peso			600.90	600.90
Colombia	Colombian Peso			1,901.24	1,901.24
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar			370.70	370.70
Senator Christopher Murphy:					
France	US Dollar	2,310.00			2,310.00
Romania	US Dollar	750.84			750.84
United States	US Dollar		20,531.41		20,531.41
Jessica Elledge:					
France	US Dollar	2,510.00			2,510.00
Romania	US Dollar	762.84			762.84
United States	US Dollar		21,169.90		21,169.90
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			2,842.00	2,842.00
Romania	Romanian Leu			3,696.16	3,696.16
Senator Christopher Coons:					
Philippines	US Dollar	6,828.74			6,828.74
Taiwan	US Dollar	853.75			853.75
United States	US Dollar		7,928.11		7,928.11
Senator Pete Ricketts:					
Philippines	US Dollar	6,638.31			6,638.31
Taiwan	US Dollar	965.28			965.28
United States	US Dollar		19,668.77		19,668.77
Vidya Neelakantan:					
Philippines	US Dollar	6,828.74			6,828.74
Taiwan	US Dollar	958.64			958.64
United States	US Dollar		7,928.11		7,928.11
Andrew Pantino:					
Philippines	US Dollar	6,533.86			6,533.86
Taiwan	US Dollar	734.61			734.61
United States	US Dollar		19,967.97		19,967.97
Delegation Expenses:*					
Philippines	Philippine Peso			435.22	435.22
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar			3,458.84	3,458.84
Senator Pete Ricketts:					
Singapore	US Dollar	3,829.00			3,829.00
United States	US Dollar		10,688.81		10,688.81
Andrew Pantino:					
Singapore	US Dollar	3,476.00			3,476.00
United States	US Dollar		10,964.10		10,964.10
Delegation Expenses:*					
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			4,306.00	4,306.00
Elizabeth Leibowitz:					
Iraq	US Dollar	32.79			32.79
Israel	US Dollar	1,148.41			1,148.41
Jordan	US Dollar	865.32			865.32
United States	US Dollar		14,967.70		14,967.70
Delegation Expenses:*					
Iraq	Iraqi Dinar			1,140.67	1,140.67
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			2,868.36	2,868.36
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			499.60	499.60
Craig Carbone:					
Denmark	US Dollar	843.00			843.00
Estonia	US Dollar	296.00			296.00
Finland	US Dollar	309.00			309.00
United States	US Dollar		14,540.21		14,540.21
Delegation Expenses:*					
Denmark	Danish Krone			2,510.33	2,510.33
Senator Christopher Coons:					
Netherlands	US Dollar	1,541.95			1,541.95
United States	US Dollar		11,702.11		11,702.11
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:					
Netherlands	Euro	1,521.77			1,521.77
United States	US Dollar		15,790.71		15,790.71
Amy English:					
Belgium	Euro	449.30			449.30
Netherlands	US Dollar	1,723.06			1,723.06
United States	US Dollar	100.77	10,698.51		10,799.28
Michael Gwin:					
Netherlands	US Dollar	1,734.96			1,734.96
United States	US Dollar		14,485.21		14,485.21
Vidya Neelakantan:					
Netherlands	US Dollar	1,669.30			1,669.30
United States	US Dollar		11,107.11		11,107.11
Delegation Expenses:*					
Belgium	Euro			780.00	780.00
Netherlands	Euro			22,021.45	22,021.45
Senator Tim Kaine:					
Canada	US Dollar	416.48			416.48
United States	US Dollar		5,322.72		5,322.72
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	416.48			416.48
United States	US Dollar		3,150.91		3,150.91
Michael Gwin:					
Canada	US Dollar	416.48			416.48
United States	US Dollar		1,421.63		1,421.63
Paul Lapointe:					
Canada	US Dollar	512.14			512.14
United States	US Dollar		2,609.73		2,609.73
Guy Mentel:					
Canada	US Dollar	544.30			544.30
United States	US Dollar		3,293.53		3,293.53
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			1,739.00	1,739.00
Alison Macdonald:					
France	US Dollar	7,284.05			7,284.05
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			4,752.75	4,752.75
Christopher Socha:					
South Sudan	US Dollar	230.00			230.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Uganda	US Dollar	560.00			560.00
United States	US Dollar		17,226.89		17,226.89
John Tomaszewski:					
South Sudan	US Dollar	230.00			230.00
Uganda	US Dollar	560.00			560.00
United States	US Dollar		16,845.19		16,845.19
Delegation Expenses:*					
South Sudan	South Sudanese Pound			494.44	494.44
Uganda	Uganda Shilling			2,393.00	2,393.00
Thomas Hanley:					
Indonesia	US Dollar	660.98			660.98
Philippines	US Dollar	798.06			798.06
Singapore	US Dollar	2,321.00			2,321.00
United States	US Dollar		10,278.91		10,278.91
Thomas West:					
Indonesia	US Dollar	689.40			689.40
Philippines	US Dollar	815.00			815.00
Singapore	US Dollar	2,321.00			2,321.00
United States	US Dollar		9,218.00		9,218.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Indonesia	Rupiah			324.50	324.50
Philippines	Philippine Peso			352.41	352.41
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			138.00	138.00
Katherine Abrams Woodward:					
Italy	US Dollar	1,462.30			1,462.30
Switzerland	US Dollar	1,639.28			1,639.28
United States	US Dollar		5,988.51		5,988.51
Molly Barlow:					
Italy	US Dollar	1,385.43			1,385.43
Switzerland	US Dollar	1,232.00			1,232.00
United States	US Dollar		3,764.71		3,764.71
Delegation Expenses:*					
Italy	Euro			1,829.04	1,829.04
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			2,259.07	2,259.07
Total		116,592.45	519,313.72	97,791.95	733,698.12

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, July 31, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator James Lankford:					
Iraq	US Dollar	24.14			24.14
Israel	US Dollar	1,067.80			1,067.80
Jordan	US Dollar	637.41			637.41
Lebanon	US Dollar	190.00			190.00
United States	US Dollar		16,199.84		16,199.84
Grace Higgins:					
Iraq	US Dollar	41.26			41.26
Israel	US Dollar	1,160.49			1,160.49
Jordan	US Dollar	340.19			340.19
Lebanon	US Dollar	195.00			195.00
United States	US Dollar		18,737.94		18,737.94
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			52.35	52.35
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			118.99	118.99
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			6,032.67	6,032.67
Megan Krynen:					
Argentina	US Dollar	1,027.82			1,027.82
Chile	US Dollar	844.92			844.92
Panama	US Dollar	918.90			918.90
United States	US Dollar		7,289.71		7,289.71
Laura Lynch:					
Argentina	US Dollar	1,027.82			1,027.82
Chile	US Dollar	844.92			844.92
Panama	US Dollar	918.90			918.90
United States	US Dollar		6,364.71		6,364.71
Delegation Expenses:*					
Argentina	Argentine Peso			367.15	367.15
Chile	Chilean Peso			1,117.49	1,117.49
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar			741.41	741.41
Total		9,239.57	48,592.20	8,430.06	66,261.83

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RAND PAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,  
July 16, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Jorin Lintzenich:					
Netherlands	US Dollar	1,407.93			1,407.93

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025—Continued

Table with 5 columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include United States, Delegation Expenses:\*, Netherlands, and a Total row.

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHARLES GRASSLEY, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Aug. 14, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Table with 5 columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows list various members and their travel expenses across multiple countries, including Steve Smith, Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Theodore Budd, Arjun Ravindra, Ryan Tully, Maria Mahler-Haug, Peter Metzger, Steve Smith, Russell Willig, Anahita Dhungel, Elnigar Ittebir, Sarah Istel, Alex Moree, Dennis Wischmeier, Courtney Fellows, and Steve Smith.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Country 3		246.63			246.63
Country 4		248.00			248.00
Country 5		1,134.00			1,134.00
Country 6			18,218.76		18,218.76
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				1,197.93	1,197.93
Country 2				26.18	26.18
Country 3				118.99	118.99
Country 4			6,032.67	6,032.67	6,032.67
Country 5				698.91	698.91
Senator Theodore Budd:					
Country 1		7,779.00			7,779.00
Nathan Heiman:					
Country 1		7,363.00			7,363.00
Country 2			15,754.51		15,754.51
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 1		8,014.00			8,014.00
Country 2			8,583.00		8,583.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				14,258.25	14,258.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>60,644.72</b>	<b>215,293.42</b>	<b>31,840.79</b>	<b>307,778.93</b>

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TOM COTTON,  
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, July 30, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Susan Collins:					
Italy	US Dollar	888.79			888.79
Senator Richard Durbin:					
Italy	US Dollar	880.79			880.79
Senator Edward Markey:					
Italy	US Dollar	878.91			878.91
Senator Mike Rounds:					
Italy	US Dollar	878.79			878.79
Senator Eric Schmitt:					
Italy	US Dollar	944.89			944.89
Anna Gallagher:					
Italy	US Dollar	899.25			899.25
Delegation Expenses:*					
Italy	Euro			41,549.20	41,549.20
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,371.42</b>		<b>41,549.20</b>	<b>46,920.62</b>

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,  
SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER,  
Majority Leader and Democratic Leader, July 14, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Brian Monahan:					
France	Euro	7,522.00			7,522.00
Ryan Kaldahl:					
Philippines	Philippine Peso	779.22			779.22
Thailand	Baht	286.05			286.05
United States	US Dollar		11,526.31		11,526.31
Delegation Expenses:*					
Philippines	Philippine Peso			202.21	202.21
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,587.27</b>	<b>11,526.31</b>	<b>202.21</b>	<b>20,315.79</b>

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,  
Majority Leader, September 8, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Gary Myrick:					
France	Euro	7,779.00			7,779.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			4,752.75	4,752.75

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
James Catella:					
Philippines .....	Philippine Peso .....	687.48			687.48
Thailand .....	Baht .....	198.29			198.29
United States .....	US Dollar .....		11,526.31		11,526.31
Delegation Expenses:*					
Philippines .....	Philippine Peso .....			202.22	202.22
Total .....		8,664.77	11,526.31	4,954.97	25,146.05

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER,  
Democratic Leader, September 3, 2025.

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2805 and S. 2806**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2805) to provide for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

A bill (S. 2806) to provide for automatic continuing of appropriations.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bills will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

**RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions which are at the desk: S. Res. 387; S. Res. 388.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to. The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**APPOINTMENT**

The PRESIDING OFFICER, The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Denise A. Hibay of New York.

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16; 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 Calendar No. 115, S. 2296; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, we expect one rollcall vote on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 60 at approximately 2:30 p.m. and another rollcall vote on the motion to proceed to Senator PAUL's budget resolution around 5:30 p.m. tomorrow.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:27 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 10 a.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

WILLIAM BOYLE, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MICHAEL F. EASLEY, JR.

ERIN CREEGAN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JANE E. YOUNG.

ZACHARY KELLER, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE BRANDON B. BROWN.

**THE JUDICIARY**

DAVID A. BRAGDON, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE LORETTA COPELAND BRIGGS, RETIRED.

LINDSEY ANN FREEMAN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE CATHERINE C. EAGLES, RETIRED.

MATTHEW E. ORSO, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE ROBERT J. CONRAD, JR., RETIRED.

SUSAN COURTRIGHT RODRIGUEZ, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE FRANK D. WHITNEY, RETIRED.

REBECCA L. TABLESON, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE DIANE S. SYKES, RETIRING.

**CONFIRMATION**

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 15, 2025:

**FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

STEPHEN MIRAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2024.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF T. RAMSEY & ASSOCIATES

### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District celebrates T. Ramsey & Associates on their 10-year anniversary. We thank them for their hard work in providing social impact consulting services to nonprofits, small businesses, and governmental entities across our region.

From 2015 to 2025, T. Ramsey & Associates has worked individually with each client to support and address their needs. From training services to speaking to groups on engaging topics, to consulting in mentorship, T. Ramsey & Associates has provided critical technical assistance to our communities. T. Ramsey & Associates has worked diligently to provide necessary services to grow non-profits and businesses. and we know that many have flourished as a result of their services. Our district is proud to recognize such a hard-working organization in our community for creating essential programming for our neighbors and community, organizational, and business stakeholders.

The 12th Congressional District congratulates T. Ramsey & Associates on all of their hard work and success, and hopes for many more years of celebration to come in community building.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TRELIS MADDALENA

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Trellis Maddalena of Flower Mound, Texas.

A native of Georgia, Mrs. Maddalena has dedicated more than 13 years to the United States Postal Service, beginning her career as a mail carrier in Flower Mound. Demonstrating a commitment to professional growth, she completed the Customer Service Associate Supervisor Program in 2019 and went on to serve in supervisory and leadership roles across multiple Texas stations, including as OIC Postmaster.

In 2022, Mrs. Maddalena was appointed Manager of Consumer Affairs for the Southern Area, Texas One. In this role, she excels at overseeing customer policies, managing interactions with government offices, analyzing surveys and CRM systems, while fostering cooperative relationships. Her ability to work seamlessly with congressional offices, staff, constituents, and local boards of elections has made her an indispensable partner in addressing the needs of the community.

