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No. 151

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 16, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CARLOS A. GIMENEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CONGRATULATING DR. MICHAEL WELSH

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Michael Welsh, a University of Iowa professor of internal medicine, on winning the 2025 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award. The Lasker Award is one of the most prestigious biomedical and clinical research awards.

Dr. Welsh was recognized for his extraordinary research on cystic fibrosis,

which is helping to pave the way to new therapies that are dramatically improving health and extending life for people with cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic lung disease that primarily affects young people. Dr. Welsh's research has been instrumental in understanding the function of a critical CFTR protein and how it causes cystic fibrosis, which has led to the creation of lifesaving therapies. Aided by his medical team, Dr. Welsh created a triple drug combination that treats up to 90 percent of those affected by cystic fibrosis.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Welsh for all of his body of research and congratulations on the Lasker Award.

CONGRATULATING KIRK FERENTZ, THE BIG TEN'S WINNINGEST COACH

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Iowa football coach Kirk Ferentz for becoming the Big Ten's all-time winningest coach.

With the Iowa Hawkeyes 47-7 win over UMass Minutemen on September 13, Coach Kirk Ferentz broke Woody Hayes' record. Coach Ferentz' career started as the first season head coach at the University of Iowa in 1999 and since then he has won two Big Ten titles and conference Coach of the Year four times.

Coach Ferentz is in his 27th season as coach of the Hawkeyes, and he won his 206th game with the program to break the conference's all-time list milestone. He is the longest tenured active head coach in college football, with a 206-124 record at Iowa and a 217-145 career record. This achievement is a testament to Coach Ferentz' leadership and commitment to excellence within the Hawkeye organization.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Ferentz. Go Hawks.

I would like to extend birthday wishes to my amazing husband and partner, Curt Meeks. Happy birthday, Curt.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY FLY-IN

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome to our Nation's Capitol patient advocates from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network for their annual fly-in.

This week, 700 advocates representing every State and all 435 congressional delegations and districts will be raising awareness of the urgent need for policies that improve cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and patient support. It is truly an honor to have these advocates with us this week sharing their stories of resilience, loss, determination, and hope.

Like so many of these advocates, I know firsthand the impact cancer can have on our families. On June 10, 2021, I lost my beloved mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell, to pancreatic cancer. Like so many patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, my mother's cancer was not detected until it was stage IV, and therefore, was not treatable.

Tragically, the cancer took her life 8 short weeks after her diagnosis. It was a shock to our entire family, the lingering effects of which I feel every day.

In an effort to turn my pain into passion, I made a commitment to do all that I could to prevent other families from experiencing such a painful loss. That is why I am proud to be leading legislation alongside my Republican colleague, Congressman JODEY ARRINGTON from Texas, to expand access to early detection cancer screenings.

Our bill, the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act, would create a pathway for Medicare to cover emerging blood tests, once FDA approved, which holds the promise of screening for up to 40 types of cancers with a single blood draw.

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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H4315

When it comes to cancer, we know that early detection is our best protection, and that is exactly what this bill will do. It is about ensuring that those who are most at risk can catch cancer early and stop it before it spreads.

Thanks to the advocacy of the American Cancer Society and their partners, our bill has bipartisan support. Mr. Speaker, 295 House Members and 62 Senators have cosponsored it.

Last Congress, Jodey surprised me by renaming the legislation in honor of my late mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell, of Selma, Alabama, who passed away in 2021 from pancreatic cancer.

Who was she?

My mom was a devout Christian who lived a life of faith, an exemplary educator, and a library media specialist. She served in the Selma public school system for 36 years where she shaped minds and uplifted children. As a librarian, she was a strong advocate for reading, initiating the Reading is Fundamental, RIF, program in 1973, delivering books to children throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. It is a program that still serves children in Selma and Dallas County and Alabama's rural Black Belt today.

Nancy Sewell was a trailblazing civic leader. She became the first African-American woman elected to Selma's city council and served as an inspirational role model for women in politics.

Her favorite saying was: Bloom where you are planted.

We can make a difference right where we are, and she made a big difference in the lives of so many people whom she touched.

Again, I want to thank the American Cancer Society and their more than 700 supporters for honoring my mother on this day of advocacy, her birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join us in this important effort. Let's pass H.R. 842, the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act and pave the way for a world without cancer.

□ 1010

HURRICANE MARÍA'S 8-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. For the benefit of my constituents and the communities affected, I will offer my remarks in Spanish.

Hoy me paro aquí con la voz prestada de un pueblo que no olvida. Hace ocho años, el 20 de septiembre, Puerto Rico amaneció desgarrado—no sólo en términos de su infraestructura pero en cuanto al alma de su gente. El huracán María no fue solo un fenómeno atmosférico, sino una odisea que dolorosamente reflejó la fortaleza del pueblo de Puerto Rico y de lo que ocurre cuando se combina el colapso de

la infraestructura con años de negligencia institucional.

Por eso, hoy me honra presentar una resolución para conmemorar este aniversario solemne, para reconocer a quienes se perdieron, a quienes resistieron, y a un pueblo que se levantó con dignidad frente al abandono.

Se cayeron los techos. Se apagó la luz. Pero quizás lo más doloroso fue el silencio. No sólo la falta de comunicación, sino la ausencia de respuesta efectiva, de coordinación, de urgencia. Ese vacío se sintió como el silencio dentro del ojo del huracán: una calma engañosa, que no promete alivio, sino que anuncia que lo peor aún está por llegar.

Recuerdo a los viejitos cargando cubos de agua por lomas empinadas. Madres haciendo fila por hielo para conservar la insulina. Vecinos compartiendo una planta eléctrica como quien comparte un pedazo de esperanza. Y recuerdo a muchos—a demasados—que murieron sin que su nombre contara en una estadística oficial. Más de 4,000 vidas. No fue una cifra. Fue una negligencia.

Pero los nuestros no esperaron permiso para sobrevivir. Rescataron a sus vecinos con sogas y machetes. Improvisaron clínicas. Reabrieron escuelas sin electricidad. María no solo destruyó edificios. Nos robó a abuelas, a padres, a hijos, que murieron no por el viento, sino por el abandono. Y esa es una verdad que debe doler. Que debe incomodar. Porque el olvido también es una forma de violencia.

Tantas conversaciones sobre los problemas que enfrenta Puerto Rico hoy, especialmente en términos de problemas de infraestructura, empiezan con mencionar al huracán María. "Desde María", dicen. Y creo que, de tanto repetirlo, se nos olvida el dolor. El horror.

Por eso, hoy más que reclamar, quiero recordar. Recordar a los que no vivieron para contar su historia. Recordar a los que sobrevivieron, pero cargan cicatrices invisibles. Recordar lo que el país tuvo que hacer, solo, para poder respirar.

Porque honrar a los que sobrevivieron—y a los que no—exige más que memoria: exige justicia.

Hoy seguimos luchando por reconstruir nuestra red eléctrica, por modernizar nuestra infraestructura, por garantizar servicios de salud resilientes y acceso digno a la vivienda. Seguimos luchando por energía confiable, por justicia social, y por un trato justo ante la ley.

Puerto Rico siguió adelante porque su gente nunca se rindió. Porque en medio del caos, y la oscuridad, fue la solidaridad, el valor y la dignidad del pueblo lo que sostuvo la isla. Esa es la verdad que no se puede ignorar ni borrar. Porque aunque María fue una herida profunda, la respuesta de nuestra gente fue una de fuerza indomable. Y aunque aún estamos sanando, seguimos adelante. Seguimos

adelante, con la mirada puesta en la reconstrucción y en un futuro digno.

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

Today I stand here with the voice borrowed from a people who do not forget. Eight years ago, on September 20, Puerto Rico woke up torn—not only in terms of its infrastructure but in the very soul of its people. Hurricane María was not just a meteorological event, but an odyssey that painfully reflected the strength of the people of Puerto Rico and what happens when the collapse of infrastructure is combined with years of institutional neglect.

That is why today I am honored to introduce a resolution to commemorate this solemn anniversary—to recognize those we lost, those who endured, and a people who rose with dignity in the face of abandonment.

Roofs collapsed. The lights went out. But perhaps the most painful thing was the silence. Not just the lack of communication, but the absence of an effective response, of coordination, and of urgency. That void felt like the silence inside the eye of the hurricane: a deceptive calm, which does not promise relief, but rather announces that the worst is yet to come.

I remember the elderly carrying buckets of water up steep hills. Mothers lining up for ice to keep insulin cold. Neighbors sharing a generator like someone sharing a piece of hope. And I remember many—too many—who died without their names being counted in an official statistic. More than 4,000 lives. It wasn't a number. It was negligence.

But our people did not wait for permission to survive. They rescued their neighbors with ropes and machetes. They improvised clinics. They reopened schools without electricity. María didn't just destroy buildings. It stole from us grandmothers, parents, children, who died not from the wind, but from abandonment. And that is a truth that should hurt. Which should make us uncomfortable. Because forgetting is also a form of violence.

So many conversations about the problems Puerto Rico faces today, especially in terms of infrastructure problems, begin with mentioning Hurricane María. "From María," they say. And I think that, by repeating it so often, we forget the pain. The horror.

Therefore, today more than complaining, I want to remember. Remember those who did not live to tell their story. Remember those who survived, but carry invisible scars. Remember what the island had to do, alone, to be able to breathe.

Because honoring those who survived—and those who did not—demands more than memory: it demands justice.

Today we continue fighting to rebuild our electrical grid, to modernize our infrastructure, to guarantee resilient health services and dignified access to housing. We continue to fight for reliable energy, for social justice, and for equal treatment under the law.

Puerto Rico kept going because its people never gave up. Because in the midst of chaos and darkness, it was the solidarity, courage and dignity of the people that sustained the island. That is the truth that cannot be ignored or erased. Because although María was a deep wound, the response of our people was one of unbreakable strength. And although we are still healing, we move forward. We move forward, with our eyes set on reconstruction and a dignified future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

VISIT TO BLUEBONNET DETENTION FACILITY

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I visited the Bluebonnet Detention Facility in Anson, Texas, about 3 hours outside of Dallas. What I saw was deeply disturbing. It speaks to the harmful policies under Donald Trump and Secretary Noem, policies that are ripping families apart, wasting taxpayer dollars, and making our communities less safe.

Bluebonnet was built to house prisoners under the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, but in 2019 the first Trump administration handed a contract to a private prison company to convert it into an ICE detention center. Today, instead of prioritizing dangerous criminals, those who commit rape, murder, or trafficking drugs, people who pose real threats to our communities, ICE is filling this facility with people who have done absolutely nothing wrong and are being targeted simply because of the color of their skin.

As a Member of Congress and as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I have both the right and the responsibility to see what is happening inside these facilities. For years, Members of Congress could visit unannounced, but under Secretary Noem, that right was stripped away. My team and I worked for weeks just to gain entry and finally got a scheduled appointment.

When I visited, 1,079 people were being detained at Bluebonnet. Nearly 700 of them, almost two-thirds, were designated by ICE itself as a low threat. Let me repeat: Hundreds of people with no violent history, no record of serious crimes, targeted solely because of the color of their skin, were denied their constitutional rights and then locked away in a detention center.

I met with several detained individuals. Here is a common story that we came across. A man came here more than two decades ago and worked a blue-collar job. He raised his family in Texas. He has children whom he loves and who depend on him. He hasn't committed any violent crimes or sold any drugs. His only offense was a traffic stop. Now, he faces deportation to a country he left decades ago.

My question is: How is this fair? Why are people who are contributing to our economy, who are working hard and making sure that our citizens are being taken care of, being targeted instead of all of the violent criminals?

This is what is happening under Trump. They are not prioritizing threats to public safety. They are not going after violent offenders. They are

taking workers out of our economy. They are spreading fear in communities where families should feel safe, and they are doing it with our taxpayer dollars.

Let me be very clear. Locking up people who pose no danger to our communities does not make us safer. It weakens us. It destabilizes families. It wastes resources that should be used to pursue violent criminals, traffickers, and those who actually endanger our neighbors.

As I left the detention center that day, an employee from ICE made one request: Stop politicizing us.

It is the White House that needs to hear this message most of all. Trump and Secretary Noem are not using taxpayer dollars to keep communities safe; they are using it as political theater. They dress up in ICE jackets, parade through detention centers, and turn detainees into props for their campaigns.

This isn't law enforcement. It is performance. It makes a mockery of our justice system by prioritizing sensational videos over safety and cruelty over compassion. This is political theater at the expense of human lives.

We need a smarter and fairer approach. That means alternatives to detention that allow people to remain with their families while their case moves forward. It means investing in an immigration system that is fair, fast, and final so that people can have their cases heard in front of a judge and are not left in limbo for years. It means prioritizing dangerous individuals, not hardworking parents who have built their lives in our communities.

People who play by the rules, follow the law, and adhere to the guidelines laid out before them should never be targeted because of the color of their skin and denied due process. Our society should not accept this, and this administration needs to put a stop to this injustice.

That is what I saw at Bluebonnet, a betrayal of our values as a nation. We are a country of immigrants. We are a country that claims to honor family, community, and fairness. Yet, the Trump administration is locking up people who are simply trying to work, raise families, and contribute to our community. This is not about fairness or safety, and it is not who we claim to be as Americans.

Congress must step up and hold this administration accountable. We must work in a bipartisan way to build an immigration system that keeps people safe and ensures that people's rights are respected. Locking up neighbors who pose no threat does not make us stronger. It divides us. It weakens us, and it undermines everything that we stand for.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MILLIE ORTIZ SHEEHAN

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and times of Millie Ortiz Sheehan. Today, we are naming a street after her in the town of Greenburgh where she did so much to help her community and her people.

Millie was born in New York City, the daughter of Miguel and Cruz Ortiz. She graduated from Baruch College where she met her husband, Francis. Together, they spent over 40 years married, with two children and four grandchildren.

Millie was a school psychologist with over 30 years of experience in the Greenburgh Central School District and still had time to be active in numerous community groups and worthwhile projects that helped her neighbors, particularly the youth of her town. She was a spectacular cook to boot.

Millie's loss came unexpectedly and tragically, but we remember her and her life, and we join the community in valuing her life spent caring about others. Her name on that street sign will ensure that Greenburgh will never ever forget her.

□ 1020

HONORING THE LIFE OF LYNNE TROTTER WAGSTAFF

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, every now and then, there are people born who personify the essence of love in action. On November 2, 1946, Lynne Louise Trotter, later Lynne Louise Trotter Wagstaff, was born in Harlem, New York. She was one of those people.

Lynne attended St. Catherine of Siena and graduated from St. Pascal Baylon High School. She loved to dance and attended Johnson Dance Studio during her youth. Her summers were enriched, and she formed lifelong bonds at Camp Minisink, a camp for African-American youth in New York City.

Lynne met her husband of 47 years, William O. Wagstaff, Jr., at Central State. He was a Kappa and a football player, two criteria she later joked were on her checklist for potential mates in college. They were married on August 5, 1978, and purchased their first home in Mount Vernon, New York.

Although her childhood dream was to become an actress, she decided to pursue a career as an educator. Over the years, she was an elementary school teacher, a reading teacher, an assistant principal, and retired as the principal of P.S. 112, located in the Edenwald neighborhood of the Bronx.

Lynne spent her entire career in public education and felt it was her responsibility not only to educate but to provide care and safety for children who were often underserved and overlooked, either due to their race or economic status.

Lynne's love for her family was her foundation, and she poured into her family, always being a reliable supporter. Even when a relative might have felt that life's challenges left them fighting alone, she was always there.

Lynne leaves to carry on her legacy William O. Wagstaff, Jr.; William O. Wagstaff, III; William O. Wagstaff, IV; her daughter-in-law, Christina; and bonus children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, and friends who have become family.

It is an honor to recognize Lynne on the House floor today.

CELEBRATING DAN OLDEWAGE ON HIS CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of my good neighbor, Dan Oldewage, another one of our Greatest Generation.

Dan began serving our country as a B-24 Liberator nose gunner with the U.S. Army in World War II. Just a few years later, he was again called to serve our great country, this time in the Korean war.

On a bombing mission over Korea, his plane was hit by enemy fire, and the crew was forced to parachute over enemy territory. Dan was captured by the North Korean army, where he was tortured for 30 months. He survived and returned to the United States in 1953. At that time, he moved to Orange County, where his family has lived since then.

Today, I wish Dan a happy birthday and thank him for his service to our great country.

CELEBRATING LOWRIDER CULTURE

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate "Lowrider Culture in the United States," a traveling exhibition that is currently on display in the city of Anaheim.

Lowriding is a Latino tradition that has been alive in this country since the 1940s. This car restoration tradition captures a blend of Latino soul, creativity, and perseverance. This new exhibit by the Smithsonian tells the stories of Mexican Americans in the United States since World War II.

From the beginning, Mexican Americans have always been part of this great country and our great national history. I invite everyone to visit the Museo Museum in Anaheim to celebrate this great culture.

RECOGNIZING BETH MARTINKO

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beth Martinko for her advocacy for people with disabilities on Medicaid.

Beth's son, Josh, is an adult with severe autism who relies on Medicaid programs for medication and support. She asks all of us not to cut Medicaid.

Beth moved her family from Maryland to Anaheim not just because her

son loves Disneyland but also because of California's visionary healthcare programs.

Beth is her son's primary caregiver and knows just how devastating Medicaid cuts would be to her and her son. In her words, she fears that her son will "fall out of the network and die."

I call on my colleagues to join me in defending these programs that so many of our constituents rely on, on a day-to-day basis.

RECOGNIZING KATRINA JOY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Katrina Joy for winning the National Education Association Foundation's 2025 Award for Teaching Excellence.

Ms. Joy has taught at Magnolia High School in Anaheim for 20 years. At Magnolia, she is active both inside and outside the classroom in helping students become better citizens.

Ms. Joy has always encouraged students to give back to their communities. Recently, her students built a pop-up library to help more students in the community have access to library books.

During the pandemic, she founded the nonprofit Magnolia SAFE to address food insecurity and other basic needs of Magnolia High School students and the surrounding community. She has also raised more than \$100,000 since March 2020.

I thank Ms. Joy, Teacher Joy, for being a role model in our community, and I congratulate her on an honor well-deserved.

HONORING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S 225TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a cornerstone of faith and community in Winchester, Virginia, First Presbyterian Church, which is celebrating its 225th anniversary this September under the leadership of Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas.

Founded in 1800 but with roots reaching back to the earliest days of Winchester, First Presbyterian has stood as a witness to history and as a steadfast presence in the lives of generations. From hosting the funeral of Revolutionary War hero Daniel Morgan to opening one of the first Sunday schools south of the Mason-Dixon Line, its story is woven into the fabric of our Nation's growth.

What really makes this church remarkable is its service. First Presbyterian helped to establish the Free Medical Clinic, Jubilee Kitchen, and many other initiatives that have lifted our neighbors in times of need. Even today, the congregation continues to live out its faith through community service, disaster response, and care for creation.

Mr. Speaker, for 225 years, First Presbyterian Church has embodied the values of faith, service, and resilience. On behalf of the people of Virginia's

Shenandoah Valley, I congratulate them on this milestone and thank them for their unwavering commitment to God and community.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SENIORS FIRST

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Seniors First, the Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging.

In 1965, with the passage of the Older Americans Act, Congress laid the foundation for home and community-based services so that older Americans could live with dignity, health, and independence. That vision remains alive today through organizations like Seniors First.

Since its incorporation in 1975, Seniors First has served as the only comprehensive regional provider for older adults across the northern Shenandoah Valley. From Meals on Wheels and personal care to transportation, senior centers, and insurance counseling, these services make it possible for older Virginians to remain at home while being supported and connected to their communities.

This vital work is carried forward by a dedicated team of senior center managers: Joe Babcock of Shenandoah County, Tina Landis of Winchester, Amy Courtney of Page County, Misty Alger of Warren County, Erica Owens of Clarke County, and Renee Carr of Frederick County, led by Executive Director Jimmy Roberts.

For 50 years, Seniors First has exemplified dignity, compassion, and service. I congratulate them on this milestone and thank them for their continued commitment to our older neighbors.

□ 1030

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES JAMES KIRK

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Charles James Kirk. At just 31 years old, Charlie accomplished what many could only hope to accomplish in a lifetime. He built a movement, inspired the next generation to love their country, and stood for the principles he believed in.

Charlie's commitment to free speech and open dialogue on college campuses was at the core of his mission. He believed that young people should not only be heard but also equipped to engage respectfully in the exchange of ideas. In an era when open discussion is too often silenced, Charlie's voice reminded us all of the importance of defending our First Amendment rights.

He was a man of deep faith, grounded in Christ, and he shared those traditional values with countless people across the Nation.

His life reflected courage and conviction, a combination that left a lasting impact on students, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

While his time with us was far too short, Charlie's legacy will endure. It lives on in the students he mentored, the conversations he sparked, and the love of country he instilled in so many.

Today, we honor not only his achievements but also the values he championed and the example he set for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, may God comfort his wife, Erika, his children, and all those whose lives he touched. May we continue to carry forward his commitment to free speech and open dialogue that defined Charlie's remarkable life.

BOLSTERING AMERICA'S GRID RELIABILITY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, families and businesses in Virginia's Sixth District are paying the price for failed energy policies. Reliability has suffered and communities are left uncertain whether the lights will stay on. That is why I strongly support the GRID Power Act.

This commonsense bill cuts through red tape and empowers grid operators to prioritize power generation projects that actually improve reliability and affordability. For too long, unreliable energy sources have been propped up while reliable options in coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydropower have been forced into premature retirement. Meanwhile, subsidies have been shoveled into wind and solar despite these intermittent sources being unable to fully replace the stability and affordability that traditional energy generation provides.

The facts are clear: More than 95 percent of projects in the interconnection queue are wind, solar, or battery storage, yet only 5 percent are ever completed. Meanwhile, critical projects face years of delay. Families should not have to pay for two grids: one for wind and solar and another backup system for when the wind isn't blowing and the Sun isn't shining. The GRID Power Act ensures we get back to building affordable and reliable energy.

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

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DOGE

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to discuss something that should alarm every American citizen.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, DOGE or so-called DOGE employees, have been rummaging through people's individual Social Security records.

For the general public's awareness, DOGE is the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, initially led by Elon Musk until there was a breakup of the bromance between he and President Trump, but DOGE still persists.

Mr. Speaker, as you know—and it has to be as much a concern to you as it is to me—having more than 127,000 Social Security recipients in your district whose information is private and secure, is being rummaged through by twentysomethings who have no accountability, have never been vetted, and who will not come before Congress.

I asked Chairman ESTES last week in our subcommittee meeting to bring

DOGE forward to please tell us what they are doing rummaging through everyone's personal data and information.

Ranking Member NEAL and I are going to introduce a resolution of inquiry to bring DOGE before Congress. Every Member, Republican and Democrat, should be concerned about this. Every American citizen should be aware that DOGE has taken all of that information and stored it in a cloud, a/k/a another site that is vulnerable, that anyone can hack into, and that the Social Security Administration has no access to. No one is allowed to look at that data who hasn't been vetted, as was testified before the Ways and Means Committee last week.

How is it that DOGE employees are exempt because they are above the law? It requires the United States Congress to call them in front of us. If they are doing such a great job with efficiency, and if that was their goal, clearly they ought to be able to come before Congress and testify as to what they have found.

Mr. Speaker, I think every American should be aware that what is really going on here is an attempt to get at your data and your information and to further attempt to privatize Social Security. That is the end goal.

When you look at the layoffs that have occurred at the Social Security Administration, when you look at what has happened to the regional offices, when you look at the basic phone service and the inability of people to contact and speak with a human being, it should astound and awaken every single American.

I hope that all Americans who may be listening to this or people in the audience who may be listening to this take to heart what is happening with their personal data and information.

Why should anyone, let alone unvetted, unaccountable DOGE people, go through your personal records? Why do they need that information? What does that have to do with government efficiency, and why did they steal them and put them in an insecure cloud that anyone could hack from the outside?

This is an abomination, and it needs to be corrected. It can very easily be corrected by the legislation that we have introduced calling to make sure that DOGE comes before Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans need to stand up and call them to come before us.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Holy and righteous God, You reign over all things. Your hand directs our steps, and Your Word determines the living of our lives.

Rule over this week and the legislation considered, the issues debated, and the answers sought. Place Your hand on our conduct and order our purpose. Reveal Your will that it would govern our actions and preside over our intentions.

With our whole hearts, minds, and souls, may we show our love for You by responding with every ounce of our emotion, every inclination of our will, to live according to Your revealed law.

May we ensure that our inner lives yield to Your control. May we take pains to conform our energy and reconcile our efforts to reflect to our children and our children's children, to our communities, and to our country that we owe everything to You. We serve You only, and so we dedicate ourselves to do what is right and good in Your sight.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. EZELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING ABUNDANT LIFE EVANGELISTIC CHURCH IN BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable milestone for a cornerstone of faith and service in south Mississippi.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Abundant Life Evangelistic Church in Biloxi, Mississippi. For more than three decades, this church has been more than a house of worship. It has been a place of hope, healing, and community for thousands of families on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Under the steadfast leadership of Bishop Jason Johnson and his wife, First Lady Kim Johnson, Abundant Life has grown into a vibrant congregation committed to spreading the Gospel of Christ and uplifting those in need.

From youth outreach to disaster relief and from mentoring programs to feeding the hungry, the church has never wavered in its mission to live out the love of Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the entire church family for their 35 years of faithful service, and I pray for many more years of impact and growth.

God bless Abundant Life Evangelistic Church, and God bless the great State of Mississippi.

RELEASE FOOD AID SITTING FOR 9 MONTHS

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise for the 40th time to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

When kids are starving to death, their organs break down. Even if we are able to feed them conventional food, they cannot digest it. It takes specialized nutrition to bring them back to health, including the nutrition manufactured by Edesia Nutrition in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, in my district, where thousands of boxes of emergency food aid have been sitting in a warehouse since Donald Trump and Elon Musk froze the program back in January.

They continue to promise that the program is going to come back online any day now and that those boxes will be shipped, but it has been 9 months.

Starving children cannot survive on promises. They cannot survive on words. They cannot survive on tweets, purchase orders, or RFPs. They need this food aid to move.

The administration needs to keep its word and act with urgency, and I will speak on this floor every day until they do.

HONORING CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Constitution Day approaches.

The assassination of Charlie Kirk is a watershed moment for free speech. Charlie made a name for himself exercising his First Amendment rights. He was shot answering a question from a liberal influencer.

His assassination sends a message that if you disagree on the wrong issues, you might end up paying for it, even with your life.

Regardless of politics, Americans don't want a country where people are shot for their views.

Freedom of speech is under serious threat. From gender ideology to race, the far left has weaponized political correctness, punishing dissenters with social and professional consequences.

If we want the First Amendment to survive this moment, we must restore respect for the rule of law and confront the factors fueling division.

Charlie Kirk was reaching out to the other side when he died, and to honor his legacy, we should do the same.

PROVIDING STABILITY FOR FRANCHISES

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to welcome franchisors, franchisees, and suppliers to our Nation's Capitol as we connect Main Streets across America.

I highlight H.R. 5267, the American Franchise Act. Congress must provide stability for the franchise model of small business by aligning Federal statute with longstanding precedent.

In North Carolina, there are more than 30,000 franchises, employing more than 300,000 workers and generating over \$30 billion in revenue. That represents jobs, paychecks, and opportunities for families.

H.R. 5267 ends the uncertainty, ensuring owners have the clarity they need to keep hiring and investing in communities across our country.

It is about fairness, opportunity, and ensuring entrepreneurs from every walk of life have a real shot at living the American Dream.

PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful for the passage last week of the National Defense Authorization Act championed by Armed Services Committee Chairman MIKE ROGERS. The legislation supports over 45 executive orders from President Donald Trump and funds peace through strength.

Authorizations provide a 3.8 percent pay increase and improvement of housing and education, funds to fight drug traffickers and deploy troops to the

border, and funding to counteract the subversive activities of the Chinese Communist Party.

I appreciate initiatives to support funding for the defense research projects at the University of South Carolina and missions at the Savannah River Site.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war continues. Trump is re-instituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength; revealing war criminal Putin lies; insulting Trump and mocking Trump as Russian drones invade Poland, repeating history of September 17, 1939, 86 years ago tomorrow, when Stalin joined Hitler in invading Poland, murdering over 60,000 Poles.

Remember Charlie Kirk, God, family, country.

□ 1210

RURAL REPRESENTATION MUST BE HEARD

(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, my colleagues might have heard about the redistricting scam going on in California, which has set off a wave of a bunch of them around the country.

Indeed, what has happened is that about 15 years ago Californians put in place a commission to take the responsibility of making the new district maps out of the grubby hands of legislators. We see the current process they are doing, if we want to call it a process, is exactly why.

They have taken maps of who represents what parts of the State and have completely drawn them for partisan reasons. Basically, in this case it is in order to eliminate up to five Republican seats, drawing urban areas into the rural ones. What is really bad about that is that rural representation will no longer be heard. In those areas, we will have people who will only have their issues represented by urban people who want to take their water supply away from agriculture.

They keep introducing wolves into areas of the Northeast and the rural areas of California. This devastates wildlife and livestock. They let the timber burn so we have massive fires because they would rather kowtow to a few environmental groups in the urban areas. That is what we are getting with these district lines. We are only getting urban voices and not rural.

Mr. Speaker, I also ask everyone to please remember Iryna Zarutskia. She was killed needlessly by a guy who had been released 14 times.

REMEMBERING GOVERNOR JIM EDGAR

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, who passed away on September 14 at the age of 79.

Raised in Charleston, Illinois, Governor Edgar devoted his life to public service with integrity, humility, and thoughtfulness. After attending Eastern Illinois University, where he met his beloved wife, Brenda, he embarked on a career that led him to serve as the 38th Governor of Illinois.

Governor Edgar embodied the very essence of principled public leadership. From his early service in the Illinois House to his distinguished tenure as secretary of state and, ultimately, his election as Governor in 1990, he went on to win election by the widest majority of any incumbent Illinois chief executive.

Confronting the largest deficit in State history, he exercised prudence and courage, restoring fiscal discipline, reforming welfare, and advancing education for every child in Illinois.

In 2013, I was honored to participate in his namesake, the Edgar Fellows program, which reflects his vision of fostering bipartisanship and developing the next generation of principled leaders in Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, my heartfelt prayers are with his wife, Brenda; his children, Brad and Elizabeth; and the entire Edgar family. His legacy of service, statesmanship, and decency will endure for generations to come.

Rest in Peace, Governor Edgar.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4922, DC CRIMINAL REFORMS TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE EVERYONE SAFE ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICING PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5140, LOWERING AGE AT WHICH A MINOR MAY BE TRIED AS ADULT FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5125, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS REFORM ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1047, GUARANTEEING RELIABILITY THROUGH THE INTERCONNECTION OF DISPATCHABLE POWER ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3015, NATIONAL COAL COUNCIL REESTABLISHMENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3062, PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 707 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 707

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House any bill specified in section 2 of this resolution. All points of order against consideration of each such bill are waived. Respective amendments in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print specified in section 3 of this resolution shall be considered as adopted. Each such bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in each such bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on each such bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. The bills referred to in the first section of this resolution are as follows:

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) 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.

SEC. 3. The Rules Committee Prints referred to in the first section of this resolution are as follows:

(a) With respect to H.R. 4922, Rules Committee Print 119-10.

(b) With respect to H.R. 5143, Rules Committee Print 119-11.

(c) With respect to H.R. 5140, Rules Committee Print 119-12.

(d) With respect to H.R. 5125, Rules Committee Print 119-13.

SEC. 4. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House 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. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. 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. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House 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. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. 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. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House 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. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. 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. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. In the engrossment of the bill (H.R. 3633) to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and for other purposes, the Clerk shall—

(a) add the text of the bill (H.R. 1919) to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 3633;

(b) conform the title of H.R. 3633 to reflect the addition of H.R. 1919, as passed by the House, to the engrossment;

(c) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment;

(d) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment; and

(e) be authorized to make technical corrections, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, page and line numbering, section numbering, and insertion of appropriate headings.

SEC. 8. Section 5 of House Resolution 354, agreed to April 29, 2025, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “March 31, 2026”.

SEC. 9. Section 2 of House Resolution 313, agreed to April 9, 2025, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “March 31, 2026”.

SEC. 10. 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”.

SEC. 11. 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1220

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 707 provides for consideration of seven measures. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4922, H.R. 5140, H.R. 5143, and H.R. 5125 under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees.

The rule provides each bill with one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 3015, H.R. 3062, and H.R. 1047 under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate each equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their designees.

The rule provides each bill with one motion to recommit.

The rule also 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 a new matter at the end of H.R. 3633.

Further, the rule tolls the day counts regarding resolutions of inquiry until March 31, 2026.

Finally, the rule tolls the day counts until March 31, 2026, regarding joint resolutions terminating the national emergencies declared by the President on February 1, 2025; April 2, 2025; and July 30, 2025.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation. The rule before us provides an opportunity for Congress to reverse the disastrous energy and crime policies left behind by the previous administration and restore accountability where needed the most.

For far too long, the American people have been forced to live under a regulatory agenda that drove up costs,

weakened our grid, and made our communities less safe. These measures begin to roll back that damage and put us on a stronger and safer trajectory.

To restore accountability in our energy policies, this rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3015, the National Coal Council Reestablishment Act. This legislation permanently restores the National Coal Council, an advisory body for nearly four decades, providing expert recommendations on matters affecting the American coal sector.

Established in 1984, the council delivered 40 reports to the Secretary of Energy on coal markets, research and development into clean coal technologies, and regulatory barriers that affect the coal industry.

However, in 2021, at the behest of leftwing organizations, the Biden administration disregarded this history and disbanded the council, replacing it with an advisory body charged with fulfilling the left's Green New Deal agenda. Make no mistake. This was not about policy, it was about shutting coal out of the conversation, an essential piece of our Nation's energy matrix.

The United States is home to the world's largest coal reserves, with approximately 440 years' worth of supply at current production levels. Today, our fleet of over 400 coal-fired power plants provide 16 percent of America's electricity, and in five States, coal provides more than one-half. In 17 States it provides more than 20 percent. Together, the coal industry supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, lifts up small communities across the country, and provides affordable and reliable baseload power that helps keep prices stable.

Premature retirements of coal plants are being driven by Federal and State policies that intentionally attack their financial viability, yet the demand for electricity is only going up.

Since 2022, the retirement of 29,000 megawatts of coal capacity has been delayed because of rising demand and insufficient replacement resources. To put it bluntly, removing coal from the grid at this moment in time would lead to higher costs and greater instability for families and businesses. This is a reality that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to acknowledge.

In New York we are already seeing what these anti-energy radical policies have done: shutting down production of reliable baseload power in favor of pursuing unrealistic and dangerous green agenda items.

Now, despite widespread public opposition, Governor Kathy Hochul and Albany Democrats are moving forward with a ban on natural gas and propane hookups in new construction starting in 2026. That means families in western New York, where winters are long, snow is great, and it is cold and oftentimes dangerous in these terrible winter storms, they will be denied the ability to choose the energy source that best keeps them safe and warm in their

homes. Taking affordable and reliable options off the table is not sound policy.

It is assaults like this on consumer choice and on the freedom to use reliable, affordable energy like coal and natural gas that leave people more vulnerable when the power goes out. That is why it matters who is at the table. When it comes to energy policy, this measure makes the National Coal Council permanent, so future administrations can't simply shut it down for political reasons.

H.R. 3015 also reinforces President Trump's April 8, 2025, executive order to reinvigorate America's clean coal industry recognizing that coal must remain part of our future if we want to ensure future prosperity, meet rising electricity demands, and lower costs for families.

By reestablishing the National Coal Council, Congress will ensure that reliable, affordable baseload power remains a cornerstone of our energy policy while supporting family-sustaining jobs and fueling next-generation industries like artificial intelligence.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 3062, the Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act. This measure creates a transparent and permanent framework for permitting pipelines and other cross-border energy projects.

For years, developers have been subject to political gamesmanship, destroyed investments, and stranded jobs. The cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline was not based on science; it was simply based on politics. The Biden administration sided with radical activists over American workers in energy security for our country.

We have seen the same story play out in my own State of New York. The Northern Access pipeline was a major natural gas infrastructure project that promised thousands of good-paying jobs, more affordable energy for families across the northeastern United States, and new tax revenue for rural communities like mine in the southern tier.

However, instead of moving forward, that project was tied up with endless red tape and obstructed by regulators. Western New York and the southern tier lost jobs and investment in energy security that would have come from it. A project that should have supported a large construction workforce and strengthened our region was derailed again because of politics.

This is exactly why permitting reform is needed and is needed now. Without certainty, projects like this will continue to slip away, taking good jobs and economic growth with them.

Energy developers, workers, and communities all deserve better. Yet when it comes to the permitting reforms that would actually allow critical energy projects to move forward, Democrats have consistently acquiesced to the demands of radical environmental groups instead of the needs

of American workers and their families.

The result is higher costs and fewer options for American families. This legislation cuts through that red tape, gives developers certainty, and ensures critical projects can move forward.

□ 1230

In addition, the rule includes H.R. 1047, the Guaranteeing Reliability Through the Interconnection of Dispatchable Power Act.

Year after year, projects that would keep the lights on and lower bills are stuck in the interconnection queues and regulatory wait lists. Sometimes as long as 7 years they are stuck there. That is simply unacceptable. Families do not care about bureaucratic excuses. They care about whether their homes are heated in the winter and cooled in the summer. This legislation cuts through that backlog. It empowers grid operators to prioritize projects that actually enhance reliability.

Let us be clear about how we got here. Democrats have spent years forcing premature retirements of coal, nuclear, and natural gas through excessive regulation, while shoveling subsidies to wind and solar. The result is interconnection queues flooded with projects that only have a 5 percent completion rate.

Meanwhile, Democrat policies have left ratepayers footing the bill for two grids. One grid props up wind and solar with massive transmission costs. The other is the backup power we all rely on when the Sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing.

This measure puts reliability first. It follows the lead of major grid operators who know the danger of relying too heavily on intermittent sources, and it makes sure that the grid is strong enough not only to keep the lights on at home but also to power next-generation industries like AI and manufacturing so America, not China, leads the future.

Mr. Speaker, energy security is, simply put, national security. The rule before us takes important steps to keep power reliable and affordable and American made.

But security is not just about the strength of our grid. It is also about the safety of our communities. Nowhere is that failure of safety more visible than right here in our Nation's capital.