Her dedication has been recognized through multiple awards, including the USPS Outstanding Supervisor Award from the Coppell Post Office in the spring of 2022, the USPS Customer Service Award from the Consumer Advocate Headquarters in September 2022, and the USPS Chief FOIA Officer's Award in May 2023. Beyond these honors, Mrs. Maddalena has consistently gone above and beyond for our office and district, ensuring that passports are retrieved from the mail in urgent situations or assisting with time-sensitive case-work requests. Her unmatched availability and commitment have directly improved customer experience for countless constituents.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mrs. Maddalena's extraordinary achievements and contributions. I thank her for all she has done.

RECOGNIZING WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND ITS PRESIDENT, DR. VICKI P. KAROLEWICS

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Wallace State Community College and its President, Dr. Vicki P. Karolewics, for their outstanding achievements and national recognition.

Wallace State was recently named one of the top three community colleges in the Nation by the Aspen Institute, earning the Rising Star designation in the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. It also became the first Alabama community college ever selected as a finalist for this prestigious award. Wallace State continues to fulfill its mission of "learning that transforms lives and communities," providing opportunities that strengthen individuals, families, and the State of Alabama.

Under the leadership of Dr. Karolewics, who has served as president since 2003, Wallace State has become a national model for excellence, innovation, and service. Student outcomes far exceed national averages, with graduation, persistence, transfer, and job placement rates among the best in the country. The college generates more than \$276 million annually in economic impact and supports more than 4,000 jobs across its region, while enrolling nearly 10,000 students each year in credit, workforce, adult education, and dual enrollment programs.

Dr. Karolewics herself has been recognized nationally and statewide for her leadership, serving on higher education boards and councils and receiving numerous awards for her contributions to education, workforce development, and public service. She demonstrates the transformative power of education and serves countless students while advancing Wallace State to national prominence.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Wallace State Community College and Dr. Vicki P. Karolewics for their impact on students, communities, and the State of Alabama, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved national recognition.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION

### HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Technology and Manufacturing Association. Founded in 1925 by eight Chicago area manufacturers, the organization has grown into a leading advocate and resource for small and midsize manufacturers that remain the backbone of our state's economy.

Illinois is home to nearly 13,600 manufacturers employing more than 724,000 workers. Manufacturing contributes over 135 billion dollars annually, roughly 12 percent of our state's GDP. Notably, three quarters of these workers are employed by manufacturers with fewer than 500 employees, underscoring the critical role of small and midsize businesses.

For a century, TMA has provided training, advocacy, and a network of support to help Illinois manufacturers remain strong, innovative, and competitive.

On behalf of Illinois' 16th District, I extend my congratulations to the members, leadership, and supporters of the Technology and Manufacturing Association. I thank them for a century of service and best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

### HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, who visits the United States this week to receive the prestigious Templeton Prize. As the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide and the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the Church's two-thousand-year history, His All-Holiness distinguishes himself as a global advocate for peace, reconciliation, and religious freedom.

Elected in 1991, Bartholomew leads efforts to unify the Orthodox Church and other faiths across national and cultural boundaries. He

• 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.

convenes councils, restores long-oppressed churches, and recognizes the independence of emerging Orthodox churches. His tireless efforts to bring together Christians of different traditions do not go unnoticed.

His All-Holiness is a champion for interfaith dialogue and a steadfast advocate for interfaith understanding. He builds meaningful relationships with Muslim and Jewish leaders in the Middle East, Europe, and beyond. He consistently speaks for peace and emphasizes that religious freedom and tolerance are essential to global stability, even as he faces persecution and harassment in his homeland.

Bartholomew is also a steward for the environment who organizes international ecological symposia and advocates for waterway preservation. His call for September 1 to be a day of prayer for the environment earned him the title "the Green Patriarch," a role he continues to embrace.

His relationship with the United States is long and distinguished. He received the Congressional Gold Medal from President Bill Clinton in 1997 and has since met Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden, as well as other U.S. leaders, in recognition of his contributions to global peace and understanding.

As His All-Holiness is in our Nation's Capital once again, his visit highlights his extraordinary leadership. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew continues to devote his life to advancing peace, fostering understanding across faiths, and promoting human dignity. His leadership continues to inspire communities in the United States and around the world.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DR.  
PERRICO J. ROBINSON, SR.

### HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District celebrates Reverend Dr. Perrico Robinson, Sr., as the newly appointed Pastor to the Womack Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Inkster, Michigan.

Reverend Robinson is a passionate figure in the ministry and began preaching at the age of 14 in his home state of Tennessee. He began his education at Freed-Hardeman University, where he received a bachelor's degree in biblical studies. He also holds a Master of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Rawlings School of Divinity and a Doctorate from Andersonville Theological Seminary.

With over two decades of ministerial experience, Reverend Robinson has held several leadership roles in churches across our country, including Louisiana, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Dr. Robinson is known for delivering powerful sermons. His favorite biblical passage is Ephesians 3:20, which states, "Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

The 12th Congressional District is pleased to welcome Reverend Robinson and look forward to his contributions to our community. We wish him all the best in his leadership and ministry and look forward to the significant impact he will have on the C.M.E. Church and our district.

WELCOMING THE ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-  
THOLOMEW

### HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide.

At 85 years old, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew remains at the forefront of the global struggle for religious freedom. Known as the "Bridge Builder" and the "Patriarch of Peace," he has worked tirelessly to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation across nations and faith. He has stood firmly against racism, extremism, and fundamentalism, championing peace-building measures to help defuse conflicts in some of the world's most volatile regions.

In addition to his leadership on matters of faith and peace, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a pioneering advocate for environmental stewardship. Often called the "Green Patriarch," he has elevated ecological awareness to the forefront of his ministry, inspiring both individuals and institutions to act with moral urgency in protecting our planet.

This month, he is visiting the United States to receive the Templeton Prize—the most prestigious award at the intersection of religion and science. He joins a distinguished group of past recipients, including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

As the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in over two millennia, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew embodies the values of faith, service, and moral leadership. His life's work is a testament to the power of courage, compassion, and conviction, and I am honored to welcome him to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH-  
MENTS OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-  
THOLOMEW

### HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I join the global community in celebrating the remarkable achievements of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, which now include the 2025 Templeton Prize.

Patriarch Bartholomew has long been a voice of spiritual clarity and moral courage. His leadership in advancing interfaith dialogue, human rights, and especially environmental stewardship, has earned him the nickname "The Green Patriarch." The Templeton Prize recognizes his decades of work urging the world to see care for creation not just as policy, but as a sacred duty.

In Riverside, we are blessed with a vibrant Orthodox Christian community. Parishes such as Saint Andrew Orthodox Church remind us of the enduring presence of Eastern Orthodox

faith in Southern California. These communities embody the values Patriarch Bartholomew champions—reverence, beauty, responsibility, and peace.

His visit to our Nation's capital is not just a symbolic moment; it is an opportunity for our country to honor a global religious leader who is known for his phrase: "War in the name of religion is war against religion."

On behalf of Riverside, I extend congratulations to His All-Holiness. May his work continue to inspire, and may our communities reflect his vision of faith in action.

HONORING THE EL CERRITO HIS-  
TORICAL SOCIETY'S 50TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the El Cerrito Historical Society on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. For half a century, the Society has preserved, promoted, and shared the rich history of El Cerrito, California, ensuring that future generations understand and appreciate the stories that have shaped this community.

Since its founding in 1973, the El Cerrito Historical Society has gone far beyond existing as a historical organization. It has hosted hundreds of programs and tours, curated both temporary and permanent exhibits, and produced books, pamphlets, journals, and even historical films. Its work has illuminated the cultural and social history of El Cerrito, from early settlement to the city's role in California's diverse story.

The Society has also been instrumental in preserving important local landmarks, including one of the earliest homes in El Cerrito, tied to the Italian-American community; a Japanese-American floral shop representing the city's once-thriving flower-growing industry; and the beloved Cerrito Theater. These efforts stand as enduring reminders of El Cerrito's cultural and historic fabric.

Thanks to the generosity of founders Sundar and Dorothy Shadi, the Society has established a permanent home in City Hall, where it maintains an archive and hosts community meetings. This partnership with the City of El Cerrito underscores the Society's enduring civic role and commitment to public engagement.

For 50 years, the El Cerrito Historical Society has served as a steward of the past and a guide for the future. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I would like to honor the 50th anniversary of the El Cerrito Historical Society and extend my sincere gratitude for their generations of service to our community. May it continue its vital mission for many more years to come.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital. As the Head of the second largest Christian Church in the world, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew leads a Church of 300 million people, including a large community in Southeastern Wisconsin.

His work towards the cause of peace should be commended, and on behalf of Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District, I congratulate Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew ahead of receiving the Templeton Prize.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
BARTHOLOMEW FOR HIS WINNING OF THE TEMPLETON PRIZE

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Greek Orthodox constituents to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital. I welcome him to Washington, D.C. and congratulate him for winning the Templeton Prize, a distinguished award received by other religious leaders such as the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The prize honors those who have spent a lifetime, as Patriarch Bartholomew has devoted to Sir John Templeton's vision of using the power of science to examine the deepest questions of humankind and our way in the universe.

Born in Turkey, Patriarch Bartholomew studied at institutions across Europe and even here in the United States at Yale and Georgetown.

Now, the primary spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian church, and a figure of global importance, he has addressed the World Economic Forum, UNESCO, the United Nations, and the European Parliament. He has stood out as a leader bridging divides and finding common ground, seeking peace throughout the world, and confronting global conflict with personal experience and a unique perspective.

A peacemaker through and through, Patriarch Bartholomew said that "Human conflict may be inevitable in our world; but war and violence are not. If our age will be remembered, it may be for those who dedicated themselves to the cause of peace."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that we welcome Patriarch Bartholomew and recognize his life, his career, and the global impact of his teachings. We are grateful for his lifetime of service brokering peace and advancing our common interests, and we welcome him to Washington, D.C.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARRENDALE COMMUNITY

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District proudly recognizes the 100th Anniversary of the Warrendale Community. From 1925 to 2025, Warrendale Community has been a place of love, community, and stewardship, promoting community outreach and creating a home for all.

The Warrendale Community Organization mission is to promote a relationship between the residents. Initiate educational programs that enhance the quality of life within the community that are beneficial to citizens and to expand their knowledge with a variety of programs and initiatives for all to enjoy. Such as the Free After-school STEAM program, Health and Safety Fair and many other amazing programs and initiatives. Our district is proud of the partnership and leadership of this community, not only in creating innovative and essential programming for our neighbors, but for creating a warm and welcoming experience for all residents.

The 12th Congressional District congratulates Warrendale Community and all of its neighbors on their steadfast service to community and such honorable work in their celebration of 100 years of community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JOSEPH A. LAPOINTE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FDNY CEREMONIAL UNIT

**HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lieutenant Joseph A. LaPointe on the occasion of his retirement from the New York City Fire Department Ceremonial Unit, effective September 15, 2025. This date marks the conclusion of more than four decades of distinguished public service and a career defined by leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the FDNY and the people of New York City.

Born in the South Bronx, Lieutenant LaPointe is the eldest of seven children. His father served as a firefighter in the Bronx and his mother dedicated herself to raising their family. He grew up in Great Kills on Staten Island's South Shore and now resides in Annadale with his wife, Linda, and their three children, Thomas, Teresa, and Tara.

Lieutenant LaPointe began his distinguished career in civil service in 1982 as a New York City corrections officer. In 1984, he transferred to the New York City Police Department, serving as a police officer in Manhattan's Midtown North Precinct. In 1990, he joined the New York City Fire Department, assigned to Brooklyn Ladder 109. He was promoted to Lieutenant in January 2001 and became an instructor at the FDNY Fire Academy.

On September 11, 2001—the darkest day in the history of the FDNY—343 firefighters,

along with 23 NYPD officers, 37 PAPD members, and thousands of innocent civilians, perished. In the immediate aftermath, the entire Fire Academy staff, including Lieutenant LaPointe, was assigned to the World Trade Center site for rescue and recovery operations. By the end of that month, he and other academy instructors were reassigned to the FDNY Ceremonial Unit to take on the monumental and solemn responsibility of planning and executing the funerals and memorial services for all 343 fallen firefighters.

Funerals and memorials were held six days a week, sometimes with as many as 20 services in one day. In October 2001, Lieutenant LaPointe was asked to lead the ceremonial team handling services in Brooklyn and Staten Island. On December 31, 2001, he was assigned to Ladder 114 "Tally Ho" in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, while continuing his work with the Ceremonial Unit.

In 2004, he became the Executive Officer of the Ceremonial Unit, and in 2007, he was appointed its Commanding Officer. In that role, he has overseen a staff of more than 400 fire and EMS officers, firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics, managing over 800 events annually, including graduations, promotions, parades, and, most importantly, line-of-duty funerals.

Lieutenant LaPointe's leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark not only on the FDNY, but on all of New York City. His 43 years of public service exemplify the highest traditions of honor, duty, and selflessness. I am proud to represent him in Congress and to call him my constituent.

Beyond his service in uniform, he is a proud board member of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which supports catastrophically injured members of the Armed Forces and assists the families of fallen members of the military, law enforcement, fire, and EMS services.

Mr. Speaker, few individuals can say they have stood beside thousands of grieving families and lifted them with dignity, respect, and love. Lieutenant LaPointe has done so for more than two decades, and in doing so, he has become part of the very soul of the FDNY. On behalf of a grateful community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lieutenant LaPointe's extraordinary career and in offering our deepest gratitude for a lifetime of selfless service.

RECOGNIZING THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE, HIS ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. MAGGIE GOODLANDER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two-thousand-year history of Christianity and the spiritual leader of a church of 300 million people, including more than 4,800 Orthodox Christians living in New Hampshire. Ordained to the Diaconate in 1961 and to the Priesthood in 1969, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew served as Assistant Dean

at the Theological School of Halki before he was appointed Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios, Metropolitan of Philadelphia, and Metropolitan of Chalcedon. I want to thank His All-Holiness for his commitment to religious freedom for all faiths as well as his lifetime of service to all people and our planet. During this visit, His All-Holiness will receive the Templeton Prize to honor his environmental and spiritual leadership. I am honored to welcome him back to the Capitol and recognize his contributions to our Nation and the world.

HONORING NATIONAL HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2025 theme, Collective Heritage: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future. From September 15, 2025, through October 15, 2025, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the people of the United States will celebrate the accomplishments of Hispanic Americans and the invaluable contributions they have made in our country, society, and economy.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins each year on September 15 and recognizes the anniversaries of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. This month, communities across Indiana's 1st Congressional District will gather for parades and celebrations to observe Hispanic Heritage Month in the cities of East Chicago and Hammond, Indiana.

The theme of National Hispanic Heritage this month emphasizes the importance of honoring people and traditions of the past while inspiring future generations to succeed. As we reflect on the rich tapestry of history and culture that Hispanic communities have woven into our society, we look to the next generation for inspiration and leadership.

During this time, I commend the dedicated Hispanic leaders whose mentorship and guidance inspires future generations to succeed in Northwest Indiana and beyond. As we recognize the extensive contributions made by Hispanic American leaders of the past, let us look to inspire future generations to succeed in Northwest Indiana and across the country. Let us commit to supporting and uplifting Hispanic voices across the Nation to ensure that the legacy of those who came before us continues to inspire and transform society for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and in recognizing the many achievements of Hispanic Americans throughout the history of our Nation. Our country is strengthened and uplifted by members of the Hispanic community, and our collective success is because of their contributions.

HONORING MAYOR JOHNNIE MAE  
NEAL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mayor Johnnie Mae Neal, and outstanding public servant and dedicated community leader who has faithfully served the Town of Sidon, Mississippi.

Mayor Neal has long been a champion for civic engagement, health equity, and grassroots outreach. Under her leadership, Sidon has taken vital steps to improve access to essential services and empower its citizens through direct community involvement. Notably, during the 2020 U.S. Census campaign, Mayor Neal led efforts to ensure that every resident of Sidon was counted. She hosted local town halls, provided free protective gear during the COVID-19 pandemic, and made it a priority to offer health screenings and voter education—actions that reflect both her compassion and foresight.

Her commitment to public service exemplifies the spirit of rural leadership, where resources may be limited, but determination and love for one's community are boundless. Mayor Neal's vision and integrity have earned her the deep respect of her constituents and peers alike.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mayor Johnnie Mae Neal for her unwavering dedication to the people of Sidon. Her efforts reflect the best of what local government can be—responsive, inclusive, and people-centered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LATEEFAH SIMON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote Number 220 on H.R. 747, I mistakenly recorded my vote as NAY when I should have voted YEA.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV-  
EREND THOMAS DELBERT  
STATON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the extraordinary life and legacy of Reverend Thomas Delbert Staton, a remarkable man whose achievements in ministry, academics, community service, and athletic career set an example for us all.

Thomas was born on May 21, 1957, as the fourth son of Reverend Chester Staton and Odesa Staton. He excelled in school, earning an athletic scholarship to the University of Michigan. After working for over two decades with DTE, he began a successful consulting

career for Detroit's big-three automotive companies. Thomas used this wealth of experience and wisdom to serve as a pillar of his community, working tirelessly as a minister, motivational speaker, basketball coach, and local township treasurer. As a featured speaker of the Detroit Pistons, his words energized tens of thousands of children.

We extend our sincerest condolences to his lifelong partner, Wanda, and son, Thomas. Our collective memory of his dedication to excellence, faith, and service will live on through his beautiful family and the countless people who were touched by his striking words and actions.

WELCOMING THE ECUMENICAL PA-  
TRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE,  
HIS ALL-HOLINESS BAR-  
THOLOMEW

HON. GEORGE LATIMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, known throughout the world as the "Bridge Builder" and the "Patriarch of Peace." As the spiritual leader of over 250 million Orthodox Christians, he has dedicated his life to the pursuit of reconciliation, understanding, and human dignity. Despite enduring decades of persecution and restrictions upon his Patriarchate in Istanbul, he has remained steadfast in his mission, bearing witness not only to the strength of faith but also to the power of compassion.

His All-Holiness Bartholomew, born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of Imvros was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. He holds the historic title of Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, a position that dates back to the sixth century. A citizen of Turkey, he studied in Imvros, Istanbul, Rome, Switzerland, Munich, and Athens, where he earned his doctorate in Canon Law and helped found the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches. Ordained in 1961 and 1969, he served as Assistant Dean of Halki, Secretary to Patriarch Demetrios, Metropolitan of Philadelphia, and later Metropolitan of Chalcedon before his election as Ecumenical Patriarch.

Patriarch Bartholomew's leadership extends far beyond the walls of the Church. He has become a global voice for peace, interfaith communication, and environmental stewardship, reminding the world that creation itself is a sacred trust. Through initiatives such as establishing a worldwide day of prayer for the environment and convening international gatherings of scientists, leaders, and theologians, he has exemplified how faith can serve the common good. His tireless journeys across continents and his engagements with parliaments, heads of state, and religious leaders have earned him honors from the United Nations, the European Union, and this very Congress, which bestowed upon him the Congressional Gold Medal beneath this Capitol dome.

Mr. Speaker, in honoring Patriarch Bartholomew, we recognize a man whose life's work has been the building of bridges, between East and West, faith and justice. His

enduring witness to peace and extraordinary work for humanity is an inspiration to us all. May his example continue to inspire us to build bridges of understanding, to care for all of God's creation, and continuously seek justice and reconciliation.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING HIS  
ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodox Christianity around the world. On behalf of the millions of Eastern Orthodox Christians in the United States, including thousands of Greek Orthodox in my district in Wisconsin, I welcome Bartholomew to the United States.

His All-Holiness Bartholomew has served as the leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church for more than 30 years. Prior to his election to this role, Bartholomew served in various roles for the Church including as the personal secretary to his predecessor, His All-Holiness Demetrios I. This week, Bartholomew is in Washington, D.C. to meet with President Trump and Congress.

Bartholomew will also travel to New York later this month to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize, joining visionaries like the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Mother Teresa as among the few to receive this honor. The Templeton Prize recognizes individuals for a lifetime of work and achievement in faith and the sciences.

On behalf of the many Eastern Orthodox who call Southeast Wisconsin home, including parishioners of Kimissis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church in Racine. I welcome His All-Holiness Bartholomew to the U.S. and congratulate him on his winning of the Templeton Prize.

REMEMBERING SHERIFF WILLIAM  
"BILL" OLDHAM

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Shelby County Sheriff William "Bill" Oldham, who passed on September 4 at the age of 75.

A lifelong Memphian, Sheriff Oldham served for 27 years in the Memphis Police Department rising through the ranks from patrolman to Police Director. He then was elected to two terms as sheriff and was honored by fellow lawmen with the Tennessee Sheriff's Association as Sheriff of the Year in 2015. He dedicated his life to law enforcement, serving and protecting our community with integrity, professionalism and character.

A longtime parishioner at St. Louis Catholic Church, growing up Mr. Oldham attended Nativity, St. Thomas and Memphis Catholic High School and then attended what was then called Memphis State University. He was a big

sports fan and cheered on the Tigers, Cubs and Notre Dame's Fighting Irish. He also coached teams at St. Joseph, St. Paul, St. Louis and Bishop Byrne.

His love of children was demonstrated in his treatment of incarcerated young people and he never gave up on them. His own three children called him "Chiefy." Among his sterling qualities was his love of justice and commitment to doing the right thing in an effort to make our community a safe place for all.

I extend my sincere condolences to his wife of 53 years Jean, his children Neal, Katie and Beth, his grandchildren and his extended family, his law enforcement colleagues, and his many friends. Memphis has lost a moral leader. His was a life of service to others and was well-lived.

He will be missed.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-  
THOLOMEW TO NEW YORK AND  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**HON. DANIEL S. GOLDMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a heartfelt and historic welcome to America for a truly remarkable global religious leader—His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and the Spiritual Head of the Orthodox Christian Church, the second-largest Christian Church in the world.

We are deeply honored to have His All-Holiness visiting our country, our Nation's capital, and New York, home to a vibrant Orthodox community, including the largest Greek, Ukrainian, and Romanian populations in the United States. His visit is a moment of profound significance for Orthodox Christians, for the broader faith community, and for all who cherish moral leadership in times of global challenge.

His All-Holiness comes to America in conjunction with his acceptance of the Templeton Prize in New York City—an award bestowed upon visionary leaders whose lives and work affirm the spiritual dimension of human existence. The Templeton Prize has previously honored extraordinary figures such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Patriarch Bartholomew joins that distinguished company, not only as a spiritual figure but as a tireless advocate for interfaith dialogue, peace, and human dignity.

Today, as the world witnesses ongoing war and displacement, His All-Holiness has stood firmly on the side of justice and sovereignty. On the eve of the third anniversary of Russia's illegal and immoral war against Ukraine. Patriarch Bartholomew declared unequivocally that, "Ukraine's sovereignty is not up for debate, nor can it be negotiated under the guise of diplomacy." He rightly insists that any future peace must include Ukraine as an equal participant. He has commended President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for his tireless defense of his nation's independence and democratic values—a position that echoes the principles of freedom and self-determination we hold dear.

As the "first among equals" in Orthodoxy, His All-Holiness continues to provide moral

clarity and spiritual leadership not just for the Orthodox faithful, but for the world at large. He has reminded us—through words and deeds—that faith must be active, that leadership must be courageous, and that peace must be rooted in justice.

Please join me in welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States of America. His presence is a blessing to our Nation and a beacon of hope to hundreds of millions around the world.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-  
THOLOMEW

**HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C.

As the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, including thousands living in Western Pennsylvania. Since his election as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome in 1991, His All-Holiness has continuously worked to promote religious freedoms, human rights, and stronger environmental protections.

Through the tireless work to promote international peace and religious tolerance, His All-Holiness was awarded the Gold Medal of Congress during his visit in 1997. During this current visit to the United States, His All-Holiness will receive the Templeton Prize, the prestigious award honoring contribution in religion and science.

I welcome His All-Holiness to Washington, D.C. and I congratulate him on his great achievement.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN MARK  
ANDREW

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors Fire Captain Mark Andrew, a second-generation firefighter, for the incredible tenacity and courage he displayed throughout his nearly three-decade career serving the Dearborn community.

Captain Andrew began his service on April 29, 1997. Over the course of 28 years, he earned five promotions, advancing from Firefighter 1 to Fire Captain by 2015. He earned 40 awards in recognition of his commitment to consistently exceptional work, scholarship, community service, fire education, and the safety of all people. The community of Dearborn often commended his sincere care and empathy toward the countless people he saved, his coworkers, and every person he served.

The 12th Congressional District of Michigan extends our deepest gratitude to Fire Captain Mark Andrew. Our neighbors are safer and

stronger thanks to his work, and we wish him health and happiness throughout his well-earned retirement.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-  
THOLOMEW

**HON. SETH MAGAZINER**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States to accept the distinguished Templeton Prize. As the Representative for Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District, I welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on behalf of the vibrant Greek Orthodox constituency in my district, including at the Church of the Annunciation in Cranston, Rhode Island.

The Church of the Annunciation was the first Orthodox Parish established in Rhode Island, and it now consists of over 600 families throughout the state. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's dedication to his faith, raising concern for the environment, and promoting peaceful coexistence is a blessing to us all that spreads optimism for a brighter future.

RECOGNIZING WILSON DAM ON ITS  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a special anniversary in Alabama's 4th Congressional District. One hundred years ago, on September 12, 1925, Wilson Dam began commercial operations. As a part of the Tennessee Valley Authority's network of hydroelectric dams, Wilson Dam supports TVA's mission of providing low-cost, reliable power, flood control, and navigation of the Tennessee River. Over the past 100 years, Wilson Dam has powered communities, enabled river commerce, and driven economic growth throughout the Tennessee Valley.

Located in Florence, Alabama, Wilson Dam has 21 generating units, capable of producing up to 663 megawatts of electricity and powering over 350,000 homes and businesses in north Alabama.

Wilson Dam is a National Historic Landmark and an engineering feat. It stretches nearly a mile—more than 4,500 feet—across the Tennessee River. The site plays a crucial role in the movement of goods through our country. The main lock has a maximum lift of 100 feet, making it the highest single-life lock east of the Rockies. More than 3,700 vessels on average and 11.4 million tons of goods pass through Wilson Dam's locks each year.

The associated Wilson Dam Reservoir includes over 160 miles of shoreline and covers 15,500 acres, providing ample opportunities for recreation. This makes North Alabama a destination for those looking to fish, boat, kayak, and enjoy our beautiful state, while driving economic activity and jobs in Alabama.

In a testament to the role Wilson Dam plays in the system, TVA is in the process of ex-

tending the life of the plant for decades. As part of the Hydro Life Extension Program TVA is refurbishing units to improve dam safety and increase hydro generation output. Wilson Dam has fulfilled—and continues to fulfill—TVA's mission statement of serving the people of the Valley region.