While Washington should be a place that is showcased as what is the very best of America, it has instead become a city struggling with violent crime, juvenile offenses, and weakened law enforcement. The next measures in this rule take direct aim at those failures and restore accountability where the D.C. council has refused to act.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 4922, the D.C. Crimes Act of 2025. This legislation reasserts congressional oversight over the District by prohibiting the D.C. council from further pursuing its progressive, soft-on-crime sentencing guidelines.

The council has failed to keep residents and visitors from our country and from around the world safe. Even as violent crime has soared, police staffing has dropped to a 50-year low. This measure takes direct aim at the council's reckless decisions. It lowers the definition of a youth offender from under 25 to under 18 where it belongs so that adults are simply treated as adults.

It ends judicial discretion that allows juvenile, violent offenders to escape mandatory minimums, and it prohibits the council from weakening mandatory minimums on sentencing guidelines any further.

Make no mistake, carjackings and robberies by juveniles are out of control. More than 500 minors were arrested for robbery in 2023, and more carjackings were committed by juveniles. Every American should be able to visit their Nation's capital without fear of being the next victim.

We know all too well what happens when local leaders choose leniency over accountability. In my home State of New York, cashless bail has unleashed a wave of tragic and entirely preventable outcomes. Governor Hochul and Democrats have doubled down on procriminal policies that put violent offenders back on our streets, leaving families and communities to suffer the consequences. The American people deserve better. New Yorkers deserve better. People in Washington, D.C., deserve better, and President Trump has already stepped in to end cashless bail here in Washington. It is long past time for New York to follow that lead.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 5140, the District of Columbia juvenile sentencing reform act. Since the pandemic, juvenile crime has surged. More than 2,000 juveniles were arrested in both 2023 and 2024. According to the Metropolitan Police Department, over half of robbery arrests last year were juveniles. This year, juveniles account for more than half of carjacking arrests. This legislation responds to that reality.

Current law allows juveniles 16 and older to be tried as adults for violent crimes. This measure lowers that age to 14. These are not youthful mistakes. They are violent, life-altering crimes.

Consider the tragic example of Mohammad Anwar, a hardworking immigrant killed in 2021 by two teenage girls during a carjacking. Both will be back on the streets by the age of 21.

In July of 2023, another Lyft driver, who previously served as an interpreter for the U.S. military in Afghanistan, was fatally shot while driving. The teen responsible was just 14 years old. They were sentenced to only 3 years of secure detention. Old enough to commit horrific and senseless murder, yet he will be back on the streets in just 3 years.

Let me be clear. This legislation applies only to violent crimes: murder, first degree sexual abuse, burglary in

the first degree, and robbery while armed. These are serious offenses that endanger residents and visitors to our Nation's capital every day. They demand serious consequences to truly restore law and order.

The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 5143, the District of Columbia Policing Protection Act. In 2023, the council imposed a set of restrictions that require officers to evaluate a checklist of 14 factors to decide whether to pursue a fleeing suspect. One of those factors even requires an officer to determine whether anyone in the suspect's car had a chance to surrender a weapon. That is absurd. Officers rarely have time or information to work through such a checklist when a suspect takes off.

This legislation repeals those restrictions. It restores discretion to trained officers. It allows pursuit when an officer or supervisor determines it is necessary, the most effective means of apprehension, and does not present an unreasonable risk to bystanders. Officers must be able to act quickly to protect lives, and this measure restores that authority.

Finally, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5125, the District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act. The Judicial Nomination Commission currently limits President Trump's choices for D.C. judges to a very narrow list of names. That process is slow, it is politicized, and it is very likely unconstitutional under the appointments clause. The result has been persistent vacancies, clogged courts, and criminals slipping through the cracks.

This legislation abolishes the commission and restores normal constitutional processes. The President nominates; the Senate confirms. That is how it works everywhere else in America, and that is how it should work right here in D.C. A duly elected President should not be bound by a bureaucratic commission when choosing judges. By ending this broken system, we can fill vacancies faster, strengthen courts, and ensure justice is delivered without delay.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats' soft-on-crime policies have failed in D.C. just as they have failed in States like New York. These bills hold the line, restore accountability, and put public safety ahead of politics.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we just heard a whole lot of words from the gentleman from New York, but the bills before us today are yet another example of how backward Republican priorities are and how they are hurting this country, hurting the economic well-being of the people I represent, and hurting the economic

well-being of working people all over this country.

People are stressed about their budgets. They are worried about prices going up. They are scared they might lose their jobs. People are struggling to pay the bills and make ends meet, worried about saving for college for their kids and how they are going to deal with the exploding costs of healthcare.

Instead of addressing any of that, we are dealing with this. When we are not dealing with this, Republicans are obsessed with fighting culture wars. That is what they want 24/7: culture wars, culture wars, culture wars. Some of them are now proposing a new committee to investigate their political opponents, a new House un-American activities committee that would make Joe McCarthy blush. That is all this place is to Republicans: a venue for culture wars, a venue for legislation to further divide people and divide this country. Meanwhile, they do nothing, absolutely nothing for everyday people, nothing at all.

□ 1240

Actually, it is worse than nothing. They are actively trying to screw over regular people. Look no further than yesterday. Democrats tried to force a vote on Trump's tariffs, and nearly every Republican blocked it. Every one of them is now on record as supporting Trump's disastrous tariffs. They are not just ignoring the economy. They are making it worse.

For the other side, this is all about genuflecting to Donald Trump. It is all about power for the sake of power. It is not about the American people. It has never been about the American people for Republicans. It is about power, and they use that power to help the rich, the well-connected, and the well-off.

Four of these bills that we are going to be dealing with are about local issues in Washington, D.C., something none of my constituents have ever asked me about. For the record, 0.2 percent of the U.S. population lives in Washington, D.C., and Republicans want to get into the weeds about their local policing policies.

Do you know what my constituents ask me about? They don't ask me about local issues that affect Washington, D.C. They ask me about why their healthcare insurance premiums are going up. They ask me about prices going up because of Donald Trump's tariffs. They tell me they need more money in their pockets to make ends meet.

Yet, week after week, Republicans do nothing about healthcare and nothing about inflation. It is constant culture wars. It is constant giveaways to the rich and powerful. It is constant distractions.

One of the Republican bills that we are considering today reestablishes a coal council—not even establishes, reestablishes. Wow, that is really important, a coal council. Who the hell asked for that? A coal lobbyist?

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Energy already reestablished this stupid council months ago. It is apparently so important that President Trump hasn't even bothered to appoint anyone to it yet. If you look up their website, he still hasn't appointed anybody to the council. Go to the website.

This is stupid. We are wasting time by doing this. Energy prices are going up in this country, and this is the majority's response: reestablishing a coal council. You can't make this stuff up. This is laughable.

The other bills that Republicans are bringing forward today are giveaways to polluters who dump toxic chemicals into our air and water. Why? Follow the money. Did the CEO of ExxonMobil call Donald Trump and ask for a favor?

Mr. Speaker, all of these bills are a disgrace. The people we represent want us to address the real issues that we face every day. They want us to talk about the cost of living, healthcare, and fixing what is broken with this country's economic system.

Meanwhile, as we are gathering here to do this stuff, the clock is ticking toward a shutdown. Republicans control the House. They control the Senate. They control the White House. They should be able to fund the government, but they won't. They won't.

Let me be clear: Democrats are not going to stand by and do nothing while my Republican colleagues try to kick millions of people off their healthcare.

I hear that the Speaker of the House is saying that it is no big deal, that we will just kick the can down the road, deal with it sometime, maybe in December, and talk about it then.

Let me be clear. I will speak in "See Spot Run" language so that my Republican colleagues can understand. Mr. Speaker, the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, says that 1.5 million people—that is a lot of people—will lose their healthcare if we wait. People's premiums—that is, their monthly payments—will go way, way up because the insurance companies are making important decisions right now about how much to charge. We do not have time to wait.

Mr. Speaker, now that that is clear, Republicans have three choices: First, they can work with us in a bipartisan way to make sure it doesn't happen. Second, they could do what Trump said and pass the CR alone since they control government. Third, they can choose to shut the government down.

Those are the three options. Democrats are for keeping the government open, but we are not for passing legislation that tells millions of people who we represent, including sick people: Good luck. You are on your own. Best wishes.

We are not for that. If there is a shutdown, I say that Republicans own this. It is their shutdown. If Republicans would rather shut down the government than protect people's healthcare, then we do not share the same values.

I want to keep people on healthcare, not kick them off. I go home and ask

people what they care about. I go to coffee shops and county fairs. I hold townhalls—something Republicans should try to do, by the way. Do you know what I hear from my constituents? They are sick and tired of those at the top getting ahead while they struggle to pay their bills.

They are sick and tired of Republicans in Congress passing bills to help the rich while everyone else has to breathe in dirty air and drink dirty water.

They are sick and tired of this culture war garbage and this weird obsession that Republicans have with micro-managing Washington, D.C. They want Republicans to leave Washington, D.C., the hell alone and focus on their own damned communities.

They are sick and tired of Republicans trying to kick people off of their healthcare to pay for taxes for multi-millionaires and billionaires.

These are rotten bills. To top it all off, we have seven more completely closed rules with no amendments allowed. Take it or leave it from this Republican majority. I think we ought to leave it. These are terrible bills that are going to hurt the people we represent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle love to talk about affordability. They love to play class warfare, but if Democrats were serious about lowering costs for working families, then they wouldn't have spent the last 4 years driving energy prices higher with more regulations, higher taxes, and subsidies that pick winners and losers.

Families have felt the pain every time they fill up their gas tank, pay their rising utility bills, or try to keep their lights on in their small businesses.

Republicans, working with President Trump, are focused on real solutions: Restoring energy policy that unleashes production here at home secures our grid, delivers reliable, affordable power that families and businesses can count on, and creates jobs in the process. That is exactly what this rule is about.

The three energy bills before us are straightforward. They support family-sustaining energy jobs. They streamline approvals for cross-border infrastructure and ensure reliable and dispatchable generation for the grid. Together, they mean lower bills for families, stronger supply chains, and a more competitive America.

When Democrats talk about affordability, they don't have a leg to stand on in this fight because it is their assault on the American energy industry that led to so much of the inflation that this country suffered under for the last 5 years.

The answer is right here in the rule, and we need to support this legislation.

I strongly support the legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I want to touch on the gentleman's comments on tariffs.

Republicans are doing what Democrats promised the American people for generations that they would do but utterly failed at: ensuring fair trade, protecting American workers, and bringing countries to the negotiating table in the process. For years, Democrats sold a bill of goods to working-class Americans while they turned a blind eye as their factories closed and their jobs were shipped overseas.

Today, Democrats claim to be the party of working families, and we know that is not the case. Yet, it is President Trump, over the Democrats' loud objections, who is fighting for fair trade deals for our working families, like the working families in New York's 23rd Congressional District.

Access to the American economy is a privilege, not a right. President Trump is using tariffs as leverage to reduce reciprocal barriers, safeguard our national security, and level the global playing field for American producers and manufacturers, and it is working.

Treasury has already collected more than \$29 billion in tariff revenue this year, while countries like India, China, and South Korea are at the table negotiating new deals as we speak.

This is the same decisive leadership that secured stronger trade agreements with the EU, Japan, the U.K., and partners across Asia. These aren't trade wars. They are trade wins that deliver more jobs, higher wages, and greater opportunities for American families and American products around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the same focus on protecting working families is exactly what we are doing with the bills before us today. This rule advances common-sense legislation to strengthen our grid, unleash American energy, and restore coal's role in the mix.

Also, let's not underplay what it means to protect the people of Washington, D.C., which we do have a Federal oversight responsibility for. Having a crime-ridden Nation's Capital is unacceptable by any metric.

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

□ 1250

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are protecting American families, my foot. You just passed this big, ugly bill that throws millions of people off of healthcare, that gives tax breaks to multimillionaires and billionaires, and then you accuse us of playing class warfare because we are trying to stick up for the middle class in this country, for working families. You can't call it class warfare when you are giving tax breaks to multimillionaires and billionaires while cutting people's healthcare benefits.

Let me just say for the record that in the gentleman's district, New York

District 23, as of 2024, 6,000 people in his district received tax credits to help lower their monthly premium payments to make quality comprehensive health insurance coverage more affordable, and these tax credits are due to expire. These people are going to lose their healthcare or they are going to see their premiums go through the roof.

For a 60-year-old couple earning \$82,800 a year in the gentleman's district, annual premiums would increase by \$7,349. That is a 110 percent increase.

For a family of four earning \$129,800 a year, ages 45 and up, the annual premium would increase by \$17,741. That is a 172 percent increase.

For a family of four earning \$64,000 a year, the annual premiums would increase by \$2,571. That is a 369 percent increase.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know. I guess in his district his constituents don't care about that. According to him, they care more about micromanaging D.C.

In my district and in other districts that I know of in this country, people are worried about their healthcare costs, and we ought to do something about it. We shouldn't kick the can down the road so more and more people end up feeling the pain.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to strike sections 9, 10, and 11, which together block privileged consideration of measures ending the administration's global tariffs and tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and Brazil until March 31, 2026.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump made a campaign promise that he would lower prices "on day one," yet Trump's disastrous trade war continues to increase the prices Americans are paying for food, for gas, and for other everyday goods.

According to independent estimates, Trump's current tariff regime is resulting in a \$2,300 tax increase in 2025 alone for the average American household. Fruits, vegetables, beef, and coffee are just some of the products experiencing the highest price increases. Go to a supermarket for heaven's sake in your district and you will know what I am talking about.

This is not what the American people voted for. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit recently held that Trump's tariffs that he imposed under the guise of bogus emergencies are unlawful and that Congress, not the President, must make the calls when it comes to imposing new tariffs.

As we await the Supreme Court's decision, Congress should be voting on these tariffs and whether they should remain in place, but in the Republican rule, they are, again, blocking the Congress from taking a vote on whether we should keep or remove these emergency tariffs.

The President imposed huge tariffs on Canada and Mexico in February, global tariffs in April, and most recently, a 50 percent tariff on Brazil be-

cause he didn't like that his friend, Brazil's disgraced former President, was just tried and convicted of trying to overthrow a democratic election to stay in power.

Mr. Speaker, does that remind you of anyone, by the way?

The American people paid \$30 billion in new tariff taxes in August alone, and Republicans are continuing to hide their heads in the sand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for God's sake, we ought to do our work. We ought to live up to our constitutional responsibility and debate and vote on these things. I am sorry that the President has instructed you to do nothing, but we ought to do something.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the distinguished ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, to discuss our proposal.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MCGOVERN for his continued leadership on the Rules Committee. I thank him for his leadership in the people's House and for him always putting the working American first.

Mr. Speaker, I heard my colleague say he is proud of the tariffs. We need to do one thing: let's vote on it. Let's vote. That is how you will see where we are. Let's vote on it. Let it go to the floor. Let's review the tape from the past year.

President Trump has declared bogus international emergencies as a pretext to tax imports from Canada, Mexico, and then the whole world, passing these costs right to the hardworking American people. He wanted to protect his friend, as Mr. MCGOVERN said, former President Bolsonaro, so he then announced another pseudo emergency to impose yet more tariffs on Brazil.

The law that Donald Trump is using for tariffs on everyday consumer goods was, in fact, meant to respond to actual global emergencies, not personal vendettas. That is why Congress reserved power under the law to author privileged resolutions to end any fake emergencies used to grab Congress' power to tax.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleague from New York: Let's vote on it. Why block a vote on the floor to see where Members of the House stand?

Just as multiple courts have now found, Trump's tariffs are illegal. The House is also acting in contravention of the spirit of the law by avoiding votes instead of having votes like the vote on my privileged resolution to end these unjustified tariffs that harm Americans. We can vote on it.

Speaker JOHNSON is doing this by literally declaring, again, that a day is

not a day for the purpose of the international emergency law. A day is not a day, but he is just doing what the other Speaker—the President, but he is acting as Speaker—is doing what he is told.

This gameplaying is not the norm. Actually, just across the Capitol, the Republican Senate, they are taking votes on similar resolutions that have been offered. The Senate voted in a bipartisan way to end the Canada emergency, but Speaker JOHNSON is refusing to allow that to happen.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MEEKS. The House should have a say. Even last Congress, the Republican majority had votes on privileged resolutions under the emergency law.

I can understand why some of my colleagues across the aisle might wish to avoid such a vote. They don't want to be seen raising taxes and increasing costs on everyday families in this country, but their inaction is doing just that, by letting Donald Trump's fake emergencies and tariffs continue unchecked.

Let me propose a solution: Do your job. The American people elected us to take those tough votes. It is our time. The cameras of history are rolling and what they are going to see is the Republican majority shying away from the spotlight. Vote "no" on this rule.

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

Mr. Speaker, let's set the record straight. There is a lot to unpack there and a lot of talk about playing games, but what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to admit is how during the COVID-19 pandemic they had intentionally passed premium tax credits with a sunset allowing them to expire and, in the process, playing politics with the healthcare of millions of Americans.

If Democrats truly supported these credits, as they claim they now do, being made permanent, they would have made them permanent when they controlled both Chambers of Congress and the White House. It would have been suggested by President Biden when he was in the White House that it should have been a priority of the Congress. They refused to do so. They never brought that up.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, this is a pattern with Democrats. They would rather use working families for their political means and ends than genuinely work to make their lives better. The American people see that for what it is. Mr. Speaker, you are hearing: The sky is falling. Everyone is going to lose their healthcare if this is not attached to a CR at this moment.

Yes, we do have the majority. I am confident we will pass the CR in the

House. However, Mr. Speaker, you know darn well that in the Senate, Leader SCHUMER will hold the majority hostage using the filibuster to force us into a shutdown, just like they threatened to do in March. I mean, that is the tactic that is being played. All these expectations are being set by the other side, knowing that they have a trap door, and they intend to try to leverage the American people to get more of their political will accomplished.

Republicans already voted to deliver lower premiums for patients by passing H.R. 1, which targeted waste, fraud, and abuse across the ACA marketplace. Democrats unanimously opposed this bill, showing once again they are not serious about solving affordability problems for everyday Americans, just like they are not serious about trying to keep the government open. If they were, they would have supported these commonsense policies. Instead, they would rather play politics.

Mr. Speaker, what we are actually debating today are commonsense measures in this rule to strengthen American energy policy, to keep violent crime off our streets here in our Capital City. These bills are about lowering costs for working families, keeping our communities safe and restoring accountability. We are getting the job done with or without their support.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am confused by what the gentleman said. I don't know whether he supports the ACA tax credits or not. If he doesn't, then 6,000 of his constituents will be adversely impacted. If he does, then we should just fix it right now. By the way, Republicans all opposed the ACA when it came up, so I don't want to hear that garbage.

Don't blame the Senate. Donald Trump just said to Republicans over in the Senate: Do it on your own. I think what he is referring to was just last week Republicans nuked the filibuster when it comes to nominations. Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the White House. Basically what they are telling us is that they don't give a damn about working families in this country, and that is what is at stake here.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this rule further erodes the system of checks and balances that has served our democracy so well. Republicans, through it, are surrendering more and more unrestrained power to President Trump. This rule is but another step on the march to tyranny.

Trump is seeking to create a master file of information on every single American, a digital ID tracking your movements, where you live, where you work, when you see a doctor, how much money you have, even child support agreements, and much more. Today, Republicans are simply

rubberstamping that plan, the very kind of surveillance and intrusion that Libertarians have always opposed.

Today, these Republicans are blocking us from presenting any resolution of inquiry concerning the Trump administration, like the one that I introduced on June 11 to demand the facts from the administration about all of its wrongdoing, including what confidential information it has accumulated on each American. Your data becomes fully public and available to President Trump even as the Epstein files remain fully buried.

Republicans are keeping the American people ignorant of what Trump is doing with their private data: Ignorant of how he may use it against his political enemies or his business competitors, ignorant of what he may do if you have ever expressed any criticism of him, his family, his policies, or maybe you just expressed support for someone that with his latest whim he is opposed to. Now he will have a master file that includes you to persecute and even prosecute.

Too intimidated by this self-proclaimed king, Republicans are empowering what could become a police state. To shed light on this descent into authoritarian darkness, to let the American people know how their own government is centralizing their personal data, I introduced a resolution of inquiry demanding that the administration produce all the information related to the creation of this vast searchable database with its hand-picked contractor, Palantir, a company that one Silicon Valley executive accused of building the infrastructure of the police state.

I do agree with one Republican, Representative WARREN DAVIDSON, who does believe in freedom and has described Trump's deal with Palantir as dangerous and has said when you start combining all these data points on individuals into one database, it really essentially creates a digital ID, and it is a power that history says will eventually be abused. With this administration, "eventually" will be very soon.

A vote for this rule is a vote to bury the truth and allow the Federal Government to track Americans and invade their privacy with no restraint. I strongly urge my colleagues to stand up for freedom and reject this rule.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues across the aisle want to pretend Republicans are manufacturing a crime crisis in our Nation's Capital, but the facts tell a completely different story. Under President Biden and Democratic leadership, Washington, D.C., became one of the most dangerous cities in America.

In 2023, D.C. had the fourth highest homicide rate in the Nation, trailing only New Orleans, St. Louis, and Detroit. If D.C. were a State, it would have had the highest homicide rate in America. That number could be even higher because, as we know, D.C. officials may have manipulated the crime

data to hide the true extent of the problem.

Democrats would rather fudge the numbers to justify their radical policy experiments in places like D.C. than actually protect communities from violent crime. The same thing is happening in my home State of New York. They would rather quibble over process arguments and gaslighting using false statistics than acknowledge how many lives have been saved since President Trump took action to enforce law and order in the streets of Washington.

This is how unserious and radical today's Democratic Party has become. Contrast this with what has happened since President Trump stepped in. In the 20 days following the Federal surge, carjackings dropped 87 percent compared to the same period last year. Across the board, violent crime fell 39 percent, burglaries dropped 45 percent, and carjackings fell 75. More than 2,700 arrests were made and 323 firearms were recovered. These aren't talking points. They are results. They are real safety improvements felt by families here in the District of Columbia.

While Democrats scramble to defend their failed policies and liberal experiments in America's major cities, and they downplay the true cost in lives that come from policies that have long been supported in these cities, Republicans are restoring accountability, enforcing the law, and delivering real results to make our communities safer. That is exactly what this rule is about.

The legislation before us strengthens accountability here in Washington, D.C., our Nation's Capital. It should be the gem of the country, and it will be again. If Democrats are truly serious about protecting families, they should support this rule and all of the underlying legislation, which is common sense to support law and order and protect the lives of the residents and the visitors to this great city.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, you have got to love these Republicans. They spend more time talking about micromanaging 0.2 percent of the American population in D.C. and more worried about that than they are worried about the fact that over 99 percent of the American people are about to see their premiums go up. Millions of people are going to lose their healthcare. We just have a different set of priorities. We have a different set of priorities.

By the way, when we talk about national security, healthcare is part of it. If you don't have healthcare, you don't have security.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, when Republicans vote in favor of today's rule, they will be voting in favor of higher coffee prices, higher car prices, and higher prices for

car seats and strollers. Republicans will be voting for inflation.

They buried a provision in today's rule which prevents the House from voting or even debating Trump's tariffs. Trump imposed a 50 percent tariff on Brazil because he didn't like the fact that that sovereign country was prosecuting a former President for staging a violent coup.

Now Republicans are making people pay for Trump's protection of that convicted President in Brazil every time they buy coffee. That tariff doesn't serve any economic purpose. Thanks to Trump's tariffs, Americans across the country are already paying more for their coffee, whether they drink Folgers or the New Mexico Pinon Coffee that we love at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

□ 1310

The Constitution says Congress should levy taxes and tariffs, but Republicans don't have the courage to stand up to Trump, to stand up for their constituents, the constituents who are taking food out of their grocery carts because grocery inflation is back.

Remember, consumers pay for the tariffs, not foreign countries. Don't brag about how much has been collected for tariffs because that is money that has essentially been taken away from American families.

I hope my Republican colleagues realize what they are doing to American working families and stop this madness. They can't hide behind this rule and say they didn't vote on the tariffs.

Republicans have been warned. They should know what they are doing when they vote for this rule. When they vote for this rule, they are voting to continue Trump's tariffflation.

Vote against tariffflation. Vote against this rule.

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

Mr. Speaker, the authors of inflation, the creators of inflation on the other side of this Chamber, the people who hypercharged an economy and drove down the value of our dollar, are now going to lecture us on why groceries cost so much. Where the hell have they been for the last 4 years? Where were they when Americans were struggling with the cost of their groceries because gas was up near \$4 a gallon?

Their policies determined that when they ran all facets of the government. Now, they have this revisionist history, and they want to talk about a cup of coffee.

The tariff negotiations that President Trump has used have created new deals and new markets for our products around the globe. It is making a more competitive America, and we are not going to be taken advantage of by other countries anymore.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned just a few moments ago, Republicans are blocking a vote on Trump's tariffs in this rule. I think it is pretty obvious why. The consequences of his economic policy are being felt in communities across this country, and Republicans know they can't defend it. That is why they are not doing townhalls.

Moms and dads are coming home with pink slips because their employers don't know if they can keep the doors open. Small businesses are shuttering. Farmers are struggling under higher input costs and shrinking markets.

Food, gas, electricity, basic goods and services—the prices are all up. They are likely to climb even higher as Trump's tariffs ripple through the supply chain. It is clear that the Trump economy is not working for average Americans.

President Trump and Republicans promised to reduce inflation. Instead, last month, we saw the largest monthly increase in inflation since January.

They promised to reduce grocery prices. Instead, last month, grocery prices spiked at the fastest pace in 3 years, driven in part by tariff-fueled costs.

They promised to cut electricity prices in half. Instead, August electricity prices were 6 percent higher than they were a year ago, and Americans are having to navigate a weakening job market and rising costs.

Fruits and vegetables are up nearly 2 percent. Dairy products are up 1.3 percent. Cereal and bread are up 1.1 percent. Meat, poultry, fish, and eggs are all up a whopping 5.6 percent. Give me a break.

Mr. Speaker, let's be frank. The only winners in Trump's economy are millionaires and billionaires. He packed his Cabinet with the rich and well-connected. Republicans' reconciliation bill hands out nearly \$100,000 in tax cuts for those making over a million dollars a year in 2027 alone.

Just last week, the Trump administration started rolling back efforts to crack down on offshore tax shelters that billionaires and giant corporations use to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. Who does that?

Mr. Speaker, Trump promised an economy for the American people, but time and time again, his tariffs and policies have only delivered for the ultrarich, while families, farmers, and small businesses pay the price. We ought to be voting on this stuff.

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

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

Again, more and more class warfare, Mr. Speaker. We hear the term "millionaires and billionaires" thrown around. Yet, every single one of them voted against all the tax benefits that would have helped the middle class and will continue to help the middle class.

The minority voted against no tax on tips, against no tax on overtime,

against doubling the child tax credit, and against doubling the standard deduction, all things that put serious money back into the pockets of my constituents.

Now, to my colleague, \$1,800, \$2,000, \$2,500 might not seem like a lot to him, but it might be two mortgage payments to my constituents. Yet, every single one of them voted no.

I will not be lectured, and none of us should be lectured by people who stood in the way of getting that tax code made permanent.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, is the gentleman talking about the reconciliation bill that the Republicans brought to the floor that resulted in trillions and trillions of dollars and more debt, all to give multimillionaires and multibillionaires a tax cut? I mean, I am sorry. If there is class warfare going on here, I know which side my Republican friends are on.

Mr. Speaker, millions of everyday Americans all across the country are about to get notice that their healthcare premiums are going to skyrocket, including in the gentleman's district. Moms, dads, and grandparents, people working two jobs just to get by, are going to be at their kitchen tables, facing the awful decision of which bills to pay.

For nearly 24 million people in this country who have ACA marketplace health insurance, premiums will increase, on average, by 93 percent. A 60-year-old couple making \$80,000 per year will see their premiums increase by over \$17,000 per year. That is like \$1,400 per month. A family of four earning \$64,000 will owe an extra \$2,600 in healthcare premiums every year.

Where on Earth are families supposed to find this kind of extra money, Mr. Speaker? We are talking hundreds and hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars. That is not extra change that you can find in your couch cushion.

It will mean 5 million people, including 2 million with chronic conditions, lose their healthcare coverage altogether.

It will mean older adults have to choose between paying their high energy bills and affording their healthcare.

It will mean families going without food because their healthcare premiums are unaffordable.

It will mean people fall behind on their rent just so they can afford basic healthcare in the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world.

This is a crisis, Mr. Speaker. It is a crisis of the Republicans' own making. Instead of spending the summer working with Democrats to address this looming healthcare cliff, Republicans spent it instead slashing Medicaid by a trillion dollars, kicking 15 million people off their coverage altogether,

blocking access to cancer screening and prenatal care by defunding Planned Parenthood, cutting NIH's budget, and taking food away from families with teenagers, veterans, and older adults, which will make them less healthy, all to give tax breaks to Elon Musk and Trump's billionaire friends.

Honest to God, Mr. Speaker, I have no idea what to say to the working families who visit my office scared to death that their healthcare costs are going to force them to go broke.

I don't know how my Republican friends can talk to people back home in their districts, regular people, hard-working people, and somehow justify what they are doing. I guess many of them don't because they don't do town-halls.

With all due respect to the Speaker of the House, no, this actually cannot wait. I understand why they are trying to minimize the crisis that they created, I really do, but hardworking people back home are counting on us, Mr. Speaker.

Congress must address this looming healthcare crisis now, including one of the most significant healthcare premium hikes in history, and the historic cuts to Medicaid that are closing hospitals and nursing homes on a daily basis, to give families peace of mind that they won't go bankrupt trying to afford their healthcare.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FINE). The gentleman from Massachusetts has 1 minute remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am losing my voice but not my passion.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is simple. Families are being crushed by high prices. Rent, groceries, gas, and healthcare are all going up.

What are Republicans doing? They are obsessed with micromanaging Washington, D.C., with not one, not two, not three, but four different bills today about Washington, D.C.

I hate to break it to Republicans, but none of the people whom I represent, and I think none of the people from the gentleman's district, live in Washington, D.C., which leads me to wonder why the hell Republicans are wasting time on this nonsense.

□ 1320

Mr. Speaker, the other bills that we are dealing with hand out favors to Big Coal and Big Oil. Again, there is nothing for regular families from these guys. There is nothing for average Americans. They have no vision and no plan for economic growth.

The bottom line is that healthcare premiums are about to go through the

roof. People will see their healthcare bills explode because these guys refuse to act.

Republicans are putting ideology over everyday people. They are putting headlines over solutions. They are playing games instead of governing.

All of this—micromanaging D.C. and the coal commission garbage—is what the Republicans are focused on while the government teeters on the edge of a shutdown, while Trump's tariffs drive up prices, and while millions of people are about to get kicked off their health insurance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, for far too long, Americans have been forced to endure higher costs, weaker energy security, and rising crime because of policies pushed by the left.

The American people rejected that approach last November, and they elected a President and a Congress committed to restoring accountability, protecting families, and ensuring our future is built on reliable and affordable American energy.

The measures in this rule fulfill that promise. They strengthen our grid, cut through bureaucratic red tape, and make sure America, not China, leads in powering the next generation.

They also hold the line on public safety by rolling back soft-on-crime policies here in our Nation's Capital in Washington, D.C., and they restore the accountability that local leaders have refused to enforce.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the rule before us today and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 707 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Strike sections 9, 10, and 11.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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 question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FINE) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 707;

Adoption of House Resolution 707, if ordered; and

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2721.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4922, DC CRIMINAL REFORMS TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE EVERYONE SAFE ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICING PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5140, LOWERING AGE AT WHICH A MINOR MAY BE TRIED AS ADULT FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5125, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS REFORM ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1047, GUARANTEEING RELIABILITY THROUGH THE INTERCONNECTION OF DISPATCHABLE POWER ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3015, NATIONAL COAL COUNCIL REESTABLISHMENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3062, PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 213, nays 207, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 267]

YEAS—213

Aderholt	Crawford	Guthrie
Alford	Crenshaw	Hageman
Allen	Davidson	Hamadeh (AZ)
Amodei (NV)	De La Cruz	Haridopolos
Arrington	DesJarlais	Harrigan
Babin	Diaz-Balart	Harris (MD)
Bacon	Donalds	Harris (NC)
Baird	Downing	Harshbarger
Balderson	Dunn (FL)	Hern (OK)
Barr	Edwards	Higgins (LA)
Barrett	Ellzey	Hill (AR)
Baumgartner	Emmer	Hinson
Bean (FL)	Estes	Houchin
Begich	Evans (CO)	Hudson
Bentz	Ezell	Huizenga
Bergman	Fedorchak	Hunt
Bice	Feenstra	Hurd (CO)
Biggs (AZ)	Fine	Issa
Biggs (SC)	Finstad	Jack
Bilirakis	Fischbach	Jackson (TX)
Boebert	Fitzgerald	James
Bost	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (SD)
Brecheen	Fleischmann	Jordan
Bresnahan	Flood	Joyce (OH)
Buchanan	Fong	Joyce (PA)
Burchett	Foxx	Kean
Burlison	Franklin, Scott	Kelly (MS)
Calvert	Fry	Kelly (PA)
Cammack	Fulcher	Kennedy (UT)
Carey	Garbarino	Kiggans (VA)
Carter (GA)	Gill (TX)	Kiley (CA)
Carter (TX)	Gimenez	Kim
Ciscomani	Goldman (TX)	Knott
Cline	Gonzales, Tony	Kustoff
Cloud	Gooden	LaHood
Clyde	Gosar	LaLota
Cole	Graves	Langworthy
Collins	Greene (GA)	Latta
Comer	Griffith	Lawler
Crane	Grothman	Lee (FL)
Crank	Guest	Letlow

Loudermilk	Nehls	Smucker
Lucas	Newhouse	Spartz
Luna	Norman	Staubert
Luttrell	Nunn (IA)	Stefanik
Mace	Obernolte	Steil
Mackenzie	Ogles	Steube
Malliotakis	Onder	Strong
Maloy	Owens	Stutzman
Mann	Palmer	Taylor
Massie	Patronis	Tenney
Mast	Perry	Thompson (PA)
McCaul	Pfleger	Tiffany
McClain	Reschenthaler	Timmons
McClintock	Rogers (AL)	Turner (OH)
McCormick	Rogers (KY)	Valadao
McDowell	Rose	Van Drew
McGuire	Rouzer	Van Duyne
Meuser	Rulli	Van Orden
Miller (IL)	Salazar	Wagner
Miller (OH)	Scalise	Walberg
Miller (WV)	Schmidt	Weber (TX)
Miller-Meeks	Schweikert	Webster (FL)
Mills	Scott, Austin	Westerman
Moolenaar	Self	Wied
Moore (AL)	Sessions	Williams (TX)
Moore (NC)	Shreve	Wilson (SC)
Moore (UT)	Simpson	Wittman
Moore (WV)	Smith (MO)	Womack
Moran	Smith (NE)	Yakym
Murphy	Smith (NJ)	Zinke

NAYS—207

Adams	Garcia (CA)	Nadler
Aguilar	Garcia (IL)	Neal
Amo	Garcia (TX)	Neguse
Ansari	Gillen	Norcross
Auchincloss	Golden (ME)	Ocasio-Cortez
Balint	Goldman (NY)	Olszewski
Barragan	Gomez	Omar
Beatty	Gonzalez, V.	Pallone
Bell	Goodlander	Panetta
Bera	Gottheimer	Pappas
Beyer	Green, Al (TX)	Pelosi
Bishop	Harder (CA)	Perez
Bonamici	Hayes	Peters
Brown	Himes	Pettersen
Brownley	Horsford	Pingree
Budzinski	Houlihan	Pocan
Bynum	Hoyer	Pou
Carbajal	Hoyle (OR)	Pressley
Carson	Huffman	Quigley
Carter (LA)	Jackson (IL)	Ramirez
Casar	Jacobs	Randall
Case	Jayapal	Raskin
Casten	Jeffries	Riley (NY)
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Rivas
Castro (TX)	Johnson (TX)	Ross
Cherfilus-	Kamlager-Dove	Ruiz
McCormick	Kaptur	Ryan
Chu	Keating	Salinas
Cisneros	Kelly (IL)	Sánchez
Clark (MA)	Kennedy (NY)	Scanlon
Clarke (NY)	Khanna	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Krishnamoorthi	Schneider
Clyburn	Landsman	Scholten
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Schrier
Conaway	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Correa	Latimer	Scott, David
Costa	Lee (NV)	Sewell
Courtney	Lee (PA)	Sherman
Craig	Leger Fernandez	Simon
Crockett	Levin	Smith (WA)
Crow	Liccardo	Sorensen
Cuellar	Lieu	Soto
Davids (KS)	Lofgren	Stansbury
Davis (IL)	Lynch	Stanton
Davis (NC)	Magaziner	Stevens
Dean (PA)	Mannion	Strickland
DeGette	Matsui	Subramanyam
DeLauro	McBath	Suozi
DelBene	McBride	Swalwell
Deluzio	McClain Delaney	Sykes
DeSaulnier	McClellan	Takano
Dexter	McCollum	Thanedar
Dingell	McDonald Rivet	Thompson (CA)
Doggett	McGarvey	Thompson (MS)
Elfreh	McGovern	Tlaib
Escobar	McIver	Tokuda
Españall	Meeks	Tonko
Evans (PA)	Menendez	Torres (CA)
Fields	Meng	Torres (NY)
Figures	Min	Trahan
Fletcher	Moore (WI)	Tran
Foster	Morelle	Underwood
Foushee	Morrisson	Vargas
Frankel, Lois	Moskowitz	Vasquez
Friedman	Moulton	Veasey
Frost	Mrvan	Velázquez
Garamendi	Mullin	Vindman

Walkinshaw
Wasserman
Schultz

Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides

Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Rulli
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenny
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao

Van Drew
Van Dуйne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOT VOTING—11

Boyle (PA)
Fallon
Gray
Ivey

LaMalfa
Messmer
Mfume
Roy

Rutherford
Sherrill
Titus

□ 1357

Messrs. GOTTHEIMER and COHEN changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. TURNER of Ohio changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 213, noes 211, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 268]

AYES—213

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell

Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)

Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-MEEKS
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragan
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen

NOES—211

Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Kiley (CA)
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez

Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sanchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velazquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

HONORING OUR HEROES ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). 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. 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, 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 will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 413, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 269]

YEAS—413

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bell
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Burchett
Burlison
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani

Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Edwards
Elfreth
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Fine
Finstad

Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Poster
Foushee
Cole
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman

NOT VOTING—8

Boyle (PA)
Gray
Messmer

Mfume
Roy
Rutherford

Sherrill
Titus

□ 1443

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Huizenga	McGarvey	Scholten
Hunt	McGovern	Schrier
Hurd (CO)	McGuire	Schweikert
Issa	McIver	Scott (VA)
Ivey	Meeks	Scott, Austin
Jack	Menendez	Scott, David
Jackson (IL)	Meng	Sessions
Jackson (TX)	Meuser	Sewell
Jacobs	Miller (IL)	Sherman
James	Miller (OH)	Shreve
Jayapal	Miller (WV)	Simon
Jeffries	Miller-Meeks	Simpson
Johnson (GA)	Mills	Smith (MO)
Johnson (LA)	Min	Smith (NE)
Johnson (SD)	Moolenaar	Smith (NJ)
Johnson (TX)	Moore (AL)	Smith (WA)
Jordan	Moore (NC)	Smucker
Joyce (OH)	Moore (UT)	Sorensen
Joyce (PA)	Moore (WI)	Soto
Kamrager-Dove	Moore (WV)	Spartz
Kaptur	Moran	Stansbury
Kean	Morelle	Stanton
Keating	Morrison	Stefanik
Kelly (IL)	Moskowitz	Steil
Kelly (MS)	Moulton	Steube
Kelly (PA)	Mrvan	Stevens
Kennedy (NY)	Mullin	Strickland
Kennedy (UT)	Murphy	Strong
Khanna	Nadler	Stutzman
Kiggans (VA)	Neal	Subramanyam
Kiley (CA)	Neguse	Suozi
Kim	Nehls	Sykes
Knott	Newhouse	Takano
Krishnamoorthi	Nunn (IA)	Takano
Kustoff	Obenrolte	Taylor
LaHood	Ocasio-Cortez	Tenney
LaLota	Ogles	Thanedar
LaMalfa	Olszewski	Thompson (CA)
Landsman	Omar	Thompson (MS)
Langworthy	Onder	Thompson (PA)
Larsen (WA)	Owens	Tiffany
Larson (CT)	Pallone	Timmons
Latimer	Palmer	Tlaib
Latta	Panetta	Tokuda
Lawler	Pappas	Tonko
Lee (FL)	Patronis	Torres (NY)
Lee (NV)	Pelosi	Trahan
Lee (PA)	Perez	Tran
Leger Fernandez	Perry	Turner (OH)
Letlow	Peters	Underwood
Levin	Pettersen	Valadao
Liccardo	Pfleger	Van Drew
Lieu	Pingree	Van Deyne
Lofgren	Pocan	Van Orden
Loudermilk	Pou	Vargas
Lucas	Pressley	Vasquez
Luna	Quigley	Veasey
Luttrell	Ramirez	Velázquez
Lynch	Randall	Vindman
Mace	Raskin	Wagner
Mackenzie	Reschenthaler	Walkinshaw
Magaziner	Riley (NY)	Wasserman
Mallotakis	Rivas	Schultz
Mann	Rogers (AL)	Waters
Mannion	Rogers (KY)	Watson Coleman
Massie	Rose	Weber (TX)
Mast	Ross	Webster (FL)
Matsui	Rouzer	Westerman
McBath	Ruiz	Whitesides
McBride	Rulli	Wied
McCaul	Ryan	Williams (GA)
McClain	Salazar	Williams (TX)
McClain Delaney	Salinas	Wilson (FL)
McClellan	Sánchez	Wilson (SC)
McClintock	Scalise	Wittman
McCollum	Scanlon	Womack
McCormick	Schakowsky	Yakym
McDonald Rivet	Schmidt	Zinke
McDowell	Schneider	

NOT VOTING—19

Boyle (PA)	Mfume	Stauber
Buchanan	Norcross	Swalwell
Gray	Norman	Titus
Harris (MD)	Roy	Torres (CA)
Houlahan	Rutherford	Walberg
Maloy	Self	
Messmer	Sherrill	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1449

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:

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 269.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed Roll Call No. 267 through 269. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 267, on ordering the previous question; NAY on Roll Call No. 268, on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 707; and YEA on Roll Call No. 269, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2721.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 721

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM: Mr. Walkinshaw to rank immediately after Mr. Min.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Mr. Frost.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

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

Ms. BOEBERT. Objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of Rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 713, censuring Representative ILHAN OMAR of Minnesota and removing her from the Committee on Education and Workforce and the Committee on the Budget.

Whereas Charlie Kirk was a lifelong advocate for freedom of speech, civil political discourse, and the political engagement of youth;

Whereas Charlie Kirk was a man of deep faith, a husband, and a father to two young children;

Whereas on September 10, 2025, Charlie Kirk was assassinated on the campus of Utah Valley University while exercising his First Amendment right to freedom of speech;

Whereas on September 11, 2025, one day after the assassination of Charlie Kirk, Representative ILHAN OMAR gave an interview on a Zeteo Town Hall with Mehdi Hasan in which she smeared Charlie Kirk and implied he was to blame for his own murder;

Whereas on September 12, 2025, two days after the assassination of Charlie Kirk, Representative ILHAN OMAR reposted a video on X (formerly known as Twitter), which disparaged the character of Charlie Kirk and those mourning his death;

Whereas the video Representative ILHAN OMAR reposted on X states “Charlie Kirk is dead, and before the body got cold, the far-Right propped his corpse up as a cudgel for their holy war”;

Whereas the video Representative ILHAN OMAR reposted on X further states “Don’t be fooled, these people don’t give a single shit about Charlie Kirk, they are just using his death to further their Christofascist agenda”;

Whereas the video Representative ILHAN OMAR reposted on X further states Charlie Kirk “was a reprehensible human being. He enacted his political agenda by preying on weak minded people. He took complex socioeconomic issues and simplified them by pointing fingers at out-groups, demonizing those groups, and siccing his massive following on them”;

Whereas the video Representative ILHAN OMAR reposted on X further states Charlie Kirk was a “stochastic terrorist, an adamant transphobe, he denied the genocide happening in Palestine, he believed in the subjugation of women, and in his last dying words he was spewing racist dog whistles”;

Whereas the video Representative ILHAN OMAR reposted on X further states “Charlie Kirk was Dr. Frankenstein and his monster shot him through the neck”;

Whereas the video Representative ILHAN OMAR reposted on X further blames Charlie Kirk for his own murder;

Whereas clause 1 of rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides, “A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House”;

Whereas Representative ILHAN OMAR’s actions in the wake of the assassination of Charlie Kirk are reprehensible and affect the dignity and integrity of the proceedings of the House and do not reflect creditably on the House; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that—

(1) Representative ILHAN OMAR of Minnesota be censured;

(2) Representative ILHAN OMAR forthwith present herself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure;

(3) Representative ILHAN OMAR be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker; and

(4) Representative ILHAN OMAR be, and is hereby, removed from the Committee on Education and Workforce and the Committee on the Budget of the House.

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

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

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

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

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

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Resolution censuring Representative CORY MILLS.

Whereas, Representative CORY MILLS has on several occasions conducted himself in a manner that reflects discredit upon the House of Representatives;

Whereas, on February 19, 2025, Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department officers were called to resolve a private matter at Representative CORY MILLS' residence, where officers were called to the 1300 block of Maryland Avenue, Southwest, around 1:15 p.m. for the report of an assault;

Whereas, police reports obtained by NBC4 Washington confirmed that the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department was investigating Representative CORY MILLS for an alleged assault of a 27-year-old woman that took place on February 19, 2025, at the residence of Representative CORY MILLS.

Whereas, the first police report, provided to NBC4 Washington by a source and confirmed by a second source familiar with the investigation, said that the 27-year-old woman accused her significant other for over a year of having grabbed her, shoved her, and pushed her out of the door, and also said that the woman involved showed the officer "bruises on her arm which appeared fresh";

Whereas, NBC4 Washington also reported that the Metropolitan Police Department identified Representative CORY MILLS as the significant other of

the alleged victim of assault—which alleged victim was a 27-year-old woman who was not the wife of Representative CORY MILLS—and that the alleged victim "let officers hear Subject 1 [now identified by MPD as Mills] instruct her to lie about the origin of her bruises . . . Eventually, Subject 1 [who we now know is Representative CORY MILLS] made contact with police and admitted that the situation escalated from verbal to physical, but it was severe enough to create bruising";

Whereas, on February 21, 2025, The Washington Post also confirmed two D.C. police officials said that the alleged victim of assault initially told 911 and police that she had been assaulted and that officers said she also had what seems to be visible injuries, and that while a supervisor initially classified the offense internally as a family disturbance, police commanders later learned of the incident, reviewed the reports and body camera footage and reclassified the case as domestic violence assault;

Whereas, on February 21, 2025, NBC4 Washington also reported that the Metropolitan Police Department determined that probable cause to arrest Representative CORY MILLS for misdemeanor assault existed and sent an arrest warrant for Representative CORY MILLS to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia; however, then-Acting United States Attorney for the District of Columbia Ed Martin refused to sign the arrest warrant for Representative CORY MILLS and instead returned the case to the Metropolitan Police Department for further investigation;

□ 1500

Whereas, on July 14, 2025, a different former romantic partner of Representative CORY MILLS, who was apparently in a relationship with Representative MILLS from November 2021 to February 2025, reported to authorities in Florida that Representative MILLS threatened to release nude images and other intimate videos of her and threatened to harm her future romantic partners in retaliation for her decision to end a relationship with Representative MILLS after seeing the public reports described above concerning the alleged February 2025 physical assault;

Whereas, in August 2024, the Office of Congressional Conduct adopted and transmitted to the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives a report indicating that there was substantial reason to believe that Representative CORY MILLS may have omitted or misrepresented required information in his financial disclosure statements, accepted excessive contributions to his campaign committee in the form of personal loans and contributions that may not have derived from Representative CORY MILLS' personal funds; entered into, held, or enjoyed contracts with Federal agencies while he was a Member of Congress; and may have accepted through his

campaign committee in-kind contributions or other contributions not lawfully made;

Whereas, individuals who served with Representative CORY MILLS have called into question the veracity of the account of events which formed the basis of a recommendation that Representative CORY MILLS receive an award of a Bronze Star, bestowed in 2021, for his service under enemy fire in Iraq in 2003;

Whereas, in August 2024, Representative MILLS provided the Daytona Beach News with documents purporting to prove that he earned a Bronze Star with heroism, including a Department of the Army Form 638 recommending Representative MILLS for a Bronze Star, which includes a signature from then-Army Brigade Commander Arnold N. Gordon-Bray; however, Retired Brigadier General Bray told the Daytona Beach News-Journal in August 2024 that he did not sign a Bronze Star recommendation for Congressman CORY MILLS;

Whereas, five people who served with Representative CORY MILLS, including two men who were reported as having been personally saved by Representative MILLS at great risk to his own life as a basis for his recommendation for his Bronze Star in the Department of the Army Form 638, disputed that Representative CORY MILLS was involved in their rescue or provided lifesaving care.

Whereas, one private first class cited as having been involved in one of the listed achievements on Representative CORY MILLS' Army Form 638 recommending him for a Bronze Star denied that Representative Cory Mills provided him any aid and also denied that his injuries were life-threatening.

Whereas, one sergeant cited as having been involved in one of the listed achievements on Representative CORY MILLS' Army Form 638 recommending him for a Bronze Star called the account a "fabrication" and claimed that he "was not involved in any claims that Cory Mills makes about me"; and

Whereas, despite the numerous available contradictions of the accounts forming the basis of the recommendation for his Bronze Star, Representative CORY MILLS described the legitimate factual disputes raised by individuals he purportedly served with and rescued as "slander and defamation" in a statement to the Daytona Beach News-Journal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that—

One, Representative CORY MILLS be censured;

Two, Representative CORY MILLS forthwith present himself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of the censure; and

Three, Representative CORY MILLS be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the

floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

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

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

DC CRIMINAL REFORMS TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE EVERYONE SAFE ACT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 707, I call up 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, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIFANY). Pursuant to House Resolution 707, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-10 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 4922

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 “D.C. Criminal Reforms to Immediately Make Everyone Safe Act of 2025” or the “DC CRIMES Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. YOUTH OFFENDERS.

(a) LIMITING YOUTH OFFENDER STATUS IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.—

(1) LIMITATION.—Section 2(6) of the Youth Rehabilitation Act of 1985 (sec. 24-901(6), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “24 years of age or younger” and inserting “under 18 years of age”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) REPEAL OF CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUALS 18 THROUGH 24 YEARS OF AGE IN STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FACILITIES, TREATMENT, AND SERVICES.—Section 3(a-1) of such Act (sec. 24-902(a-1), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(B) COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER ORDER OF PROBATION.—Section 4(a)(2) of such Act (sec. 24-903(a)(2), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “15 to 24 years of age” and inserting “15 to 18 years of age”.

(b) PROHIBITING ISSUANCE OF SENTENCE LESS THAN MANDATORY-MINIMUM TERM.—Sec-

tion 4(b) of such Act (sec. 24-903(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking “(b)(1)” and inserting “(b)”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF WEBSITE ON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUVENILE CRIME STATISTICS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION.—Subchapter I of chapter 23 of title 16, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 16-2340a. Website of updated statistics on juvenile crime

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF WEBSITE.—The Attorney General of the District of Columbia shall establish and operate a publicly accessible website which contains data on juvenile crime in the District of Columbia, including each of the following statistical measures:

“(1) The total number of juveniles arrested each year.

“(2) The total number and percentage of juveniles arrested each year, broken down by age, race, and sex.

“(3) Of the total number of juveniles arrested each year, the total number and percentage arrested for petty crime, including the following crimes:

“(A) Vandalism.

“(B) Theft.

“(C) Shoplifting.

“(4) Of the total number of juveniles arrested each year, the total number and percentage arrested for crime of violence (as defined in section 23-1331(4)).

“(5) Of the total number of juveniles arrested each year, the total number and percentage who were arrested for their first offense.

“(6) Of the total number of juveniles arrested each year, the total number and percentage who had been arrested previously.

“(7) Of the total number of juveniles arrested each year who had been arrested previously, the total number and percentage of the number of arrests.

“(8) Of the total number of juveniles arrested each year, the declination rate for prosecutions by the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia.

“(9) Of the total number of juveniles sentenced each year, the number and percentage who were tried as adults.

“(10) Of the total number of juveniles prosecuted each year, the number and percentage who were not sentenced, who were sentenced to a misdemeanor, and who were sentenced to a felony.

“(11) Of the total number of juveniles sentenced each year, the number and percentage of the length of time that will be served in a correctional facility as provided by the sentence.

“(b) UPDATES.—The Attorney General shall update the information contained on the website on a monthly basis.

“(c) MAINTAINING ARCHIVE OF INFORMATION.—The Attorney General shall ensure that the information contained on the website is archived appropriately to provide indefinite public access to historical data of juvenile arrests and prosecutions.

“(d) FORMAT.—The Attorney General shall ensure that the information contained in the website, including historical data described in subsection (c), is available in a machine-readable format available for bulk download.

“(e) PROHIBITING DISCLOSURE OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In carrying out this section, the Attorney General shall ensure that the website does not include any juvenile’s personally identifiable information.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘crime’ has the meaning given the term ‘offense’ in section 23-1331(2); and

“(2) the term ‘juvenile’ has the meaning given the term ‘youth offender’ in section 2(6) of the Youth Rehabilitation Act of 1985 (sec. 24-901(6), D.C. Official Code).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO AUTHORIZED RELEASE OF INFORMATION.—

(1) JUVENILE CASE RECORDS OF FAMILY COURT.—Section 16-2331, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (h-2) the following new subsection:

“(i) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, a person shall provide information contained in juvenile case records to the Attorney General for purposes of the website established and operated under section 16-2340a.”.

(2) JUVENILE SOCIAL RECORDS OF FAMILY COURT.—Section 16-2332, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, a person shall provide information contained in juvenile social records to the Attorney General for purposes of the website established and operated under section 16-2340a.”.

(3) POLICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT RECORDS.—Section 16-2333, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a person shall provide information contained in law enforcement records and files concerning a child to the Attorney General for purposes of the website established and operated under section 16-2340a.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Attorney General of the District of Columbia shall establish the website under section 16-2341, District of Columbia Official Code, as added by subsection (a), not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCIA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4922, a bill providing commonsense reforms to the District of Columbia criminal code.

It is clear to Members of the committee and the public that D.C.’s soft-

on-crime policies have failed to keep D.C. residents and visitors safe.

The DC CRIMES Act overturns targeted portions of the D.C. Council's Youth Rehabilitation Act by amending the definition of a "youth offender" from a person under the age of 25 to under the age of 18.

Let me emphasize Washington, D.C.'s current law. Currently, D.C. code allows a criminal under the age of 25 to be given the same leniency that is afforded to minors. This bill requires that we treat adult criminals as adults, like the rest of the country. It also removes judicial discretion to sentence youth offenders under the minimum sentencing structures in place.

Our Capital cannot continue to let criminals freely roam the streets and expect this crime crisis to end.

As juvenile crime soars in the District, the bill also requires the D.C. Attorney General to create a publicly available website that better tracks juvenile crime data. This data will inform Congress, the District's elected officials, the Metropolitan Police Department, the public, and others of the severity of juvenile crimes in the city.

Citizens of D.C. and visitors to our Nation's Capital deserve to feel safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS) for leading this effort again in this Congress, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, we are considering today the first of four bills which represent a serious violation of the rights of Washington, D.C., and the democratic process.

Mr. Speaker, we know that D.C. has more residents than two States; D.C. taxpayers pay more Federal taxes per capita than any State; and D.C., as a whole, contributes more Federal taxes than 12 States. There are over 700,000 active residents here who deserve a voice.

D.C.'s government is accountable to the people who live here, and local leaders should and are empowered to solve local problems without Congress interfering.

Mr. Speaker, I have said this many times: If Donald Trump wants to run D.C., he should resign as President and run for Mayor. If my colleagues here want to legislate for D.C., there are plenty of opportunities to run for the D.C. Council.

Mr. Speaker, I was a mayor of my city for 8 years before I came to Congress, and I love local government. A lot can get done and accomplished. Yet, let's not sit here in Congress and pretend to be a super city council, imposing our pet policies on residents who reject this agenda.

□ 1510

Now, the bill before us right now is the so-called DC CRIMES Act. This bill will impose longer sentences on young people who commit crimes.

How does it do this?

It eliminates the ability for judges to make the best sentencing decisions for young adults. It will lead to worse outcomes, more reoffenders, and less safety.

Now, let's be clear: This bill is not about making anyone safer or D.C. safer. It is about stripping decision-making away from the people and the judges of D.C., and instead handing the power of judges over to politicians in this room who don't live here, who don't vote here, and certainly don't answer to D.C. residents.

This bill amends D.C.'s Youth Rehabilitation Act, or the YRA as it is known.

Now, the YRA is not radical. It has been in place since 1985, and it actually mirrors laws in States like Florida and Michigan. Its purpose is simple: to give judges discretion in sentencing young adults.

Now, judges can punish some young people, when appropriate, in ways that reduce their risk of reoffending, but this bill would rip away discretion.

It eliminates a judge's ability to waive mandatory minimums, even when the facts show a one-size-fits-all sentence makes no sense.

Judges, not politicians, should decide sentences. Now, individuals whose convictions are set aside under the YRA are less likely to reoffend. That means the law works, and it keeps communities safer.

Now, we also know that in nearly 80 percent of cases, judges impose a mandatory minimum sentence anyway. These waivers are rarely granted and only when a judge determines it is appropriate. This bill is an undemocratic attack on D.C., its residents, and is also just bad policy.

Now, Republicans in the majority claim D.C.'s policies are too soft, but we know that the sponsor of this bill is also from Florida, which has allowed judges to waive mandatory minimums for decades.

Florida even caps youth offender sentences at 6 years, something D.C., by the way, has never done. Let's be clear: We can all agree that violent crime has no place in our communities. People are rightly concerned about crime in D.C. and back home in their communities. Democrats, of course, want safe streets, but we believe in investing in solutions that actually make people safer, not political stunts or short-term gimmicks or cheap tough talk.

We know what works: supporting local police departments, investing in community-based partnerships, and creating economic opportunity to drive down shootings, homicides, and burglaries.

Now, getting guns out of the hands of violent criminals keeps us all safer. Instead of doing that work, Republicans are wasting time attacking the District while ignoring the crises in their own backyards.

Now, President Trump is doing nothing to address violent crime in States

with some of the highest crime rates in the country. In fact, his administration has made things worse.

Trump has opposed efforts to expand criminal background checks. He has blocked attempts to reduce ghost guns and machine gun conversion devices. His Department of Justice has gutted the number of inspectors who stop businesses from selling guns to criminals, cutting that workforce down by two-thirds.

On top of that, Trump illegally froze or canceled \$3.8 billion in DOJ grant programs, including COPS grants for our police departments that, of course, help communities hire and train police officers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this misguided power grab, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS), sponsor of the bill.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 4922, the DC CRIMES Act.

Now, in reference to what the gentleman was just talking about, Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution is quite clear. It grants Congress the power to exercise exclusive, exclusive jurisdiction over the Federal District, which all Americans know now is Washington, D.C., and it is the Nation's Capital.

That is in the Constitution that was ratified by several States. Congress does have the constitutional authority to regulate activities within the Federal District. When it is said that somehow Congress is now eroding local control, that is simply not true.

Any local powers by the D.C. Council have been granted to the D.C. Council by Congress, and Congress is the seat of authority when it comes to the Federal enclave.

He also talked about Florida's laws. Let's be very clear: Florida has established itself as a beacon of law and order, making sure that our citizens are safe throughout all of our jurisdictions. If there are some abilities for some measures of flexibility, Florida has proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that it knows how to keep its people safe, which is very different with respect to the D.C. Council and with respect to escalated crime here in the Nation's Capital.

Our great Nation's Capital has been plagued by violence, destruction, disorder for far too long, and decades of weak, pro-crime leadership has turned this once great city into a dystopia.

I will remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that some of their colleagues have been victimized by the crime here in Washington, D.C. Rather than prioritizing the safety of law-abiding citizens and protecting the lives of innocent residents and visitors, District officials have actively facilitated dysfunction and chaos through

their progressive, soft-on-crime policies.

Instead of addressing the clear epidemic of youth crime in this city, the D.C. Council increased the age of youth offenders to individuals 24 years old and younger. Meaning fully grown, legal adults in the District of Columbia can receive sentences meant for children.

This is simply insane, and that is why I introduced the DC CRIMES Act, which lowers the definition of youth from under the age of 25 to under the age of 18, removes the ability of judges to sentence youth offenders below mandatory minimum guidelines, and requires the D.C. attorney general to establish a public website containing much-needed statistics on juvenile crime in D.C.

The Trump administration's efforts have shown that lawlessness is a choice, and it is time for Congress to step up, adhere to our constitutional duty, and firmly address crime in the Nation's Capital.

For the citizens of D.C., I would say, we wish your Council did this the right way, but they did not and we will act.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this undemocratic and paternalistic bill, which amends D.C. law. The over 700,000 D.C. residents, the majority of whom are Black and Brown, are capable and worthy of governing themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters opposing this bill from D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, the entire D.C. Council, and D.C. Attorney General Brian Schwalb.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025.

Hon. JAMES COMER,
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT GARCIA,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER AND RANKING MEMBER GARCIA: As Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the District of Columbia, I am proud of the work we have accomplished to invest in our people, strengthen our neighborhoods, and drive down crime. Building on this progress, my Administration established the Safe and Beautiful Emergency Operations Center to coordinate public safety and beautification efforts as the presidential emergency declaration ends. This structure ensures that DC will remain proactive—bringing together local and federal partners to sustain momentum on reducing crime and improving quality of life for every resident.

We have worked collaboratively with this Committee on shared priorities, including public safety, the federal Return to Work, implementing a DC budget Fiscal Year 2025 fix (which is still pending in the House) and revitalizing the RFK campus; but I write now to ask you to reject 13 of the DC bills before you today that encroach on DC's Home Rule:

Bills like H.R. 5183, the District of Columbia Home Rule Improvement Act, make the

District less efficient, competitive, and responsive to the needs of a highly complex unique local government that serves local, county and state functions. Boggling down legislative and executive action only adds costs and uncertainty, making it more difficult to handle the economic headwinds and growth opportunities ahead.

Bills like H.R. 5214, the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act, make DC less safe. Replacing our very effective pre-trial detention regime, which focuses on charged violent offenses and repeat violent offenders, not just on cash bail. I credit recent changes to our laws related to pre-trial detention for helping to drive down violent crime in the last two years.

And the bills to abolish the Judicial Nominations Commission and to convert the elected DC Attorney General to a Presidentially appointed legal officer for the District are both less democratic and untenable for District operations. The Judicial Nomination Commission, with seven members appointed by the Mayor, DC Council, President, US District Court for DC, and the DC Bar, works. As recently as last month, President Trump nominated three federal judicial nominees who were selected from the Commission's candidate pool—a process that demonstrates the value of maintaining local input. DC residents also voted to elect an Attorney General who represents the public interest. Changes to these charter agencies would significantly undercut the already thin ties to autonomy that limited home rule provides.

Finally, I urge you not to up end our three-part education funding SOAR Act. I have long supported the program to expand opportunity for DC students. However, my support has always been contingent on parity among all three education sectors—public, private, and charter—and this approach is working. We will not support changes that tip the scales away from this core principle of fairness for DC families. As the fastest improving urban school system, DC has become a model for urban education. We outpace the national average on all tested subject areas. We boast free, full-day Pre-K access serving more than 13,200 young learners—an investment which supports our children and our workforce. DC ranked top of the nation in parental satisfaction regarding school choice. Mayoral control, council oversight, and deep, targeted investments in our students, teachers, and buildings made these remarkable achievements possible.

I look forward to continuing a productive partnership with the Committee—one that respects the will of DC residents and honors the principles of home rule. Together, we can build on our successes while protecting the autonomy that, as history reflects, has made our city stronger.

Sincerely,

MURIEL BOWSER,
Mayor.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL

Washington, DC, September 9, 2025.

Hon. JAMES COMER,
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT GARCIA,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER AND RANKING MEMBER GARCIA: The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is scheduled to markup fourteen bills tomorrow related to the operations of the District of Columbia. With the exception of H.R. 2693, the District of Columbia Electronic Transmittal

Act, I write in strong opposition to these bills. They address inherently local issues and laws that were passed after careful consideration by the District's elected representatives, who are directly accountable to District residents. Members of this very Committee have long advocated for the principles of federalism on which this nation was founded. They have consistently condemned federal overreach and fought forcefully and convincingly for the uniquely American values of local control, freedom, and self-governance. These principles should apply to the more than 700,000 people who call Washington, DC home, just as they do for your constituents across the country.

I specifically want to call attention to the significant incursion on local self-governance reflected in two bills, the District of Columbia Attorney General Appointment Reform Act and the District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act. Both laws would displace the ability of District residents to have a voice in the selection of local leaders who wield significant power over local judicial matters: the judges on our local courts and the Attorney General for the District. The judges on the DC Court of Appeals and DC Superior Court rule on inherently local matters such as criminal prosecutions, landlord-tenant cases, probate proceedings, civil cases, and divorce proceedings, all of which have profoundly important impact on our community. For more than 50 years, the Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) has successfully allowed DC residents to have a voice in judicial appointments, while also granting the President and Senate a role in confirming our judges. I urge the Committee not to overturn that well-established process.

The DC Attorney General, as the District's chief law officer, is also responsible for local legal issues, namely, protecting the District and its residents in a wide range of matters, such as enforcing child support laws, handling abuse and neglect proceedings in the child welfare system, enforcing our housing code, and defending District agencies and officers when they are sued. In no other place in the United States are such local issues determined by a federally appointed person with no local accountability. The proposed legislation would be especially undemocratic in light of the fact that, in 2010, an overwhelming majority of District voters (76 percent) exercised their right to amend the District Charter to make the DC Attorney General an independent, elected office, rather than a position appointed by and subordinate to the Mayor. With that vote, District residents clearly expressed their desire that the Attorney General should be independent and accountable to them. The pending bill would displace that choice in favor of installing an Attorney General accountable not to District residents, but to the President. Given that the U.S. Attorney for the District is already appointed by the President, if passed, this bill would concentrate all criminal and civil litigation authority in the President, divesting the District and its residents of any local control over these essential functions.

No one knows or cares more about keeping DC safe than DC residents who work, live and raise their families here. Our democratically elected officials work closely with local law enforcement, policy experts, and community leadership to pass laws that are in the best interests of all Washingtonians. Substituting the will of DC voters with the whim of federal politicians is undemocratic and un-American.

I urge you to reject these measures and uphold the values Congress sought to advance more than 50 years ago when it passed the District of Columbia Home Rule Act: that

District residents should enjoy the “powers of local self-government” that all other Americans enjoy. See DC Code § 1–201.02.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN L. SCHWALB,

Attorney General for the District of Columbia.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Washington, DC, September 8, 2025.

Hon. JAMES COMER,

Chair, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT GARCIA,

Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER AND RANKING MEMBER GARCIA: The Council of the District of Columbia is aware that the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is planning to mark up more than a dozen proposed measures that would severely and negatively impact the operations, public safety, and autonomy of the District of Columbia. We ask that you oppose these measures in full, save one, H.R. 2693, District of Columbia Electronic Transmittal of Legislation Act. While we have not seen the final text of this legislation, the public summary of H.R. 2693 is consistent with the long held request by the District of Columbia to allow the ability to electronically transfer legislative acts to Congress, rather than only allowing physical copies be transferred. The challenge and barriers created by this current requirement were clearly exposed during both the recent COVID pandemic restrictions as well as the Capitol campus restrictions following the January 6, 2021 attacks on the Capitol.

The other 13 measures that have been shared with us would do direct and serious harm to the District of Columbia and we urge you to reject these measures completely. These bills represent an unprecedented attack on the autonomy and home rule of our local government and the more than 700,000 Americans that call it home. The breadth of these bills is remarkable, and if passed, would result in an erosion of accountability and public safety for the District of Columbia. They range from eliminating and replacing our elected and accountable Attorney General for the District of Columbia with a President’s hand-picked and unaccountable associate requiring no confirmation by the U.S. Senate and no local ties, to a full repeal of multiple local DC laws that have been in place for many years, if not decades, that are tested, proven, and effective components of our public safety infrastructure and ecosystem. The effect of these Congressional repeals would put our legal and Court system into chaos and directly undermine successful tools that focus on serious accountability and effective rehabilitation when a crime occurs. As always, when revisions or amendments to DC laws are necessary, those changes should only take place within our local legislature which has the best capacity to provide effective oversight and accountable actions for the residents of the District of Columbia.

We respectfully request that all members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and all members of Congress, reject these harmful measures whether in committee mark up or before the full House of Representatives. Given the breadth of the multiple measures before you, we also request an opportunity to provide a more in-depth discussion of each bill before the Committee’s mark-up, especially in light that the Committee will not hold public hearings on these measures.

Sincerely,

Chairman Phil Mendelson; Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large; Councilmember Rob-

ert White, Jr., At-Large; Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Ward 2; Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4; Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6; Councilmember Trayon White, Sr, Ward 8; Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, At-Large; Councilmember Christina Henderson, At-Large; Councilmember Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1; Councilmember Matthew Frumin, Ward 3; Councilmember Zachary Parker, Ward 5; Councilmember Wendell Felder, Ward 7.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the local legislature, the Council, has 13 members. If D.C. residents do not like how members vote, residents can vote them out of office or pass a ballot measure. That is called democracy.

Congress has 535 voting Members. None are elected by D.C. residents. If D.C. residents do not like how Members vote on local D.C. matters, residents cannot vote them out of office or pass a ballot measure. That is the antithesis of democracy.

The substance of this bill should be irrelevant since there is never justification for Congress to legislate on local D.C. matters. Nevertheless, I will discuss it.

Republicans claim D.C.’s Youth Rehabilitation Act treats adults as juveniles. They are wrong. They either do not understand the act or are misleading the public about it intentionally. The act’s sentencing and set aside provisions apply only in adult court, not juvenile court.

Let me repeat: The provisions apply in adult court, not juvenile court. A judge may, but is not required to, sentence a person under the act, and certain crimes are ineligible under the act.

□ 1520

D.C. is not the only jurisdiction with a so-called young adult offender law. Alabama, Florida, Michigan, New York, South Carolina, and Vermont have such laws. The sponsor of this bill is from one of those States.

D.C. residents have all the obligations of American citizenship, including paying Federal taxes, serving on juries, and registering with the Selective Service, yet Congress denies them full local self-government and voting representation in Congress. The only solution to this undemocratic treatment is to grant D.C. statehood.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter explaining why D.C. statehood is constitutional from leading constitutional scholars, including Larry Tribe.

MAY 22, 2021.

Re Washington, D.C. Admission Act, H.R. 51 and S. 51 (the “D.C. Admission Act”).

Hon. NANCY P. PELOSI,

Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN O. MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS: As scholars of the United States Constitution, we write

to correct claims that the D.C. Admission Act is vulnerable to a constitutional challenge in the courts. For the reasons set forth below, there is no constitutional barrier to the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth (the “Commonwealth”) entering the Union through a congressional joint resolution, pursuant to the Constitution’s Admissions Clause, just like the 37 other states that have been admitted since the Constitution was adopted. Furthermore, Congress’s exercise of its express constitutional authority to decide to admit a new state is a classic political question, which courts are highly unlikely to interfere with, let alone attempt to bar.

The D.C. Admission Act. The House passed the Act, as H.R. 51, on April 22, 2021, and as of this writing, the substantively identical companion bill (S. 51) is under consideration by the Senate. The Act provides for the issuance of a congressional joint resolution declaring the admittance as a State of most of the territory currently comprising the District of Columbia, while the seat of government (defined as the “Capital”) will fall outside of the boundaries of the new State and remain under federal jurisdiction. The Act also repeals the provision of federal law that establishes the current mechanism for District residents to participate in presidential elections, pursuant to Congress’s authority under the Twenty-Third Amendment; and provides for expedited consideration of the repeal of that Amendment.

The Admissions Clause grants Congress constitutional authority to admit the Commonwealth into the Union. The starting point for a constitutional analysis of the Act is the Constitution’s Admissions Clause (Art. IV, Sect. 3), which provides that “New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union.” The Clause “vests in Congress the essential and discretionary authority to admit new states into the Union by whatever means it considers appropriate as long as such means are framed within its vested powers.” Every State admitted into the Union since the Constitution was adopted has been admitted by congressional action pursuant to this Clause; no State has been admitted pursuant to a constitutional amendment.

The Supreme Court has broadly construed Congress’s assigned power to admit new states and has never interfered with Congress’s admission of a state, even when potentially legitimate constitutional objections existed. For example, in 1863, Congress admitted into the Union West Virginia, which had been part of the State of Virginia, in potential violation of a provision of the Admissions Clause that bars the formation of a new State out of a portion of the territory of another State without the consent of the ceding State. The Supreme Court, however, did not bar West Virginia’s admission; to the contrary, it later tacitly approved of it.

Some critics of the D.C. Admission Act have suggested that Maryland’s consent might be required under the foregoing provision of the Admissions Clause. This objection mistakenly presupposes that Maryland retains a reversionary interest in the territory currently composing the District of Columbia, which Maryland ceded to the federal government when the District was established in 1791. In fact, Maryland expressly relinquished all sovereign authority over the territory at issue when the federal government accepted it. The express terms of the cession state that the territory was “for ever ceded and relinquished to the congress and government of the United States, in full and absolute right, and exclusive jurisdiction.

. . . As Viet D. Dinh, who served as an Assistant Attorney General during the presidency of George W. Bush, has explained, because Maryland's cession of the territory now constituting the District was full and complete, it severed D.C. residents' now far distant "political link with" Maryland. The current District is not part of Maryland, and Maryland has no claim on any portion of the District's territory. There is accordingly no basis to require Maryland's consent for the establishment of the new State.

The Constitution's District Clause poses no barrier to admitting the Commonwealth into the Union. The Constitution's District Clause grants Congress power to "exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States." Based on this Clause, Congress established the current District of Columbia, which (as explained) was taken from territory ceded by Maryland, as well as Virginia.

The D.C. Admission Act complies with the District Clause because it provides that the Capital—which is defined in the Act to include (among other things) the White House, the Capitol Building, the United States Supreme Court Building, and the Federal executive, legislative, and judicial office buildings located adjacent to the Mall—will not become part of the new State and will remain under the sovereignty of the federal government.

Some critics have argued that the District Clause somehow mandates that the District of Columbia permanently retain all of its current territory, and that its size may neither be increased or reduced by Congress. The plain language of the District Clause says no such thing; it does not mandate that the District be any size or shape, except it limits the maximum size of the federal enclave to ten square miles.

Historical practice confirms that Congress can change the size of the District. In 1791, Congress altered the District's southern boundary to encompass portions of what are now Alexandria, Virginia and Anacostia. Then, in 1846, Congress retroceded Alexandria and its environs back to Virginia. As a result, the territory composing the District was reduced by a third.

At the time of the 1846 retrocession, the House's Committee on the District of Columbia considered, and rejected, the very argument that critics of the D.C. Admission Act are raising today, reasoning that the "true construction of [the District Clause] would seem to be solely that Congress retain and exercise exclusive jurisdiction" over territory comprising the "seat of government." The language of the District Clause, the legislators observed, places no mandate on the size, or even the location, of that seat of government, other than preventing the government from "hold[ing] more than ten miles for this purpose." The House's judgment was correct in 1846, and remains so today.

The Twenty-Third Amendment does not prevent Congress from granting the Commonwealth statehood. Opponents of statehood have suggested that the Twenty-Third Amendment bars Congress from exercising its constitutionally enumerated authority to grant statehood to the Commonwealth. In fact, the Amendment poses no barrier to the admission of the Commonwealth into the Union through an act of Congress, in accordance with the plain language of the Admissions Clause, just as Congress has done in connection with the admission of several other States, including most recently Alaska and Hawaii.

Section 1 of the Twenty-Third Amendment, which was ratified in 1961, provides:

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct: A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State.

By its plain terms, the Amendment poses no barrier to Congress's admission of the Commonwealth into the Union. Indeed, it is entirely silent on the matter.

The only question raised by the existence of the Twenty-Third Amendment is a practical, not a constitutional one: How best to address the Twenty-Third Amendment's provision for the assignment of presidential electors to what will become a vestigial seat of government, with virtually no residents? The Act satisfactorily addresses this question by providing for the repeal of the provision of federal law that establishes the current mechanism for District residents to participate in presidential elections, pursuant to Congress's authority under the Twenty-Third Amendment, as well as by commencing the process for repealing the Amendment itself.

Initially, the Act provides for an expedited process for repeal of the Twenty-Third Amendment, a process that should move forward to ratification swiftly and successfully once the Commonwealth is admitted as a State. None of the other 50 States has reason to seek to retain three electors for a largely unoccupied seat of government.