I hope my fellow Alabamians will join me in celebrating all that Wilson Dam has done for our state, and our region, for one hundred years. Here's to the next 100.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-  
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT THOM-  
AS MCCALL

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas McCall of Frisco, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. He has served and uplifted our community through his leadership and dedication.

Tom was born and raised in Yonkers, New York. Due to life hardships, he was quickly educated in the meaning of mortgage payment and food on the table. He attended Manhattan College, graduating in 1972 with a BSBA in Accounting and his CPA designation, which led to the beginning of a long and prosperous career in which he earned a reputation as a determined accountant and executive. Over 30 plus years of work, Tom had multiple assignments but only 3 employers. He launched his own business, McCall Asset Management, in 1998 in Frisco, Texas and it is still going strong. Tom met his wife, Karen, during college and they married in 1975. They raised 2 kids and have 2 wonderful grandchildren.

Throughout his career, Tom has been present in his community through his charitable giving of time, talent and treasure as seen in his involvement with Boy Scouts of America, Leadership Council, St. Baldrick's Children's Cancer Research, Hope for Vision, and Serving HIM (Healthcare International Ministries). A devoted man of faith, Tom attends Holy Cross Catholic Church The Colony with his wife, Karen, where he serves as Volunteer Finance Chair, on the Pastoral Council and as an Educator. Since 1985 he has been actively involved with Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, and is a past Trustee. He lives the Catholic Christian life of servitude. I am proud of Tom's lifelong contributions to our community, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Tom with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE 160TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE FIRST CONGREGA-  
TIONAL CHURCH OF STOCKTON

**HON. JOSH HARDER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. HARDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 160th anniversary of the First

Congregational Church of Stockton—a steadfast pillar of faith, fellowship, and service in the heart of the Central Valley.

For over a century and a half, the First Congregational Church has nurtured generations of Stockton families, offering not only a place of worship, but a community rooted in compassion, justice, and shared purpose. From its earliest beginnings in the aftermath of the Civil War to its continued presence today, the church has grown alongside Stockton, adapting and expanding to meet the spiritual and civic needs of its neighbors.

What began as a small gathering of individuals committed to living out their faith in community has become one of the city's enduring institutions. Over the years, the church has called several sanctuaries home—each one a reflection of its growing and evolving congregation. Through every chapter, the church has remained unwavering in its mission to provide spiritual guidance, inspire moral courage, and serve those in need.

Beyond the pulpit, the First Congregational Church has played a vital role in the cultural and social life of Stockton. Its members have long championed education, civic engagement, and social justice—offering programs and outreach efforts that extend far beyond its walls. Whether through fellowship events, support groups, or charitable initiatives, the church continues to be a source of hope and healing for the broader community.

In marking 160 years of ministry and service, we celebrate not just a building or a date, but a living legacy of faith in action. The First Congregational Church of Stockton remains a guiding light, grounded in its values and open to all.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this milestone and in expressing our deepest gratitude to the First Congregational Church of Stockton for its profound and enduring contributions to our region.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE REDFORD TOWN-  
SHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan celebrates a century of service for the Redford Township District Library. While the original Redford Township District Library building first opened its doors in the 1960's, their mission of inspiring ideas, enriching lives, and creating community began much earlier. The library started its service using bookmobiles in the 1920's before receiving generous workplace expansions, book donations, funding, and material support over numerous decades. The services offered by the library today are a testament to the power of community and charity.

As we celebrate the spirit of generosity that has enabled the Redford Township District Library to grow and vitalize our community, we look ahead with confidence that it will continue to serve as a beacon of learning, connection, and opportunity. We honor and celebrate this momentous occasion and stand in solidarity to ensure that our learning institutions thrive and continue to provide a safe space for learning for all communities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF PATRICK L. "PAT" KANDA

**HON. JEFF HURD**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Patrick L. "Pat" Kanda, a devoted public servant and community leader from Grand Junction, Colorado, who passed away on March 18, 2025.

For over thirty years, Pat served as Finance Manager at Grand Valley Power, where his leadership was crucial in navigating various financial challenges. A proud alumnus of Colorado Mesa University, he exemplified excellence and integrity throughout his career.

Pat's commitment to the community was evident through his mentorship of students as a substitute teacher and tutor, his service on the local school board, his leadership in the Orchard Mesa and Clifton Lions Clubs, and his work as treasurer for the local Republican Party. Pat was known for his generous spirit, often saying, "If there's anything I can do for you, let me know," and he actively supported his students and neighbors in need.

Pat Kanda's legacy of generosity and commitment to service will endure in the lives he touched. Carrying on this legacy is Pat's sons John and Michael Teck and his grandsons Landon and Grant Teck.

On behalf of Colorado's 3rd District, I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Pat Kanda, whose contributions enriched the lives of many in Western Colorado.

CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN  
TYPE CULTURE COLLECTION

**HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) on their 100th anniversary of operations.

The American Type Culture Collection is one of the world's leading non-profit biological resource and standards organizations, supplying scientists at home and abroad with bio-materials that contribute to scientific breakthroughs and discoveries. For over one hundred years, the ATCC's mission has been to protect public health and help scientists mitigate global emerging infectious diseases.

I had the pleasure of visiting ATCC's repository and laboratory wing in Manassas, Virginia on May 12, 2025. This wing is one of the many ATCC centers that produces innovative scientific products used in countless research areas to address health concerns across the globe.

ATCC plays a crucial role in maintaining and advancing critical R&D functions in partnership with agencies like the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Defense, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It was also vital in responding to the Zika virus, COVID-19 pandemic, mpox, and avian flu.

ATCC's reference materials are used as a standard across prominent federal and global organizations including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the World Health Organization. In addition to reference materials, ATCC produces a wide range of cell and microbe products that are used in prominent areas of research including cancer research, genetic disorder research, and infectious disease research.

American Type Culture Collection was named one of Prince William County's Best Places to Work in 2025 for their rewards and recognition program, diverse workplace community, and prioritization of employee well-being. Whether it be at the office or across the world, ATCC is committed to improving lives and communities.

Congratulations to ATCC on their 100-year milestone. I thank them for their valuable contributions to the scientific community, understanding of threats to public health, and advancements in scientific knowledge.

WELCOMING THE ECUMENICAL PA-  
TRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE TO WASH-  
INGTON, D.C.

**HON. SHRI THANEDAR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the leader for Orthodox Christianity worldwide, who is here in Washington, D.C. after accepting the distinguished Templeton Prize earlier this year.

The Templeton Prize is awarded to those who demonstrate exemplary philanthropic contributions. His relentless leadership has been recognized by a variety of organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, and the World Economic Forum. He has also dedicated his time serving on the Executive and Central Committees and Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

Patriarch Bartholomew has a focus on creating advocacy for environmental issues and in his time launched a series of initiatives to help start conversations worldwide. Among these initiatives were a variety of trips with political leaders and accredited scientists discussing issues such as water pollution in the Black Sea, for which he went on to receive Norway's Sophie prize in 2002.

Michigan's 13th Congressional District has a beautiful community of Greek Orthodox constituents at St. George Greek Orthodox Church and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. They continuously work to create welcoming spaces in our community by hosting celebrations such as festivals, luncheons, and more. I am honored to keep my constituents in mind as we welcome Patriarch Bartholomew in Washington, D.C.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-  
THOLOMEW

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians and the head of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

As the spiritual leader of the second-largest Christian Church in the world, His All-Holiness carries a message of peace, reconciliation, and interfaith dialogue that resonates deeply across all faith traditions. His enduring commitment to religious freedom, environmental stewardship, and global unity has earned him recognition as a moral voice not only for Orthodox Christians but for people of all faiths.

Many of my constituents in the Greek Orthodox community, and Orthodox Christians across the United States, look forward to his visit to Washington, D.C. with great pride and reverence. They view his presence here as an opportunity to celebrate the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of Orthodox Christianity and to reaffirm the strong bonds between the United States and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

It is my honor to welcome His All-Holiness to our Nation's capital and to recognize his tireless efforts in promoting peace, human dignity, and spiritual leadership across the globe.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this important visit and in celebrating the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

WELCOMING THE ECUMENICAL PA-  
TRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital and to recognize him for his acceptance of the distinguished Templeton Prize.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940, His All-Holiness Bartholomew completed his undergraduate studies at the historic Theological School of Halki. He would also pursue graduate degrees in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Greece. Before being ordained to the Diaconate in 1961 and to the Priesthood in 1969, he was a founding member of the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches.

The Ecumenical Patriarch served as Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki from 1968 to 1972 before his appointment as Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios. In 1973, he was elected as Metropolitan of Philadelphia and, in 1990, Metropolitan of Chalcedon. Finally, he was elected in October of 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew.

As the spiritual leader to 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is known as a transnational

figure who has focused on organizing international and interfaith peace conferences, challenging racism and religious fundamentalism, and promoting religious freedom and human rights. He is also seen as a global leader in championing environmental stewardship and has organized several international summits to address ecological issues. His accolades include a Congressional Gold Medal in 1997, recognition from *The Guardian* as one of the world's leaders in raising environmental awareness, and recognition from *Time Magazine* as one of the world's most influential people.

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch to Washington, D.C. and to congratulate him on his receiving such an esteemed award in the Templeton Prize.

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HONORING PERRY WATSON

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors the illustrious career of Coach Perry Watson.

Many know him as Coach Watson, but he was a high school counselor to hundreds of us in southwest Detroit when he was assigned at Southwestern High School. Perry Watson is a lifelong Detroit and known for his coaching career. However, if not for him, I would never have gone to college. Counselor Perry Watson was stationed on the lower floor at Southwestern High School, and you would always find him standing in the doorway catching his students as they passed. I was one of them. He kept on me for not applying to college. Even after I explained that my family couldn't afford it, he insisted. He said, "Everything will turn out okay." He was right.

He later served as an assistant coach at the University of Michigan, and then the head coach of the University of Detroit Mercy Titans. Over 15 seasons, Coach Perry Watson compiled a 261–198 record, the second-most wins of any Titans coach in history. This exceptional record earned him a well-deserved place in the UDM Hall of Fame. It wasn't a surprise that Coach Watson ensured his students displayed academic excellence. Under his supervision, 96 percent of his players graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Students from across the city of Detroit were brought together under the instruction of Coach Perry Watson. Their distinction in academics and athletics is a testament to his influence and mentorship.

We thank Perry Watson for his profound contributions and celebrate the lasting legacy he leaves in both sports and education.

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CELEBRATING NATIONAL  
AEROSPACE WEEK

**HON. RON ESTES**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Aerospace Week that just concluded.

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright completed the first successful flight, igniting a spark for aviation innovation in the United States. More than a century later, America has continued to be at the forefront of aerospace development, in technology, defense, manufacturing, transportation, and exploration. At the conclusion of National Aerospace Week, we recognize the important contributions of aviation companies, workers and organizations to the aerospace and defense industry in our country.

In fact, the aerospace and defense industry generated more than \$955 billion in sales in 2024, creating jobs and boosting the economy. In 2024, the aerospace and defense industry accounted for 1.5 percent of the nominal GDP. More than two million Americans contribute to this industry, crafting the machinery and equipment that power the industry. Many of these Americans in the aerospace and defense industry call Kansas home.

It is my honor to represent the Air Capital of the World—Wichita, Kansas—where hard-working men and women manufacture and design airplanes that are used around the world. When I travel throughout the district, I see firsthand and the passion for aerospace. In Kansas, we are fortunate to educate and train the future pilots, designers, and manufacturers of the aerospace industry.

Aerospace innovation is intertwined with our U.S. Military and defense industrial base. The men and women who serve our Nation are equipped with the most advanced aerospace technologies to keep our Nation safe and secure and allow us to defend ourselves against our adversaries.

Furthermore, America's preeminence in aviation is a model and inspiration for other nations around the world. Our fast, safe, and efficient jets, and our new technologies remain the gold standard around the globe.

Aerospace is integral to our economy and defense, and it is a major part of many states throughout the country, including the Sunflower State.

During National Aerospace Week, we recognized all those in this country who continue to push the limits of aviation, from the Wright Brothers in 1903 to the innovators of today.

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HONORING SISTER JOANN PERSCH

**HON. SEAN CASTEN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable advocacy of Sister JoAnn Persch. For over four decades, Sister JoAnn has been on the ground helping migrants and asylum seekers in Chicagoland.

Sister JoAnn, along with Sister Pat Murphy, opened Su Casa Catholic Worker House, a sanctuary for survivors of torture from Central America in 1990. Sister JoAnn, Sister Pat, and several Franciscan priests all lived and worked at Su Casa. The house welcomed its first family, a widower and his three children from Guatemala as they sought asylum in Canada. Throughout the 1990's, approximately 160 women, men, and children received temporary residence at Su Casa as they coped with trauma rooted in experiences of war, torture, and political persecution in their home countries in Central America.

As the flow of refugees from Central America slowed, Su Casa grew in its service to single mothers who had survived domestic violence. Su Casa committed to one-year residencies for families rebuilding their lives after domestic violence and homelessness. Since 1996, over 350 people have called Su Casa home.

The Su Casa Catholic Worker House continues to welcome three to six families at a time. The families live in community with residential volunteers who are committed to simplicity, freedom from violence, and love.

Fueled by the horrific family separations at the Broadview Immigration Staging Center in 2007, Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat started weekly prayer vigils on Friday mornings at the facility. They were met with resistance from inside the facility but knew they had to keep fighting to get inside to pray with the detained migrants.