But the Act also addresses the possibility that the Twenty-Third Amendment is not promptly repealed by mandating the immediate repeal of the provision of federal law that provides the current mechanism for District residents to participate in federal elections.

In 1961, following the adoption of the Twenty-Third Amendment, Congress exercised its enforcement authority by enacting legislation (codified at 3 U.S.C. §21), providing that the District residents may select presidential electors; the votes of the electors are currently awarded to the ticket prevailing in the District's presidential election.

The existing statutes, fall within the broad authority granted to Congress by the Twenty-Third Amendment to define the terms of, and effectuate, the District's participation in presidential elections. The Amendment allows for the appointment of a number of Electors "in such manner as the Congress may direct." The Amendment also allows Congress to select the number of Electors the District may receive, subject only to a maximum: The District may participate in the presidential Electoral College through the appointment of no more electors than those of the smallest State, i.e., three. And section 2 of the Amendment grants Congress the power to "enforce" the provision "by appropriate legislation," as it did in 1961.

But once Congress acts again, pursuant to its express grant of constitutional authority, and repeals the legislation that creates the existing procedure for District residents to select presidential electors, that will remove the legislative provision providing for the District's participation in presidential elections. Without such a provision, there is no mechanism for identifying the Capital area's electors or allocating their votes.

Some scholars have questioned whether that approach is satisfactory. They contend that the Twenty-Third Amendment is self-enforcing, and effectively mandates the ap-

pointment of electors on behalf of the District of Columbia, regardless of whether such appointment is called for under a federal statute. Some of us disagree; indeed, the very existence of Section 2 of the Amendment makes clear that enabling legislation is required to effectuate the District's participation in the presidential election process. And Congress's 1961 enforcement legislation supports this interpretation.

Even if this self-enforcement argument were to be accepted, however, Congress could easily address it by replacing the current law mandating that the Capital area's electors vote in accordance with the outcome of the popular vote in the District with a new legislative mandate that the Capital area's electors vote in other ways. For example, Congress could require District electors to vote in favor of the presidential ticket that receives the most Electoral College votes (of the remaining 538 electors). Or, alternatively, Congress could require that District electors vote for the winner of the national popular vote winner.

A recent Supreme Court decision confirms that a legislative directive to the Capital area's electors would be enforceable. The Twenty-Third Amendment provides that the District "shall appoint" electors "in such manner as Congress may direct"; this language is a direct parallel to the Constitution's grant of broad authority to each of the States to appoint and instruct their respective electors. In its recent decision in *Chiafalo v. Washington*, the Supreme Court held that electors do not have discretion to decide how to cast their Electoral College votes, but rather are legally bound to follow the instructions given by their respective states.

As Columbia Law School Professors Jessica Bulman-Pozen and Olatunde Johnson have observed, it follows from the Court's holding in *Chiafalo* that Congress could legally bind any electors to vote in accordance with the overall vote of the Electoral College or the national popular vote, just as the existing enabling statute currently binds them to vote in the Electoral College in accordance with the outcome of the popular vote in the District.

In sum, none of the critics' constitutional objections to the D.C. Admission Act are meritorious; and the contention that a constitutional amendment is required to admit the Commonwealth into the Union is incorrect. The D.C. Admission Act calls for a proper exercise of Congress' express authority under the Constitution to admit new states, a power that it has exercised 37 other times since the Constitution was adopted.

Courts are unlikely to second-guess Congress's exercise of its constitutional authority to admit the Commonwealth into the Union. Apart from the fact that the legal objections to admission of the Commonwealth as a State are without merit, it is also unlikely that the courts will ever consider those objections. As Mr. Dinh has observed, the decision whether to admit a state into the Union is a paradigmatic political question that the Constitution expressly and exclusively assigns to Congress. The Supreme Court has long, and strenuously, avoided adjudicating disputes respecting matters that the Constitution makes the sole responsibility of the coordinate, elected branches.

The remaining objections to Statehood do not concern applicable constitutional law, but rather matters of policy.

For example, some have argued that the District should not be admitted to the Union because it is a single city and have instead proposed that most of the District's territory be retroceded to Maryland. There is, however, no constitutional barrier to a large, diverse city, with a population comparable

to that of several existing States, joining the Union. Furthermore, the Maryland retrocession proposal is subject to many of the same supposed constitutional objections raised by those who object to statehood for the District. For example, retroceding the District to Maryland would decrease the size of the remaining federal enclave, which objectors to District Statehood have claimed is constitutionally impermissible. A forced merger of the District and Maryland would also do nothing to address the purported constitutional objection to leaving the residual seat of government with three potential electors, pursuant to the terms of the Twenty-Third Amendment, prior to the Amendment's repeal.

Opponents also argue that Congress should not grant the District statehood because it will lead to a lawsuit. But any court challenge will be without merit, and indeed likely will be dismissed as presenting a political question. We respectfully submit that Congress should not avoid exercising its express constitutional authority to admit the Commonwealth into the Union because of meritless threats of litigation.

Sincerely yours,

Caroline Fredrickson, Georgetown University Law Center; Erwin Chemerinsky, University of California, Berkeley School of Law; Stephen I. Vladeck, University of Texas Law School; Franita Tolson, University of Southern California, Gould School of Law; Jessica Bulman-Pozen, Columbia Law School; Leah Litman, University of Michigan Law School; Laurence H. Tribe, Harvard Law School; Paul Smith, Georgetown University Law Center; Geoffrey R. Stone, University of Chicago Law School; Peter Edelman, Georgetown University Law Center.

Kermit Roosevelt, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School; Eric Segall, Georgia State College Law; Trevor Potter, Campaign Legal Center; Gregory P. Downs, University of California Davis; Larry Sabato, University of Virginia; Aziz Huq, University of Chicago Law School; Jennifer Hochschild, Harvard University; Neil S. Siegel, Duke University School of Law; Beau Breslin, Skidmore College; David C. Vladeck, Georgetown University Law Center; Sanford Levinson, University of Texas at Austin School of Law; Ira C. Lupu, George Washington University Law School; Peter M. Shane, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law; Ira P. Robbins, American University Washington College of Law; Michael Greenberger, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

David Pozen, Columbia Law School; Mark Tushnet, Harvard Law School; Michael C. Dorf, Cornell Law School; Miguel Schor, Drake University School of Law; David S. Schwartz, University of Wisconsin Law School; Caroline Mala Corbin, University of Miami School of Law; Jonathan Askin, Brooklyn Law School; Aziz Rana, Cornell Law School; John Mikhail, Georgetown University Law Center; Richard Ford, Stanford Law School; Richard Primus, University of Michigan Law School; Joseph Fishkin, University of Texas Law School; Kate Masur, Northwestern University; Chris Edelson, American University.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the D.C. statehood bill, H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, grants D.C. residents full local self-government and voting representation in Congress. H.R. 51 reduces the size of the Federal district from 68 square miles to 2 square miles, consisting of the White House, Capitol, the Supreme Court, and The National Mall and remaining under the

control of Congress. The new State consists of the residential and commercial areas of D.C. The new State has a larger population than two States, pays more Federal taxes per capita than any State, and pays more total Federal taxes than 21 States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote "no" on the D.C. CRIMES Act, keep their hands off D.C. and free D.C.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the D.C. CRIMES Act, legislation that builds on the extraordinary progress we have seen under President Trump's leadership to restore law and order in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to President Trump and his administration, we are finally seeing real results in this city. Crime is down, homicides are down, carjackings are down, and most importantly, people feel safer in their Nation's Capital.

President Trump has handed us the blueprint to restore safety in America's cities. Families are safely going out to restaurants, businesses are seeing life return to their neighborhoods, and tourists feel secure, knowing law enforcement officers are empowered to do their job and enforce the law.

The D.C. CRIMES Act ensures that the gains we have made are not rolled back by more Democratic pro-crime policies. Republicans are the party of safe cities. We are the party that stands with our police and responds to our communities that demand law and order.

This bill sends a simple message: Criminals will be held accountable, victims will be protected, and Washington, D.C., will remain on the path to becoming the safe, thriving Capital our Nation deserves.

I urge my colleagues to support the D.C. CRIMES Act and keep our Capital safe, strong, and beautiful.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. CROCKETT).

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, as I sat and listened to the beginning of this debate, my heart simply broke, and many people know me for being able to do alliterations, and all I could think about was: Amnesia allows adolescents accountability avoidance agility from across the aisle.

Work with me for a second. Imagine being a young man born to Jamaican and Panamanian parents who messed up not once but twice. Imagine standing in front of a judge with your whole future hanging in the balance. Instead of prison, you are given a promise of mercy. Your record gets wiped clean, and you get a second chance at life.

Now imagine taking that promise and turning it into promotion. You go to college. You get a job and even become a Member of Congress. That is what redemption looks like. That is what America is supposed to be about,

and that is exactly the story of the next wannabe Governor from Florida.

As a young man, he went through pretrial diversion for misdemeanor marijuana possession. As an adult, yet younger than 24, he was charged with and ultimately placed on probation for felony bribery charges, which ultimately were, too, expunged.

He was given a third chance, and now he is the face of a bill that would not afford young people in Washington, D.C., the same opportunities afforded to him.

Let me be real. If he had grown up under Donald Trump's America or under the very D.C. crime bill he is pushing today, he wouldn't be standing here as a Member of Congress. He would still be living with the weight of those charges.

Let's call this what it is: Opportunities for me, but not for thee. He climbed the ladder of redemption, and now he is yanking it right up from under D.C. youth. Most of us were taught to lift as you climb, but clearly some have forgotten to lift as they climb. Now they are committed to telling the next generations to pull themselves up by their bootstraps.

I will not sit quiet while a man who was saved by grace turns around and tries to snatch grace away from others.

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

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. CROCKETT. If we are going to be real about crime, about communities, about second chances and even third chances, then it needs to start with us looking in the mirror and remembering that even the author of this bill has a story, too, before he tries to lecture D.C. on safety.

It would be complete hypocrisy to have, hypothetically, someone convicted of 34 felonies to lecture D.C. on what to do with youthful offenders who have been scientifically shown not to have fully developed brains under the age of 25, especially if said multi-count convicted felon was in his seventies when he was convicted. What would be his excuse since his brain would be fully developed?

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in disbelief over the fact that in our own Nation's Capital, prosecutors are allowed to prosecute criminals as old as 25 years old as minors.

While President Trump has restored law and order to the District, I am not surprised that D.C.'s local government continues to protect the criminals and ignore victims. The D.C. CRIMES Act puts an end to this madness and ensures safety and security across D.C.

At 18 years old, you are given adult responsibilities, like being able to vote or sign up for the military. At 18 years, you become responsible for your

choices and your decisions and should be treated as such. At 21 years old, you are able to legally consume alcohol. At 25 years old, you can become a Member of Congress.

This is why the D.C. CRIMES Act is essential to ensuring the long-term safety and security of our Nation's Capital so that violent offenders are not just handed any more get-out-of-jail-free cards. The bill also orders judges to stop sentencing youth offenders below the minimum sentencing guidelines.

It is time to bring back justice in America. It is time for fair punishment for the people who interfere with people's daily lives, specifically those with prior convictions. The revolving door of justice ends today. I cannot thank Representative DONALDS enough for his vital work on this legislation.

It is time to push back against soft-on-crime judges and DAs. We are a nation of laws, Mr. Speaker, and Washington, D.C., should be a model for justice across our great Nation.

In no way, shape, form, or fashion should we be charging adults as minors and allowing them to return to commit similar or more violent crimes. The citizens, tourists, businesspeople, and every other member of this city deserve safety and security. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will ensure just that.

We will restore D.C. to become the shining city on the hill that our Founders envisioned it to be. I again thank my dear friend Congressman DONALDS. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman COMER and the free State of Florida's next Governor, BYRON DONALDS, for introducing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4922, the D.C. CRIMES Act, which is sponsored by Congressman DONALDS. This critical legislation is a direct response to the failed pro-crime policies that have turned our Nation's Capital into a war zone.

Under failing leftist policies, Washington, D.C., has seen an epidemic of violence: carjackings surging 300 percent, homicides ravaging communities, and young thugs, some as old as 24, treated as juveniles, slapped with lenient sentences below mandatory minimums.

□ 1530

It endangers young families and small businesses struggling in this crime-ridden city. Innocent residents live in fear, while criminals roam free, mocking the rule of law.

H.R. 4922 cuts through this madness. It ensures adults face adult consequences. It repeals judges' abilities to dodge mandatory minimums for

youth crimes. Crucially, it blocks the D.C. Council from gutting sentencing laws, reclaiming Congress' constitutional oversight over this Federal District, as it should be.

As President Trump declared in his March 2025 executive order, if D.C. won't act, we must, restoring order, beauty, and safety to our Capital.

This bill isn't about politics. It is about protecting lives. Republicans are delivering real reform, tougher accountability, transparent juvenile crime data via a public website, and a safer D.C. for all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us and pass H.R. 4922 now to make America and this District safe again.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4922 so that we may redefine what is considered to be a youth offender from 24 years to 18 years and repeal the D.C. criminal court provision that allows youthful offenders to receive sentences less than the mandatory minimum required by law.

There is no question that there has been a crime epidemic across the District of Columbia, and the citizens of this great city deserve better. President Trump recognized this fact and has exercised his authority to restore safety. It is now time for Congress to build on his good work.

H.R. 4922 is designed to begin to address many of the problems that stem from the D.C. courts and their refusal to hold criminals accountable. We need to start with recognizing that 19- to 24-year-olds shouldn't be treated as youthful offenders.

Local news has recently reported that the number of juveniles arrested in Washington, D.C., has increased every year since 2020 and that 60 percent of carjackings in the District in 2025 so far are for those over 20 years old.

Knowing that the District of Columbia currently classifies anyone 24 years or younger as a youth offender, it is fair to ask how many of these so-called youthful offenders running rampant, terrorizing the hardworking people of Washington, D.C., are actually adults and should be tried as such. The situation is untenable and should not be tolerated in a civilized society.

I am, therefore, pleased to support the solutions presented by H.R. 4922, including the establishment of a website on District of Columbia's juvenile crime statistics.

Passage of this bill will go a long way to correcting the broken, soft-on-crime policies here in Washington, D.C., that coddle criminals and place at risk the good, honest, and hardworking people who call the District home.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DONALDS for sponsoring this important

legislation and applaud Chairman COMER for his steadfast leadership on this critically important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4922.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I oppose passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation to ensure that citizens of Washington, D.C., and the many visitors to our Nation's Capital feel safe.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 707, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARCIA of California. 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 question will be postponed.

LOWERING AGE AT WHICH A MINOR MAY BE TRIED AS ADULT FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 707, I call up 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, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 707, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-12, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 5140

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

SECTION 1. LOWERING AGE AT WHICH A MINOR MAY BE TRIED AS ADULT FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

(a) LOWERING AGE AT WHICH MINOR MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM JURISDICTION OF FAMILY COURT.—Section 16-2301, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “sixteen years of age” and inserting “fourteen years of age”; and

(2) in paragraph (3) in the matter following subparagraph (C), by striking “the age of sixteen” and inserting “the age of fourteen”.

(b) LOWERING AGE AT WHICH MINOR MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO CRIMINAL PROCEEDING.—Section 16-2307(a), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “fifteen” and inserting “fourteen”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “sixteen” and inserting “fourteen”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall apply with respect to criminal offenses committed on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCIA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support 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.

The District of Columbia has seen a staggering increase in juvenile crime since the pandemic. According to the Metropolitan Police Department, 51.8 percent of all robbery arrests in 2024 were juveniles, and 53 percent of all carjacking arrests in 2025, as of August, were juveniles.

Congress must respond to these violent crimes being committed by juvenile perpetrators. Currently, minors 16 years old and older are eligible to have their case moved up to criminal court and to be tried as an adult in D.C. This bill lowers that age to 14 years old, making 14- and 15-year-olds who commit violent crimes eligible to be charged as adults.

Violent crime refers to murder, first-degree sexual abuse, burglary in the first degree, and robbery while armed, for example. When juveniles commit crimes of this magnitude, they deserve sentencing that reflects the seriousness of the crimes they committed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BRANDON GILL for leading this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1540

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, we are back with a second bill to undermine Washington, D.C., with an undemocratic and misguided policy.

Republicans in Congress are once more acting again as a city council for D.C., overriding the choices of local residents and their elected officials, while ignoring the real issues the rest of the country faces.

Nearly 700,000 taxpaying Americans in D.C. deserve the same right to self-governance as every other community including control over criminal laws.

Democrats on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform strongly oppose this bill, which would allow children as young as 14 years old to be charged as adults. Let's be clear. This bill is not about safety. It is about stripping away judicial discretion and sending more children into the adult prison system.

This bill lowers the age at which children can be tried as adults in D.C. from 16 to 14 years old for certain crimes. If a crime is committed, a person should be held accountable. We all can agree on this. A 14-year-old is not an adult. They are middle schoolers. Their brains are still developing. Treating them as adults is shameful.

We can all agree that children should be treated differently by our courts. That matters when it comes to accountability and rehabilitation. Here is what the research shows.

Youth charged as adults are more likely to reoffend than youth that go through the juvenile courts. That is not speculation. It is what decades of data show.

The CDC reviewed the evidence and found that sending kids to adult prisons increases violence and does not reduce it. The National Research Council concluded that keeping punishment in line with age is the best way to prevent future offending. Every shred of research says the same thing. Putting kids in adult prison makes us less safe, not more safe.

House Democrats know that violent crime, of course, has no place in our communities. People are right to be concerned about crime. Democrats are taking it seriously. If the goal is safer communities, this bill moves us in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, let's also talk about who this bill impacts. More than 93 percent of youth arrests in D.C. in the first half of this year were Black youth. D.C. already has the highest youth incarceration rate in the country. It is more than three times the national average. This bill would take those discrepancies and make them worse, funneling even more children into the adult system.

The bottom line is simple. The legislation in front of us would not make us safer. It does not make D.C. safer. It makes D.C. less safe. It will deepen ra-

cial disparities. It will push more kids into adult prisons where they are more likely to come out worse off than they were and not better. If we care about public safety, the last thing we should do is put 14-year-olds in adult prison.

Instead of taking power away from D.C. residents and our elected officials, Congress should focus on real national priorities like addressing gun violence that threatens communities, threatens schools, and threatens our cities every single day.

Finally, the rules in front of us have been created through the incredible work of the community, through hearings, through meetings, and through public testimony. Let's not all throw it out now. This bill is not about making D.C. safer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Washington, D.C., is the Capital of the United States. It should reflect the glory, the beauty, and the grandeur of the most powerful civilization that has ever existed on the face of the Earth.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, that is not the case under Democrat rule. Under Democrat rule, especially in our Nation's Capital, we are forced to live under the cloud of anarcho-tyranny where criminals roam free and law-abiding families live in fear.

Mr. Speaker, under President Trump's leadership, Republicans are restoring law and order to cities that have been virtually abandoned by the left. That is why I introduced the District of Columbia Juvenile Sentencing Reform Act. It will make sure violent criminals are treated like violent criminals, no matter what their age.

Mr. Speaker, in 2021, Uber Eats driver Mohammad Anwar was murdered in D.C. during a carjacking by two teenage girls. One of the criminals was 15 years old. She was convicted of felony murder, and she was given a maximum sentence under D.C. law. She will be free when she turns 21 years old. That is 6 years for murder. That is 6 years for taking a father away from his family. This bill ensures that that travesty of justice never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, the reality of crime in D.C. is bleak. D.C.'s homicide rate in 2024 was 27.3 per 100,000. That is the fourth highest in our Nation. The first 6 months of 2025 alone, juveniles in D.C. were arrested 900 times. Many of those arrests were for repeat violent offenders. Around 200 juveniles arrested for violent crimes in 2024 had prior violent crime arrests.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't rehabilitation. This is a revolving door of crime that the left has created in this city. Meanwhile, the D.C. Council passed reforms to weaken policing and reduce penalties for carjacking and robbery. As a matter of policy, they are choosing criminals over innocent Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we hear from the other side of the aisle that locking up criminals by some weird and bizarre logic increases crime. The reality, which we all know because it is self-evident, is that when a criminal is in jail, by definition, they are not committing crimes on our streets and not terrorizing innocent Americans.

We are told that if we care about public safety, we shouldn't put criminals in prison. Mr. Speaker, this is insane. They know it. The American people know it.

If we want to live in a law-abiding society, we have to get these violent and ruthless offenders off of our streets. That is what Republicans are doing, and that is what Democrats on the other side of the aisle are fighting right now.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation lowers the age for transfer to adult court from 16 to 14 for the most heinous crimes. We are talking about murder, first-degree sexual assault, armed robbery, and burglary.

It expands the cases that can be tried by the U.S. Attorney's Office, ensuring that woke, weird prosecutors like D.C. Attorney General Brian Schwalb can't let violent offenders slip through the cracks. It sends a simple message. Democrats may tolerate crime, but Republicans do not.

Mr. Speaker, every American should be able to walk down our streets without fear of being murdered or raped or having their car broken into. Every parent should be able to put their child to bed without wondering if their home is going to be broken into.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GILL of Texas. This bill restores order and common sense to the laws of our Nation's Capital. The American people and every visitor in D.C., as well, deserve nothing less.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this undemocratic and paternalistic bill which amends D.C. law. The over 700,000 D.C. residents, the majority of whom are Black and Brown, are capable and worthy of governing themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters opposing this bill from D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, the entire D.C. Council, and D.C. Attorney General Brian Schwalb.

September 10, 2025.

Hon. JAMES COMER,
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT GARCIA,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER AND RANKING MEMBER GARCIA: As Mayor and Chief Executive

Officer of the District of Columbia, I am proud of the work we have accomplished to invest in our people, strengthen our neighborhoods, and drive down crime. Building on this progress, my Administration established the Safe and Beautiful Emergency Operations Center to coordinate public safety and beautification efforts as the presidential emergency declaration ends. This structure ensures that DC will remain proactive—bringing together local and federal partners to sustain momentum on reducing crime and improving quality of life for every resident.

We have worked collaboratively with this Committee on shared priorities, including public safety, the federal Return to Work, implementing a DC budget Fiscal Year 2025 fix (which is still pending in the House) and revitalizing the RFK campus; but I write now to ask you to reject 13 of the DC bills before you today that encroach on DC's Home Rule:

Bills like H.R. 5183, the District of Columbia Home Rule Improvement Act, make the District less efficient, competitive, and responsive to the needs of a highly complex unique local government that serves local, county and state functions. Boggling down legislative and executive action only adds costs and uncertainty, making it more difficult to handle the economic headwinds and growth opportunities ahead.

Bills like H.R. 5214, the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act, make DC less safe. Replacing our very effective pre-trial detention regime, which focuses on charged violent offenses and repeat violent offenders, not just on cash bail. I credit recent changes to our laws related to pre-trial detention for helping to drive down violent crime in the last two years.

And the bills to abolish the Judicial Nominations Commission and to convert the elected DC Attorney General to a Presidentially appointed legal officer for the District are both less democratic and untenable for District operations. The Judicial Nomination Commission, with seven members appointed by the Mayor, DC Council, President, US District Court for DC, and the DC Bar, works. As recently as last month, President Trump nominated three federal judicial nominees who were selected from the Commission's candidate pool—a process that demonstrates the value of maintaining local input. DC residents also voted to elect an Attorney General who represents the public interest. Changes to these charter agencies would significantly undercut the already thin ties to autonomy that limited home rule provides.

Finally, I urge you not to up end our three-part education funding SOAR Act. I have long supported the program to expand opportunity for DC students. However, my support has always been contingent on parity among all three education sectors—public, private, and charter—and this approach is working. We will not support changes that tip the scales away from this core principle of fairness for DC families. As the fastest improving urban school system, DC has become a model for urban education. We outpace the national average on all tested subject areas. We boast free, full-day Pre-K access serving more than 13,200 young learners—an investment which supports our children and our workforce. DC ranked top of the nation in parental satisfaction regarding school choice. Mayoral control, council oversight, and deep, targeted investments in our students, teachers, and buildings made these remarkable achievements possible.

I look forward to continuing a productive partnership with the Committee—one that respects the will of DC residents and honors the principles of home rule. Together, we can build on our successes while protecting the

autonomy that, as history reflects, has made our city stronger.

Sincerely,

MURIEL BOWSER,
Mayor.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2025.

Hon. JAMES COMER,
Chair, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT GARCIA,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER AND RANKING MEMBER GARCIA: The Council of the District of Columbia is aware that the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is planning to mark up more than a dozen proposed measures that would severely and negatively impact the operations, public safety, and autonomy of the District of Columbia. We ask that you oppose these measures in full, save one, H.R. 2693, District of Columbia Electronic Transmittal of Legislation Act. While we have not seen the final text of this legislation, the public summary of H.R. 2693 is consistent with the long held request by the District of Columbia to allow the ability to electronically transfer legislative acts to Congress, rather than only allowing physical copies be transferred. The challenge and barriers created by this current requirement were clearly exposed during both the recent COVID pandemic restrictions as well as the Capitol campus restrictions following the January 6, 2021 attacks on the Capitol.

The other 13 measures that have been shared with us would do direct and serious harm to the District of Columbia and we urge you to reject these measures completely. These bills represent an unprecedented attack on the autonomy and home rule of our local government and the more than 700,000 Americans that call it home. The breadth of these bills is remarkable, and if passed, would result in an erosion of accountability and public safety for the District of Columbia. They range from eliminating and replacing our elected and accountable Attorney General for the District of Columbia with a President's hand-picked and unaccountable associate requiring no confirmation by the U.S. Senate and no local ties, to a full repeal of multiple local DC laws that have been in place for many years, if not decades, that are tested, proven, and effective components of our public safety infrastructure and ecosystem. The effect of these Congressional repeals would put our legal and Court system into chaos and directly undermine successful tools that focus on serious accountability and effective rehabilitation when a crime occurs. As always, when revisions or amendments to DC laws are necessary, those changes should only take place within our local legislature which has the best capacity to provide effective oversight and accountable actions for the residents of the District of Columbia.

We respectfully request that all members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and all members of Congress, reject these harmful measures whether in committee mark up or before the full House of Representatives. Given the breadth of the multiple measures before you, we also request an opportunity to provide a more in-depth discussion of each bill before the Committee's mark-up, especially in light that the Committee will not hold public hearings on these measures.

Sincerely,

Chairman Phil Mendelson; Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large; Councilmember Robert White, Jr., At-Large; Councilmember

Brook Pinto, Ward 2; Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4; Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6; Councilmember Trayon White, Sr., Ward 8; Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, At-Large; Councilmember Christina Henderson, At-Large; Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1; Councilmember Matthew Frumin, Ward 3; Councilmember Zachary Parker, Ward 5; Councilmember Wendell Felder, Ward 7.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,

Washington, DC, September 9, 2025.

Hon. JAMES COMER,
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT GARCIA,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER AND RANKING MEMBER GARCIA: The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is scheduled to markup fourteen bills tomorrow related to the operations of the District of Columbia. With the exception of H.R. 2693, the District of Columbia Electronic Transmittal Act, I write in strong opposition to these bills. They address inherently local issues and laws that were passed after careful consideration by the District's elected representatives, who are directly accountable to District residents. Members of this very Committee have long advocated for the principles of federalism on which this nation was founded. They have consistently condemned federal overreach and fought forcefully and convincingly for the uniquely American values of local control, freedom, and self-governance. These principles should apply to the more than 700,000 people who call Washington, DC home, just as they do for your constituents across the country.

I specifically want to call attention to the significant incursion on local self-governance reflected in two bills, the District of Columbia Attorney General Appointment Reform Act and the District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act. Both laws would displace the ability of District residents to have a voice in the selection of local leaders who wield significant power over local judicial matters: the judges on our local courts and the Attorney General for the District. The judges on the DC Court of Appeals and DC Superior Court rule on inherently local matters such as criminal prosecutions, landlord-tenant cases, probate proceedings, civil cases, and divorce proceedings, all of which have profoundly important impact on our community. For more than 50 years, the Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) has successfully allowed DC residents to have a voice in judicial appointments, while also granting the President and Senate a role in confirming our judges. I urge the Committee not to overturn that well-established process.

The DC Attorney General, as the District's chief law officer, is also responsible for local legal issues, namely, protecting the District and its residents in a wide range of matters, such as enforcing child support laws, handling abuse and neglect proceedings in the child welfare system, enforcing our housing code, and defending District agencies and officers when they are sued. In no other place in the United States are such local issues determined by a federally appointed person with no local accountability. The proposed legislation would be especially undemocratic in light of the fact that, in 2010, an overwhelming majority of District voters (76 percent) exercised their right to amend the District Charter to make the DC Attorney Gen-

eral an independent, elected office, rather than a position appointed by and subordinate to the Mayor. With that vote, District residents clearly expressed their desire that the Attorney General should be independent and accountable to them. The pending bill would displace that choice in favor of installing an Attorney General accountable not to District residents, but to the President. Given that the U.S. Attorney for the District is already appointed by the President, if passed, this bill would concentrate all criminal and civil litigation authority in the President, divesting the District and its residents of any local control over these essential functions.

No one knows or cares more about keeping DC safe than DC residents who work, live and raise their families here. Our democratically elected officials work closely with local law enforcement, policy experts, and community leadership to pass laws that are in the best interests of all Washingtonians. Substituting the will of DC voters with the whim of federal politicians is undemocratic and un-American.

I urge you to reject these measures and uphold the values Congress sought to advance more than 50 years ago when it passed the District of Columbia Home Rule Act: that District residents should enjoy the "powers of local self-government" that all other Americans enjoy. See DC Code § 1-201.02.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN L. SCHWALB,

Attorney General for the District of Columbia.

Ms. NORTON. While Congress has authority to legislate on local D.C. matters, it does not have a duty to do so. It is a choice.

In Federalist 43, James Madison said of D.C. residents: ". . . as a municipal legislature for local purposes, derived from their own suffrages, will, of course, be allowed them."

Since 1802, Congress has established various types of local government for D.C. In 1953, the Supreme Court held: ". . . there is no constitutional barrier to the delegation by Congress to the District of Columbia of full legislative power."

The local D.C. Legislature, the Council, has 13 members. If D.C. residents do not like how members vote, residents can vote them out of office or pass a ballot measure. That is called democracy.

Congress has 535 voting Members. None are elected by D.C. residents. If D.C. residents do not like how Members vote on local D.C. matters, residents cannot vote them out of office or pass a ballot measure.

□ 1550

That is the antithesis of democracy.

The substance of this bill is irrelevant, since there is never justification for Congress to legislate on local D.C. matters. Nevertheless, I will discuss it.

I strongly oppose charging 14-year-olds as adults. However, whether to amend D.C. law to reduce or increase the minimum age a minor can be charged as an adult should be a decision for D.C. alone.

In a series of cases since 2005, the Supreme Court has recognized that children are "constitutionally different from adults for purposes of sentencing."

In these cases, the court noted that childhood is marked by "rashness, proclivity for risk, and inability to assess consequences." The court said its decisions "rested not only on common sense—on what any parent knows—but on science and social science as well."

This bill is not only cruel, but counterproductive too. Most incarcerated people return home. The evidence shows that a minor charged as an adult is more likely to reoffend and be violent after release than a minor charged as a juvenile.

D.C. residents have all the obligations of American citizenship, including paying Federal taxes, serving on juries, and registering with the Selective Service, yet Congress denies them full local self-government and voting representation in Congress.

The only solution to this undemocratic treatment is to grant D.C. statehood.

Mr. Speaker, I enter into the RECORD a letter explaining why the D.C. statehood bill is constitutional from leading constitutional scholars, including Larry Tribe.

MAY 22, 2021.

Re Washington, D.C. Admission Act, H.R. 51 and S.51 (the "D.C. Admission Act")

Hon. NANCY P. PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN O. MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Majority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS: As scholars of the United States Constitution, we write to correct claims that the D.C. Admission Act is vulnerable to a constitutional challenge in the courts. For the reasons set forth below, there is no constitutional barrier to the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth (the "Commonwealth") entering the Union through a congressional joint resolution, pursuant to the Constitution's Admissions Clause, just like the 37 other states that have been admitted since the Constitution was adopted. Furthermore, Congress's exercise of its express constitutional authority to decide to admit a new state is a classic political question, which courts are highly unlikely to interfere with, let alone attempt to bar.

The D.C. Admission Act. The House passed the Act, as H.R. 51, on April 22, 2021, and as of this writing, the substantively identical companion bill (S.51) is under consideration by the Senate. The Act provides for the issuance of a congressional joint resolution declaring the admittance as a State of most of the territory currently comprising the District of Columbia, while the seat of government (defined as the "Capital") will fall outside of the boundaries of the new State and remain under federal jurisdiction. The Act also repeals the provision of federal law that establishes the current mechanism for District residents to participate in presidential elections, pursuant to Congress's authority under the Twenty-Third Amendment; and provides for expedited consideration of the repeal of that Amendment.

The Admissions Clause grants Congress constitutional authority to admit the Commonwealth into the Union. The starting

point for a constitutional analysis of the Act is the Constitution's Admissions Clause (Art. IV, Sect. 3), which provides that "New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union." The Clause "vests in Congress the essential and discretionary authority to admit new states into the Union by whatever means it considers appropriate as long as such means are framed within its vested powers." Every State admitted into the Union since the Constitution was adopted has been admitted by congressional action pursuant to this Clause; no State has been admitted pursuant to a constitutional amendment.

The Supreme Court has broadly construed Congress's assigned power to admit new states and has never interfered with Congress's admission of a state, even when potentially legitimate constitutional objections existed. For example, in 1863, Congress admitted into the Union West Virginia, which had been part of the State of Virginia, in potential violation of a provision of the Admissions Clause that bars the formation of a new State out of a portion of the territory of another State without the consent of the ceding State. The Supreme Court, however, did not bar West Virginia's admission; to the contrary, it later tacitly approved of it.

Some critics of the D.C. Admission Act have suggested that Maryland's consent might be required under the foregoing provision of the Admissions Clause. This objection mistakenly presupposes that Maryland retains a reversionary interest in the territory currently composing the District of Columbia, which Maryland ceded to the federal government when the District was established in 1791. In fact, Maryland expressly relinquished all sovereign authority over the territory at issue when the federal government accepted it. The express terms of the cession state that the territory was "for ever ceded and relinquished to the congress and government of the United States, in full and absolute right, and exclusive jurisdiction . . ." As Viet D. Dinh, who served as an Assistant Attorney General during the presidency of George W. Bush, has explained, because Maryland's cession of the territory now constituting the District was full and complete, it severed D.C. residents' now far distant "political link with" Maryland. The current District is not part of Maryland, and Maryland has no claim on any portion of the District's territory. There is accordingly no basis to require Maryland's consent for the establishment of the new State.

The Constitution's District Clause poses no barrier to admitting the Commonwealth into the Union. The Constitution's District Clause grants Congress power to "exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States." Based on this Clause, Congress established the current District of Columbia, which (as explained) was taken from territory ceded by Maryland, as well as Virginia.

The D.C. Admission Act complies with the District Clause because it provides that the Capital—which is defined in the Act to include (among other things) the White House, the Capitol Building, the United States Supreme Court Building, and the Federal executive, legislative, and judicial office buildings located adjacent to the Mall—will not become part of the new State and will remain under the sovereignty of the federal government.

Some critics have argued that the District Clause somehow mandates that the District of Columbia permanently retain all of its

current territory, and that its size may neither be increased or reduced by Congress. The plain language of the District Clause says no such thing; it does not mandate that the District be any size or shape, except it limits the maximum size of the federal enclave to ten square miles.

Historical practice confirms that Congress can change the size of the District. In 1791 Congress altered the District's southern boundary to encompass portions of what are now Alexandria, Virginia and Anacostia. Then, in 1846, Congress retroceded Alexandria and its environs back to Virginia. As a result, the territory composing the District was reduced by a third.

At the time of the 1846 retrocession, the House's Committee on the District of Columbia considered, and rejected, the very argument that critics of the D.C. Admission Act are raising today, reasoning that the "true construction of [the District Clause] would seem to be solely that Congress retain and exercise exclusive jurisdiction" over territory comprising the "seat of government." The language of the District Clause, the legislators observed, places no mandate on the size, or even the location, of that seat of government, other than preventing the government from "hold[ing] more than ten miles for this purpose." The House's judgment was correct in 1846, and remains so today.

The Twenty-Third Amendment does not prevent Congress from granting the Commonwealth statehood. Opponents of statehood have suggested that the Twenty-Third Amendment bars Congress from exercising its constitutionally enumerated authority to grant statehood to the Commonwealth. In fact, the Amendment poses no barrier to the admission of the Commonwealth into the Union through an act of Congress, in accordance with the plain language of the Admissions Clause, just as Congress has done in connection with the admission of several other States, including most recently Alaska and Hawaii.

Section 1 of the Twenty-Third Amendment, which was ratified in 1961, provides:

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct: A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State.

By its plain terms, the Amendment poses no barrier to Congress's admission of the Commonwealth into the Union. Indeed, it is entirely silent on the matter.

The only question raised by the existence of the Twenty-Third Amendment is a practical, not a constitutional one: How best to address the Twenty-Third Amendment's provision for the assignment of presidential electors to what will become a vestigial seat of government, with virtually no residents? The Act satisfactorily addresses this question by providing for the repeal of the provision of federal law that establishes the current mechanism for District residents to participate in presidential elections, pursuant to Congress's authority under the Twenty-Third Amendment, as well as by commencing the process for repealing the Amendment itself.

Initially, the Act provides for an expedited process for repeal of the Twenty-Third Amendment, a process that should move forward to ratification swiftly and successfully once the Commonwealth is admitted as a State. None of the other 50 States has reason

to seek to retain three electors for a largely unoccupied seat of government.

But the Act also addresses the possibility that the Twenty-Third Amendment is not promptly repealed by mandating the immediate repeal of the provision of federal law that provides the current mechanism for District residents to participate in federal elections.

In 1961, following the adoption of the Twenty-Third Amendment, Congress exercised its enforcement authority by enacting legislation (codified at 3 U.S.C. § 21), providing that the District residents may select presidential electors; the votes of the electors are currently awarded to the ticket prevailing in the District's presidential election.

The existing statutes fall within the broad authority granted to Congress by the Twenty-Third Amendment to define the terms of, and effectuate, the District's participation in presidential elections. The Amendment allows for the appointment of a number of Electors "in such manner as the Congress may direct." The Amendment also allows Congress to select the number of Electors the District may receive, subject only to a maximum: The District may participate in the presidential Electoral College through the appointment of no more electors than those of the smallest State, i.e., three. And section 2 of the Amendment grants Congress the power to "enforce" the provision "by appropriate legislation," as it did in 1961.

But once Congress acts again, pursuant to its express grant of constitutional authority, and repeals the legislation that creates the existing procedure for District residents to select presidential electors, that will remove the legislative provision providing for the District's participation in presidential elections. Without such a provision, there is no mechanism for identifying the Capital area's electors or allocating their votes.

Some scholars have questioned whether that approach is satisfactory. They contend that the Twenty-Third Amendment is self-enforcing, and effectively mandates the appointment of electors on behalf of the District of Columbia, regardless of whether such appointment is called for under a federal statute. Some of us disagree; indeed, the very existence of Section 2 of the Amendment makes clear that enabling legislation is required to effectuate the District's participation in the presidential election process. And Congress's 1961 enforcement legislation supports this interpretation.

Even if this self-enforcement argument were to be accepted, however, Congress could easily address it by replacing the current law mandating that the Capital area's electors vote in accordance with the outcome of the popular vote in the District with a new legislative mandate that the Capital area's electors vote in other ways. For example, Congress could require District electors to vote in favor of the presidential ticket that receives the most Electoral College votes (of the remaining 538 electors). Or, alternatively, Congress could require that District electors vote for the winner of the national popular vote winner.

A recent Supreme Court decision confirms that a legislative directive to the Capital area's electors would be enforceable. The Twenty-Third Amendment provides that the District "shall appoint" electors "in such manner as Congress may direct"; this language is a direct parallel to the Constitution's grant of broad authority to each of the States to appoint and instruct their respective electors. In its recent decision in *Chiafalo v. Washington*, the Supreme Court held that electors do not have discretion to decide how to cast their Electoral College votes, but rather are legally bound to follow

the instructions given by their respective states.

As Columbia Law School Professors Jessica Bulman-Pozen and Olatunde Johnson have observed, it follows from the Court's holding in *Chiafalo* that Congress could legally bind any electors to vote in accordance with the overall vote of the Electoral College or the national popular vote, just as the existing enabling statute currently binds them to vote in the Electoral College in accordance with the outcome of the popular vote in the District.

In sum, none of the critics' constitutional objections to the D.C. Admission Act are meritorious; and the contention that a constitutional amendment is required to admit the Commonwealth into the Union is incorrect. The D.C. Admission Act calls for a proper exercise of Congress' express authority under the Constitution to admit new states, a power that it has exercised 37 other times since the Constitution was adopted.

Courts are unlikely to second-guess Congress's exercise of its constitutional authority to admit the Commonwealth into the Union. Apart from the fact that the legal objections to admission of the Commonwealth as a State are without merit, it is also unlikely that the courts will ever consider those objections. As Mr. Dinh has observed, the decision whether to admit a state into the Union is a paradigmatic political question that the Constitution expressly and exclusively assigns to Congress. The Supreme Court has long, and strenuously, avoided adjudicating disputes respecting matters that the Constitution makes the sole responsibility of the coordinate, elected branches.

The remaining objections to Statehood do not concern applicable constitutional law, but rather matters of policy.

For example, some have argued that the District should not be admitted to the Union because it is a single city and have instead proposed that most of the District's territory be retroceded to Maryland. There is, however, no constitutional barrier to a large, diverse city, with a population comparable to that of several existing States, joining the Union. Furthermore, the Maryland retrocession proposal is subject to many of the same supposed constitutional objections raised by those who object to statehood for the District. For example, retroceding the District to Maryland would decrease the size of the remaining federal enclave, which objectors to District Statehood have claimed is constitutionally impermissible. A forced merger of the District and Maryland would also do nothing to address the purported constitutional objection to leaving the residual seat of government with three potential electors, pursuant to the terms of the Twenty-Third Amendment, prior to the Amendment's repeal.

Opponents also argue that Congress should not grant the District statehood because it will lead to a lawsuit. But any court challenge will be without merit, and indeed likely will be dismissed as presenting a political question. We respectfully submit that Congress should not avoid exercising its express constitutional authority to admit the Commonwealth into the Union because of meritless threats of litigation.

Sincerely yours,

Caroline Fredrickson, Georgetown University Law Center; Erwin Chemerinsky, University of California, Berkeley School of Law; Stephen I. Vladeck, University of Texas Law School; Franita Tolson, University of Southern California, Gould School of Law; Jessica Bulman-Pozen, Columbia Law School; Leah Litman, University of Michigan Law School; Laurence H. Tribe, Harvard Law School; Paul Smith, Georgetown University Law Center; Geoffrey R. Stone, Uni-

versity of Chicago Law School; Peter Edelman, Georgetown University Law Center.

Kermit Roosevelt, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School; Eric Segall, Georgia State College of Law; Trevor Potter, Campaign Legal Center; Gregory P. Downs, University of California, Davis; Larry Sabato, University of Virginia; Aziz Huq, University of Chicago Law School; Jennifer Hochschild, Harvard University; Neil S. Siegel, Duke University School of Law; Beau Breslin, Skidmore College; David C. Vladeck, Georgetown University Law Center; Sanford Levinson, University of Texas at Austin School of Law; Ira C. Lupu, George Washington University Law School; Peter M. Shane, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law; Ira P. Robbins, American University Washington College of Law; Michael Greenberger, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

David Pozen, Columbia Law School; Mark Tushnet, Harvard Law School; Michael C. Dorf, Cornell Law School; Miguel Schor, Drake University School of Law; David S. Schwartz, University of Wisconsin Law School; Caroline Mala Corbin, University of Miami School of Law; Jonathan Askin, Brooklyn Law School; Aziz Rana, Cornell Law School; John Mikhail, Georgetown University Law Center; Richard Ford, Stanford Law School; Richard Primus, University of Michigan Law School; Joseph Fishkin, University of Texas Law School; Kate Masur, Northwestern University; Chris Edelson, American University.

Ms. NORTON. The D.C. statehood bill, H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, grants D.C. residents full local self-government and voting representation in Congress. H.R. 51 reduces the size of the Federal District from 68 square miles to 2 square miles, consisting of the White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the National Mall and remaining under the control of Congress.

The new State consists of the residential and commercial areas of D.C. The new State has a larger population than two States, pays more Federal taxes per capita than any State, and pays more total Federal taxes than 21 States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote "no" on H.R. 5140, keep their hands off D.C. and free D.C.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, we have debated these bills in a sincere effort to work with the President of the United States to lower crime in D.C. We have heard nothing from the Democrats other than there is no crime problem in D.C., and that a solution is to make Washington, D.C., a State.

We are serious about lowering crime. We applaud the efforts of the President of the United States. We will continue to work with him to make our Capital City as safe as possible. I appreciate BRANDON GILL, the sponsor of the bill, and BYRON DONALDS for sponsoring the last bill.

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

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member GARCIA for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation. This bill seeks to create 14-year-old prisoners in the adult criminal legal system. We know this approach doesn't improve public safety. It only traumatizes our babies. History tells us as much.

Antron McCray, 15 years old;

Yusef Salaam, 15 years old;

Raymond Santana, 14 years old;

Korey Wise, 16 years old; and

Kevin Richardson, 14 years old.

These five boys with big smiles and bright futures ahead of them went on to experience fear and manipulation that no child should. They were threatened, harassed, coerced, abused, and tried as adults, the very harm that this Republican bill would expand.

From the moment of their arrest these teenage boys, these Black boys, were treated as guilty of a horrific crime in Central Park, despite being innocent of all accusations. It was part of the hyper-punitive culture that prioritized political talking points about being tough on crime and targeted Black and Brown communities rather than investing in resources and policies that actually keep us all safe.

Does this sound familiar, Mr. Speaker?

During their trial, there was a PR campaign against the boys on TV and in newspapers. Donald J. Trump himself spent the equivalent of more than \$200,000 advocating for them to get the death penalty.

These five Black and Brown children were innocent, but Trump wanted them killed. To this day, he has not even apologized, and Republicans in Congress are supporting him and his bigotry with this bill.

The story of the "Exonerated Five" is a tragedy and part of our shared history, but Republicans want it to be the future.

First, their rhetoric demonized their communities. Then they began weaponizing National Guard against citizens. Now they are changing laws to incarcerate more people at an even younger age. Of course, the prison industrial complex will reap the profits.

What Republicans do in D.C., they want to apply to the entire country.

This Republican bill perpetuates racism. The Department of Justice statistics show that Black kids are twice as likely to be incarcerated compared to White kids, despite committing crimes at the same rate.

This Republican bill is flawed. By treating children as adults, Mr. Speaker, you deny them protections from abuse from adults in prison, including bullying, physical violence, sexual assault, and rape.

This Republican bill makes children's lives worse. Unlike in other States, when kids in D.C. are treated as adults, the Bureau of Prisons ships them hundreds of miles away from their family and loved ones to places like South Dakota or Texas. This makes rehabilitation harder and increases the likelihood of recidivism.

Don't just take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. There is a large coalition opposing this bill.

Scientists tell us that young people's brains are not fully developed until their twenties. They don't share the same culpability for their actions as adults when they are only 14 years old.

Lawyers explain that children treated as adults, even when they are innocent, are denied age-appropriate legal protections for the rest of their lives.

Sociologists find that children who commit crimes are overwhelmingly influenced by adults and their surroundings, not their own thinking.

Of course, the people of D.C. did not vote for Trump or any Republican for that matter to be a city councilor.

Republicans are supporting this legislation not because they care about public safety. If Republicans cared about reducing crime, then they would tell Trump to stop delaying funding for community violence prevention programs that already were passed with bipartisan support.

If Republicans cared about victims, then they would stop making cuts to the crime victims fund so that people who experience harm get the help that they need.

If Republicans cared about our kids, then they would invest in restorative justice programs that teach children how to resolve their conflicts without violence.

If Republicans cared about our kids, then they would support commonsense legislation to prevent school shootings.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill to keep our babies safe from trauma, abuse, and fear.

In the words of James Baldwin, "The children are always ours, every single one."

I challenge you, Mr. Speaker, to protect them all.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time that I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, that is a perfect example of the difference in the two sides on how to handle crime in D.C.

You have to hold people accountable for crimes, Mr. Speaker. If you don't, then they will continue to commit crimes. That is what we have here in Washington, D.C. That is why we are here today. That is why we are here today.

Just coddling criminals, hiring therapists, hiring more social workers, and creating more government programs have failed to work in Washington, D.C., and many of the cities around the United States.

We have a President who is going to be tough on crime and tough on criminals. That is what the theme of this legislation is, Mr. Speaker. That is our way to reduce crime in Washington, D.C.

Their way hasn't worked. We are going to do it our way if we get the support in the Chamber today.

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

□ 1600

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

I remind our Republican colleagues that crime in D.C. over the last few years has actually been going down. Quite frankly, the idea that we are now going to put middle schoolers in prison—this should be called the middle schoolers for prison act—is inhumane and shameful.

We can all agree that crime should be taken on, that D.C. and other cities we want to make safer, but this idea that we are going to penalize children in middle school at the age of 14 and put them in prison is irresponsible and, quite frankly, it is un-American.

I remind my colleagues that at this moment, what we are doing right now, is stripping 700,000 residents who have come together in D.C. to create laws, to bring community together, to fight for statehood and representation, we are going to strip them from their ability to manage their own city.

These efforts do nothing to reduce crime or improve public safety. Once again, I know that the President is obsessed with Washington, D.C. He is obsessed with its local laws. I ask him once again that he should step down as President and run for mayor if he is so interested. Let's not put 14-year-olds in prison.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Again, we are talking about violent crimes, violent crimes. What we have seen in Washington, D.C., is an outbreak of juvenile crime because the definition of juvenile in this city is 7 years higher than every other city in America.

With this legislation, we are talking about addressing issues of violent crime with juveniles. I think, Mr. Speaker, this is the path to try to get the crime under control in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to ensure that violent crime, including murder and first degree sexual abuse, are taken seriously in the District of Columbia.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 707, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARCIA of California. 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 question will be postponed.

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 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.R. 4922; and

Passage of H.R. 5140.

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

DC CRIMINAL REFORMS TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE EVERYONE SAFE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage 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, 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 passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 179, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 270]

YEAS—240

Aderholt	Arrington	Baird
Alford	Auchincloss	Balderson
Allen	Babin	Barr
Amodet (NV)	Bacon	Barrett

Baumgartner
 Bean (FL)
 Begich
 Bentz
 Bergman
 Bice
 Biggs (AZ)
 Biggs (SC)
 Bilirakis
 Boebert
 Bost
 Brecheen
 Bresnahan
 Buchanan
 Burchett
 Burlison
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Carey
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyde
 Cole
 Collins
 Comer
 Conaway
 Correa
 Costa
 Crane
 Crank
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Davids (KS)
 Davidson
 Davis (NC)
 De La Cruz
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Donalds
 Downing
 Edwards
 Ellzey
 Emmer
 Estes
 Evans (CO)
 Ezell
 Fallon
 Fedorchak
 Feenstra
 Fine
 Finstad
 Fischbach
 Fitzgerald
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Flood
 Fong
 Foxx
 Franklin, Scott
 Fry
 Fulcher
 Garbarino
 Gill (TX)
 Gillen
 Gimenez
 Golden (ME)
 Goldman (TX)
 Gonzales, Tony
 Gonzalez, V.
 Gooden
 Goodlander
 Gosar
 Graves

NAYS—179

Adams
 Aguilar
 Amo
 Ansari
 Balint
 Barragan
 Beatty
 Bell
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop
 Bonamici
 Boyle (PA)
 Brown
 Brownley
 Budzinski
 Bynum
 Carbajal
 Carson
 Carter (LA)
 Casar

Case
 Casten
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Cherfilus-McCormick
 Chu
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Courtney
 Craig
 Crockett
 Crow
 Carbajal
 Dean (PA)
 DeGette
 DeLauro

Moore (UT)
 Moore (WV)
 Moran
 Moskowitz
 Murphy
 Nehls
 Newhouse
 Norman
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Ogles
 Onder
 Palmer
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Patronis
 Perez
 Perry
 Pfluger
 Reschenthaler
 Riley (NY)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rulli
 Ryan
 Salazar
 Scalise
 Schmidt
 Schrier
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Self
 Sessions
 Shreve
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Soto
 Spartz
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Steil
 Steube
 Strong
 Stutzman
 Taylor
 Tenney
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany
 Timmons
 Torres (CA)
 Tran
 Turner (OH)
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Dуйne
 Van Orden
 Vindman
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Westerman
 Whitesides
 Wied
 Williams (TX)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Yakym
 Zinke

Garcia (TX)
 Goldman (NY)
 Gomez
 Gottheimer
 Green, Al (TX)
 Hayes
 Himes
 Horsford
 Houlihan
 Hoyer
 Hoyle (OR)
 Huffman
 Ivey
 Jackson (IL)
 Jacobs
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (TX)
 Kamlager-Dove
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy (NY)
 Khanna
 Krishnamoorthi
 Landsman
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latimer
 Lee (PA)
 Leger Fernandez
 Levin
 Liccardo
 Lieu
 Lofgren
 Magaziner
 Massie
 Matsui
 McBeth
 McBride
 McClain Delaney

Ciscomani
 McDowell
 Meuser
 Owens
 Rutherford
 Sherrill

McClellan
 McCollum
 McDonald Rivet
 McGarvey
 McGovern
 McIver
 Meeks
 Menendez
 Meng
 Mfume
 Moore (WI)
 Morelle
 Morrison
 Moulton
 Mrvan
 Mullin
 Nadler
 Neal
 Neguse
 Norcross
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Olszewski
 Omar
 Pallone
 Pelosi
 Peters
 Pettersen
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Pou
 Pressley
 Quigley
 Ramirez
 Randall
 Raskin
 Rivas
 Ross
 Ruiz
 Salinas
 Sanchez

NOT VOTING—13

Stefanik
 Titus
 Underwood

□ 1701

Messrs. LARSON of Connecticut and CLEAVER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. LYNCH changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to increased traffic on Independence Ave. and inclement weather, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 4922. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 270.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 270.

Stated against:

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend a vote today. However, had I been present, I would have voted “Nay” on roll call No. 270, H.R. 4922, DC CRIMES Act of 2025.

LOWERING AGE AT WHICH A MINOR MAY BE TRIED AS ADULT FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage 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, 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 passage of the bill. This is a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 203, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 271]
 YEAS—225

Aderholt
 Alford
 Allen
 Amodei (NV)
 Arrington
 Babin
 Bacon
 Baird
 Balderson
 Barr
 Barrett
 Baumgartner
 Bean (FL)
 Begich
 Bentz
 Bergman
 Bice
 Biggs (AZ)
 Biggs (SC)
 Bilirakis
 Boebert
 Bost
 Brecheen
 Bresnahan
 Buchanan
 Burchett
 Burlison
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Carey
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyde
 Cole
 Collins
 Comer
 Conaway
 Correa
 Costa
 Crane
 Crank
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Davids (KS)
 Davidson
 Davis (NC)
 De La Cruz
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Donalds
 Downing
 Edwards
 Ellzey
 Emmer
 Estes
 Evans (CO)
 Ezell
 Fallon
 Fedorchak
 Feenstra
 Fine
 Finstad
 Fischbach
 Fitzgerald
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Flood
 Fong
 Foxx
 Franklin, Scott
 Fry
 Fulcher
 Garbarino
 Gill (TX)

NAYS—203

Beyer
 Bishop
 Bonamici
 Boyle (PA)
 Brown
 Brownley
 Budzinski
 Bynum
 Carbajal
 Carson

Gillen
 Gimenez
 Golden (ME)
 Goldman (TX)
 Mills
 Gonzales, Tony
 Gooden
 Gosar
 Graves
 Greene (GA)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Hamadeh (AZ)
 Haridopoulos
 Harrigan
 Harris (MD)
 Harris (NC)
 Harshbarger
 Hern (OK)
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill (AR)
 Hinson
 Houchin
 Hudson
 Huizenga
 Hunt
 Hurd (CO)
 Issa
 Jack
 Jackson (TX)
 James
 Johnson (LA)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kean
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy (UT)
 Kiggans (VA)
 Kiley (CA)
 Kim
 Knott
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 LaMalfa
 Langworthy
 Latta
 Lawler
 Lee (FL)
 Lee (NV)
 Letlow
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luna
 Luttrell
 Mace
 Mackenzie
 Malliotakis
 Mann
 Mast
 McCaul
 McClain
 McClintock
 McCormick
 McDowell
 McGuire
 Messmer
 Meuser
 Miller (IL)

Miller (OH)
 Miller (WV)
 Miller-Meeks
 Mills
 Min
 Moolenaar
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (NC)
 Moore (UT)
 Moore (WV)
 Moran
 Murphy
 Nehls
 Newhouse
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Ogles
 Onder
 Owens
 Palmer
 Patronis
 Perry
 Pfluger
 Reschenthaler
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rulli
 Salazar
 Scalise
 Schmidt
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Self
 Sessions
 Shreve
 Kelly (PA)
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Spartz
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Strong
 Stutzman
 Taylor
 Tenney
 Thompson (PA)
 Timmons
 Turner (OH)
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Dуйne
 Van Orden
 Vindman
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Westerman
 Wied
 Williams (TX)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Yakym
 Zinke

Clark (MA)	Johnson (TX)	Pressley
Clarke (NY)	Kamlager-Dove	Quigley
Cleaver	Kaptur	Ramirez
Clyburn	Keating	Randall
Cohen	Kelly (IL)	Raskin
Conaway	Kennedy (NY)	Riley (NY)
Correa	Khanna	Rivas
Costa	Krishnamoorthi	Ross
Courtney	Landsman	Ruiz
Craig	Larsen (WA)	Ryan
Crockett	Larson (CT)	Salinas
Crow	Latimer	Sánchez
Davidson (KS)	Lee (PA)	Scanlon
Davis (IL)	Leger Fernandez	Schakowsky
Dean (PA)	Levin	Schneider
DeGette	Liccardo	Scholten
DeLauro	Lieu	Schrier
DelBene	Lofgren	Scott (VA)
Deluzio	Lynch	Scott, David
DeSaulnier	Magaziner	Sewell
Dexter	Mannion	Sherman
Dingell	Massie	Simon
Doggett	Matsui	Smith (WA)
Elfreth	McBath	Sorensen
Escobar	McBride	Soto
Espallat	McClain Delaney	Stansbury
Evans (PA)	McClellan	Stanton
Fields	McCollum	Stevens
Figures	McDonald Rivet	Strickland
Fletcher	McGarvey	Subramanyam
Foster	McGovern	Suozi
Foushee	McIver	Swalwell
Frankel, Lois	Meeks	Sykes
Friedman	Menendez	Takano
Frost	Meng	Thanedar
Garamendi	Mfume	Thompson (CA)
Garcia (CA)	Moore (WI)	Thompson (MS)
Garcia (IL)	Morelle	Tlaib
Garcia (TX)	Morrison	Tokuda
Goldman (NY)	Moskowitz	Tonko
Gomez	Moulton	Torres (CA)
Gonzalez, V.	Mrvan	Torres (NY)
Goodlander	Mullin	Trahan
Gottheimer	Nadler	Tran
Green, Al (TX)	Neal	Underwood
Harder (CA)	Neguse	Vargas
Hayes	Norcross	Vasquez
Himes	Ocasio-Cortez	Veasey
Horsford	Olszewski	Velázquez
Houlahan	Omar	Walkinshaw
Hoyer	Pallone	Wasserman
Hoyle (OR)	Panetta	Schultz
Huffman	Pappas	Waters
Ivey	Pelosi	Watson Coleman
Jackson (IL)	Peters	Whitesides
Jacobs	Pettersen	Williams (GA)
Jayapal	Pingree	Wilson (FL)
Jeffries	Pocan	
Johnson (GA)	Pou	

NOT VOTING—4

Gray	Sherrill
Rutherford	Titus

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1714

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed Roll Call Nos. 270 and 271. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 270, final passage of HR 4922, and NAY on Roll Call No. 271, final passage of HR 5140.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4700

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 4700.

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

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 491, H.R. 492, H.R. 493, AND H.R. 1670

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 491, the Equal COLA Act; H.R. 492, the Saving the Civil Service Act; H.R. 493, the FAIR Act; and H.R. 1670, the Family Building FEHB Fairness Act, all bills originally introduced by Representative Connolly of Virginia, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR MARY ROSE OAKAR

(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, I, along with my Ohio colleagues, rise in grateful memory of Ohio Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar, who served from 1977 to 1993 in this House. She was the first Democratic woman elected to Congress from Ohio.

Mary Rose was elected from the heart of the working class of people. She exhibited raw courage, loyalty, perseverance, high learning, precious humor, and stellar insight into human nature. Her hearty giggle elevated people's spirits, and she suffered no fools. She stood her ground, and she plowed her own ground, establishing herself as a preeminent advocate for women's economic rights.

She championed senior citizens and the refinancing of Social Security in April of 1983, serving on the House Select Committee on Aging, while also advocating for housing, pay equity, improved healthcare for women, breast cancer research, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and the NASA Glenn Research Center, to name a few. Eventually, she moved into the ranks of House Democratic leaders where she firmly stood as vice chair of the Democratic Caucus.

As the first Arab-American woman, the first Syrian-American woman, and the first Lebanese-American woman to serve in Congress, she fiercely dedicated herself toward peace in the Middle East.

Mary Rose worked hard to promote an economy that serves everyone across northern Ohio and throughout our Nation. Her abilities sparked as she brought joy, wit, keen insight, kindness, and dynamism to every occasion. She and her heart of gold were truly one of a kind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in a moment of silence.

In addition to the eloquent words offered in tribute to our late colleague, the following

statement commemorates the extraordinary accomplishments of Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar.

Congresswoman Oakar's career was defined by trailblazing leadership, moral clarity, and a fierce devotion to those who too often lived in the margins of public policy. A daughter of Cleveland, she carried the voices of working families, seniors, women, and immigrants into the halls of Congress at a time when few women were present to do so.

Among her enduring accomplishments, Congresswoman Oakar:

Championed economic justice through the Pay Equity Act of 1984, ensuring that the federal government could not undervalue work performed by women.

Fought for inclusion in medical research, shaping the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 so that women and minorities could no longer be excluded from the clinical studies that guide lifesaving treatments.

Co-founded the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, a bipartisan forum that remains a cornerstone of women's advocacy in Congress today.

Secured a historic increase in federal breast cancer research funding, exceeding \$400 million, and mandated insurance coverage for mammograms—work that continues to save lives.

Advanced protections for America's seniors, authoring legislation to combat elder abuse and later advising President Bill Clinton at the White House Conference on Aging.

Beyond her legislative record, Congresswoman Oakar was instrumental in shaping Cleveland's future—helping bring the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to her beloved city, securing affordable housing for seniors, and championing NASA Glenn Research Center as a hub of innovation.

She also stood as a symbol of representation. Her legacy of courage and conviction inspired countless women and minorities to enter public service, knowing that their voices would be heard at the national table.

Congresswoman Oakar's public service was marked by persistence, compassion, and vision. She left our country better than she found it, and her record of achievements continues to touch lives every day. In remembering her, we not only honor her history, but we recommit ourselves to the unfinished work of justice and inclusion she so valiantly advanced.

□ 1720

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF PORT MATILDA

(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 Port Matilda, Pennsylvania, which marks its centennial celebration on Sunday.

While Port Matilda was formally incorporated as a borough in 1925, its roots go back to 1850, when Squire Clement Beckwith laid out a town plot and named it after his eldest daughter Matilda.

Historians believe that the addition of "port" was hopeful on Beckwith's

part, thinking the borough would eventually be connected to the Bald Eagle and Spring Creek branch of the Pennsylvania Canal, though it was never realized.

Nestled in the Bald Eagle Valley between Tyrone and State College, the borough is a glimpse into small town America. Its most famous landmark from the 1800s, the Port Matilda Hotel & Tavern, is still in business today.

In the late 19th century, Port Matilda was a working village of mills and shops. In the 20th century, the borough's industrial base was anchored by the McFeely Brick Company, a major employer until its closure in 1959. Across nearly two centuries, Port Matilda has flourished as a crossroads town with a rich history.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Port Matilda on this milestone occasion.

SERVICING THE RIGHT TO BREATHE CLEAN, SAFE AIR

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some good news and a step forward in protecting those who protect us.

For generations, wildland firefighters have battled infernos with little more than a bandana between them and the clouds of toxic smoke.

As the only pulmonologist serving in the United States Congress, I know just how dangerous that is. Exposure to wildfire smoke isn't just uncomfortable. It leads to heart and lung disease. It causes cancer. It shortens lives.

That is why, during a recent House Natural Resources Committee hearing, I pressed the U.S. Forest Service chief to do more to protect our firefighters. Within hours, the Forest Service made clear that masks would be made available to wildland firefighters.

This is welcomed news, but we cannot let up now. I look forward to my briefing with Forest Service Chief Schultz to further these protections for our firefighters. The right to breathe clean, safe air, whether you are battling a megafire or walking your child to school, is fundamental.

It is time for every Member of this body to recommit to that goal and take action to make it real.

THE FIGHT FOR WESTERN CIVILIZATION

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

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Western civilization is under siege.

Violent criminals roam free. Foreigners who hate this country are infiltrating our universities, and, worst of all, innocent people are silenced or even killed for their beliefs.

In recent weeks, tragedies in North Carolina and Utah shook our country to its core. Mr. Speaker, 23-year-old Iryna Zarutka was stabbed to death by a repeat offender on a train in Charlotte just outside my district, and 31-year-old Charlie Kirk was assassinated for sharing his ideas and his love for this country.

These tragedies are not isolated incidents but signs of a national epidemic of lawlessness and division that threatens the very fabric of our society. Iryna and Charlie have opened many eyes to the battle being waged against our Nation, but this war isn't just against America. It is an assault against the entire West.

We can't let fear silence us. Their deaths should only fuel our resolve. We must protect the West and all that it represents. Is America ready to stand against those who would threaten this Republic? I hope so, so let's roll.

FED RATES AND STAGFLATION

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reserve Board meets this week to consider easing interest rates, a move that the President has been urging for months.

Inflation remains stubborn. Consumer prices rose by 2.9 percent in August compared to last year. Job growth is slowing. Unemployment has climbed to 4.3 percent, the highest in 4 years. We are now veering toward stagflation: rising prices and a cooling job market.

No matter what you call it, the reality is clear: American families and small businesses are struggling. The President came into office promising to lower costs and make life more affordable. Instead, he has delivered the opposite with a massive tax and spend bill and a reckless tariff agenda that is driving prices even higher and creating apprehension for employers.

Lower interest rates might offer some short-term relief. Yet, for real, lasting stability, you need a change in course and a change in policies coming from the top.

CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK: EDIE BROOKS

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Edie Brooks on being named Teacher of the Year by the Virginia Business Educators Association.

Edie is a business and IT career education teacher at Post Oak Middle School. She was honored for her innovative teaching strategies, unwavering commitment to student success, and active pursuit of professional growth. Through her commitment to education, Edie has left a lasting impact on both her students and colleagues.

Edie's service and devotion to Spotylvania County Public Schools is truly deserving of this recognition. I am honored to congratulate her on this well-earned moment and recognize her as this week's Constituent of the Week.

I congratulate and thank Edie for all that she does for our young minds.

VIOLENCE NOR SILENCE IS THE ANSWER

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, violence is never the answer, but neither is silence.

We must reject political violence in all of its forms and push back against all who would seek to stoke further violence, division, and fear amongst us. In fact, the very foundation of our democracy is built on the idea that the voices of our people are our most powerful tool, exercised at the ballot box, the debate podium, and in our communities. That is how we come together as a nation to form a more perfect Union.

Indeed, the very concept of democracy was forged in that crucible, that a government by the people and for the people is exercised through the fellowship of debate.

Let us join in that fellowship to see our fellow Americans as brothers and sisters, as neighbors and friends, even when we disagree. Yet, let this not become a moment to silence debate or silence dissent or silence the truth or those of conscience who work to hold our leaders accountable and right the wrongs of an unjust world. That is how history will remember us: those who stood, those who spoke, and those who fought to protect our democracy and bend the arc of history toward justice.

□ 1730

WE ARE BORROWING \$72,000 A SECOND

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, for everyone's sanity, I hope not to go 60 minutes. I might go 40.

Mr. Speaker, first, the good news. If anyone else is a geek out there, there is this app put out by the Atlanta Fed, Atlanta Federal Reserve, and what they do is they do certain samples in trying to constantly estimate what the gross national product, GDP, will actually be.

A little while ago, they actually updated it saying the U.S. economy looks like it is running at 3.4 percent.

That is remarkable. If you stop and think about it, this is absolutely—think about all the headwinds and all the things over tariffs and all these

other, the economy actually is surprisingly healthy.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I am up here today and every other week is, our fiscal year ends in a couple weeks and our best estimate is this fiscal year we will have borrowed \$2.4 trillion, maybe \$2.5 trillion. We have one model in our office that says more than \$2.5 trillion. That is like \$70,000, \$72,000 every second of every day we are borrowing.

Let's think of a world where you are borrowing \$70,000 a second, yet the economy is actually fairly decent. What is going on? Is it Republican? Is it Democrat?

It turns out it is the very thing we hate to talk about. It is the cost of interest and the cost of healthcare, and that healthcare is primarily driven because we are unwilling—Mr. Speaker, you are a doctor, if I remember. We are unwilling to have the honest conversation of how we deliver, where we can revolutionize the cost, where we can adopt technology because we are in the incumbent protection business. We protect incumbent bureaucracies and incumbent business models.

If we don't take this seriously, do you think you can have a country that is borrowing \$70,000, \$72,000 every second? Do you think you can keep that going?

Remember, once again, I am going to try to show versions of this. In 7 years, the Medicare trust fund is empty. In 2032, 7 years, halfway through that year, the Medicare trust fund is empty. In 2033, the first full year, our best estimate is that there is about \$140 billion shortfall.

Mr. Speaker, in 7 years, the Social Security trust fund is empty. Meaning, in 2033, if you are going to cover Medicare and Social Security, you are approaching almost \$600 billion. How many of us get behind these microphones and actually talk about things that are truly terrifying?

Are we really going to avoid dealing with our actual jobs? Are we going to allow the doubling of senior poverty in America in 7 years at the same time we are bankrupting much of the medical system?

In 7 years, grandma gets a 24 percent cut in her check and our model says that it will double the poverty of seniors. Yet, often the solution we get is, well, we will just raise taxes.

Okay. The first year of the short-fall—I am rounding up a bit—it is \$600 billion. You really think you are going to do a \$600 billion tax hike.

Here is my battle. I have tried for years and years and said, we need to do a fiscal commission. The fact of the matter is, we have the same number of 18 year olds as we had 20 years ago, but we have double the number of Americans, our brothers and sisters, who are now 65 and up.

Twenty years ago, we had 35 million Americans 65 and up. Now we are at 70 million Americans that are 65 and up, and I think we have another 10, 15 mil-

lion that will be 65 and up in the next few years.

We are incapable of telling the truth. How many of us want to get up in front of our voters back home or put into our newsletter saying, we have a demographic financing crisis? Are we going to do all the things necessary to skyrocket productivity because wages—sorry.

Do you remember your high school economics class? Wages go up by inflation, but that doesn't mean you get anything. You are just treading water. Our wages go up by productivity. Are we going to do the things that are necessary for productivity?

It means Democrats and Republicans need to stop saying things like you can't automate ports. You can't automate this. We don't want to allow that technology. There is a way to make this not be dystopian.

Mr. Speaker, I am so tired of coming behind this microphone. The poor staff here has to be just exhausted, but I am trying not to speak like a machine gun anymore. I am trying to slow down.

Every time I come up here, the numbers are a little bit worse and what is frustrating is, the economy is actually doing fairly well, but it is the scale of the debt because we keep spending and spending and spending.

Let's actually do some of the charts to try to see if I can get this to sink in.

Next year, for every dollar of tax collection, we are going to spend \$1.43.

Let's do that again. For every dollar in tax collection next year, starting in a couple weeks, October 1, we start the new fiscal year. This is for the 2026 fiscal year; we are going to spend \$1.43.

How long is that sustainable? For everyone going in your head, oh, we will just raise taxes. Let's do this again. In the way back machine, like in the beginning of the year, I think I did entire presentations on Democrat tax proposals and what we have talked about in just cuts on the Republican side.

Our best estimate is this fiscal year, which we are finishing in the next couple of weeks, we are going to borrow 7.3 percent of the entire economy. Our borrowing would equal 7.3 percent of the economy.

Every tax hike that we have scored that the Democrats have proposed, capital gains, income tax, corporate taxes, the whole litany, when you do the economic adjustment, it comes in at 1.5 percent, maybe 1.6, but the math is easier, 1.5 percent of the economy. That is what we get for all the tax hikes.

For those of us on the Republican side when we walk through, we can cut this, we can cut this, we can cut this, it is coming in at about 1 percent of the economy.

Anyone see the math problem? I got 2½ percent and that is all you have ever heard behind these microphones, but we are borrowing 7.3 percent of the economy this year.

How many idiots like me will get up behind these microphones and tell you the truth?

Next year, for every dollar of tax collections, we are going to spend \$1.43. Let's say you are the most liberal Member here. Do you have any understanding when this hits the wall, the devastation, the crushing of poor people? How about if you are the most libertarian or free market? Do you understand the crushing of the economic system, which has produced so much prosperity, that will happen when we are in crisis mode? Let's not let it happen.

□ 1740

Let's actually walk through this because this is actually one of my things. We are actually borrowing a little over this. We borrow about \$6.5 billion a day. I always love the debates here: We are going to save \$100 million. Great. Great. We borrow about \$260, \$270 million an hour, so a quarter trillion dollars an hour. We will have debates here that go on for sometimes an hour to save functionally a minute, half a minute. We have had one where it was like 15 seconds of borrowing.

In 9 years, we are over \$10 billion, my math is closer to \$10.5 billion a day. That is just the structural borrowing.

One of the deceiving things is, over the next 10 years, we functionally spend \$70 trillion, and you will get someone who says: Well, you guys voted for this. Well, you guys wanted to tax this. You actually start to help them understand, saying, we are talking fractions of our exposure.

I accept, you don't need to be an accounting major or math major to be a Member of Congress. We make some very pretty charts, though. For anyone who actually gives a darn about what is going on, every single month, the Joint Economic Committee Republicans publish a monthly fiscal update. We have tried to make it as simple as possible to understand, page after page, to show you what the hell is really going on.

One of the things that is incredibly frustrating is we live in a world where so much of what you are going to find on the internet right now isn't true. Let me prove it.

Here is an article I was very disturbed to find out: Complex infection keeps the Pope in hospital. This is Newsweek from a couple days ago. Apparently, the Pope is in the hospital. This is actually a story that was posted September 8, except the small problem is, this Pope has been dead for months.

Welcome to the quality of what we call news anymore. This is Newsweek. They just let their AI generate a story, fill it up. There is no human that bothered to look at it. Yet, you and I have to help our voters. Our constituents call us and say: Is this true? You can't find the story. You ask them if they can send it to you. You think, well, that doesn't make any sense. It is someone who hit a computer button.

What also happens when we actually see stories like: OMB says Trump's economic agenda will cut the deficit in half. I am trying to find the policies.

You start to go over it, and many of these stories are actually someone was giving a speech, and so the AI wrote a story. It is not actually what was said.

My frustration with this is, I have Members here right now who say: David, we are going to take in \$300 billion in tariff receipts—customs duties if you want to be accurate—next year. We are fine.

Okay. Next year, we are borrowing about \$270, \$280—sorry, we will borrow about \$2.5 trillion in the 2026 year. So \$300 billion is very, very helpful, but you are still borrowing \$2.2 trillion. We haven't actually done all the economic effects of does that actually change purchasing behavior.

Actually, we have some great stories today on the Bloomberg terminal of companies that look like they have been actually undervaluing their customs duties, meaning they are lying to the Customs Service, and we are taking in less receipts than we should.

The scale of what is going on is just intensely frustrating. Let's actually start to also knock down one of the urban folk legends: It is defense spending. How often do we go home and I will have a liberal person saying: If you would just cut defense, we would be fine.

Okay, here is your problem: Healthcare is about 28 percent of our spending, Social Security is 22 percent of our spending. This is 2025 to fiscal date. Net interest is 14 percent of our spending. If you do all the other outlays, it is 14 percent. Income security, that is actually—well, it is what it is—10 percent. National defense is 12 percent. It turns out national defense is now number 5. The thing that is actually in the Constitution is actually number 5 in the spending stack.

Your government is functionally an insurance company with an Army. You laugh, but you know you are going to quote that later.

Let's actually sort of take a look. This is net receipts by category, 2024 compared to 2025. Hopefully, this will make sense. I am going to put this chart up on our website later because I know it is really hard to see. If you actually take a look at what is happening, how do we finance this government? It is mostly individual income taxes.