With the help of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the two Sisters helped pass an Illinois law that mandates access to provide spiritual care for immigrants in detention. This led Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat to work with religious leaders to establish the Illinois Community of Displaced Immigrants, which helps migrants and asylum seekers with wrap-around services, including case management, transit assistance, and housing. To date, the organization has helped over 400 families.

In 2022, Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat founded Catherine's Caring Cause. This organization helps asylum-seeking families pay rent and utilities for a year, offers food assistance, and provides connections to legal aid. The organization has set up eight apartments to house people in need in Chicago.

Sister JoAnn continues her work on the front lines as well. She hosts weekly and Zoom prayer vigils at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement staging and processing center in Broadview. She also frequently visits families whom she has helped throughout the years.

Our county greatly benefits from the incredible work Sister JoAnn does every day. Immigrants make our country better, and we're very fortunate to have heroes like Sister JoAnn fighting for human rights in our community.

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WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO THE UNITED STATES

**HON. LANCE GOODEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States and congratulate him on receiving the distinguished Templeton Prize.

As the head of the Orthodox Christian Church, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, having faithfully served in this role since October 1991. Throughout his tenure, he has reached across borders and barriers to build peace and reconciliation among diverse faiths and nations. He has convened conferences with Jewish and Muslim

leaders, strengthened Christian-Muslim relations, and championed environmental issues worldwide. Because of this work, he is endearingly known as the “Bridge Builder and Patriarch of Peace.”

His All-Holiness’s commitment to interfaith harmony, human rights, and global peace exemplifies the highest levels of compassion and unity. We are honored by his visit to the United States and are grateful for his dedication to peace and unity. May his legacy, humility, and love for all people continue shining light toward a more just and peaceful world.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
SERGEANT CHARLIE FOUNTAIN

**HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sergeant Charlie Fountain as he retires after an extraordinary 50 years of service with the Polk County Sheriff’s Office.

Sergeant Fountain began his career in 1975 in the Sheriff’s Office radio room. The following year, after graduating from the Law Enforcement Academy at Polk Community College, he was sworn in as a deputy sheriff. Over the next five decades, he served in a wide range of assignments, including patrol and property crimes investigations. He was later promoted to sergeant, where he oversaw shifts, led specialized units on land, air and water, and most recently supported operations in the Fleet Services Bureau.

Known across the Sheriff’s Office as the “go-to” person, Sergeant Fountain’s deep institutional knowledge and steady leadership made him an invaluable resource to his colleagues and the broader community. He consistently rose to every challenge and earned the trust of those he served alongside.

His recent Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Sheriff’s Association is a fitting tribute to his distinguished career. Beyond any accolade, his legacy will endure through the deputies he mentored and the confidence he inspired in the people of Polk County.

On behalf of my constituents, I thank Sergeant Fountain for his 50 years of service and congratulate him on a retirement most richly earned.

HONORING THE VISIT OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, to Washington, D.C. As spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians, he is revered worldwide as “First Among Equals” among the Primates of Orthodoxy.

Throughout his three decades of service, Patriarch Bartholomew has been a champion of religious freedom and the dignity of all peo-

ple. His advocacy for the environment has earned him the title “Green Patriarch,” underscoring his vision that faith and stewardship of creation must walk hand in hand.

This month, His All-Holiness visits our capital and later will receive the Templeton Prize, recognizing his lifelong witness to faith. Equally deserving of praise is his efforts to spur interfaith dialogue. In a world where we are too often divided by that which makes us different, constructive dialogue that fosters relationships and creates mutual respect is critical.

From his first historic visit in 1997, when he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, to today, his presence has inspired bipartisan respect and admiration.

We welcome him with gratitude and honor his commitment to peace, liberty, and reconciliation.

HONORING ELMWOOD BLESSINGS  
BOX

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors Mr. Vincent and Elizabeth Freeman for the generosity, compassion and dedication they have displayed in creating the Elmwood Blessing Box.

In 2023, the Freemans installed a small food pantry box in front of their home, which allowed neighbors to take food when they were in need at zero cost. Over time, they realized that this demand was greater than initially expected. The Freemans decided to expand the blessing box to include enough food to fill a collection of cabinets and refrigerators, while continuing to expand as the need grew greater. Today, we are extremely excited to celebrate the benevolence, hard work and commitment the Freemans have shown and continue to show as they work to prevent food insecurity throughout Westland, Michigan and beyond.

The 12th Congressional District of Michigan extends our deepest gratitude to the Freemans and hopes their work inspires others. Our community will be forever indebted to them, and we wish them success, health and happiness on the opening of the Elmwood Blessings Box.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION  
RECOGNIZING “MEDICAL RESEARCH WEEK” FROM SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce a resolution recognizing “Medical Research Week” from September 15 through September 19, 2025. This important resolution will look to recognize the important breakthroughs of medical research improving health outcomes for patients and communities, securing global competitiveness in science, boost-

ing job creation, educating the next generation of scientists, and strengthening economic growth.

Medical research through the support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), continues to serve a vital role in the medical research enterprise. This research can lead cutting edge preventative strategies and research for treatments and additional cures for long-standing medical challenges such as cancer, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, sickle cell, and obesity. I have met with Hoosier families that are struggling with these rare diseases, and I have been moved by the impact that medical research has on their lives. This has educated me and my colleagues about the necessity of medical research to provide more treatment options and better diagnoses for all Americans.

NIH research funding generates nearly \$93 billion in economic activity and continues to support more than 400,000 jobs across the United States. Medical research is not only focused on improving the health of all Americans, but also as an economic driver in growth and job opportunity. Their work ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, and into every State. It drives demand for medical supplies and research equipment, boosts local and regional economics to benefit manufacturers and suppliers across the country, and into many United States territories.

The NIH supported medical research plays a primary role in several sectors. The NIH supports noncommercial and clinical research with private sector innovation, allowing for major achievements in rare diseases such as ALS, substance use disorders, stroke, and Parkinson’s.

During my time in Congress, I have continuously advocated on behalf of medical research. Congressional action has helped support medical research through the NIH and CDC, supported in part by the bipartisan appropriations letter I lead each year to increase NIH overall funding and increasing funding for the Veterans Medical and Prosthetic Research Program. I urge all my colleagues to join me in both these appropriations requests. Imagine what we could accomplish with more robust investments in medical research in our Nation, from making strides to combatting antimicrobial resistance, to harnessing the power of personalized medicine to treat disease, and more. These critical breakthroughs in medical research are our Nation’s best hope in finding cures, prevention measures, and treatments for diseases affecting millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution to recognize the importance of medical research in America. I urge the House to support this resolution.

COMMEMORATING THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ON THE VISIT OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the historic and valued contributions of the Greek Orthodox Christian

Church to the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America. Since our Nation's inception, Greek Orthodox Christians have been an integral part of the American experience. The church established its first parish in Florida in 1768, followed by the establishment of Greek communities in New Orleans in 1864 and a permanent presence in New York in 1892.

Built upon the pillars of love, faith, and order with the Church of Christ, the Greek Orthodox Church in the U.S., particularly in Chicago, has significantly and positively impacted the fabric and unique community-oriented spirit of the City. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago consists of 58 parishes and two monasteries across five midwestern states, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, located near the heart of Chicago, serves as the seat the Metropolitan of Chicago, with a current membership of approximately 400 families.

The Church is well known in the Chicagoland area for its charitable works and giving spirit toward our Nation's most vulnerable populations. In recent years, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago spearheaded several charitable activities and humanitarian campaigns, such as the Chicago CEO COVID-19 Coalition, thereby demonstrating its longstanding commitment to serving its surrounding community.

I also would like to take this moment to join many of my constituents in Illinois' 7th Congressional District and the families of the Greek Orthodox Church in welcoming to the U.S. this week the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew. As the spiritual leader and the Primus inter Pares (First among Equals) of Orthodox Christianity worldwide, a Church of 300 million people, His All-Holiness Bartholomew has been at the forefront of the cause of religious freedom for his entire ministry and now stands as the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two millennia history of Christianity.

Further, I would like to congratulate His All-Holiness Bartholomew on the recent honor of being named the 2025 Templeton Prize Award recipient, which is the world's most prestigious award in Religion and Science. This honor, along with the noted historic contributions of His All-Holiness and the Greek Orthodox Church, at large, help to highlight the church's enduring influence and commitment to its members and the broader community.

I am proud to represent many of the members of the Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago and even more proud of the fact that, for over a century, the Church has served as a focal point for Greek immigrants and their descendants, contributing to the cultural and social fabric of the communities it serves in Chicago and around the world.

I congratulate the Greek Orthodox Church on its recent accomplishments, and welcome to His All-Holiness Bartholomew on his visit to the U.S. this month.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL  
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States.

His first visit since 2021, he joins us on his eighth Apostolic trip to our country during which he will receive the prestigious Templeton Prize for his environmental advocacy.

The "Green Patriarch's" landmark 1997 speech in Santa Barbara—in which he first posited the notion of ecological sin—is striking for how revolutionary it was then, and how prescient it remains today. In particular, one line from His All-Holiness' remarks 28 years ago struck me as worthy of meditating upon in the tumultuous times in which we find ourselves.

In his speech, His All-Holiness offers the following: "we lovingly suggest to all the people of the earth, that they seek to help one another to understand the myriad ways in which we are related to the earth, and to one another.

Now, perhaps more than any time in my recollection, that call to engage with one another, identify our commonalities, eschew clinging to our differences, and help—how we can, where we can—feels vital to the moral health of the American people and the long-term viability of our global environment.

On behalf of the Eastern Orthodox Christian community of Southwestern Connecticut, I would like to extend my congratulations to His All-Holiness for his Templeton Prize; it is a well-deserved acknowledgement of his years of advocacy. I hope his trip is a success and that he enjoys his time in the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF SERGEANT DONALD "DONNY"  
GRUNDHAUSER

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sergeant Donald "Donny" Grundhauser, who recently passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sergeant Grundhauser joined the Saint Paul Police Department in 1994, proud to serve the area where he was born and raised. Over the course of his 30-year career, he served in a wide range of demanding assignments, including SWAT, the Homicide Unit, the Gang and Gun Unit, ATF Federal Task Force, East Investigations as an Acting Commander and the Special Operations Unit. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Sergeant Grundhauser received three Unit Citations, three Medals of Commendation, two Unit Letters of Recognition, and five individual Letters of Recognition.

Sergeant Grundhauser was deeply respected by his neighbors and colleagues for his courage, selflessness, and commitment to helping others. Known to his fellow officers as

"Grundy," he was a mentor and friend to many, and he lived by the belief that it never cost anything to be kind. His family carries on his legacy of service, with his son, Nicholas, and his two brothers, Mark and Keith, also serving in the Saint Paul Police Department.

I offer my deepest condolences to Sergeant Grundhauser's family—his wife, Kelly, and his children, Jacob and Nicholas. Sergeant Grundhauser represented the best of law enforcement, and I thank him and his family for their service to our community.

CELEBRATING ECUMENICAL PA-  
TRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW AND  
HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED  
STATES

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to America one of our world's significant religious leaders—Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head of Orthodox Christians, the second largest Christian Church in the world. Around the world there are over 250 million Orthodox Christians. In America there are well over a million Orthodox Christians with Churches in all 50 states. Even in low population states there are numerous churches—like for example, four Orthodox Churches in the state of Wyoming.

After his visit in Washington, D.C. with our President at the White House and with the bipartisan leadership of the Congress, he will be traveling to New York City to receive the Templeton Prize. That Prize is one of the world's leading recognitions of world leaders who make an exceptional contribution to the deepest questions regarding the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. Previous winners of that Prize have included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa. and Billy Graham.

His All-Holiness is also a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest Congressional Award. That Gold Medal had also been awarded to George Washington and to Abraham Lincoln. The Congress emphasized that Gold Medal by having more Members of Congress asking to have their names added as co-sponsors of that legislation than any other bill introduced during the 105th Congress. The Congressional Gold Medal recipients who were presented with the Award immediately before and immediately after Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, were Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

Within Christian Orthodoxy, an over 2,000-year-old religion, His All-Holiness is the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch. He is the 269th direct successor of Jesus Christ's first Apostle, Andrew. Andrew's brother Peter carried his mission to what is today the Vatican. Today's Pope Leo is the 266th direct successor of the Apostle Peter.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER  
MAYS

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors the life of Peter Mays, a dedicated and beloved member of the Trinity Health family for over 20 years. Peter served in the Information Technology department, where he took pride in his work and was known for his reliability, generosity, and willingness to help others. He continued working as long as his health allowed, retiring just one week before his passing. When not working, you could find Peter riding his bike around the city of Detroit.

During a Trinity Health Town Hall attended by more than 600 employees, colleagues paid tribute to Peter in a special Colleague Remembrance presentation. His coworkers, many of whom became close friends, stood by him and his family through challenging years, offering hospital visits, home support, and heartfelt gestures of kindness.

Peter's service, friendship, and example will be deeply missed, but his impact will continue to inspire those who knew and loved him. The 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors the life of Peter Mays and extends heartfelt condolences to all his loved ones and friends.

THANKING JOHN MCINTYRE (MAC)  
TOLAR FOR HIS DEDICATED  
SERVICE TO OUR NATION

**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank John McIntyre (Mac) Tolar for dedicating over three decades of service to our Nation's military, state, local, and federal governments, including the past thirteen years as an employee within the United States House of Representatives.