Now, for someone who says: Well, it should be corporate. Remember, in the late 1980s, early 1990s, all across the country we were moving to LLCs, professional partnerships, pass-through entities, so much of what you would have seen back in the early 1980s, 1970s, 1960s as corporate now passes through, so some of it was a corporate structure. You always have to be careful when you say: Why are corporate taxes down so much? It is now because it flows through on the individual line. I am just trying to make that point.

Take a look at this. Here is Social Security and retirement taxes. Well, that is FICA. Actually, you were getting \$1.7 trillion last year. This year it

is up 3 percent. This year it is \$1.761 trillion. Corporate income tax, last year we took in \$529 billion. Then you start to look at customs duties.

Now, this is interesting. I am going to say this two or three times to try to make a point. In the 2024 fiscal year, we took in \$77 billion in customs duties. That is tariffs. All right. We estimate this year it is going to be up 146 percent, but that is \$190 billion. That is a lot of money, Mr. Speaker, but 177 minus the 190 . . .

Did I mention, next year we are set to borrow about \$2.5 trillion is our estimate? CBO, I know, has a number that is lower, but I will tell you in this fiscal year, my Joint Economic Committee was more correct than CBO.

If we are borrowing \$6.5, \$6.7 billion a day, you can do the math. The step-up in customs duties, we might be picking up 3 weeks of borrowing. This is my frustration.

What happens when our brothers and sisters get in front of televisions or put out things and say stories like: Well, DOGE is going to pay for everything. Well, the customs duties, the tariffs are going to pay for everything. Then some of us have to actually try to make the math work.

The voters are much smarter than we ever give them credit for. Hell, I think they are much smarter than we are. Maybe we can tell them the truth. We have got a problem. Interest and healthcare costs are consuming this society, consuming this government. You start to take a look at the debt outlays, and you start to see, well, Social Security taxes, oh, they are up 8.3 percent over last year. Excuse me, sorry, this is outlays, so spending on Social Security went up 8.3 percent over last year. It is the baby boomers.

We actually have an unusual thing happening. If you take a look at the Social Security actuary report, a lot of our brothers and sisters are choosing to retire at 62, which actually is hurting productivity because many of these folks are very productive workers, but they are fearful, saying: Well, in 2032, I get a 24 percent cut, so I am going to take my money now. That is another reason why we should fix that cliff, but you are not allowed to actually talk about it because the other side will run attack ads beating the crap out of you in the next election because you dared talk about the morality of actually fixing these things.

□ 1750

Look, right now, I am in a 50/50 district. There is someone over at the DCCC taking clips saying: He said the words "Social Security." We have our attack ad.

Then, we wonder why no one here will work on it.

The point on the net outlays is, last year, we spent \$7.746 trillion. This year we are going to spend \$7.148 trillion. Remember that 2025 is an estimate because I still have a couple of weeks, and there are always weird timing ef-

fects at the end of the year where we roll a bill over into the next fiscal year.

What happens with our total receipts? We are going to take in \$5.254 trillion and spend \$7.148 trillion. The point there is that we are spending a hell of a lot more money than we are taking in.

A bunch of the money is not stuff you can touch. It is Social Security and what goes into the Medicare part A trust fund.

Let's go down to geekdom. On your FICA tax, your payroll tax, a portion of that is Medicare, Social Security, unemployment, and other things. That tax only covers about 38 percent of Medicare. The other portion of Medicare, it can be 10 to 15 percent, is you paying copays if you are in traditional Medicare. The rest comes right out of the general fund.

That is why the fact is that, in the next 7 years, Medicare goes from \$1 trillion of spend this year to \$2 trillion, in 7 years. It is demographics and healthcare inflation.

This gap, from here to here, is the annual deficit, 7.3 percent of the entire economy. For those who want to say that it is the legislation from—no. This was structural. This is what we were built on.

The increase in spending, once again—discretionary, what we talk about, what we work on, keeps getting smaller. Defense as a percentage, as we are going down from years—years ago, defense was number one. Now, the way you actually stack it, it is either number four or number five in our spending.

Yet, if you go home and tell people that, what continues to shock me is how many people say, "If we just did this." Show them the math that you just covered about 30 minutes of borrowing, and they look at you angrily because, my belief is, the political class for so long hasn't told the truth.

Let's go on our truth binge. Anyone I am making unhappy, grab your phone, grab your computer, and go hit DOGE.gov. It is right there. It is live right now. You can go look it up. I actually really support using technology to crawl through every ounce of this government.

In the NDAA, year after year—and I got it attached this year, the ability to use AI to audit the Pentagon. Remember, the Pentagon has now gone 8 or 9 years. It is un-auditable. That is the term. It has not been audited. We don't even know the stuff we own.

On DOGE's own website, at this moment, they say they have found \$206 billion. Now, the reality is that only a fraction of that has actually been executed by us in Congress or the White House.

If we are going to borrow \$2.3, \$2.4, \$2.5 trillion next year, 8 percent, and that is if you have the face on it. We have all seen the articles. They have only been able to actually execute on a fraction of this.

Yet, I can show you some of our colleagues who run around and say: Well, with DOGE and the customs duties, we are going to be fine, so, SCHWEIKERT, shut up. We don't have to tell people how much trouble we are in. Don't go and mention that the Social Security trust fund is gone in 7 years and that they are taking a 24 percent cut. Don't tell anyone that the Medicare trust fund is gone in 7 years and that their hospital is probably going bankrupt. Yay, this is what we got elected to do.

Yet, 2025 total receipts—receipts are tax collections. It is just Ways and Means speak. We don't call them taxes. We call them receipts. For this year, we gained 3.7 percent of our total receipts from customs duties. Wonderful.

We can have a whole other presentation, debate, on its effect on the economy, who actually pays it, whether it is paid by the consumer or shipper. Fine, we will have the intellectual debate later, but it is more revenue receipts coming in.

Our best guess, if we give the full faith of what we believe, \$300 billion next year, 5, 5.6 percent on top of all the additional tax collections. It is helpful.

Borrowing, in many ways, is a tax. It is a tax paid for in the future, probably by our kids. It is a tax paid for with interest.

Stop pretending we have solved the problem.

Here is where it gets really uncomfortable once again. This is sort of the Social Security chart, and the point was the trust fund balance. We peaked about 2001, 2002. Baby boomers were in the peak of their earning years, but here, it is gone. We need to step on this.

If you are someone out there and you say they stole the Social Security money, no, they didn't. It was loaned to the Treasury.

There are some great articles. If you go back to the original design of Social Security, they thought they would have a certain amount of money. They would loan it for building bridges, dams, and all sorts of things and get yield, but they loaned it to the Treasury.

The Treasury pays a fairly decent interest rate back. Our Treasury pays the interest back to the Social Security trust fund twice a year. That is why there are certain months where there is this sudden, big spike of interest payments that are credited to the Social Security account.

The chart is the chart. About halfway through 2032, so 7 years from now, the trust fund is gone.

Here is the irony of our budgeting. When we talk about future debts and deficits, CBO is instructed to act like we just keep spending the money. The actual Social Security law says you have to cut benefits. If you follow the Social Security law, that is a 24 percent cut.

In reality, about halfway through 2032, be prepared to have your check

cut by 24 percent. Our calculation is a few months later. We double the poverty of seniors in America.

The fastest-growing homeless population is baby boomers right now.

Look at this chart. Look, I just threw this one on. It is a little more complicated than I wanted to do tonight, but this is actually showing the increases in spending.

One of the reasons I brought this chart is trying to help folks understand. We are all so acculturated around here to Social Security is always going to be the biggest spend. Except, when you get in the out-years—I accept some of this is 20-some years from now, 25 years from now.

Actually, healthcare costs, this is something we could actually have a miracle in changing. I have come behind this mic over and over and said we are on the cusp of miracles. A couple of weeks ago, I went to New Hampshire to a lab where they were growing undifferentiated islet cells. Apparently, islet cells don't need antirejection drugs to get bodies to be able to start making their own insulin again. There are crazy ideas.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, can we do a thought experiment? I am probably going to get beat up for this. This is a thought experiment. Give me some leeway on it. I am trying to help our brothers and sisters, and anyone crazy enough to watch this, to think.

We have turned healthcare into a financing debate. The ACA, ObamaCare, was a financing bill. It is who gets subsidized and who has to pay. It was mostly borrowed money. The Republican alternative was a financing bill. It was a little bit of an actuarial curve, but it was a financing bill. The Medicare For All Act is a financing bill.

I am begging us: Could we have a revolutionary thought between Democrats and Republicans, maybe if we actually talk about what we pay and what we get for what we pay?

The debate right now is about a number of the expanded subsidies on the ACA expire. There are parts of the country where there are high medical costs and high income, where a person can make up to \$600,000 a year and get \$4,000-plus in subsidies paid to the insurance company.

Here is the perversity. These subsidies, the \$33 billion it would take for one year—\$40 billion if it is made permanent—are paid to insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, here is just a crazy thought experiment. Ozempic goes off patent in Canada in January. States like Florida and Colorado have already gotten the FDA to approve reimportation. We actually have a chart that is looking at the potential of generic manufacturers producing it from \$60 to \$120 a month.

This is a crazy thought. We know Milken researchers a couple of years ago said obesity is 40 percent of U.S.

healthcare. Diabetes is 33 percent of U.S. healthcare. It is 31 percent of Medicare. How many lives are lost right now because of multiple chronic conditions?

What would happen if we took a portion of that money for our brothers and sisters who are on Medicaid, Indian Health Service, VA, or other subsidized government programs and we actually said: Screw it. We are going to allow the reimportation. We are going to buy it. It is off the patent. We can actually get an incredible deal. Yay.

What would be the actual cost of healthcare? What would be the health statistics of our brothers and sisters? What would the effect be on labor force participation, family formation, and all the other crazy things we have seen in this data? What would it look like 1 year from now, 2 years from now, or 3 years from now?

That is actually the thought experiment. Do we want to hand \$33 billion of subsidies to insurance companies, or do we want to affect the actual cost of delivering services and maybe have our brothers and sisters live healthier and longer?

Why can't we think this way? Is that Republican or Democrat? I would argue it is just moral. It is trying to be creative with the limited resources we have. Every dollar of that is borrowed. Why wouldn't we want a society that is actually getting healthier? I am just trying to come up with solutions.

There will be an army of lobbyists outside my office tomorrow, beating the crap out of me, because it turns out sick people are business models. It is cruel to say that. It is just really cruel to say that. We have to change it. The morality of cures, the morality of—and it is also really good economics.

Mr. Speaker, I have two last boards. I want to make a point. We updated this as of a couple of hours ago. We are actually remarkably lucky. In other industrialized countries, the debt is starting to scare the hell out of bond markets. A bunch of our longer term—10 years and out—have actually been operating very efficiently.

Does it bother anyone that France just took down their government because they were trying to do some fiscal consolidation? They won't let them deal with their debt, but they can sell a bond for about 50 basis points cheaper than we can.

Greece is actually about 70 basis points cheaper. When Greece takes a 10-year bond to market, it is a substantially lower interest rate than the United States. If we look at the credit rating of what people are willing to buy the debt for, all of these countries have a better credit rating than the United States.

Mr. Speaker, there are 18 States that actually have a better credit rating than the Federal Government. I don't know other ways and I keep struggling to find ways to get folks to take this seriously.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, the hallways will be full of people knocking on

our doors, saying: We want more money.

They don't show up to say: Hey, we have an idea to do something better, faster, and cheaper. We want a free market. We believe in creative destruction.

Mr. Speaker, I never liked the CHIPS Act because it directs cash subsidies. Often, subsidizing last-generation technology leads to what is going on right now. Should Intel give up 10 percent of its ownership? What would happen if Intel were forced to break up? We might end up with four or five creative, efficient, and cutting-edge companies. As an example, one company is doing design.

Do we remember our high school economics class? Creative destruction is what brings us to that next level of productivity, which raises wages.

For working people in my district, who are not making about 27 or 28 percent more than the first year of the Biden administration, they are poor today. I think at the end we came in number two. Yet, I have seen some numbers in Arizona that are making me very nervous on the growth of unemployment and the stagnation of wages.

There are ways to make this another American century. The first thing we have to do is tell the truth. We have a country that is borrowing \$70,000 to \$72,000 a second. How long do we think we can keep that up?

Yet, if we get our taxes from a regulatory system and legalize, once again, creativity, legalize productivity, instead of barrier after barrier—those barriers may be great politics. They show up in our fundraisers and help us. Maybe we can get a union to vote for us, but it is crap economics.

Mr. Speaker, I am incredibly optimistic for the future. I am 63. My wife is 63. I have said this a few times, and people think I am insane. We have adopted a 3-year-old and a 9-year-old. We are the luckiest family on Earth.

When my little boy is about 21 or 22 years old, every tax in America needs to be doubled just to maintain baseline services. My kids will be part of the first generation to be poor because of our unwillingness to tell the truth. Is that the America we aspire to? We are better than this.

I am sick and tired of having the leadership and others say: DAVID, we will do it after the next election.

Mr. Speaker, guess what? There is always another election.

I believe the American people would reward us if we demonstrated to them that we told them the truth. We tried to do hard things and we saved the future, because that future is coming very fast.

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

□ 1810

TRUMP'S LABOR AGENDA: UNSAFE AND UNDERPAID

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mrs. MCIVER of New Jersey was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCIVER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include material on the subject of my Special Order hour into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ONDER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our Nation's workers, to give voice to their fear, their concerns, and their anger.

While the American people are focusing on putting food on their tables, the Labor Department has quietly dismantled decades of hard-fought protections for our communities. These rollbacks are not just isolated attempts. They are part of a broader, calculated effort to weaken the rights, safety, and dignity of America's workers in the hopes that no one would notice.

But guess what, Mr. Speaker?

We have noticed. We will not let them get away with it.

My colleagues and I have demanded the Labor Secretary end these attacks on working people and their families. If the Secretary will not act, we will take matters into our own hands. That is why we are here tonight, to bring these actions to light and to show the American people exactly what is at stake.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, you will hear from my colleagues about the impact of each of these rollbacks and about the way that our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers will be hurt by something the administration is trying to do in the shadows.

Mr. Speaker, you will hear about the specific rules that this administration has rolled back, rules that put home care aides, farmhands, construction workers, workers with disabilities, minors, and so many more at risk. As you hear about these rules, ones that don't always get a lot of attention but that matter so much to the people they protect, you will come to the same conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that we have.

If you work in America today, Mr. Speaker, you are less safe than you were 1 year ago, and you are more likely to be underpaid, exploited, and ignored. You are more likely to be hurt on the job, Mr. Speaker, underrepresented, and left to fend for yourself.

That is unacceptable.

I am proud to have led my colleagues in urging the Secretary of Labor to immediately reverse course on these actions. As I yield to my colleagues standing with me tonight, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues across the aisle to consider:

How many more of these rules do we let the Trump administration get away with before saying enough is enough?

I hope this convinces them to follow suit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), who is the ranking member on the Committee on Education and Workforce.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank her for organizing this Special Order so we can discuss the actions of the Department of Labor.

Right now, the Trump administration and congressional Republicans are starting to implement an aggressive deregulatory agenda that harms workers. Trump's deregulatory agenda weakens workers' civil rights, undermines worker protections and hard-earned wages, and downgrades the U.S. economy.

Right now, the Trump administration is in the process of rolling back labor regulations that do a lot of things, such as promote nondiscrimination and strengthen the regulations we have. The ones they are trying to undermine are the regulations that promote nondiscrimination and strengthen registered apprenticeship standards. They are rolling those back.

They are rolling back the regulation that prevents the privatization of State civil services. They are rolling back the regulation that strengthens fair wage protections for home care workers that would enable them to keep minimum wage and other protections. They are rolling that back.

The regulation requiring Federal contractors to pay workers at least \$15 an hour. They are rolling that back. They are rolling back regulations to create clear and specific requirements for occasions when employers must require the use of respirators that prevent exposure to toxic chemicals that can cause cancer and other diseases.

Regulations to bolster labor protections for farmworkers on guest worker visas; they are rolling those protections back.

The implementation of Federal law requiring affirmative action for employees and applicants with disabilities, ensuring that they are hired, retained, and promoted by Federal contractors; they are rolling that back.

Enforcement of antidiscrimination and affirmative action requirements that ensure that Federal contractors are for equal employment opportunities for workers, they are rolling that back.

There are more rollbacks waiting in the wings, because, in fact, the Labor Department in a draft rule that is sitting in the White House regulatory office right now would likely weaken the rules that prohibit children from working in particularly dangerous jobs.

All workers deserve to be paid fairly, earn good benefits, and come home safely at the end of the day. If we truly want to prioritize workers, then we

must strengthen the laws, including regulations that protect workers' health and safety on the job and that empower workers' ability to form unions and bargain for their rights.

The Trump administration, instead, is rolling back regulations that protect workers. We should be doing better.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for organizing this Special Order and giving us the opportunity to discuss what is going on with the Department of Labor.

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, the fine gentleman from Virginia, for his remarks and for coming here this evening to talk with us.

Mr. Speaker, home health aides are some of the most essential workers in our economy, taking care of our parents and grandparents as they age and ensuring that sick and disabled people can live with dignity.

It is downright despicable that this administration has proposed to reverse the rule requiring that these vital workers be paid the Federal minimum wage.

This reckless rollback threatens the dignity, wages, and basic rights of nearly 4 million of our lowest paid and most essential workers, the majority of whom are women and women of color.

These care workers are certified nursing assistants, home health aides, personal care attendants, and direct support professionals. They provide skilled, often medically necessary care, from administering medication to helping with daily activities like bathing, dressing, and eating.

Their work is both physically and emotionally demanding. It is essential to the health, safety, and independence of nearly 10 million older adults and people with disabilities who rely on these services to remain in their homes and communities.

For some, it is the care they receive from these aides that actually helps them enter or remain in the workforce. It is difficult to capture the profound impact they have on not only families but our economy.

While they wait for that proposal to go through, the administration has already announced that they will no longer enforce the care worker rule, effectively stripping these workers of basic wage protections without notice, without public comment, and without regard for the devastating impact this will have on families, caregivers, and our long-term care system.

Mr. Speaker, I just can't wrap my head around some of these changes. Home care workers are too valuable. They are already underpaid and unprotected, with 2 in 5 already living at or near the poverty line. Nearly one-half rely on public assistance to make it, and now Trump wants to give the green light to pay these folks less than \$7.25. Yes, I said it, \$7.25 an hour.

It is just wrong. It is completely unsustainable. We are already in the midst of a staffing crisis in the care

economy. I know my colleagues are afraid of the Bureau of Labor Statistics these days, but BLS says that demand for home care workers will grow by more than 20 percent in the next decade as our population ages.

Mr. Speaker, how are we going to recruit and retain the workforce we need to take care of our seniors if we don't pay them?

Surely, they can't make it if we don't pay them. They can't stay employed if we don't pay them.

Mr. Speaker this is not just a labor issue. It is a civil rights issue. It is a women's right issue. It is a disability issue.

I know this administration is already sick of hearing from me, but that is too bad. In August, I wrote to the Secretary of Labor urging her to stop these rollbacks. Today, I want to again call on the Department of Labor to withdraw this dangerous and disgusting proposed rule immediately, to reinstate full enforcement of the 2013 rule, and to focus its efforts where they belong, on improving wages, training, and conditions for our home care workers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the fine gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) to discuss the conditions for some of our most vulnerable workers, those with disabilities.

□ 1820

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for having this session, for bringing us together to highlight how the Trump administration is undermining hard-won protections for workers. I really appreciate the comments and sort of the introduction to my comments, a community that I have been close to and worked for diligently for a long time.

This used to be a bipartisan issue. This is an opportunity to discuss a group of workers who are often overlooked but who are also being very much hurt by the deregulatory agenda of this administration, workers with disabilities.

In December, the previous administration, under President Biden's leadership and the Department of Labor, released a proposed rule that would phase out, as quickly as possible, subminimum wage certificates which allow employers to legally pay workers with disabilities below the Federal minimum wage. This was long, long overdue.

About 38,500 disabled workers earned a subminimum wage in 2024 because of these certificates. Those 38,000 people deserve better, much better.

In taking action, the Biden Department of Labor spoke for those workers and pushed for them to have a livable, honorable wage. The Department noted that opportunities, legal protections, and support for disabled workers have increased since 1989 when the regulation was last updated.

However, in July, the Trump Department of Labor decided to undo that

long, long overdue progress that was enacted by the Biden administration and House and Senate Democrats and instead continued issuing subminimum wage certificates.

Reminder to people around the country and Californians: The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25. They were being paid below that.

In doing so, this administration is turning back the clock on disability rights. Multiple States, including the State I live in and represent, California, have already prohibited subminimum wages for workers with disabilities. Good for them. These subminimum wage laws federally have been used to justify paying people just a few cents per hour for work.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the National Council on Disabilities have called for an end to the practice by paying disabled workers less and paying them what they deserve, at least a minimum adjustment.

While disabled individuals continue to face challenges in achieving equal opportunity and treatment, we have made great strides in our understanding of disability and workplace accommodations.

Paying these American workers less can no longer be justified by any standard, yet this administration insists on doing it.

Rather than allow employers to continue underpaying disabled workers, this administration must and should reverse course and respect the dignity and contributions of these workers.

Again, I thank Representative McIVER for coming here and bringing this to the attention of the American public.

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks and for joining me this evening.

At this very moment, the Department of Labor is working to rescind the Farmworker Protection Rule, a Biden-era standard that gave farmworkers, many of them seasonal workers here under the H-2A visa program, the basic right to speak up about unsafe working conditions without fear of being fired or deported.

Let's be clear. This rule that the administration is attacking wasn't about politics. It wasn't about gangs or drugs or any of the disgusting tropes the other side will paint against hard-working immigrants. It was about seatbelts in vans, safety on the job, and the simple human dignity of not being punished for demanding better conditions.

What has this administration done? They have proposed stripping those protections, both for transportation safety and for organizing on farms. While they wait for that change to take effect, they have announced they will not enforce the 2024 Farmworker Rule at all.

What does that mean in practice? It means workers, including the 300,000 seasonal workers worked for come to

our country to do vital work, supporting our Nation's agriculture industry, are once again forced to choose between their safety and their survival. It means transportation will remain the leading cause of death for farmworkers, and it means that the worst of the worst employers get a free pass.

It doesn't stop there. The Trump Department of Labor also wants to stop coordination between the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, OSHA, and the Employment and Training Administration on enforcement of farmworker protections. These agencies are supposed to work together to stop abuse.

Corrupt recruiters have infiltrated the H-2A program, charging workers illegal fees and taking advantage of the most desperate migrant workers and actually facilitating human trafficking.

The administration's answer? Make it harder to investigate them; make it harder to kick these abusive recruiters out of the H-2A system; and, against their own promises, let the trafficking continue.

Let's be clear again. The H-2A program is one of the largest sources of labor trafficking in the United States.

The safety regulations the Department of Labor is going after were designed to keep workers safe, but Trump's regulatory changes sent a clear message to employers. Retaliate against your workers, is what the administration is saying. Trump says: Silence them all you want. No one is coming to stop you.

This doesn't just hurt migrant farmworkers. It drags down the working conditions and wages of all agricultural workers in America. Every time protections are stripped away from one group, it undercuts the baseline for everyone else.

This is all by design. While this administration is gutting legal protections, they are slashing transparency, too. The National Agricultural Statistics Service just announced it will eliminate the Farm Labor Survey, the very tool we use to understand what farmworkers are paid and how they are treated. This survey informs wages for H-2A jobs. Eliminating it makes exploitation easier and accountability harder.

Mr. Speaker, the cruelty here is not accidental. It is deliberate. It is rooted in a despicable framework that sees farmworkers, particularly those from other countries and those that are Black and Brown, as disposable.

These workers feed America. They feed you every night. They do the work most people can't and won't.

Instead of protecting them, this administration wants to strip away their voice and hand power to the very people who exploit them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR) to discuss the tools available to OSHA to keep Americans safe at work.

□ 1830

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I rise today to speak about the sweeping set of proposals from Trump's Department of Labor that threatens worker safety, fair pay, and basic protections for millions of Americans.

The Department is moving to rewrite or repeal more than 60 workplace regulations. Let me say that again: 60 workplace regulations. It will affect conditions in farms, factories, construction sites, and mines.

These changes are being framed as modernization. In reality, they put workers at greater risk and undermine decades of hard-won labor protections.

Among the most far-reaching proposals is the narrowing of OSHA's general duty clause, one of the most important tools protecting workers when no specific safety standard exists. For more than 50 years, the general duty clause has allowed OSHA to step in when employers expose workers to recognized hazards that are serious, preventable, and likely to cause harm.

Under the Trump administration's labor proposal, OSHA will no longer be able to cite employers for hazardous conditions intrinsic to a job. That could leave construction workers, factory workers, farmworkers, and others in high-risk professions with fewer protections and less accountability when something goes wrong.

The administration's rollbacks go well beyond the general duty clause. Millions of home healthcare workers could be paid below minimum wage and denied overtime protections, leaving them vulnerable to long hours and financial insecurity.

Migrant farmworkers could lose critical safeguards, including seatbelt requirements on employer-provided transportation and protections against retaliation for reporting unsafe conditions.

Construction workers could see basic requirements for adequate lighting eliminated.

Miners could lose critical oversight on ventilation, roof safety, and training.

Even respiratory and chemical safety standards in hazardous workplaces are being rolled back.

These changes represent a fundamental shift in priorities, putting corporate convenience over worker safety. Eliminating all of these rules is a clear signal from the Trump administration that they view workers' lives as expendable.

When protections for the most vulnerable workers are stripped away, the consequences will be severe and immediate.

American workers are not disposable. They deserve workplaces that are safe, fair, and accountable. They deserve the dignity of protection that ensures that they can return home from work alive and uninjured.

Congress must reject efforts that roll back the clock on worker safety and labor rights.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LAMONICA MCIVER for hosting tonight and for her leadership on this issue.

Mrs. MCIVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR) for joining me tonight and for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Trump's attacks on the diversity of our workforce, the Department of Labor is his biggest cheerleader and superfan. As a matter of fact, they are president of the fan club.

After Trump rescinded the Equal Employment Opportunity executive order, the Department of Labor proposed to remove the requirement that those who do business with the Federal Government cannot discriminate in hiring.

On top of that, Trump is demanding that companies send proof that they are eliminating their antidiscrimination programs and show proof that they abandoned affirmative action plans.

Federal contractors may sound to some people like a narrow, far-off group. Who even are they? In reality, Federal contractors are a massive segment of our economy, and chances are that you or someone you know relies on Federal contracts for work.

Under Trump, their employers would no longer be able to even collect data on the racial, ethnic, and gender makeup of their workforce. Let me repeat that: The Federal Government is proposing that contractors no longer even track discrimination.

If you stop collecting the evidence, you can pretend the crime no longer exists. The result: an older, Whiter, more male-dominated workforce that doesn't really reflect the diversity of backgrounds that makes our Nation great.

Let's call it what it is: a calculated, careless, cowardly rollback of hard-won protections carried out under false pretenses and driven by an agenda that wants to take us back to 1964.

If that weren't enough, just weeks after the Trump administration announced its plans to eliminate the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, the agency charged with enforcing antidiscrimination in Federal contracting, the Department of Labor has now launched a full-scale attack on workers with disabilities. It is shameful.

Trump's DOL is dismantling the requirement that Federal contractors take steps to employ qualified individuals with disabilities. At a time when disabled Americans face historic employment gaps, this administration wants to turn back the clock and undo the progress that we have made over decades of disability work. As my colleagues have mentioned, they even want to bring back the cruel, outdated policy of allowing employers to pay disabled workers less than minimum wage, often pennies on the dollar. How

disgusting for someone who is doing the same work as everyone else each and every day.

My colleagues across the aisle want you to be afraid of Federal DEIA programs, maybe even to think they are stopping you from getting a job. In reality, these are things like paid internships, so you don't have to come from a well-off family to work a Federal job, or basic disability accommodations in the office, like making sure the office coffee pot is in reach of someone in a wheelchair.

Are these destroying our workforce like the President says?

These moves are not about fairness. They are about power and about stripping protections from the most marginalized so that the powerful can operate without accountability.

We need to be open and honest about the truth. These actions will increase discrimination in the workforce. They will make us less productive, not more productive. They will turn the focus of Federal hiring away from merit.

Some of these rollbacks, Mr. Speaker, are terribly awful, but some of them seem like they are just torn from a law textbook. Seriously, the administration wants to get rid of the minimum lighting standards for construction sites. Let me say that again for the public who may be watching. This Trump administration wants to get rid of the minimum requirement for lighting standards for construction sites.

For those of you watching at home, I know that, sometimes, what we do here is a bit hard to follow, and maybe you don't want to sift through the jargon that gets thrown around. Let me just read to you the standard that this administration wants to get rid of. Here is what Trump wants to take out of the Code of Federal Regulations. It reads as follows: "Construction areas, aisles, stairs, ramps, runways, corridors, offices, shops, and storage areas where work is in progress shall be lighted with either natural or artificial illumination."

This gets rid of the requirement for good lighting on construction sites so that you can't see the nail you are hitting. Who okayed this?

Seriously, let's just think about this for a second. If you are working on a construction site, under the Trump administration, your boss does not have to make sure that any electrical equipment rooms, first aid stations, and the rest of the job site actually have enough light to allow you to see what you are doing.

We hear all day about the regulations supposedly weighing down our economy and all about the red tape. Without a doubt—I sit on the Committee on Small Business—I am happy to talk about red tape, but these are basic safety standards.

What do I know, right? I am here to represent the people of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District. I don't work on a construction site every day. Like me, you may want to know what

the experts think. In 1962, Congress created the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health to answer just that question.

Mr. Speaker, guess what. The Trump administration fired all the members of the committee, and OSHA just issued a final rule removing the requirement that it consult with the committee before modifying or repealing construction safety regulations. Trump's OSHA doesn't have to consult the experts because it said so. It is just because they said so. It is truly unbelievable.

Let's make something clear, Mr. Speaker: The administration's actions at the Department of Labor aren't just tinkering, and they are not just some complicated, bureaucratic procedure. They are life-and-death decisions that, right now, the Department of Labor is rolling back protections on that generation of miners fought and died for.

Earlier this year, the Department of Labor planned to shutter dozens of the Mine Safety and Health Administration field offices across the country. These are the frontline offices that work to keep mines safe and help to review plans, inspect sites, and make sure someone is there to look out for workers when lives are on the line.

Eventually, when that plan came to light, the administration changed course and announced that it would not close the 34 offices it wanted to. Mr. Speaker, they are now trying to shutter the offices another way: by gutting the rules that give the Mine Safety and Health Administration the power to act, even if the offices stay open.

□ 1840

Let me walk you through just how dangerous these rollbacks are.

One repeal removes the requirement to inspect drilling areas for hazards before operations begin and gets rid of the need to repair dangerous drilling equipment.

Another rollback narrows the training protocols that the Mine Safety and Health Administration district managers can require before approving mining operations. In fact, Trump wants to limit what can be required in a roof control and ventilation plan, which would help protect miners from roof collapses and toxic dust in the air. He wants to deregulate roofing and necessary ventilation.

Mine operators are no longer required to give workers hard copies of hazard communications, or HAZCOM. Historically, employers are required to inform their employees in a mine of what chemicals or hazards they may face to help prevent injury and illness. Trump and his cronies are even going after the tools used to measure lighting and visibility underground, as I mentioned about the construction sites, as well.

As we speak, Trump is working to give more control to mine operators about their safety and health plans, even when we know that injuries and deaths will follow.

We know what keeps miners safe, but this administration doesn't think we should let the Mine Safety and Health Administration require it. Maybe the most unbelievable decision is the delay of the toxic silica rule, a rule 40 years in the making.

The science is crystal clear: Silica exposure causes lung cancer, chronic respiratory disease, black lung, and even death.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration itself had estimated this rule would prevent more than 1,000 deaths and 3,700 cases of silica-related illness, but the Trump administration says it is on hold.

What are we talking about here?

Weakening or removing respiratory requirements, fit testing, medical evaluations, and training for exposure to some of the most dangerous substances like asbestos, lead, vinyl chloride, and more.

Look, colleagues and Americans watching at home, the administration says it is too prescriptive to ensure workers don't inhale poisons that actually kill them. It is too much of a burden to make sure a respirator actually fits. It is too much red tape to make sure a worker's lungs can survive the shift.

What do you say?

Let's be clear: Miners and workers didn't ask for these rollbacks. The only people calling for these changes are the lobbyists and executives who have never stepped foot inside of a mine, who have never watched a coworker die in a collapse, who have never buried a friend with black lung.

Safety cannot be optional. Miners cannot be expendable. Congress cannot stand idly by while the Labor Department turns on the people it was created to protect.

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to stand union strong with our workers across America and in solidarity with my sister from New Jersey, Representative MCIVER.

We stand union strong, labor strong, America strong, and worker strong.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is notable, as we stand on this floor tonight, that there is not a single Republican here to stand with our workers.

Let's be honest: When my colleagues across the aisle say that they stand for American manufacturing and American jobs, they don't mean that they stand with American workers. They are there to stand with the corporations and the people who line their pockets off of the sweat of the hard-working men and women who actually do the work in this country.

Unfortunately, as I look around this floor this evening, I don't see a single one of them standing in solidarity.

Under this administration, we have seen an unprecedented attack on our unions and worker protections. Protections that keep our workers safe from

injury, illness, and death on the job, all to shield employers from accountability and to increase their profits.

Instead of standing with workers, they weakened rules on overtime, rolled back safety standards, and gutted protections for wage theft. If you want any indication where the current President stands on the Department of Labor and American workers, all you have to do is walk down the street and you will see a three-story picture, not of the American worker on the front of the Department of Labor, but of Donald Trump's face, who spent American taxpayer, hard-earned dollars to put his face on the Department of Labor, which is the United States agency that is supposed to demand protections for our workers.

Now, for me this isn't just political. It is personal because I grew up in a labor family. My mother was a factory seamstress. In fact, she sewed 79,000 pockets on jeans and tried to organize a garment workers union at her factory and was fired for trying to demand fair wages for factory seamstresses like herself and thousands of women and people across the country who work every day for this country.

She was fired for daring to demand better conditions and higher pay, but it is her grit and her determination and her belief in the dignity of workers that I carry with me into this Chamber every day because even upon her firing for trying to organize as a factory worker, my mother became one of the first women operating engineers to work on heavy equipment in the State of New Mexico. That is the spirit I see all across our State.

Just last week, we stood in solidarity with striking workers and our Teamsters local at the Creamland Dairy fighting for fair wages and safe conditions. That solidarity has resulted in a fair wage and a new labor contract for those workers.

At the University of New Mexico, we stood with graduate students who were holding work-ins as they demand a fair contract. We stood with SEIU and our residents in our medical schools who are demanding fair pay. We are standing with our teachers who are demanding fair pay. And we stood with the Wells Fargo workers in Albuquerque who made history in becoming the first unionized branch ever in the history of this country. It was that solidarity, when we stood with 80,000 flight attendants stuck in endless negotiations, which helped us to get fair wages and a new contract for our flight attendants.

That is what it means to stand for workers. It is not just speeches and pictures on buildings, but it is action in standing with our unions and standing for fair pay because, Mr. Speaker, the theme here is simple: Workers just want a fair shot and they want dignity.

Unfortunately, under this administration, the rug is being pulled out from under their feet. It is shameful, dangerous, and it flies in the face of everything that this country was built on

because let us not forget that unions built this country.

It is unions that gave us the weekend. It is unions that gave us the 5-day workweek. It is unions that gave us overtime pay. It is unions that gave us safe workplaces. It is unions that gave us fair wages. Every worker in America benefits from the courage of organized labor and every man and woman who has stood for their fellow workers.

Mr. Speaker, I will end with this. I know where I stand. I stand with my mother and the countless generations that come before us of workers across the United States and in my home State who stood with the American worker. We will always stand for unions, we will always stand for labor, and we will always stand for the American worker.

□ 1850

Mrs. McIVER. Thank you so much to the gentlewoman from New Mexico for joining us and for your remarks.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we have heard about the increased discrimination in the workplace, the repealing of protections for those with disabilities, and the dangerous construction sites our neighbors are forced to show up to.

All of this is part of the dangerous campaign the Department of Labor has launched to dismantle decades of progress for working Americans. These rollbacks are a direct assault on workers' safety, wages, and dignity.

From healthcare workers, many of them women and women of color, at risk of losing minimum wage and overtime protections; to construction workers who could now be forced to operate in unsafe conditions with no guarantee of adequate lighting or visibility standards; to farmworkers who already endure grueling conditions are being stripped of hard-fought protections.

None of this is okay. This is not normal.

Allow me to say this plainly for the second time tonight: If you work in America today, you are less safe than you were a year ago. You are more likely to be underpaid, exploited, or ignored. This is unacceptable.

I am proud to have led 64 of my colleagues in urging the Secretary of Labor to reverse course, and I am proud of the work we have done here tonight to make sure that none of this goes unnoticed.

This work is about the people, the people we serve and every single American. It is about the home care worker pulling double shifts. It is about the construction worker trying to make it home to his kids. It is about the farm worker who feeds our families and us but can't protect their own families.

We have heard about the rules that will put America's workers in danger, and if we do not do something about these rules, things will get worse for American workers. They are unsafe and underpaid, and it is time we do something about it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE KIRK

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true American patriot, Charlie Kirk. Charlie Kirk was a beacon of Conservative politics, a patriotic American who engaged young people on issues that mattered and encouraged critical thinking.

At just 18 years old, he founded Turning Point USA, which brought an entirely new generation of young, enthusiastic minds to the Republican Party.

Charlie was never afraid to defend his values, speak out for the voiceless, and do what was right, even when it was unpopular. He truly inspired thousands of voters to join the MAGA movement, attracting people with his unwavering conviction and ability to cut through the noise to get to what we are all searching for—that is the truth.

No one worked harder than Charlie Kirk. He is irreplaceable and already sorely missed. To quote President Trump: Charlie was great and even legendary. He was loved and admired by all. Today, with a broken heart, I echo the President's words.

This senseless political assassination must be met with the fullest extent of the law. Political violence of any kind must be condemned. It is un-American, and we will not stand for it. Please join me in prayers for Charlie's wife, Erika, his young children, and the entire family.

May we take comfort in knowing that he was a man of faith and is being embraced by his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

HONORING VICTOR WATERS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Victor Waters for his remarkable legacy as a musician, writer, and entertainer.

Born in Tattnell Square, Mr. Waters spent his entire years along the Sapelo River in McIntosh County before attending Benedictine Military School in Savannah.

Immediately after graduating high school, he began a rock and roll career that spanned six decades. Over the years, he signed with major record labels and even toured with the godfather of soul, James Brown.

Vic's great artistic success came after returning to McIntosh County to launch a solo career, releasing three acclaimed albums that captured the spirit and culture of coastal Georgia.

Yet, his proudest achievement was the family he built and the community he nurtured. In 1962, he met Sherry Elston of St. Petersburg, and 2 years later they married. Together, they

raised two sons, Shad and Mason, who joined their father on stage as a drummer and a bass player.

Today, we honor Vic Waters for his enduring influence and inspiration.

CONGRATULATING JEFF HEWITT ON HIS
RETIREMENT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Hewitt for his dedication to the city of Savannah and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Hewitt has served our community through Visit Savannah for 15 years, playing an instrumental role in expanding our hospitality and tourism sectors. With an impressive 40-plus years of experience in his field, Mr. Hewitt made significant contributions to Savannah, including record-breaking room-night production growth and projects such as the Savannah Convention Center expansion.

In addition to his impressive achievements, he has greatly expanded Visit Savannah's national and international sales reach through his relationship-building expertise. The city of Savannah is grateful for the impact Mr. Hewitt has made during his career, and we will continue to benefit from the legacy that he leaves behind.

I wish the best to Mr. Hewitt as he begins his retirement at the end of this year.

REMEMBERING JACK ROSS BRIGDON II

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jack Ross Brigdon II, a resident of Georgia's First District and a captain in the Savannah Fire Department.

Captain Brigdon's life as a public servant began in 1992 as a volunteer firefighter with the Thunderbolt Volunteer Fire Department. In 1996, he joined the Savannah Fire Department, where he would ultimately serve a distinguished career that spanned from January 29, 1996, until his retirement on July 1, 2024, at the rank of captain.

Among his many accolades were being recognized as the 1995 State of Georgia Rookie Firefighter of the Year and the Savannah Rookie Firefighter of the Year in 1998.

Above all, Captain Brigdon was a devoted family man. He was the proud father of three beloved sons, Jack, Alex, and Ashton.

In remembering Captain Brigdon's legacy, we are reminded of the enduring values of servant leadership and steadfast devotion to others.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize Georgia's public schools for their remarkable achievements in the latest round of standardized test results. Despite the challenges and setbacks brought on by the pandemic, our students and educators have shown incredible perseverance.

One standout success is in mathematics, where most grade levels improved compared to last year, and both fourth and eighth graders even sur-

passed pre-pandemic achievement levels.

Reading levels also rose across much of the state, showing that the investments in literacy support and tutoring are paying off. In addition, the progress we see in reading ability shows strong signs of momentum.

Our students are also excelling in science and social studies.

These accomplishments speak to the dedication of teachers, families, and communities working together to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed. Let us celebrate the progress and let it inspire us to keep building a bright, strong future for every Georgia student.

□ 1900

HONORING GEORGIA'S COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES ON BEST COLLEGES LIST

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Georgia's colleges and universities that have earned national recognition by being named The Princeton Review's "Best 391 Colleges." Seven institutions in our State received this distinction, each offering students a unique and powerful educational experience.

At Agnes Scott College, the innovative SUMMIT curriculum equips students to lead with purpose, while Berry College is recognized for its strong culture of mentoring and personal growth. Emory University stands out for its world-class research, and Georgia Tech continues to be known for innovation and hands-on learning. Mercer University was highlighted for outstanding study-abroad opportunities that connect students to the global community, while Spelman College carries forward its proud tradition of shaping generations of Black women leaders. The University of Georgia, our flagship institution, was praised for its wide range of programs, the Double Dawgs initiative, and its highly regarded honors program.

Together, these schools exemplify Georgia's commitment to academic excellence, opportunity, and innovation.

CONGRATULATING TYBEE ISLAND MARITIME
ACADEMY ON AWARD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of Georgia's finest educational institutions, Tybee Island Maritime Academy, for being recognized by the Association for Middle Level Education as a 2025 school of distinction.

This honor did not come easily. It was earned through a rigorous review process that included comprehensive schoolwide assessment, continuous improvement planning, and interviews with staff, students, and families.

After this intense evaluation, the panel decided to award the school the distinction due to their STEAM culture, place-based interdisciplinary learning, and strong community partnerships.

Tybee Island Maritime Academy has demonstrated their commitment to excellence in the classroom while fos-

tering a thriving middle school community.

As Georgians, we take great pride in our educators, and it is wonderful to see the fruits of their labor receive appreciation.

We are so grateful for the staff, administrators, teachers, parents, and families in our State who realize the importance of a well-rounded education and invest in our younger generations.

Mr. Speaker, Tybee Island Maritime Academy has impressed us all, and we hope to share their story with educators around the world.

CELEBRATING ROSS DRUG'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ross Drug, a true cornerstone of the Savannah, Georgia, community.

Founded in 1975 by Sonny Ross, this family-owned pharmacy has stood the test of time.

Today, under the leadership of Ben Ross and Jesse Underwood, it continues to carry forward the same spirit of service and dedication.

As the last independent pharmacy in the area, Ross Drug has always gone above and beyond for the people it serves, whether it is delivering medications to residents who cannot leave their homes or helping busy families manage their prescriptions.

Over the decades, despite facing many challenges in a changing healthcare landscape, Ross Drug has remained reliable and deeply committed to its neighbors.

For 50 years, Ross Drug has put the community in community care.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Ross Drug reflects the strength, values, and commitment that make a place like Savannah so great.

HONORING ANGEL MOMS COLLECTIVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the mothers who carry the weight of the loss of a child yet continue to stand with strength and dignity.

In Atlanta, more than 300 survivors of crime are gathering for Crime Survivors Speak, a national conference dedicated to healing and lifting the voices of those most deeply impacted by violence.

Among those voices is a mother, Tiffany Smith, who lost her beloved son, Cameron Jackson, at just 15 years old. Cameron is remembered as a bright and caring young man, devoted to his family and community.

In his memory, Tiffany founded the Angel Moms Collective, which now unites more than 300 mothers who share this heartbreaking loss.

The Angel Moms Collective offers these mothers a safe space to heal and grieve while building a supportive community. Their courage is a testament to their perseverance, even in the face of tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, in honoring them today, we remember their children and honor their strength and unity.

RECOGNIZING KENDALL RAE JOHNSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young Georgian, Kendall Rae Johnson.

At only 6 years old, Kendall became the youngest certified farmer in the United States, an achievement earned through her passion and hard work in her pursuits.

Today, at the age of 10, Kendall has been awarded a full scholarship to South Carolina State University, where she plans to study agriculture.

With the support of her family, Kendall's farm produces fruits and vegetables and raises animals. Beyond her own farm, she owns a business, runs a nonprofit called Kendall Rae's Green Heart, and serves as a USDA National Urban Agriculture Youth Ambassador.

Kendall's goal is to one day farm 100 acres of her own land, and she is already laying the groundwork to make that dream a reality.

Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize Kendall Rae Johnson for her determination, leadership, and example she sets for young people across our Nation.

RECOGNIZING JARVIS JONES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jarvis Jones, a Georgia native and former All-American and NFL player who has returned home to lead and give back to his community.

As a student athlete, Jarvis helped lead Carver High School to its first State football championship in 2007. He went on to star at the University of Georgia and play in the NFL before returning to complete his degree and serve on Georgia's coaching staff. In 2025, Jarvis became the head coach at Carver High School in Columbus, his alma mater.

Carver is the reigning Class 2A State champion, and Jones is building on that tradition with a vision rooted in discipline and community. He is committed to uplifting the next generation of student athletes, instilling values of hard work and perseverance.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Jones for his service and the example he sets for young people across his community and across our State.

RECOGNIZING KATE MILLER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kate Miller as the new president of the Pooler Chamber of Commerce.

After beginning her career in the corporate world, Ms. Miller made a pivotal decision to shift her focus. About 11 years ago, she stepped into Chamber work, driven by a desire to give back to the community that had long supported her. She hasn't looked back since.

In this role, Ms. Miller is passionate about supporting local businessowners and professionals through development opportunities that strengthen their careers. She believes advocacy not only helps businesses grow but also uplifts individuals and the broader community.

Ms. Miller is especially focused on promoting sustainable growth and helping to shape Pooler's economic future through impactful projects and initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Miller on this well-deserved opportunity and commend her dedication to the city of Pooler. I wish her continued success as she leads the chamber in this exciting new chapter.

RECOGNIZING PAIGE EWING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Georgia's own, Paige Ewing.

On August 27, 2025, Mrs. Paige Ewing of Tattnall County was crowned Mrs. America 2025.

The Mrs. America pageant was established to honor the most accomplished married women in our Nation, recognizing their dedication to family, service, and community.

Paige reflects these very qualities. A graduate of Pinewood Christian Academy, she has brought pride not only to her hometown but to the entire State of Georgia. She has carried herself with grace and conviction, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to her faith, her family, and the values that define us as Americans.

In January 2026, she will represent the United States at the Mrs. World competition, where we know she will shine as an example of Georgia's spirit and America's strength.

Mr. Speaker, today, we honor Mrs. Paige Ewing, a true representative of both Georgia's pride and our Nation's values.

□ 1910

HONORING REVEREND NELSON PRICE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Nelson Price. For 35 years, Price faithfully served as pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, guiding the congregation through a season of remarkable growth.

Under his leadership, the church expanded its campus and became the second largest sanctuary in the Southeast at the time of its completion. Membership grew from a few hundred to nearly 10,000, a testament to his vision and his unwavering commitment to building a strong and faith-centered community.

Price's influence reached far beyond his church. He preached before President Jimmy Carter and his Cabinet. He also served as vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

To colleagues and parishioners alike, he was not only a pastor but also a mentor, known for his passion for preaching and his ability to guide others with wisdom and humility.

Mr. Speaker, for decades, Nelson Price loved and was deeply loved by his community. His leadership will continue to inspire generations.

HONORING BENNY CURL AND WILLIAM T. DANIEL, JR.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2025

Savannah Business Hall of Fame Laureates, Benny Curl and William T. Daniel, Jr.

As a Savannah native and veteran, Benny Curl serves as chairman emeritus of Byrd Cookie Company. He purchased the company in 1988 and transformed it into a nationally recognized business celebrated for its flavors and packaging design.

Throughout his career, Mr. Curl has served in numerous leadership and advisory capacities for Georgia businesses and associations.

Longtime Savannah resident William T. Daniel, Jr., is the owner of Lassiter Investments, LCC, and former vice president and general counsel of the Vaden Automotive Group. As owner of Lassiter, he has led the company to acquire and manage over \$17 million in commercial properties across Georgia. Daniel remains an active community member, serving in many advisory positions.

Mr. Speaker, both gentlemen achieved impressive accomplishments within their businesses and contributed significantly to our communities. For that, we celebrate and we thank them.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LENTON BROWN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lenton Brown.

Born and raised in Reidsville, Georgia, Mr. BROWN lived a life dedicated to service and building community. His career led him to serve in the United States Air Force and as an engineer for the State of California before returning to Georgia.

He quickly got to work, serving his community as he launched the EE Foundation. In this, he started a small Easter egg hunt that grew into one of the largest in the country. The hunt grew to 90,000 eggs a year and raised money to provide food, clothes, back-to-school supplies, and toys for community members. This became so popular that donations continued year-round.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. BROWN was known as a jack-of-all-trades. He used his talents to help those around him as best he could. Mr. BROWN gave his all for those around him. For that, we celebrate his legacy.

HONORING RICHARD J. BURRELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard J. Burrell, a resident of Georgia's First District, a Korean war veteran, and emeritus trustee of Young Harris College.

Mr. Burrell was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean war and served in the inspector general's office in Yokohama, Japan. During his deployment, he spent his free time teaching English to local residents.

In 1954, he married Nancy Chisholm. Together, they raised three children, Steve, Greg, and Pamela. He built a 40-year career at Household Financial Corporation, rising to Southeastern Director of Public Affairs and earning the Chairman's Award twice.

He also served on the board of Tucker Federal Savings & Loan and the Georgia Financial Services Association, helping shape consumer finance legislation.

Mr. Burrell remained deeply connected to Young Harris College, serving on both the alumni board and the Board of Regents. In 1995, Governor Zell Miller appointed him to the Stone Mountain Memorial Association board.

Mr. Speaker, his life embodied service, humility, and dedication, and we are grateful for his legacy.

HONORING MARK ROBERTSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Mark Robertson, a Lowcountry radio legend. Mark has been working in radio for 50 years, 48 of which have been with 98.7, The River, based out of Savannah, Georgia.

While hosting the morning radio show for The River for many years, Mark has gained a dedicated audience of thousands of listeners every day. He also began the radio station's longtime tradition of playing Christmas music for the entire show starting in late November.

Mark is loved for his active presence in the greater Savannah community, supporting many local organizations and businesses. Mark is also well-known for his love of animals, volunteering and being active with many humane organizations throughout the area.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Mark Robertson for his brilliant career as a radio show host and wish him the best of luck in retirement.

HONORING CECILIA TRAN ARANGO

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cecilia Tran Arango for being selected for the second time to the list of Top 100 Influential Women. The list honors women across the State of Georgia who are currently making a significant impact in engineering and engineering-adjacent industries.

Mrs. Arango has worked for the past 24 years at Thomas & Hutton, an engineering and consulting firm, where she serves as principle and director of communications.

Since her time at Georgia Southern, she has selflessly given back to her community, volunteering for a wide variety of charitable organizations such as the Savannah Book Festival and March of Dimes, just to name a few.

She dedicates her time to mentoring the youth in our community and setting an excellent example for future leaders in every industry.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Savannah and the State of Georgia are proud to have someone like Mrs. Arango representing our values and commitment to excellence.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TRACY DALE SANDS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Tracy Dale Sands. Born in Savannah and raised in Glennville,

Tracy was beloved by his family, profession, and local community.

A 25-year veteran of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Tracy exemplified lifelong service to our State, our country, and his community of Glennville, an achievement we can all applaud and strive to emulate.

His dedication to public service and justice was recognized in 2015 when he was given the Bob Kirk Memorial Award for investigative excellence.

A man of faith, the Harmony Church was a cornerstone of his life, helping guide him throughout his life.

Leaving behind his loving wife, Melissa, and loving family, the values Tracy lived by can be seen through his pride and joy, his son, Matthew.

The First District of Georgia and I would like to honor Mr. Sands, a man who has selflessly dedicated his life to his faith, his family, and his country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARVEY JOHN GILBERT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and to recognize the life of my friend, Harvey John Gilbert.

Born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, Harvey made it a priority in life to set a great example for his family and community around him.

Serving in a variety of civic and charitable organizations, Harvey gave his time and effort to anyone in need. An example of this was when he shared a sustainable development organization with his business partner, Stephen Ezelle, and his son, John.

The one thing Harvey loved most in this world was family. He married the love of his life and college sweetheart, Cindy. Together, they raised two wonderful children, Mary and John. Hosting friendly family competitions dubbed "La Competition," he would bring everyone together to connect and have a good time, even if at times that could get a little competitive.

Mr. Speaker, a man who dedicated his life to his family, friends, and hometown of Savannah, Georgia, Harvey Gilbert has left a legacy for all of us to follow.

□ 1920

FREEDOM THE EAGLE MASCOT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Georgia Southern University's treasured live bald eagle mascot, Freedom.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of this beloved symbol. Freedom served as an ambassador not only for Georgia Southern but also for wildlife conservation and for the entire Nation.

For two decades, he inspired thousands of Georgia Southern athletic events, the St. Patrick's Day parade in Savannah, and countless community gatherings across Georgia and beyond.

Freedom became part of the university family in 2004, after being rescued from a nest in Maitland, Florida. A permanent injury to his beak prevented his release into the wild, but he found a new home representing the

strength and unity of Georgia Southern.

His presence embodied resilience, pride, and community spirit, and his absence will be felt by many.

Today, we celebrate Freedom's life and honor him here in the United States Capitol.

Fly high, Freedom. You will be remembered.

ARMY BEST SQUAD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of warfighters from Georgia's First Congressional District, our very own squad from the 1st Ranger Battalion at Hunter Army Airfield.

These Rangers have earned a place among the Army's top 12 squads, competing in the Army's prestigious Best Squad Competition.

After overcoming weeks of intense physical, tactical, and knowledge-based challenges, they will represent our district and the U.S. Army during the final round in Washington, D.C., culminating at the Association of the United States Army Expo in October.

On Saturday, October 11, they will take to the National Mall for a fitness event during Community Day.

I encourage my colleagues and the public to attend and show their support for our soldiers. Their excellence exemplifies the strength, discipline, and readiness of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand behind them, and I invite all of us to uplift their efforts through steadfast support and advocacy.

CONGRATULATING LEANDREA MIKELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate LeAndrea Mikell on her appointment as assistant vice president for government and community relations by Savannah State University.

As an accomplished alumna of SSU, Ms. Mikell will bring her expertise in government relations, strategic communications, community engagement, economic development, and higher education to this role.

Thus far in her service to the university, her leadership has played a critical role in securing nearly \$20 million in funding and in coordinating high-profile events, such as the historic visit of the Dutch royal couple.

She has been an invaluable member of the SSU community as she has brought strategic insight and unwavering commitment to their mission.

From her board memberships to her recognition as an Emerging Leader of the Year, she exemplifies the values of dedication and community stewardship.

The work she accomplishes in her new role will play a key role in advancing SSU's mission, fostering relationships, and enhancing the university's impact.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate LeAndrea.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JERRY "SHAG" WRIGHT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Jerry "Shag" Wright.

Jerry was a proud descendant of the Wright family who came to Pierce County as part of the Gilmer migration in the early 1900s.

Jerry honorably served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war as a frontline munitions carrier and being one of only 37 of the 185 in his unit to return home in 1969, a testament to his courage and resilience.

Following his service, he began a long career at Rayonier, from which he later retired.

Mr. Wright was deeply committed to public service, serving 10 years on the Screven City Council before being elected as a representative on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, a position he held for 25 years.

Jerry was truly a man of the people, representing his community with pride and helping everyone he could, whether they were his constituent or not.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-1928. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions: California [EPA-R09-RCRA-2024-0298; FRL-12239-02-R9] received September 11, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1929. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals From Electronic Utilities; CCR Management Unit Deadline Extension Rule [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2020-0107; FRL-7814.2-03-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AH36) received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1930. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; Revision to the State Operating Permits Program Under Title V of the Clean Air Act to Revise 45 Code of State Rules 33; Acid Rain Provisions and Permits [EPA-R03-OAR-2023-0026; FRL-11859-02-R3] received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1931. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; ID; Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period [EPA-R10-OAR-2024-0545; FRL-11879-02-R10] received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1932. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; State Implementation Plan Revision for Chico, Modesto and Stockton Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Areas [EPA-R09-OAR-2024-0473; FRL-12323-02-R9] received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1933. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of the Attainment Date of the Coachella Valley Extreme Nonattainment Area Under the 1997 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2024-0570; FRL-12518-02-R9] received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1934. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Revisions to the Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0038; FRL-12574-02-R9] received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1935. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Second Period Regional Haze Plan [EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0577; FRL-12588-02-R5] received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1936. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0203; FRL-12755-02-R9] received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1937. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Sulfur Dioxide Emissions and Approval and Promulgation of State Plan (Negative Declaration) for Designated Facilities and Pollutants [EPA-R07-OAR-2025-0263; FRL-12807-02-R7] received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1938. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final authorization — Massachusetts: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R01-RCRA-2025-0188; FRL-12874-02-R1] received September 4, 2025, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1939. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Withdrawals of Findings of Failure To Submit State Implementation Plan and Finding of Failure To Attain for the Rusk and Panola Counties, Texas 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard Area [EPA-R06-OAR-2022-0311; FRL-12956-01-R6] received September 4, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1940. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Arizona Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Class I-VI Primacy [EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0087; FRL 11786-02-OW] received September 11, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1941. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Guam; Clean Data Determination for the Piti-Cabras Nonattainment Area for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0137; FRL-12752-02-R9] received September 11, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1942. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; New Jersey; Memorandum of Agreement to address NOx SIP Call Requirements [EPA-R02-OAR-2025-0088; FRL-12760-02-R2] received September 11, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1943. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Minnesota: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference [EPA-R05-UST-2023-0631; FRL 12762-02-R5] received September 11, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1944. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Maryland: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference [EPA-R03-UST-2025-0091; FRL 12797-02-R3] received September 11, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1945. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wyoming; R-35 Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations Rule Package [EPA-R08-OAR-2025-0204; FRL-12942-02-R8] received September 11, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1946. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national

emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13894 of October 14, 2019, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1947. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses during the period from January 1 through June 30, 2025, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6); Public Law 102-484, Sec. 1705(e)(6) (as amended by Public Law 104-114, Sec. 102(g)); (110 Stat. 794); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1948. A letter from the Assistant for Legislative Affairs, Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule (RIN: 0710-AB57) received September 1, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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:

Mrs. HOUCHIN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 722. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 719) honoring the life and legacy of Charles "Charlie" James Kirk; and for other purposes (Rept. 119-299). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CHU, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 5370. A bill to provide low-income individuals with opportunities to enter and follow a career pathway in the health professions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 5371. A bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5372. A bill to provide grants for the conduct of demonstration projects designed to provide education and training for eligible individuals with an arrest or conviction record to enter and follow a career pathway in the health professions through occupations that are expected to experience a labor shortage or be in high demand, under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 5373. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufac-

ture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce of commercial asbestos and mixtures and articles containing commercial asbestos, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 5374. A bill to ensure that health professions opportunity demonstration projects train project participants to earn a recognized postsecondary credential, and to clarify that community colleges are eligible for grants to conduct such a demonstration project; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 5375. A bill to remove barriers to health professions by providing resources to access foundational educational training, such as English language proficiency and adult basic education, and to require the provision of child care, in demonstration projects funded under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 5376. A bill to ensure an evidence-based funding approach to study the effects of health profession opportunity grant demonstration projects, and to evaluate the demonstration projects; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 5377. A bill to require geographical diversity in the provision of health profession opportunity grants under section 2008 of the Social Security Act, and to require the support services provided through the use of the grants to include a transportation assistance plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOMEZ:

H.R. 5378. A bill to provide a set-aside of funds for Indian populations under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 5379. A bill to guarantee that grants are made under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act to grantees in each State that is not a territory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5380. A bill to require applications for a health profession opportunity grant under section 2008 of the Social Security Act to contain evidence of in-demand jobs or worker shortages; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 5381. A bill to make opioid treatment programs eligible for grants under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5382. A bill to improve training requirements for health profession opportunity grant programs and exclude assistance provided by those programs from income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5383. A bill to provide for the use of peer support, peer mentoring, and career coaching in demonstration projects conducted under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5384. A bill to require preference to be given to applicants for health profession opportunity grants under section 2008 of the Social Security Act who have certain kinds of business and community partners; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 5385. A bill to ensure that hospitals are considered an eligible entity when awarding health profession opportunity grants under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 5386. A bill to provide for technical assistance under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALFORD (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. MANN, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. GARCIA of California):

H.R. 5387. A bill to require certain covered agency heads to enter an memorandum of understanding and submit a report with respect to certain housing policy issues, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Financial Services and Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BAUMGARTNER:

H.R. 5388. A bill to provide a national framework to sustain American leadership in artificial intelligence, to require an actionable Federal plan aligned to that policy, and to establish a temporary moratorium preempting certain State laws that restrict artificial intelligence models and systems engaged in interstate commerce; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 5389. A bill to codify Executive Order 14347 (relating to restoring the United States Department of War); to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BERA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. CHU, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. LIEU, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. TRAN, Mr. MIN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CROW, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FROST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CASE, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KEATING, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. ELFPRETH, Mr. IVEY, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. MFUME, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCHOLTEN,

Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. TLAB, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. MORRISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BELL, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. SHERRILL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MANNION, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BROWN, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. HERNANDEZ, Mr. AMO, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CASAR, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. BALINT, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. LICCARDIO):

H.R. 5390. A bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 5391. A bill to increase the Federal share of the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. CRANE, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 5392. A bill to nullify Presidential Proclamation 10606, establishing Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument and withdrawing certain land in Arizona from mineral entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself and Mr. CRANE):

H.R. 5393. A bill to nullify Presidential Proclamation 7320 and restrict the designation of national monuments in southern Arizona; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARRIGAN (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. RULLI):

H.R. 5394. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, to withhold from a State certain highway funds if the State operates an automated speed enforcement system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HERNANDEZ (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 5395. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to direct the expedient disbursement of funds, and for other purposes; to the

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 5396. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to remove the mandate on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Open Market Committee to focus on maximum employment; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 5397. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave for the spontaneous loss of an unborn child, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Education and Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, and Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Ms. BOEBERT, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mrs. BICE):

H.R. 5398. A bill to provide salary and expenses for Department of Homeland Security personnel during a Government shutdown during fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 5399. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support arts education at minority-serving institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5400. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to annually review the amount of financial assistance for child care and youth program services providers provided by the Secretary; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MACE, Mr. KEAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. MILLS, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. EZELL, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. BACON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. TRAN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. CRANK, Mr. BELL, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. STRONG, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. SELF):

H.R. 5401. A bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself and Ms. BYNUM):

H.R. 5402. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify Federal law with respect to reporting certain full-file consumer credit information to consumer reporting agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LANDSMAN (for himself, Mr. CAREY, Mrs. SYKES, and Mr. MILLER of Ohio):

H.R. 5403. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants to recruit and retain law en-

forcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 5404. A bill to codify Executive Order 14212, relating to establishing the President's Make America Healthy Again Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 5405. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H.R. 5406. A bill to provide grants for the conduct of demonstration projects designed to provide education and training for eligible individuals to enter and follow a career pathway in the field of pregnancy, childbirth, or postpartum, under the Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 5407. A bill to require certain States to submit a continuity of operations plan for elections in the event of a major disaster, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on assistance for election administration in the event of a major disaster, and to require the Election Assistance Commission to award grants to strengthen elections against climate change-driven disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. BACON, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. RULLI, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 5408. A bill to accelerate workplace time-to-contract under the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. KING-HINDS, and Mr. HERNANDEZ):

H.R. 5409. A bill to provide a set-aside of funds for the territories under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act, to make the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands eligible for the grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 5410. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to support research and development on extraction of critical minerals from brine to reduce the dependence of the United States on the importation of such minerals, illustrating that innovative technology for domestic extraction could be a more cost efficient and environmentally friendly alternative than traditional extraction methods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 5411. A bill to prohibit State and local law enforcement from arresting foreign nationals within the United States solely on the basis of an indictment, warrant, or request issued by the International Criminal Court, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SYKES (for herself, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Ms. BYNUM):

H.R. 5412. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make

grants to assist in the establishment and operation of healthy food pharmacies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 5413. A bill to deny pretrial release for certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5414. A bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to reauthorize certain assistance to States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. BAUMGARTNER):

H.R. 5415. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to permanently schedule the class of benzimidazole-opioids known as nitazenes, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITESIDES (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MRVAN, and Ms. SALINAS):

H.R. 5416. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to modify the procedures used by the United States Postal Service for the closure or consolidation of contract postal units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York):

H.R. 5417. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to faith- or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. CRANE, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BOST, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. OWENS, Ms. MALOY, Mr. MILLS, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BACON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BARR, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENTZ, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. COMER, Mr. CRANK, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DAVIDSON, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. EMMER, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. EZELL, Mr. FALLON, Ms. FEDORCHAK, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. FONG, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FRY, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. HUNT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JACK, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. LETLOW, Mr.

LOUDERMILK, Mr. MANN, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MAST, Mrs. McCLAIN, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. PATRONIS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROSE, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. RULLI, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SMUCKER, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STEIL, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. STRONG, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WIED, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. PALMER, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. GUEST, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. ZINKE):

H. Res. 719. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Charles "Charlie" James Kirk; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. CARSON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. BELL, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM):

H. Res. 720. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2025 as "African Diaspora Heritage Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 721. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ELFRETH (for herself, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. DELUZZO, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas):

H. Res. 723. A resolution recognizing the 180th anniversary of the United States Naval Academy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NEAL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SOTO, Ms. POU, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mrs. RAMIREZ):

H. Res. 724. A resolution recognizing the eighth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's destruction of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LUNA:

H. Res. 725. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1908) to prohibit stock trading and ownership by Members of Congress and their spouses and dependent children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas):

H. Res. 726. A resolution supporting the recognition of September 16, 2025, as "National Voter Registration Day"; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PATRONIS (for himself, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. ALFORD, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. MILLS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. COLLINS):

H. Res. 727. A resolution expressing support of the House of Representatives that October 14, 2025, be designated as a "National Day of Remembrance for Charlie Kirk"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. PETERSEN (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. CRANK, Mr. CROW, and Mr. EVANS of Colorado):

H. Res. 728. A resolution condemning the tragic act of violence on September 10, 2025, in Evergreen, Colorado, recognizing the victims, survivors, and responders and expressing condolences and support to their families and their communities; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. MOULTON introduced a bill (H.R. 5418) for the relief of Blanca Martinez; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 5371.

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. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5372.

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 Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5373.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 United States Constitution

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 5374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 5375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 5376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 5377.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 Congress shall have 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 in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GOMEZ:

H.R. 5378.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 5379.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5380.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Spending Clause, Article 1, Section 8, Cl. 1 and the Necessary and Proper Clause, Article I, Section 8, Cl. 18.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 5381.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5382.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5383.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1, provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5384.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1, provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 5385.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 5386.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 5387.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States; . . ."

By Mr. BAUMGARTNER:

H.R. 5388.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 5389.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5390.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. DELUZZO:

H.R. 5391.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5392.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause)

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5393.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause)

By Mr. HARRIGAN:

H.R. 5394.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 5395.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 5396.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is based on the authority of the U.S. Congress to "regulate Commerce . . . among the several States", U.S. Const. art. I, § 8, cl 3, ". . . coin money [and] regulate the value thereof . . .", U.S. Const. art. I, § 8, cl. 5, and "make all Laws . . . necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers[.]" U.S. Const. art. 1, § 8, cl. 18.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 5397.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 5398.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 5399.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1Sec. 8Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 5401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. KIM:

H.R. 5402.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LANDSMAN:

H.R. 5403.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 5404.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 5405.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H.R. 5406.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 5407.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has broad authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of congressional elections under the Elections Clause of the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 4, Clause 1).

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 5408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 5409.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 5410.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 5411.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 5412.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 5413.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 5414.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. VINDMAN:

H.R. 5415.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Clause 8 Section 18

By Mr. WHITESIDES:

H.R. 5416.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of Section 8 or Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H.R. 5417.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 5418.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 17: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
 H.R. 51: Mr. VASQUEZ.
 H.R. 288: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 429: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 464: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 467: Mr. EZELL.
 H.R. 488: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 585: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 654: Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 657: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
 H.R. 740: Mr. MASSIE and Mr. EZELL.
 H.R. 842: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, and Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 880: Mr. SOTO.
 H.R. 909: Ms. GILLEN, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mrs. MCCLAINE DELANEY.
 H.R. 929: Ms. MORRISON.
 H.R. 979: Mrs. WAGNER and Ms. ESCOBAR.
 H.R. 1004: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 1028: Mr. CLINE and Mr. MOORE of West Virginia.
 H.R. 1063: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 1094: Mr. MCGUIRE.
 H.R. 1200: Ms. DEXTER.
 H.R. 1241: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.
 H.R. 1262: Mr. HIMES, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. PEREZ, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 1294: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 1305: Mr. MAGAZINER.
 H.R. 1330: Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 1366: Mr. BEGICH.
 H.R. 1383: Mr. CRANE.
 H.R. 1394: Mr. FEENSTRA.
 H.R. 1404: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 1410: Mr. GIMENEZ.
 H.R. 1417: Ms. PEREZ.
 H.R. 1422: Ms. FEDORCHAK and Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1437: Mr. HORSFORD.
 H.R. 1464: Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 1509: Ms. OMAR and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 1510: Ms. JACOBS.
 H.R. 1531: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 1564: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 1623: Mrs. BICE.
 H.R. 1652: Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 1685: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 1712: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
 H.R. 1799: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
 H.R. 1810: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 1826: Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 1827: Mr. VARGAS.
 H.R. 1845: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
 H.R. 1851: Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 1970: Mr. CONAWAY.
 H.R. 1991: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 2042: Mr. CAREY.
 H.R. 2055: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 2081: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
 H.R. 2082: Mr. MANN and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
 H.R. 2147: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.
 H.R. 2189: Mr. KEAN and Mr. STUTZMAN.
 H.R. 2213: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
 H.R. 2231: Mr. FINE.
 H.R. 2232: Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 2253: Mr. AMO.
 H.R. 2264: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 2478: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
 H.R. 2496: Ms. MALOY.
 H.R. 2497: Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 2514: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 2577: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Ms. ROSS.
 H.R. 2598: Mr. OBERNOLTE and Mr. MENENDEZ.
 H.R. 2605: Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
 H.R. 2672: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
 H.R. 2687: Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. BELL.
 H.R. 2692: Mr. BELL.
 H.R. 2709: Mr. GRAY.
 H.R. 2736: Mr. BELL.
 H.R. 2799: Mr. MULLIN.
 H.R. 2853: Mr. COLLINS.
 H.R. 2878: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 2909: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
 H.R. 2925: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2998: Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 3006: Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 3045: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 3088: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
 H.R. 3112: Mr. AMO and Ms. TLAIB.
 H.R. 3124: Ms. ESCOBAR.
 H.R. 3128: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. MULLIN.
 H.R. 3130: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 3131: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 3235: Mr. LAMALFA.
 H.R. 3305: Ms. SEWELL.
 H.R. 3449: Mr. TORRES of New York.
 H.R. 3489: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 3514: Mr. NEGUSE.
 H.R. 3583: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
 H.R. 3591: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 3595: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 3607: Mr. BELL.
 H.R. 3623: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 3639: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 3682: Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
 H.R. 3699: Ms. BOEBERT.
 H.R. 3753: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 3757: Mr. TONKO and Mr. LATIMER.
 H.R. 3858: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.
 H.R. 3860: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.
 H.R. 3867: Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. MANNION, and Ms. LEE of Florida.
 H.R. 3962: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. EZELL.
 H.R. 4032: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
 H.R. 4154: Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 4176: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 4235: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 4242: Mr. MCGUIRE.
 H.R. 4270: Mr. HIMES and Mr. FROST.
 H.R. 4365: Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 4418: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 4486: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
 H.R. 4503: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
 H.R. 4546: Mr. RULLI.
 H.R. 4581: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 4606: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 4661: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
 H.R. 4768: Mr. AMO.
 H.R. 4788: Mr. MCGUIRE and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.
 H.R. 4849: Ms. BALINT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. PINGREE, and Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 4888: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. OLSZEWSKI.
 H.R. 4895: Mr. SMUCKER and Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 4945: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 4948: Mr. PETERS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. CHU, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 4961: Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 4963: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
 H.R. 4972: Mr. BEAN of Florida.
 H.R. 4979: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 4980: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 4981: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. RYAN.
 H.R. 5010: Mr. BISHOP and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
 H.R. 5026: Mr. COLLINS.
 H.R. 5073: Mr. SOTO and Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 5103: Mr. COLLINS.
 H.R. 5106: Mr. FROST, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 5108: Mr. COLLINS.
 H.R. 5125: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 5140: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 5151: Mr. VARGAS.
 H.R. 5169: Mr. EDWARDS.
 H.R. 5195: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. BERGMAN, and Ms. ESCOBAR.
 H.R. 5206: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 5220: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 5227: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 5228: Mrs. MCCLAINE DELANEY.
 H.R. 5248: Mr. MCCOUL and Mr. MOYLAN.
 H.R. 5260: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
 H.R. 5267: Mr. KILEY of California, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. HARRIGAN.
 H.R. 5301: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 5330: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
 H.R. 5333: Ms. NORTON and Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 5338: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 5343: Ms. TENNEY and Mrs. FISCHBACH.
 H.R. 5345: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.R. 5352: Mr. HUNT.
 H.R. 5369: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.J. Res. 12: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H.J. Res. 80: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. MIN.
 H.J. Res. 118: Mr. COLLINS.
 H. Res. 69: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.
 H. Res. 209: Mr. NEGUSE.
 H. Res. 506: Mr. LALOTA.
 H. Res. 629: Ms. TLAIB.
 H. Res. 670: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H. Res. 680: Ms. SIMON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BROWN, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. BALINT, and Mr. MIN.
 H. Res. 684: Mr. FROST.
 H. Res. 694: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
 H. Res. 695: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
 H. Res. 697: Mr. DELUZZIO.
 H. Res. 700: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, and Mr. ONDER.
 H. Res. 702: Mr. MANN and Mr. ONDER.

H. Res. 704: Ms. OMAR and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H. Res. 706: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 710: Ms. TOKUDA.

H. Res. 711: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

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. COLE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Appropriations in H.R. 5371, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026, do not contain any con-

gressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 4700: Mr. SELF.



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No. 151

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BERNIE MORENO, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

As we come into Your presence today, O Lord, we, like Isaiah of old, need to experience reverential awe. With the mighty seraphim who surround Your throne, may we cover our faces and cry "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's armies!"

Lord, use our lawmakers so that their actions will help provide for the security and well-being of all people. Sustain our Senators with the protection of Your providence, and give them Your peace. Provide them also with the spirit of unity and with the wisdom to have respect, one for the other. Lord, thank You for the redemption You provide Your people.

We pray in Your awesome Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 16, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BERNIE MORENO, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MORENO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2296, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A 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.

Pending:

Wicker/Reed Amendment Modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute.

Wicker (for Ernst) Amendment No. 3427 (to Amendment No. 3748), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on casualty assistance and long-term care programs.

Thune Amendment No. 3863 (to Amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 3865 (to Amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date.

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune Amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 3867 (to the instructions) Amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 3868 (to Amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to be very clear about something. When Donald Trump goes on FOX News and says to Republicans "Don't even bother to deal with Democrats," when he says out loud that he doesn't need or want our votes, that means Donald Trump wants a shutdown—make no mistake about it.

Trump can say a million times he doesn't want a shutdown, but he is acting as if he absolutely wants one. His words say one thing, but his actions say another. He is ordering Republicans not to even bother working with Democrats. He is telling Republicans to "fight back" against "the radical left democratic demands." He is telling them to vote yes on a partisan CR that fails to meet the needs of the American people and had no Democratic input.

These are the kinds of actions a President takes when he wants a shutdown: closing negotiations; forcing partisan votes; ignoring the needs on healthcare, on costs, and on so many other issues of the American people.