After graduating from the University of South Carolina, Mac enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry officer in 1987. Mac remained on active duty for eight years and continued his reserve duty through 2012. During his distinguished military career Mac was also a Reconnaissance Officer and deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and in support of the Global War on Terror.

Mac was decorated with four awards for exceptional individual service and received numerous awards from his unit. While on reserve duty, Mac earned his law degree from the University of South Carolina in 2001 and completed his military career as a Judge Advocate.

After earning his law degree, Mac embarked on a career in local government. From November 2001 to February 2003, Mac served as an Assistant Solicitor for the 15th Circuit in Conway, South Carolina, where he was responsible for prosecuting misdemeanor offenses and General Session transfer cases. Mac showed tremendous initiative in this role by developing and implementing a successful

DUI curriculum for local law enforcement personnel. This training program was so successful that it was later expanded to the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and the Commission on Prosecution Coordination.

Mac continued his career in South Carolina serving as the in-house Counsel for the Georgetown County government. In this role, Mac was responsible for drafting, reviewing, and approving legal documents, including deeds, contracts, leases, dedication instruments, financing documents, resolutions and ordinances. These wide-ranging responsibilities afforded Mac the opportunity to provide expert legal representation to several county offices, boards, commissions, and employees.

After a four-year tour in private practice, Mac joined the office of United States Representative Martha Roby as her Military Legislative Counsel. Mac's military and legal background perfectly positioned him for his role in the office. His primary responsibilities included serving as the Congresswoman's Veterans affairs, national security, and foreign policy advisor. Mac was instrumental in creating and managing Representative Roby's constituent Veterans' Advisory Committee, which allowed the Congresswoman to gain additional insights, perspectives, and ideas to drive her oversight and legislative agenda.

In July 2014, Mac landed his next role in Congress working for the Select Committee on Benghazi. He was initially hired to serve as the Select Committee's Senior Counsel and then moved into the important role of Security Manager. As an employee of the Select Committee, Mac analyzed thousands of pages of documents, communications, and other executive branch materials relating to the terrorist attacks in Benghazi.

Once his tenure with the Select Committee ended, Mac landed in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer in 2016 and immediately began serving as the Director of the Wounded Warrior Program, now known as the Green & Gold Congressional Aide Program.

Over the past nine years, Mac's leadership, stewardship, and dedication have driven several significant enhancements to this outstanding program. These efforts include modernizing several components of the program, updating the requirements for participation, broadening the scope to cover Gold Star Family Members and Active-Duty Military Spouses, expanding allocations assigned to Member, Committee, Leadership, and House Officer organizations, enhancing the orientation program and professional development offerings for the Aides, and launching the program's social media presence and dynamic website.

Mac's impact on the program is best seen in the lives and careers of the many Aides who came through during his tenure as Director. From December 2016 to August 2025, 339 Aides completed the two-year assignment. Of those, 37 percent of them continued their careers in Congress. Additionally, nearly 80 percent of the Aides built on their experience by finding new roles in government, transitioning successfully to the private sector, or enrolling in college to further their education. These achievements are a true reflection of Mac's leadership—underscoring not only the strength of the program, but also the lasting opportunities it provided to so many.

I would also like to recognize and thank Mac's family for their encouragement, love, and support, including his wife Helen Tolar—

who was also a decorated House and Senate senior staff member—and their three children Walker, Mary Mac, and Oliver.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mac Tolar for his outstanding contributions and overall impact on our Nation. Whether it was in the military, local or state government, or as an employee of the House of Representatives, Mac always made a difference in each job and an impact in every role.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW,  
ARCHBISHOP OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME  
AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to welcome to our Nation's Capital His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch. He is the Spiritual Head of the Orthodox Christian Church worldwide and shepherd to over 300 million faithful. For Orthodox Christians across the globe, including many of my own constituents in Northwest Ohio, His All-Holiness is not only their spiritual father but also a guiding light for interfaith understanding, religious freedom, and environmental stewardship.

Part of his visit to the United States is to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize in New York City. This recognition, bestowed previously on figures such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, acknowledges his lifetime of service in advancing the harmony of faith and reason, and his courageous leadership on behalf of peace and the protection of God's creation.

His All-Holiness is no stranger to the halls of Congress. On his first visit to our Nation's Capital in 1997, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in the Rotunda, where he delivered an address that remains a touchstone in the history of religious freedom and international dialogue. Through subsequent visits under both Democratic and Republican administrations, the Ecumenical Patriarch has been received with the highest honors by our Nation's leaders.

For more than three decades as Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness has been a bridge-builder between peoples and nations. He has convened leaders of the Abrahamic faiths in pursuit of peace and reconciliation. He has boldly raised the conscience of the world to the urgent moral imperative of environmental responsibility. For these efforts, he is rightly known as the "Green Patriarch." He has also been a steadfast advocate for human rights and religious liberty across the globe, strengthening the cause of freedom for all people.

On behalf of the people of Northwest Ohio, and especially our vibrant Greek Orthodox community, I am proud to extend our heartfelt welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as he returns to Washington. We rejoice in his recognition with the Templeton Prize, and we pray that his ministry of peace, love, and reconciliation will continue to inspire our Nation and our world.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATERPILLAR INC.

### HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Caterpillar Inc., marking a century of customer-centric innovation and industry-leading transformation. With a strong history in my district, Caterpillar serves as a cornerstone example of American innovation and industry leadership.

Founded in 1925, when the Holt Manufacturing Company and the C.L. Best Tractor Company merged to form what became the Caterpillar Tractor Company, the business began with its first track type tractor designed to pull combine harvesters. Now, Caterpillar delivers autonomous construction and mining equipment and engines that power the world, helping customers complete infrastructure projects that have shaped the modern era.

Caterpillar is a consistent leader in industrial innovation. With more than 113,000 employees worldwide, this American based company continues to serve customers across the globe. Through their work and customer focus, Caterpillar helps communities in Illinois, across our country, and around the world rise to meet challenges and build a better future.

As we commemorate this incredible milestone, I want to recognize the entire Caterpillar team for their entrepreneurial spirit, strong values, and unwavering commitment to manufacturing and innovation in the United States.

I congratulate Caterpillar on 100 years of American excellence. May the next century strengthen the values that make Caterpillar, Illinois, and our Nation strong.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and welcome to Washington, His All-Holiness Bartholomew Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide. As the Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, His All-Holiness serves as the spiritual head of the second largest Christian Church in the world.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2,000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. For more than three decades, he has stood at the forefront of the cause of religious freedom, interfaith dialogue, and peacebuilding, making him the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the history of Christianity.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on an island in Turkey, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew pursued theological studies in Rome, Switzerland, Germany, and Greece before joining leadership within the

Church. He is fluent in numerous languages and has been recognized by academic institutions worldwide, holding honorary doctorates from universities across Europe, the United States, and beyond.

Throughout his tenure, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has worked to advance religious liberty and human rights, to strengthen ties among Christian denominations, and to build relationships among the Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. He has co-sponsored international peace conferences, supported reconciliation in conflict-ridden regions, and spoken out for persecuted groups across the globe.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is no stranger to our Nation's Capitol. In 1997, during his first official visit as His All-Holiness, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. On that occasion, he reminded us that, "The Pentagon embodies might, but the Capitol embodies right. In these halls different points of view meet and are reconciled. . . . And most important to the Orthodox Church during many dark ages—in these halls human rights are preserved and human dignity is enhanced."

This week, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will return to Washington as part of his visit to the United States, where he will also receive the distinguished Templeton Prize in New York City, an award previously bestowed upon Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This honor recognizes his lifelong commitment to faith, peace, and science.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew back to Washington, D.C. and recognize his remarkable contributions as a global religious leader, peacemaker, and advocate for freedom. His presence is a reminder of the enduring values of faith, dialogue, and human dignity.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF WANDA BABB

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Wanda Faye Babb of Paris, Texas.

Mrs. Babb was born on September 20, 1935, in Paris, Texas. Mrs. Babb attended school in Paris, the same place where she would grow into an active member within her church and community.

She has dedicated her life to faith, family, and community. Mrs. Babb has been a devoted member of many churches and has spent her time teaching Sunday school and guiding the youth. On November 25, 1953, Mrs. Babb married the love of her life, the late Wendell Babb. Together, they raised three wonderful children, and over the years, their family grew to include many cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Babb owned and operated Byers Beauty Shop in Paris, a business started by her mother, where she worked for decades as a beloved cosmetologist. She took pride in her business and treated her clients like family. In

addition to the beauty shop, Mrs. Babb spent time as a representative for Mary Kay, where she strived to provide opportunities for her employees. Throughout her life, she has been a dedicated and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, striving to instill a strong faith and love of music in her grandkids. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, playing piano, and recognizing every Western television and film actor. Mrs. Babb credits her life to the Lord, her family, and loving her country.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mrs. Babb's incredible life and journey. May God bless Mrs. Babb on 90 years of life filled with patriotism, faith, and joy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF IGNACIO "ZIGGY" GONZALEZ

### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the extraordinary life and legacy of Ignacio "Ziggy" Gonzalez, a beloved son of southwest Detroit. A proud veteran and dedicated educator, Ziggy lived a long and impactful life of 94 years, which stretched far beyond the baseball diamond and hockey rink.

Born in 1930, Ziggy proudly served in the United States Air Force before returning home to raise a family and dedicate his life to teaching and coaching. As a beloved educator at Western High School, "Mr. G" inspired countless students with his humor, wisdom, and unshakable belief in their potential.

Ziggy was also the heart and soul of Clark Park, where he got the name "Mr. Clark Park" and built hockey and baseball programs that gave generations of young people a place to play, learn, and belong. To many, he will forever be "Mr. Clark Park." His love of family, sports, community, and music, especially jazz, reflected the very best of Detroit.

We extend our love to his wife, siblings, children, grandchildren, and friends as we celebrate his life, and we are committed to carrying forward his spirit of service, joy, and justice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 8, 2025, I missed Roll Call Vote Nos. 240 and 241 due to official business. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 240, and YEA on Roll Call No. 241.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
BARTHOLOMEW I, ECUMENICAL  
PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINO-  
NOPLE

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, as a Vice Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus and a proud Greek-American, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, to the United States, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian community around the world. His All-Holiness's visit to Washington, D.C. and New York is yet another demonstration of his commitment to peace, his see, and the millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of Imvros (today, Gökçeada, Turkey), His All-Holiness Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. His formal office is Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, a historic title dating to the sixth century. The Ecumenical Patriarch received his elementary and secondary education in Imvros and Istanbul. After completing undergraduate studies at the historic Theological School of Halki, he pursued graduate studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute of the Gregorian University in Rome (Italy), the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey (Switzerland), and the University of Munich (Germany). His doctoral dissertation, submitted to the University of Athens (Greece), was in the field of Canon Law, and he was a founding member of the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches. Ordained to the Diaconate in 1961 and to the Priesthood in 1969, he served as Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki (1968 to 1972) before his appointment as Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios (1972 to 1990) as well as his election as Metropolitan of Philadelphia (1973) and, subsequently, Metropolitan of Chalcedon (1990).

His see, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, once possessed holdings as vast as the Vatican but has been reduced to a small, besieged enclave in a decaying corner of Istanbul called the Phanar (Lighthouse). Almost all of its property has been seized by successive Turkish governments, its schools have been closed, and its prelates are taunted by extremists who demonstrate almost daily outside the Patriarchate, calling for its ouster from Turkey. The Patriarch himself is often jeered and threatened when he ventures outside his walled enclave. He is periodically burned in effigy by Turkish chauvinists. Petty bureaucrats take pleasure in harassing him, summoning him to their offices to question him about irrelevant issues, blocking his efforts to make repairs in the few buildings still under his control, and issuing veiled threats about what he says and does when he travels abroad. The Turkish government as a whole follows a policy that deliberately belittles him, refusing to recognize his ecumenical status as the spiritual leader of a major religious faith.

In September 1955, when Bartholomew was studying in Istanbul, he witnessed a massive pogrom against the city's Greek neighbor-

hoods that left them looking "like the bombed parts of London during the Second World War," as one British journalist reported. While the police "stood idly by or cheered on the mob," according to a report of the U.S. consul, 4,000 Greek shops and 2,000 homes were sacked and plundered, 38 churches were burned to the ground and 35 more desecrated, and 52 schools were destroyed. More than a dozen people were killed and scores were injured during the riots, beginning a cycle of violence and intimidation that has seen Istanbul's Greek population reduced from 200,000 when the riots erupted to less than 2,000 today.

At a time when hostility and misunderstanding between the Christian and Muslim worlds have reached a deadly standoff, Patriarch Bartholomew, who speaks seven languages including Turkish, has made a deliberate effort to reach out to Muslims throughout the Middle East. "It is our strong belief that Orthodox Christians have a special responsibility to assist East-West rapprochement," he noted. "For, like the Turkish Republic, we have a foot in both worlds." Pointing out that Orthodox Christians have a 550-year history of co-existence with Muslims in the Middle East, he has initiated a series of meetings with Muslim leaders throughout the region in what he calls "a dialogue of loving truth." To strengthen that dialogue, he has traveled to Libya, Syria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Qatar, and Bahrain, and met political and religious figures in those countries, whom no other Christian hierarch has ever visited. As a result, the Patriarch has created more bridges between Christianity and Islam than any other prominent Christian leader.

The Patriarch's concerns are not just limited to interfaith conflicts but have expanded to embrace all of God's creation. He has shown such concern for the environment that he has become widely known as "the Green Patriarch." He famously declared shortly after he assumed the ecumenical throne in 1991 that "crime against the natural world is a sin." Human beings and the environment, he stated, "compose a seamless garment of existence, a multicolored cloth, which we believe to be woven in its entirety by God." The world, he told a 1997 conference of environmentalists in Santa Barbara, California, "is not ours to use for our own convenience. It is God's gift of love to us, and we must return his love by protecting it and all that is in it."

To back up his words with action, Bartholomew launched a series of initiatives to raise worldwide concern for the environment. In 1992 he proposed to all Orthodox churches that September 1st be celebrated as a special day of prayer for the environment. In 1995 he started a series of environmental conferences, inviting prominent scientists, political leaders, theologians, ecologists, and journalists to embark on weeklong trips to examine the destruction that pollution has caused on major waters. Designed to draw international attention to the ecological degradation of the areas they visit, five such floating conferences have taken place in the past decade to the Black Sea, the Aegean, the Adriatic, the Baltic and the Danube River. For his work to combat pollution, the Patriarch was chosen in 2002 to receive Norway's Sophie Prize, the most important international award given for leadership on the environment. He donated the \$100,000 prize money to the poor children of Ethiopia,

Greece, and Turkey. "We are losing time," Bartholomew warned while accepting the award, "and the more we wait, the more difficult and irreparable the damage."

Although his efforts have brought him little relief from his problems in Turkey, they have been recognized around the world, including by the U.S. Congress, which gave him its highest award, the Congressional Gold Medal, in a ceremony in the Capitol. "The greatest lesson about America lies under this magnificent dome," he told the assembled legislators. "The Pentagon embodies might, but the Capitol embodies right. In these halls, different points of view meet and are reconciled . . . And—most important to the Orthodox Church during many dark ages—in these halls human rights are preserved and human dignity is enhanced."

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is a leading figure in the dialogues of the Abrahamic Faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and his presence in Washington, D.C. is an extraordinary opportunity to highlight the positive role that religious leaders of his stature bring to the myriad causes we in Congress grapple with each day.

In addition to welcoming His All-Holiness to the United States and recognizing his lifetime of service and commitment to peace, I also ask that the House join me in congratulating Patriarch Bartholomew for receiving this year's Templeton Prize. Established in 1972, the Templeton Prize honors individuals whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton's philanthropic vision: harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. At this year's ceremony, His All-Holiness will be honored for "pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity's relationship with the natural world [which] have brought together people of different faiths to heed a call for stewardship of creation."

It is my hope that His All-Holiness's trip is not only a resounding success, but brings with it a message for all of us as legislators to recommit ourselves to complementing his vital work of building bridges, protecting God's creation, and advancing the cause of peace around the world.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 17

9:15 a.m.

## Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas DiNanno, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Michael DeSombre, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), Jacob Helberg, of Florida, to be an Under Secretary (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), Benjamin Black, of New York, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, Paul Kapur, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Nicole McGraw, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, Somers Farkas, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, Chris Pratt, of Utah, to be an Assistant Secretary (Political-Military Affairs), Stacey Feinberg, of California, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Leandro Rizzuto, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, Howard Brodie, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Arthur Fisher, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, Nicholas Merrick, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Roman Pipko, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, Thomas Rose, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador, Sarah Rogers, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Caleb Orr, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, John Giordano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic, Sean O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, Julie Stuftt, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Bill Bazzi, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia, Melinda

Hildebrand, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, Todd Wilcox, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary (Diplomatic Security), Riley Barnes, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Dan Negrea, of Connecticut, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and William White, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, all of the Department of State.

S-116

9:50 a.m.

## Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; to be immediately followed by oversight hearings to examine the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

SD-562

10 a.m.

## Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Graham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

SR-253

## Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reviewing recent events at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and implications for children's health.

SD-430

10:15 a.m.

## Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

## Committee on the Judiciary

## Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration

To hold hearings to examine missing unaccompanied alien children and criminal sponsors.

SD-226

## Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine conspiracy theories, antisemitism, and democratic decline.

2358C-RHOB

2:30 p.m.

## Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act successes and opportunities at the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service.

SD-628

## Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine using the 504 program to build America's manufacturing future.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

## Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3:30 p.m.

## Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine drug safety, supply chains, and the risk to aging Americans.

SH-216

4 p.m.

## Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine strengthening services for veterans with spinal cord injury and disorder.

SD-106

SEPTEMBER 18

9 a.m.

## Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Free Speech Protection and Reforming Expiring Authorities", an original bill entitled, "Safer Counter-Drone Authorities", S. 1221, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, S. 2283, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie, Oklahoma, as the "Oscar J. Upham Post Office", and S. 252, to increase access to agency guidance documents.

SD-342

10 a.m.

## Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer, James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

## Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the state of K-12 education.

SD-430

10:15 a.m.

## Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Jennifer Lee Mascott, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Robert P. Chamberlin, and James D. Maxwell II, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, Edmund G. LaCour, Jr., and Harold D. Mooty III, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Bill Lewis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, David Courcelle, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years, and Scott Leary, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

SH-216

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to S. Res. 377, En Bloc Nomination Consideration.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S6585–S6623*

**Measures Introduced:** Ten bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2797–2806, S. Res. 386–388, and S. Con. Res. 22.

**Pages S6599–S6600**

#### Measures Passed:

**En Bloc Nomination Consideration:** By 51 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 517), Senate agreed to S. Res. 377, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

**Pages S6585–91**

**Patriot Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 387, expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17, 2025, as “Patriot Week”.

**Page S6623**

**National Voter Registration Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 388, recognizing September 16, 2025, as “National Voter Registration Day”.

**Page S6623**

#### Appointments:

**Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the re-appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Denise A. Hibay of New York.

**Page S6623**

**National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, Senate resume consideration of 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.

**Page S6623**

**Nominations En Bloc—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the following en bloc nominations:

Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dario Gil, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

Brandon Williams, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security.

Tristan Abbey, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

Leslie Beyer, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

Andrea Travnicek, of North Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Justin Overbaugh, of Florida, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Scott Pappano, of Pennsylvania, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

Michael Cadenazzi, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Sean O’Keefe, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Michael Obadal, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

Katherine Sutton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

William L. Doffermyre, of Texas, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Kyle Haustveit, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).

Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration.

Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of 5 years.

Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

Donald Bergin III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

John Squires, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Daniel Aronowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Michael Dodd, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position).

William Gillis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Jules Hurst III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Brent Ingraham, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

George Wesley Street, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

Peter Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

Jeffrey Bartos, of Pennsylvania, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the Rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Jennifer Locetta, of Florida, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Dudley Hoskins, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary 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.

Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

Paul Roberti, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation.

Jonathan Morrison, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Jason Evans, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

Edward Aloysius O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Bryan Switzer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Textiles, Investment, Services, and Intellectual Property), with the rank of Ambassador.

Callista Gingrich, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Christine Toretti, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Peter Lamelas, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

**Pages S6595–96**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the en bloc nominations, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and the provisions of S. Res. 377 (119th Congress), a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

**Page S6596**

Prior to the consideration of these nominations, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

**Page S6595**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the en bloc nominations listed in S. Res. 377, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

**Page S6595**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 519), Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012. **Pages S6591–95**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 518), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S6591–92**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

William Boyle, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Erin Creegan, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years.

Lindsey Ann Freeman, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Zachary Keller, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Rebecca L. Taibleson, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

**Page S6623**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S6598**

**Measures Discharged:** **Page S6598**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S6598–99**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S6600–01**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S6601–07**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S6597–98**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S6607–11**

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—519) **Pages S6591, S6592, S6594–95**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 8:27 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6623.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

No committee meetings were held.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 27 public bills, H.R. 5353–5369; and 13 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 48; and H. Res. 706, 708–718, were introduced. **Pages H4309–11**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H4311–13**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3494, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an information technology system and prioritize certain requirements to manage supply chains for medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–273);

H.R. 2721, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a pilot program to furnish a headstone or burial marker to veterans who

died on or before November 1, 1990, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–274);

H.R. 3427, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–275);

H.R. 528, to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Program, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–276, Part 1);

H.R. 655, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the City of The Dalles, Oregon, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–277);

H.R. 831, to establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and

for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 119–278);

H.R. 972, A bill to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–279);

H.R. 1045, to amend the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act (H. Rept. 119–280, Part 1);

H.R. 1276, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–281);

H.R. 1676, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to approve the wildlife conservation and restoration program of a State within a certain period of time, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–282);

H.R. 1809, to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin (H. Rept. 119–283);

H.R. 2290, to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–284);

H.R. 2293, to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–285);

H.R. 2302, to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–286);

H.R. 2388, to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–287);

H.R. 2389, to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Quinault Indian Nation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–288);

H.R. 2400, to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pit River Tribe, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–289);

H.R. 2876, to confirm the use of certain non-Federal land in Salt Lake City, Utah, for public purposes, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–290);

H.R. 3176, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System (H. Rept. 119–291);

H.R. 3187, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey a parcel of property of the Forest Service to Perry County, Arkansas, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–292);

H.R. 3857, to amend the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–293);

H.R. 4285, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate an entrance-fee free date in 2026 at National Park Service sites in order to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–294);

H.R. 1047, to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–295);

H.R. 4058, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance outreach for the Urban Area Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–296);

H.R. 3668, to promote interagency coordination for reviewing certain authorizations under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–297, Part 1); and

H. Res. 707, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4922) to limit youth offender status in the District of Columbia to individuals 18 years of age or younger, to direct the Attorney General of the District of Columbia to establish and operate a publicly accessible website containing updated statistics on juvenile crime in the District of Columbia, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to prohibit the Council of the District of Columbia from enacting changes to existing criminal liability sentences, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5143) to establish standards for law enforcement officers in the District of Columbia to engage in vehicular pursuits of suspects, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5140) to lower the age at which a minor may be tried as an adult for certain criminal offenses in the District of Columbia to 14 years of age; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5125) to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to terminate the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1047) to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3015) to reestablish the National Coal Council in the Department of Energy

to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters related to coal and the coal industry, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3062) to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–298). **Pages H4308–09**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bice to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4269**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:27 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H4272**

**United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Representative Boyle (PA). **Page H4272**

**Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representatives Cuellar, Correa, Vicente Gonzalez (TX), Escobar and Carbajal. **Page H4272**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:07 p.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. **Page H4272**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:58 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H4299**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Extending the SBIR and STTR programs: H.R. 5100, to extend the SBIR and STTR programs;

**Pages H4273–74**

**Miracle on Ice Congressional Gold Medal Act:** Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 452, to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States;

**Pages H4274–77**

**Water Resources Technical Assistance Review Act:** H.R. 3427, amended, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all

clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency;

**Pages H4277–78**

**Courthouse Affordability and Space Efficiency (CASE) Act of 2025:** H.R. 3426, amended, to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances;

**Pages H4278–79**

**Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025:** H.R. 1107, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to deliver, distribute, or dispense to veterans certain controlled medications via telemedicine under certain conditions;

**Pages H4279–81**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to deliver, distribute, or dispense to veterans certain controlled medications via telemedicine under certain conditions, and for other purposes";

**Page H4281**

**Prohibiting Automatic Rights to Enter National Territory Act of 2025:** H.R. 2334, amended, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify birthright citizenship;

**Pages H4281–82**

**Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act:** H.R. 1860, amended, to designate Regional Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinators to expand the work of the Breast and Gynecologic Oncology System of Excellence at the Department of Veterans Affairs;

**Pages H4282–84**

**Territorial Response and Access to Veterans' Essential Lifecare Act:** H.R. 3400, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs to temporarily serve as traveling physicians in the territories and possessions of the United States, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 371 yeas to 21 nays, Roll No. 266;

**Pages H4284–85, H4300**

**Health Professionals Scholarship Program Improvement Act of 2025:** H.R. 3767, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a time frame for the employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of participants in the Health Professionals Scholarship Program;

**Pages H4285–86**

**Veterans Readiness and Employment Program Integrity Act:** H.R. 3579, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the Veterans Readiness and Employment program of Department of Veterans Affairs;

**Pages H4288–89**

***Rural Veterans' Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2025:*** H.R. 3951, amended, to amend the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 and the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 to improve the temporary licensure requirements for contract health care professionals who perform medical disability examinations for the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H4289–90**

***Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act:*** H.R. 3854, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a plan to expand the use of certain automation tools in the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H4290–92**

***Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act:*** H.R. 2034, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship; **Pages H4293–94**

***Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act:*** H.R. 2701, amended, to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage; **Pages H4294–95**

***VA Hospital Inventory Management System Authorization Act:*** H.R. 3494, amended, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an information technology system and prioritize certain requirements to manage supply chains for medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and **Pages H4296–98**

***Focused Assistance and Skills Training for Veterans' Employment and Transition Success Act:*** H.R. 4446, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran. **Pages H4298–99**

**Motion to Discharge Committee:** Representative Meeks moved that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 117, relating to a national emergency by the President on July 30, 2025. The House agreed to the Mast motion to table the motion to discharge by a yea-and-nay vote of 200 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 265. **Pages H4299–H4300**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

***Honoring Our Heroes Act of 2025:*** H.R. 2721, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

to establish and carry out a pilot program to furnish a headstone or burial marker to veterans who died on or before November 1, 1990; and **Pages H4286–88**

***Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act of 2025:*** H.R. 3481, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for electronic communication relating to educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary. **Page H4295–96**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4299–H4300 and H4300.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICING PROTECTION ACT OF 2025; TO LOWER THE AGE AT WHICH A MINOR MAY BE TRIED AS AN ADULT FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO 14 YEARS OF AGE; DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS REFORM ACT OF 2025; GUARANTEEING RELIABILITY THROUGH THE INTERCONNECTION OF DISPATCHABLE POWER ACT; NATIONAL COAL COUNCIL REESTABLISHMENT ACT; PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT**

**Committee on Rules:** Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 5143, the “District of Columbia Policing Protection Act of 2025”; H.R. 5140, to lower the age at which a minor may be tried as an adult for certain criminal offenses in the District of Columbia to 14 years of age; H.R. 5125, the “District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act of 2025”; H.R. 1047, the “Guaranteeing Reliability through the Interconnection of Dispatchable Power Act”; H.R. 3015, the “National Coal Council Reestablishment Act”; and H.R. 3062, the “Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–2, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4922, the “DC CRIMES Act of 2025”, H.R. 5143, the “District of Columbia Policing Protection Act of 2025”, H.R. 5140, To lower the age at which a minor may be tried as an adult for certain criminal offenses in the District of Columbia to 14 years of age, H.R. 5125, the “District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act of 2025”, H.R. 1047, the “Guaranteeing Reliability through the Interconnection of Dispatchable Power Act”, H.R. 3015, the “National Coal Council Reestablishment Act”, and H.R. 3062, the “Promoting

Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4922, H.R. 5143, H.R. 5140, and H.R. 5125 under closed rules. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of each such bill. The rule provides that the respective amendments in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print specified in section 3 of the rule shall be considered as adopted. Each such bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in each such bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate on each such bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees. The rule provides each such bill one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 1047, the “Guaranteeing Reliability through the Interconnection of Dispatchable Power Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–9 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 3015, the “National Coal Council Reestablishment Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 3062, the “Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill shall be con-

sidered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides that in the engrossment of H.R. 3633, the Clerk shall add the text of H.R. 1919, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 3633; conform the title of H.R. 3633 to reflect the addition of H.R. 1919, as passed by the House, to the engrossment; assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment; and be authorized to make technical corrections, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, page and line numbering, section numbering, and insertion of appropriate headings. The rule further provides that Section 5 of House Resolution 354, agreed to April 29, 2025, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “March 31, 2026”. The rule further provides that Section 2 of House Resolution 313, agreed to April 9, 2025, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “March 31, 2026”. The rule further provides that Section 4 of House Resolution 211, agreed to March 11, 2025, is amended by striking “for the remainder of the first session of the 119th Congress” and inserting “during the period from March 11, 2025, through March 31, 2026”. Finally, the rule provides that the provisions of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622) shall not apply during the period from September 16, 2025, through March 31, 2026, to a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared by the President on July 30, 2025. Testimony was heard from Representatives Higgins of Louisiana, Garcia of California, Latta, and Menendez.

#### ADVANCING VA CARE THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled “Advancing VA Care Through Artificial Intelligence”. Testimony was heard from Charles Worthington, Chief Technology Officer and Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs; Carol Harris, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

#### *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

*Committee on the Judiciary*: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9 a.m., SH-216.

Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine AI chatbots, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

*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 State of the Specialty Crop Industry”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled “No More Surprises: Reforming College Pricing for Students and Families”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Appliance and Building Policies: Restoring the American Dream of Home Ownership and Consumer Choice”, 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “From Gridlock to Growth: Permitting Reform Under the Clean Air Act”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1531, the “PROTECT Taiwan Act”; H.R. 2478, the “Financial Exploitation Prevention Act”; H.R. 3234, to amend the federal deposit insurance act to modify the amount of reciprocal deposits of an insured depository institution that are not considered to be funds obtained by or through a deposit broker, and for other purposes; H.R. 3484, the “Business Owners Protection Act of 2025”; H.R. 3682, the “Financial Stability Oversight Council Improvement Act of 2025”; H.R. 5262, the “Bank Competition Modernization Act”; H.R. 5270, the “Stress Testing Accountability and Transparency Act”; H.R. 5276, the “Community Bank LIFT Act”; H.R. 5291, the “Merchant Banking Modernization Act”; H.R. 5317, the “Community Bank Deposit Access Act of 2025”; and H.R. 5344, the “Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Program Act”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, hearing entitled “Surveying the Threat of Agroterrorism: Perspectives on Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration*, Subcommittee on Elections, hearing entitled “Maintaining Election Operations in the Face of Natural Disasters”, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled “Unmanned and Unchecked: Confronting the Rising Threat of Malicious Drone Use in America”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential”, 10:15 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency, hearing entitled “Playing God with the Weather—A Disastrous Forecast”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement, hearing entitled “From Protection to Persecution: EPA Enforcement Gone Rogue Under the Biden Administration”, 1 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “A One Year Update on DoD’s Struggling Background Check System”, 2 p.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Small Business*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Pathway to Capital: The Role of SBA Lending in Supporting Main Street America”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “Virtue Signaling vs. Vital Services: Where Tax-Exempt Hospitals are Spending Your Tax Dollars”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

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CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 16 through  
September 19, 2025

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will resume consideration of S. 2296, National Defense Authorization Act.

Senators should expect roll call votes on motions to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 60, Emissions Budget and Allowance Allocations for Indiana Under the Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update, at 2:30 p.m., and on Senator Paul’s budget resolution at 5:30 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

*Committee on Armed Services*: September 18, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer, James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation*: September 17, business meeting to consider the nomination of Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Graham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of

Science and Technology Policy, and Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs, 10 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* September 17, business meeting to consider the nomination of Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; to be immediately followed by oversight hearings to examine the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 9:50 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* September 17, business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas DiNanno, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Michael DeSombre, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), Jacob Helberg, of Florida, to be an Under Secretary (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), Benjamin Black, of New York, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, Paul Kapur, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Nicole McGraw, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, Somers Farkas, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, Chris Pratt, of Utah, to be an Assistant Secretary (Political-Military Affairs), Stacey Feinberg, of California, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Leandro Rizzuto, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, Howard Brodie, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Arthur Fisher, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, Nicholas Merrick, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Roman Pipko, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, Anjani Sinha, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, Thomas Rose, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador, Sarah Rogers, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Caleb Orr, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, John Giordano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic, Sean O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, Julie Stuftt, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Bill Bazzi, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia, Melinda Hildebrand, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa

Rica, Todd Wilcox, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary (Diplomatic Security), Riley Barnes, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Dan Negrea, of Connecticut, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and William White, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, all of the Department of State, 9:15 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* September 17, to hold hearings to examine reviewing recent events at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and implications for children's health, 10 a.m., SD-430.

September 18, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the state of K-12 education, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* September 18, business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Free Speech Protection and Reforming Expiring Authorities", an original bill entitled, "Safer Counter-Drone Authorities", S. 1221, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, S. 2283, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie, Oklahoma, as the "Oscar J. Upham Post Office", and S. 252, to increase access to agency guidance documents, 9 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* September 17, to hold hearings to examine Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act successes and opportunities at the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* September 16, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9 a.m., SH-216.

September 16, Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine AI chatbots, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

September 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations, 10:15 a.m., SD-G50.

September 17, Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, to hold hearings to examine missing unaccompanied alien children and criminal sponsors, 2 p.m., SD-226.

September 18, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Jennifer Lee Mascott, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Robert P. Chamberlin, and James D. Maxwell II, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, Edmund G. LaCour, Jr., and Harold D. Mooty III, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Bill Lewis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, David Courcelle, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years, and Scott Leary, to be United States Attorney

for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of four years, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship*: September 17, to hold hearings to examine using the 504 program to build America's manufacturing future, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*: September 17, to hold hearings to examine strengthening services for veterans with spinal cord injury and disorder, 4 p.m., SD-106.

*Select Committee on Intelligence*: September 16, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

September 17, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

*Special Committee on Aging*: September 17, to hold hearings to examine drug safety, supply chains, and the risk to aging Americans, 3:30 p.m., SH-216.

### House Committees

*Committee on Agriculture*, September 18, Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development, hearing entitled "USDA's Rural Development: Delivering Vital Programs and Services to Rural America", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, September 17, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1723, the "Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act"; H.R. 2958, the "Balance the Scales Act"; H.R. 2869, the "EBSA Investigations Transparency Act"; H.R. 2844, the "Michael Enzi Voluntary Protection Program Act"; H.R. 3495, the "Direct Seller and Real Estate Agent Harmonization Act"; and H.R. 5169, the "Retire through Ownership Act", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, September 17, Subcommittee on Health, markup on H.R. 2493, the "Improving Care in Rural America Reauthorization Act of 2025"; H.R. 3419, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant programs; H.R. 2846, to amend title II of the Public Health Service Act to include as an additional right or privilege of commissioned officers of the Public Health Service (and their beneficiaries) certain leave provided under title 10, United States Code to commissioned officers of the Army (or their beneficiaries); H.R. 1262, the "Give Kids a Chance Act of 2025"; H.R. 1843, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to increase transparency in generic drug applications; H.R. 3302, the "Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of 2025"; and H.R. 979, the "AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2025", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 18, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Examining Policies to Enhance Seniors' Access to Breakthrough Medical Technologies", 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, September 17, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "The Reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 17, Task Force on Monetary Policy, hearing entitled "Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Pros-

perity: Less Mandates. More Independence", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 18, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Fraud in Focus: Exposing Financial Threats to American Families", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 18, Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Artificial Intelligence, hearing entitled "Unlocking the Next Generation of AI in the U.S. Financial System for Consumers, Businesses, and Competitiveness", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, September 17, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5244, to provide for the authorities of the Secretary of State; H.R. 5245, to provide for the management authorities of the Department of State; H.R. 5246, to provide for the political affairs authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; H.R. 5247, to provide for the International Security Affairs authorities of the Department of State; H.R. 5248, to ensure the alignment of economic and foreign policies, to position the Department of State to reflect that economic security is national security, and for other purposes; H.R. 5250, to provide for the foreign assistance authority of the Department of State, and for other purposes; H.R. 5251, to provide for the public diplomacy authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; H.R. 5300, to guide the foreign policy of the United States, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5299, to modify and reauthorize the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018, and for other purposes, 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, September 18, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, hearing entitled "Invasion of the Homeland: How China is Using Marijuana to Build a Criminal Network Across America", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, September 17, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 18, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet, hearing entitled "AI at a Crossroads: A Nationwide Strategy or Californication?", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, September 17, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1366, the "Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2025"; H.R. 2306, the "The Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act"; H.R. 2815, the "Cape Fox Land Entitlement Finalization Act of 2025"; H.R. 2916, to authorize, ratify, and confirm the Agreement of Settlement and Compromise to Resolve the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim in the State of New York, and for other purposes; H.R. 3692, to reauthorize the Young Fishermen's Development Act; H.R. 3872, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to make that Act applicable to hardrock minerals; H.R. 4090, to codify certain provisions of certain Executive Orders relating to domestic mining and hardrock mineral resources, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4256, the "Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

September 18, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 309, the “National Law Enforcement Officers Remembrance, Support and Community Outreach Act”; H.R. 2196, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs; H.R. 4284, the “Small Cemetery Conveyance Act”; H.R. 4386, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to clarify entrance privileges for vehicles with respect to the America the Beautiful interagency pass; H.R. 4467, the “Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act”; and H.R. 5131, the “Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, September 17, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “Opening Doors to Opportunity: The Promise of Expanded School Choice and Alternatives to Four-Year College Degrees”, 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

September 17, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled “Shaping Tomorrow: The Future of Artificial Intelligence”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

September 18, Full Committee, hearing entitled Oversight of the District of Columbia”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, September 18, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Igniting America’s Energy Future: The Promise and Progress of Fusion Power”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, September 17, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Streaming Success: Small Busi-

nesses in the Age of Digital Influence”, 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, September 17, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4183, the “Federal Maritime Commission Reauthorization Act of 2025”; H.R. 3962, the “Enhancing Science, Treatment, and Upkeep of America’s Resilient and Important Estuarine Systems Act”; and H.R. 5301, the “Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety Act of 2025”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, September 17, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 842, the “Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act”; H.R. 4313, “Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act”; H.R. 5347, “Health Care Efficiency Through Flexibility Act”; H.R. 5343, the “Ensuring Patient Access to Critical Breakthrough Products Act”; H.R. 5349, the “Tax Court Improvement Act”; H.R. 5346, the “Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act”; H.R. 5284, the “Claiming Age Clarity Act”; H.R. 5345, the “Improving Social Security’s Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act”; H.R. 5348, the “Social Security Child Protection Act of 2025”; and Views and Estimates Letter to the Committee on the Budget, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

### Joint Meeting

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*: September 17, to hold hearings to examine conspiracy theories, antisemitism, and democratic decline, 2 p.m., 2358C–RHOB.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 16

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 16

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will resume consideration of S. 2296, National Defense Authorization Act.

Senators should expect roll call votes on motions to proceed to consideration of S.J.Res. 60, Emissions Budget and Allowance Allocations for Indiana Under the Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update, at 2:30 p.m., and on Senator Paul's budget resolution at 5:30 p.m.

*(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of H.R. 4922—DC CRIMES Act of 2025 (Pursuant to a Rule). Consideration of H.R. 5140—To lower the age at which a minor may be tried as an adult for certain criminal offenses in the District of Columbia to 14 years of age (Pursuant to a Rule).

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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