It is the same story with Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON. They are doing exactly what Donald Trump wants. They say they want a vote on a partisan CR as soon as possible here in the Congress, but they have refused even to sit down at the table with Leader JEFFRIES and me, despite repeated requests.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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So, look, our Republican colleagues can say whatever they want, but it is clear as could be that they want a shutdown. They can say they don't; they are acting as if they do. They can try to play the blame game, but their actions tell a different story. Their actions show clearly they want to shut things down because they don't want to negotiate with Democrats.

And it is more than that. It means Republicans don't want to help the American people with the crisis they have created, raising people's costs, particularly their healthcare costs. They don't want to do anything about the crisis they have created for their hospitals despite the outcry from hospitals, hospital workers, and patients from one end of the country to the other. They don't want to do anything about the fact that people's premiums are going to shoot through the roof. They don't want to stop the rampant and illegal abuses of Donald Trump when he steals or cancels congressional-approved funding for medical research—medical research—or other things.

By refusing to sit down with Democrats, Republicans are telling the American people that they are happy to help Donald Trump burn this country down; they are happy to let the government shut down.

The American people don't want Republicans to shut the government down. The American people expect Republicans who are in charge to sit down and negotiate, as any responsible leaders would do. They expect Republicans to do their jobs.

On Friday, Donald Trump said on "Fox & Friends" that he all he needs is Republican votes. He is wrong. He doesn't know how to count. It takes 60 Senate votes for anything to pass. That means you need Democratic votes. That is a plain fact. To get those votes, he needs some input from Democrats. We particularly want to talk about people's high costs—particularly in healthcare—created by the Republican Big Beautiful Bill. Those are the plain facts.

If Donald Trump says no negotiations at all, then it is Donald Trump's shutdown.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. President, now on a happier note—His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I. I would like to welcome this morning to Washington His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the spiritual leader of all the world's orthodox Christians. It is an honor to have His All-Holiness with us this week in our Nation's Capital. He is a great example not only to the world's Christians but to people of all faiths and to everyone who seeks peace, justice, and unity in a world in desperate need of all three.

I particularly commend the patriarch for his legacy as an advocate for protecting our planet, for interfaith dialogue, and for justice for every corner of the Earth.

We welcome Patriarch Bartholomew I to Washington this week. We thank him for his leadership, and we wish him the best during his stay here.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—S. 2805 and S. 2806

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for a second time en bloc.

The senior assistant executive 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 appropriations.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am going to speak in just a moment about the border, but just to kind of set the stage a little bit on sort of where things stand, you just heard the Democrat leader talk about their willingness to fund the government—something he said repeatedly in the past. In fact, in the past, as I used quotes on the floor yesterday, he said that he likes clean CRs—clean CRs—and that we need to keep the government open for all kinds of reasons, including people who are served by the VA hospitals, for example.

I agree with him. I think that is important. I don't think anybody benefits from a government shutdown, which is why we are trying to advance a clean CR—a CR that incorporates anomalies that have been requested by his side of the aisle, some on ours, things that we normally incorporate into a continuing resolution.

But the objective in all this would be to fund the government into the foreseeable future. What is being talked about is somewhere in the November timeframe—pre-Thanksgiving, per-

haps—which would give us, after the end of the fiscal year on September 30, another 6 to 7 weeks to consider individual appropriations bills and to fund the government the way it is supposed to be funded: under regular order, where the committees are doing their work and where we are doing our work on the floor.

As the Chair knows, earlier this year, we already passed three appropriations bills across the floor of the Senate—something that hadn't been done before the August recess going back as far as 2018, I believe. So it has been a long time since we have enacted under regular order appropriations bills, and that ought to be the goal. The goal here should be to fund the government the way it was intended to be funded—through the normal appropriations process.

Now, I realize that is a little out of the ordinary, given the past few years under the Democrat leadership or the Democrat leader's leadership here in the Senate, where these issues, a lot of times, got decided behind closed doors in his office. That seems to be what he wants to have happen again.

He is suggesting that he would like to have conversations about this. Well, he knows my office is right down the hall. He knows my phone number. I haven't heard from him.

All we are simply doing is asking for the very thing that in the past he has said he wants, and that is a clean funding resolution to fund the government. That is what we are proposing here. That is what I hope we will have the votes to pick up later this week.

If the Democrat leader chooses to oppose it, that is his prerogative, but I would hope there would be Democrat Senators who would give us the requisite number of votes to get to 60 in order to keep the government open. That is my objective in all of this.

I would say that we have, I think, a process whereby the Appropriations Committee and our chair Senator COLLINS have been working with the ranking Democrat, Senator MURRAY, and with their House counterparts on funding the government in this way, in this fashion. Those discussions, to the degree that they are occurring, are occurring because we allow them to have those conversations and don't get in the way of that.

I think what the Democrat leader is suggesting is that he wants to interject himself into those discussions and perhaps even instruct his ranking member not to participate. I hope that isn't the case.

But my expectation is that we will proceed to fund the government in a way that keeps it open for that foreseeable time period. I think right now what they are talking about in the House of Representatives is somewhere in the November 21 timeframe. That would give us an additional 6 to 7 weeks in which to move individual appropriations bills, which is the way we should be funding the government and

which is the way historically, prior to the Democrat leader's term as majority leader, we used to do it. Now, he moved that behind closed doors into his office. Frankly, I don't think that is in the best interest of this institution and certainly not in the best interest of Members on my side or on his side, who, frankly, want an open process and have requested that.

That was one of the issues, when I was running for this job, that Senators on our side of the aisle had suggested—that we want to do this in the light of day; we want an open process; we want regular order to work; we want the chairs to be empowered and individual members of the committees to be empowered and, just as importantly, individual Senators to be empowered to be able to have their voices heard in that appropriations process.

So that is where we are right now. Now, what is being suggested by the Democrat leader is that they are willing—he is willing—I hope they aren't—he is willing to shut the government down over a clean CR—something that last year and the year before he said he wanted because that is the way to do this, not with all kinds of things attached to it and poison pills but clean, straight-up fund the government. That is what he has wanted.

I hope his Members are smart enough to know that it is a really bad idea, for lots of reasons, to shut the government down over a clean funding resolution extended to a foreseeable date in the future that would enable the Appropriations Committee and this institution, the Senate, working with our colleagues in the House, to fund the government the way it was intended to be funded—through the normal appropriations process. I sincerely hope we can do that.

That is what we are advocating: a clean funding resolution—not with all kinds of ornaments and attachments to it but a handful of anomalies that both sides agree to—that would fund the government into November, until such time as we have the opportunity here to debate and hopefully report out and actually move annual appropriations bills so the Senate's voice—Senators' voices—can be heard in that process.

That is a very, I know, foreign concept to the Democrat leader and certainly something—at least right now—that it doesn't sound like he is open to. But the alternative is a government shutdown.

If you refuse to move a clean CR so the Appropriations committees can do their work and we can do our work here in the Senate, essentially, you are advocating for a government shutdown, and I don't know how that doesn't fall on you.

He is suggesting that is going to fall on Republicans, but if, in fact, the House of Representatives can act on this, the President is prepared to sign a continuing resolution that funds the government—a clean resolution—for the foreseeable future, and we have the

number of votes here in the Senate to pass it, then it will be only the Democrat leader who is standing between this country and a government shutdown and all that means. So I would hope he will come to a different conclusion.

To the question of whether or not he would like to sit down with me, my office is right down here, and he has my cell phone number. At any time, we can do that. It doesn't seem necessary given the fact that if we hand the ball to the appropriators, which is where this should be decided, and they negotiate this and then we have a clean CR to fund the government for the next 7 weeks, that, to me, seems like a very straightforward solution to this, at least in the near term, and one which in past Congresses the Democrat leader has supported.

That is what we are trending toward, and if the Democrat leader wants to chat about that or any other subject, he knows where to find me. By the way, as many of his colleagues were out here trying to negotiate the bipartisan compromise of nominations last week, he was nowhere to be found. So this is time if you want to actually engage and try and come up with some bipartisan solutions to some of these problems, I certainly welcome that.

I look forward to those conversations in the future.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, if there is one thing for sure, it is that things look very different at the southern border these days than they did a year ago. Encounters at the southern border have dropped precipitously to as low as just 7,832 encounters in July.

Now compare that to the southern border under the Biden administration when U.S. Customs and Border Protection was encountering more than 100,000 illegal immigrants per month and sometimes many more. In a number of months, that number was up over 200,000. And in one memorable month in 2023, the number of encounters at the southern border exceeded 300,000—300,000 in just one month. Many of those individuals were processed and then allowed to take up residence in the United States.

Well, no longer.

Under President Trump, illegal border crossings have slowed to a trickle, and border communities that were once overwhelmed are quiet. Border Patrol's El Paso sector, which covers 268 miles in western Texas and all of New Mexico, is emblematic of the progress that has been made.

The sector chief says agents there are currently encountering about 40 to 50 people per day. Now, compare that to the 2,700 per day that they would see not that long ago.

Then there is the known “got-aways.” These are individuals that Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. The current daily average in the El Paso sector is nine—nine; nine known “got-aways” per day. Last

summer, it was 400 per day in that sector—400.

One has to wonder just how dangerous some of these individuals were who were avoiding law enforcement, considering that a lot of illegal immigrants encouraged by catch-and-release policies actually sought out Border Patrol during the Biden years.

Under President Trump, the situation at the southern border has been turned around. Our laws are being enforced. The wall is being built, and criminal illegal immigrants who had taken up residence in our country are being arrested, detained, and deported. Thanks to President Trump's leadership, we have made an incredible amount of progress, and we need to sustain that progress for long term.

That is why Republicans made the generational investment in border security in the One Big Beautiful Bill. That includes funding to finish the border wall and hire more Border Patrol and ICE agents, plus additional detention space and deportation capacity.

We also included funding for the Department of Justice to hire more immigration judges to address the massive backlog of immigration cases, a backlog made exponentially worse by the Biden administration's policies.

The open border policies of the past were a danger for everyone. The chaos at our southern border under the Biden administration was an invitation to terrorists, criminals, and other dangerous individuals to enter our country.

It placed an incredible burden on our Border Patrol agents, many of whom were pulled off the essential work of guarding the border to process the flood of illegal immigrants. And it placed a big burden on border cities, and nonborder cities as well, who struggled to deal with an influx of migrants.

Then there were the dangers to illegal immigrants themselves who were encouraged by President Biden's policies to put themselves at the mercy of human smugglers and the cartels, criminals who profited off of the open southern border.

In fact, the New York Times reported in 2022 that human smuggling had become a \$13 billion business for the cartels—ballooning from \$500 million just a few years earlier. New border security measures, however, have cost the cartels an estimated \$1 billion since the start of this year.

Now law enforcement has the bandwidth to go after these criminals and disrupt the networks whose activities endanger immigrants and Americans alike. We have a responsibility to keep America safe, and that starts with security at our borders. President Trump takes that responsibility seriously.

He has acted swiftly to turn the disaster at the southern border around, and Congress has acted to support that mission and make the success we have seen these last few months the new normal. That work continues.

I am grateful to the men and women on the frontlines carrying out the important work enforcing the law and making America safer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority whip.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, once again, Senate Democrats are threatening to shut down the government. A government shutdown is bad for everyone. The cost of a Democrat shutdown is staggering.

Reopening the government after a shutdown is even more costly. And who pays the price of a Schumer shutdown? Well, it is the American people.

It is not the people in this room. No. It is hard-working Americans. It is seniors who rely on Social Security; they are going to be impacted. People living on a fixed income; they budget down to the last dollar. They need to pay for rent; they need to pay for groceries; they need to pay for prescriptions. Democrats don't seem to worry about that. Oh, they say they can wait.

Because a Democrat shutdown means that customer service applications to the Social Security Administration—well, they will be delayed.

Now, many military families also live paycheck to paycheck. They are going to face a lot of uncertainty. The men and women who protect our families will be left to wonder how they can protect their own families. Border Patrol agents, they put their lives on the line every day to protect the American people. They are going to be forced to live without a paycheck.

Democrats already tried to defund the Border Patrol. Now they want Border Patrol agents to go home without a paycheck until the government reopens.

National parks, they risk being closed as well. In my home State of Wyoming, we have Yellowstone National Park; we have the Grand Teton. These are more than parks; they are part of our State and our Nation's rich history and heritage.

Families from across America and around the world visit Wyoming, our national parks, and other national parks. They do it every year.

Under a Schumer shutdown, those plans will be forced to be canceled.

Local businesses like hotels, restaurants, they will lose revenue. Park staff are reduced to skeleton crews. Trash piles up. That is not stewardship. That is neglect.

That is what the Democrats are risking. It is what Democrats are threatening with this reckless talk of a shutdown.

The American people shouldn't be forced to pay the cost of Democrats' political games. That is what it is. Shutdowns are political games. Political acts are choices.

Congress has the tools to avoid this chaos. It requires, however, cooperation from the Democrats.

The appropriations process, it exists. It exists for a reason. It is how Congress fulfills its basic mission—the power of the purse. That is our duty, and that is what Republicans are doing.

For the first time in 4 years, the Senate passed bipartisan appropriations bills before the August recess.

More are on the way.

Appropriations Committee Chairwoman SUSAN COLLINS is working hard to get each and every bill passed. That is something that the current Minority Leader refused to do when the Democrats were in the majority.

Last year, 11 out of 12 funding bills passed the Senate Appropriations Committee. They passed many along bipartisan ways, many were unanimous, all done in regular order. That was last year when SCHUMER was, at that time, majority leader, but he refused to bring a single one of them to the floor of the U.S. Senate for a vote. He let those 11 bipartisan appropriations bills die in the drawer of that desk rather than let the Senate vote on them.

He shut down the appropriations process, and now he and the Senate Democrats are threatening to shut down the government. He himself has recently suggested a shutdown. He said: It is preferable to accepting bipartisan solutions.

Senator CORY BOOKER, who is another member of the Senate Democrat leadership, went even further. When asked about a short stopgap measure that we are talking about now to keep government open so we can proceed with additional appropriations bills, he said:

I am going to block it.

That is what he said—block the normal process to regular order.

And it is not just the Democrat-elected officials calling for a shutdown. Liberal columnist Ezra Klein recently wrote in the New York Times and he was on television urging Democrats to shut down the government. He did it despite the costs and consequences to the American people, but that is where the radical left is.

He said joining Republicans to fund this government is worse, he said, than failing at opposition.

That is what they think their job is: to disrupt, to make it harder on the American people's lives. That is not what we ought to be doing here in the U.S. Senate. Democrats are ignoring the needs of keeping the essential functions of our Nation open. And what are those essential needs? Securing the border, Social Security, supporting our military—doesn't seem to care if you are a Democrat these days. What is so wrong with doing the job voters elected us to do?

To my Democrat colleagues, I would say: Stop this political theater. The Republican message is simple: Let's fund the government; protect Social Security; keep servicemembers and border agents paid; keep the government open in order to serve the American people.

Senate Republicans are ready. Ready to keep the government open. Senate Democrats are bragging about being ready to shut it down. The choice is theirs, and the consequences of that choice will be felt by the people of our Nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 389

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, when parents send their kids to school, they rightfully expect that they will be safe and protected. Parents expect their kids to bring home knowledge, not polio. They expect them to share stories, not measles. They expect them to get smart, not smallpox.

The reality is, this has been the case for decades because we have had vaccines to safely and efficiently keep students protected against these terrible, terrible diseases.

Unfortunately, there is an extreme movement that relies on conspiracy theories that is trying to overturn commonsense, science, vaccination guidelines, and make children vulnerable to life-threatening illnesses.

Earlier this month, Florida announced it was rolling back long-standing vaccine requirements—long-standing vaccine requirements—for schools; requirements that have prevented the death of more than 1 million children in the last 30 years alone—1 million children. Think about that number. Protecting them from devastating diseases like measles, polio, and whooping cough.

Removing these safeguards will cost kids' lives. There is no other way of putting it, parents will bury their children.

It will bring us back to a time before vaccines, when parents prayed their child would be spared from polio so they wouldn't have to spend the rest of their life in an iron lung. That is not freedom. Living inside of an iron lung because someone refused to get a vaccine is anything but being free.

As my dad used to say: When you don't have your health, you don't have anything. These extreme policies will lead people to die as a result.

Let's also be clear: This is not what parents want. In fact, more than 80 percent of parents support vaccine requirements for schools to prevent diseases like polio, measles; to prevent

diseases like mumps, rubella, smallpox, hepatitis, and a number of other diseases that we don't even think about anymore on a daily basis.

That support crosses party lines. In fact, three-quarters of Republican parents agree schools should require vaccines for measles and polio, including 73 percent of parents who identify themselves with the MAGA movement.

Even my Republican colleagues have spoken up about this, saying:

It's a horrible idea. . . . It's been policy.

I am going to quote again:

Vaccinations have proven to be helpful in preventing the spread of [diseases like] measles, polio, and other things.

This was a Republican:

My children are vaccinated, my grandchildren are vaccinated. I don't agree with that.

These extreme policies are not only way out of step with science, they are way out of step with the very families that these Florida politicians claim to represent.

What is happening in Florida is not an isolated case. And what happens there, it won't stay there. It is part of a broader effort to weaken our Nation's health. Disease knows no boundary and is, unfortunately, an equal opportunity predator.

At the heart of this dangerous misinformation campaign are people like the Secretary of Health and Human Services, R.F.K., Jr., who has built a career by spreading lies about vaccines and spreading rhetoric that has been debunked time and time again by doctors and scientists.

In fact, he fired, just recently, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention because she allegedly stood up to his anti-vax efforts. Since then, the CDC has made it practically impossible for healthy adults in many States to receive the COVID-19 vaccination if they so choose—if they so choose.

This goes beyond getting rid of COVID vaccine mandates. It actually imposes a new Republican mandate that no one can receive the vaccine, and it does not matter even if they want to. This goes above and beyond, forcing everyone to bend to their will. It is not freedom. It is imposing their radical beliefs on everyone else.

Because of Secretary Kennedy's willingness to push lies and conspiracies that will hurt our health, the Senate must speak out against what he is doing and what Florida is doing and make it clear we support making vaccines accessible and that we support making sure our children are vaccinated against polio, smallpox, rubella, and other life-threatening illnesses.

Washington Republicans cannot and should not stay silent while extremists in Washington and in Florida are trying to make it more likely that children—children—won't receive critical vaccines.

That is why I introduced a resolution opposing these extreme policies, re-

affirming something the overwhelming majority of Americans already know, and this is this: Vaccines save lives. Vaccines protect kids. Vaccines protect every American, and every American deserves the freedom to access them.

This is about the safety of our children. It is about making sure diseases like polio and smallpox remain eradicated. It is about standing up for the overwhelming majority of parents—Republican, Democrat, Independent alike—who want their children just protected from these horrific, terrible illnesses.

So, today, I am calling on my colleagues in the Senate to join me in this effort. Let's send a strong bipartisan message that we reject this extreme, dangerous agenda.

If all of my Republican colleagues disagree with what Florida is doing, let's do more than just give a disapproving statement to reporters. They have something they can do about it. I am going to give them the opportunity—Washington Republicans—to do something to protect our kids. Let's pass my resolution by unanimous consent right now to protect the children of the United States.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 389, which was submitted earlier today; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me say to my colleague from Nevada that neither one of us represent Florida.

The 10th Amendment to the Constitution is clear that the Federal Government has a limited set of powers, and most powers are delegated to the States. I think we should let decisions for the people of Florida be made by the elected representatives of the people of Florida.

Let me just also address real quickly some of the statements that were just made about children going to school.

It is decently ironic, given that during COVID, kids were prevented from going to school because schools were closed. Schools were closed, in some cases, up to a year and a half.

If we look at the epidemic of childhood violence, youth violence in this country, we can directly trace that to the enormous mistakes made during COVID by locking kids up, by forcing children to get a COVID vaccine that we now know, objectively, absolutely should not have been given to children.

Let me make also another point. You can't, on one side, bemoan the termination of a CDC Director and, on the other side, having not voted to confirm said CDC Director—so when you voted no, you can't also say: Well, why was

that person fired, because you wouldn't have hired him in the first place. That doesn't make any sense.

Let me just make one final point. This is very important. Any vaccine that any parent wants to get is available. What R.F.K. is saying—our Secretary of Health is saying is: We are not going to mandate that people have to put things into their body that they choose not to put in their body.

In fact, I believe over my lifetime, what I have seen the Democrats say is: My body, my choice. I guess that only applies when you are murdering babies.

It is very simple. If we don't have sovereignty over what goes in our body, we are not free people.

I believe that people should make a choice, an educated choice. I have faith in the American people that they can make the decisions that they feel are right for them. For that reason, I object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The objection is heard.

The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, this is very disappointing. We know that childhood diseases have been eradicated in so many ways because of these vaccinations. And we often know that the way that they are available or the way they are paid for relies on the recommendations from the U.S. Government. So we do put children at risk, and we are saying, in the case of COVID, that people may not get them.

But I remain disappointed. This is really disappointing. By blocking my resolution, Washington Republicans are saying they are OK with extreme policies that can make vaccinations inaccessible, unaffordable, roll back vaccine requirements for schoolchildren, and put us all at risk for diseases like measles, polio, and smallpox, to our families, to our communities, to those most vulnerable.

I don't believe this is a partisan issue. Disease is an equal opportunity predator. Diagnosis can change your life this fast. So it isn't partisan.

The overwhelming majority of parents, including three-quarters of Republicans, support school vaccine requirements. Blocking my resolution ignores parents, ignores science, and it puts kids at risk.

Before some Washington Republicans try to insinuate that because they didn't personally block this resolution, they may support it—it has been introduced, and everyone is welcome to support it today. So if you believe schoolchildren should be able to access vaccines, you can cosponsor my resolution today.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of my bill, the HIRE Act, which is at the desk; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and

passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. MORENO. I withhold my request with some remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORENO. I think one of the things that I can agree on with my colleague from Nevada—and there are a lot of things I think we can work together on. I think she is a good person—the one thing we can agree on is we want stronger families. We want strong family structures. That means that a mom or a dad can have one job that allows them to provide a family-sustaining wage to be able to raise kids so that parents could stay home with their kids—again, a mom or a dad—and provide those kinds of resources that are necessary.

But, right now, corporations are taking a lot of good jobs and shipping those jobs overseas. For example, where I started my career, believe it or not, right out of college, was in a call center. I helped start the Saturn Corporation's customer assistance center. I can tell you firsthand, those are good jobs. I can also say that the people who do the best job at call centers are people with some form of disability. Whether it is blindness, they are in a wheelchair, they don't have a lot of other opportunities for good, high-paying jobs. That used to be the case. They have much higher levels of empathy. They speak our language. They know our culture.

But corporations, unfortunately, chase slave wages in other parts of the world where they can pay people \$5 a day. And our calls—our American consumers that need help and assistance are calling these foreign countries. They have a language barrier, a culture barrier, and more importantly, that money is leaving our country to go into those communities versus having that money stay here in America. So that call center operator can go pay rent, go to the grocery store, buy a car, et cetera. We could create that ecosystem.

I know having been in your State just recently, that there are a lot of needs for jobs there—a lot of needs for jobs. Let's agree that we want these jobs to stay here in America. My bill is very simple. We are not going to control what corporations do, but we can create guardrails.

So what my bill does is very simple. If you outsource American jobs to a foreign country, you will pay a 25-percent fee for the value of that contract. And here is the best part, we take that 25-percent fee that we collect, and we use it to fund trade schools to upskill workers to be able to step up into a better, higher paying job.

The bill is called the HIRE Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the im-

mediate consideration of my bill, the HIRE Act, which is at the desk; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Senator, we do agree that cracking down on outsourcing and supporting American workers is an important goal and one that does deserve serious debate. I am willing to work with you in a bipartisan way to help address this issue that is hurting our country.

But for some things, this isn't the way we make laws. There is a process. A bill is introduced. It gets reviewed and considered by committee, brought to the floor, worked on with colleagues. We may have different considerations in Nevada than we do in Ohio versus Mr. President's State of Utah.

So what we want to do is work together in a bipartisan way, not rush this complex legislation through by unanimous consent. So you have my commitment to move forward. I am with you, but I am objecting today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator from Nevada's willingness to work with me to get this bill across the finish line. You have my commitment that my team will reach out to yours. Let's get this bill going.

I think this is something that we can all agree on that we want to do. Let's put the thoughtfulness into it. I look forward to working with you to make this happen.

Thank you.

Ms. ROSEN. 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. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to complete my remarks before the scheduled recess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it seems these days—and this is not a great development, but it seems these days as if Democrats love to hate anything that Republicans—and particularly President Trump—suggest or propose or do, especially when it comes to ways to try to shrink the size of our government and rightsize bloated Federal programs.

They have spent a lot of time and energy catastrophizing about all the sup-

posed dangers of the One Big Beautiful Bill—one of the most important achievements of this administration and Congress so far. The truth about the One Big Beautiful Bill is that it prevented the largest tax hike in American history and puts more money back in the pockets of hard-working Americans.

Now, you would think that alone would be a good reason to support the One Big Beautiful Bill, but there is more.

The main way they have opposed that bill is by mischaracterizing it and outright misrepresenting what is contained in it. One of the accusations made is that it will take away healthcare coverage from people who need it.

Democratic Leader Senator SCHUMER said of the bill:

There is nothing beautiful about stripping away people's healthcare, forcing kids to go hungry, denying communities the resources they need, and increasing poverty.

Minority whip Senator DURBIN claimed that we are going to be taking coverage away from 16 million families.

Now, if true, these accusations would be serious, but they are not true. In the more than 2 months since the One Big Beautiful Bill became law, the Congressional Budget Office has shed some light on this matter and I think done a tremendous job of truth-telling, and it is important to delve deeper into what they have said about this so the American people can know what the truth is.

CBO estimates that 10 million people will lose coverage due to the One Big Beautiful Bill. Now, again, that estimate without context seems pretty serious, but we have to ask, who are these 10 million people? Are they elderly grandmothers? Are they disabled citizens? Are they children? people who have no access to other resources? In fact, they are not. And I have no doubt that my colleagues will argue that they are in the coming months. In the coming months, ahead of the midterm elections, we will hear more about that, which is one reason why I wanted to come in and present the facts.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, 3.7 million of this 10 million—3.7 million of this 10 million—already had access through another form of federally subsidized healthcare. That is more than a third of that 10 million.

When we take this examination of the facts a step further, we see that the Congressional Budget Office estimates that 5.3 million Americans out of that 10 million are individuals who choose not to work, which is one of the new requirements of the One Big Beautiful Bill.

These programs are supposed to go to the deserving and the needy, not to people who like to sit on the couch and play video games or otherwise not contribute to their own welfare. Work requirements for able-bodied adults were an important provision that I championed in this bill, and I am glad we

got it done as part of this legislation. So able-bodied adults who willingly refuse to work shouldn't expect a hand-out from the Federal Government or the taxpayers who do work. It is only right that those who are able to work do so or at least demonstrate they are actively looking for a job or participating in some sort of job training or volunteer services.

Those are other alternatives to work: looking for a job or volunteering or training for work. Seems like a reasonable requirement to me.

There is just no reason for taxpayers to continue to pick up the tab for able-bodied Americans who choose not to enter the labor force.

And the truth is, we need them in the workforce. We need more people in the workforce, which is one of the issues I hear people talk about as I travel my State and around the country. We need the workforce to be able to keep our economy going and to provide for those who need help.

So able-bodied adults who are choosing not to comply with these work requirements make up more than half of those 10 million who will lose coverage, but they can change that. They can simply choose to work or study or go to school or volunteer, and they would get those benefits. But if you consciously choose not to, it makes sense to me that taxpayers should not be required to subsidize that.

Next, the CBO also estimates that 2½ million of the 10 million are not actually eligible for the program to begin with. That is a quarter of that 10 million aren't even eligible.

If we want to make sure that our safety net programs work and are stable, we have to ensure the benefits are actually going to people whom Congress has made eligible for these programs in the first place.

As the Presiding Officer knows, one of the biggest issues confronting our country is that we are \$37 trillion in debt, and we can't just keep printing money and spending money and bankrupting our country and threatening the welfare of future generations. We have a present-day responsibility to address that, and we know that the status quo was not sustainable.

Assuring those who do not actually qualify are not taking benefits away from those who do is only common sense. It is the least we can do.

But that is not all. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 1.4 million of those who would lose coverage are actually not citizens in the first place, which is another category of ineligible individuals. So Congress has never authorized federally subsidized health coverage for noncitizens.

I don't think the American people who voted overwhelmingly for President Trump last November did so because they want to see taxpayers subsidize illegal aliens' healthcare.

In addition to the categories I just mentioned, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the remaining

loss of coverage will be the result of reducing waste, fraud, and abuse within these programs—again, something that is not particularly controversial, and I can't think of a single Texan I have talked to who was supportive of spending more of their hard-earned money for fraudulent or wasteful programs. In fact, the opposite is the case.

So at the end of the day, when we look at the numbers from the Congressional Budget Office that keeps the official scorecard for the U.S. Government, the story it tells is far different from the tale that our Democratic colleagues are trying to tell the American people.

The One Big Beautiful Bill is not taking healthcare coverage away from grandmas who are on a fixed income or single mothers. Rather, the reforms to the Medicaid Program in the One Big Beautiful Bill will ensure that the money that is spent goes to people who are eligible and who need it the most. That is the truth about the One Big Beautiful Bill.

So as much as my Democratic colleagues love to hate it, at the end of the day, this single legislative achievement of President Trump's second term of office delivers necessary reforms that will make life better for the American people.

Republicans will continue to never mind the naysayers and keep telling our constituents the truth about the One Big Beautiful Bill.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate at 12:36 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO "EMISSIONS BUDGET AND ALLOWANCE ALLOCATIONS FOR INDIANA UNDER THE REVISED CROSS-STATE AIR POLLUTION RULE UPDATE"—Motion to Proceed

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am here, I guess, to offer a eulogy for the supposed Republican principle that government should not be used to pick winners and losers. It turns out that principle is soluble in money.

Months before the 2024 election, President Trump offered big oil and coal cronies a super deal: They give him \$1 billion to take the White House, of which he got at least several hun-

dred million, and he would pay them back bigly; he would use government to make them winners and clean energy losers. So he has bent over backwards to make Big Oil, big polluters happy.

His efforts to prop up his coal industry donors have been particularly flagrant. Coal as an energy source is a dirty and dying industry. Coal is expensive to mine, coal-fired powerplants are expensive to operate, and coal-powered electricity is expensive to buy. So besides being toxic to mine and burn, coal is a bad financial play—at least in the real, open market that Republicans claim to want to honor.

So to pick his winners and punish his losers, Trump issued a series of Executive orders directing State and Federal actors to revive the zombie coal industry.

At the beginning of this year, several Indiana utilities had announced plans to retire polluting coal plants and shift to cleaner energy sources. Following Trump's Executive orders and who knows what other private conversations, several of these utilities canceled plans to retire the polluting coal units.

This is a pretty big deal well outside of Indiana because coal plants like these emit hundreds of thousands of tons of pollution each year, including the pollution which forms smog. Exposure to smog is serious. It causes lung disease, it causes cardiovascular problems, and it even causes reproductive issues. It has been documented to cause premature deaths. And it blows into other States. Prevailing winds take the pollution and blow it into other States. In fact, I have argued that there are smokestacks designed specifically to get the pollution out of the home State and land it on the downwind States, like Rhode Island.

Under the cross-State air pollution rule, EPA sets emissions "budgets" to protect people in the downwind States from dangerous, smog-forming pollution that comes out of another State and blows across the border from the upwind, coal-fired powerplants. Well, after these Indiana coal plants got their inducement to extend, EPA had to loosen its previously-set emissions budget for Indiana that protected the downwind States in order to allow more smog to spread, because that is what reopening these plants does—it allows more smog to spread.

EPA promulgated this deregulatory rulemaking without a notice and comment process, giving no opportunity to anyone downwind—vulnerable to smog pollution from Indiana—to communicate into the EPA process their concerns.

Well, back in 1996, Congress enacted the Congressional Review Act to give Congress the opportunity to vote on regulations like this. During the Biden administration, the Senate actually conducted 35 rollcall votes in relation to Republican-sponsored Congressional Review Act resolutions of disapproval.

Now the Trump administration is engaged in an effort, at breakneck speed, to pick winners and punish losers, and if doing so requires them to tear down protections of Americans' health, of our safety, of the environment, that is all fine with them.

Congressional Review Act resolutions like this one can help hold the administration to account. I strongly urge a vote upholding our response against this polluting regulation.

I move to proceed to Calendar No. 142, S.J. Res. 60.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President—

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. If the Senator wishes to speak, I am willing to withdraw my motion to proceed, which actually is not debatable and would cut him off. But I would like to know how much time the Senator would like, and then I would like unanimous consent that we then proceed to the conclusion of Calendar No. 142—and Senator CAPITO as well.

Mr. YOUNG. I thank the good Senator.

Madam President, I request 5 minutes to state my case.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. The distinguished chairman of Environment and Public Works would like some time as well?

Mrs. CAPITO. Five minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I would say that I love all of our States, and I am very proud that the State of Indiana plays such a critical role in ensuring economic resiliency and the manufacturing potential of this great Nation—something so important to all of our citizens irrespective of where you live.

I represent the most manufacturing-intensive State in the country. Energy demand is up, manufacturers are invested in expanding, small businesses are plugging in, and our Nation's energy needs are rising. Indiana is foremost a manufacturing State. About 45 percent of our in-state electricity generation comes from coal. That is the reality. That means dependable, around-the-clock capacity isn't optional; it is how the Hoosier economy runs.

Yes, the expectation was that four Indiana coal-fired power units would be offline by 2024, but the facts on the ground have changed, and our responsibility here today is to keep power dependable and affordable with the megawatts we have—the megawatts we already have.

So what the EPA is doing now is a commonsense correction. That is all we are talking about—updating Indiana's summer emissions limit to match the plants that are actually in operation while keeping the underlying clean air guardrails in place. Keep those in place. Plants still have to meet current environmental standards. They still have to run controls. No one is getting a free pass here. This is merely a housekeeping correction that lines up

the State limit with active generation so unrealistic, retroactive costs aren't forced on powerplants and ultimately the ratepayer.

This is common sense, pushing aside the bureaucracy and using the flexibility that we have in the law. It keeps the numbers honest, it keeps the planning stable for the hottest months of the year, and it avoids regulatory whiplash. Imagine if we are changing the rules nonstop in DC. It would create great uncertainty. So this accommodates the realities on the ground.

If this fix were overturned, Indiana would revert to older limits designed for a fleet that no longer exists, so, in practice, that means less operating room during heat waves and higher costs right when our citizens need power the most—all of our citizens.

Hoosiers are already feeling it. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Indiana's average home electricity prices are up roughly 11.5 percent year over year, and the Trump administration aims to do something about it.

Rather than working to keep generation steady and reliability predictable, my colleagues—at least some of them—on the other side of the aisle are advancing a repeal effort that would punish Indiana at the worst possible time.

Hoosiers should not pay more because government insists on regulating yesterday's grid instead of today's realities. Instead, we should focus on adding new capacity—new capacity—before prematurely retiring existing assets and cut redtape so that generation, pipelines, and transmission get built faster. That is what we should do. Let's not write off active megawatts and then act surprised when bills rise and lights flicker.

So if your priority is reliability and protecting American families from price spikes, the choice is clear: Keep what works today so we can build what we need for tomorrow.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this disapproval resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana for really framing the debate for his home State of Indiana.

I rise today in opposition as well to S.J. Res. 60, a CRA that is introduced by my colleague from Rhode Island Senator WHITEHOUSE to overturn this technical correction to the State of Indiana's emissions. The interim technical correction is necessary due to the Supreme Court's stay of the good neighbor rule.

I urge my colleagues to vote no and return the Senate floor to our business of confirming President Trump's nominees in the face of historic obstruction.

Allow me to explain just a little bit—and both of them have explained this. In 2021, the EPA issued a Federal implementation plan covering Indiana. In doing so, they relied on the announced

retirement of four electric-generating units projected to happen in 2023. In 2022, those powerplants announced they would no longer close, which EPA counted for in their good neighbor rule, so the Supreme Court subsequently stayed that rule, meaning that Indiana was forced into their now-outdated 2021 emissions budget.

The Trump administration's EPA finalized this interim rule that this CRA would repeal to adjust Indiana's emissions budget to reflect what it would have looked like in 2021 had those plants not announced retirement.

I will say that every single day, every one of our offices is deluged with people coming in, saying: We need more power in this country. If we are going to win the race in AI, if we are going to win the next race in innovation, we have to have more power.

So this is an example, I think, of the Trump EPA working to make changes that ensure legal durability and reflect practical energy and environmental needs for specific States that the Biden administration had neglected.

It is surprising to me that anybody would want to spend time on this minor interim rule specific to one State that will not have a material impact on air quality or attainment of the 2008 ozone standard, which is the purpose of the rule. However, as we have seen time and time again, they are relentless in their efforts to weaponize our environmental statutes to shut down powerplants and manufacturing that provide good-paying jobs in States like Indiana and in the rest of the Rust Belt. This straightforward action only received five comments—five. I have got them right here. Yes, a majority of the comments that the EPA received were in support of this rule, and the two others were anonymous comments.

Where was the outrage against this rule and then when the EPA was accepting comments?

Just to frame how many comments you got, when I did my Congressional Review Act of the Obama clean powerplant, I got 4.3 million comments; with the Biden clean powerplant 2.0, 1.3 million comments; with the Biden WOTUS rule, 115,000; with the California waiver, 53,000.

This is all the people in this country who care about what we are doing right now. It is just attempting to waste floor time in the U.S. Senate, trying to reverse a technical correction in an underhanded effort to close powerplants that provide affordable electricity and jobs for American workers and help us progress in this race for superiority in the race to AI. We need more energy, not less; and the CRA is a deliberate attempt to shut down powerplants in Indiana that are not popular. They are coal-fired power plants—love it—when grid reliability experts are warning of a shortage of baseline power.

I am fully against this CRA, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I move again to proceed to Calendar No. 142, S.J. Res. 60.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 142, S.J. Res. 60, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Emissions Budget and Allowance Allocations for Indiana Under the Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update".

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (MR. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Utah (MR. LEE).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 520 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Galleo	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—51

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Collins	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Sheehy
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	Thune
Curtis	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Cassidy Lee

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (MR. BANKS). The Senator from Delaware.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, as America confronts a period of darkness, still I rise, full of bright

hope. Why bright hope? "Bright Hope" was the name of the church that my grandmother attended for 70 years in Philadelphia. But, for me, it is more than just a name. It is a call to action. It is a feeling. It is what drove me to run for the U.S. Senate and what keeps me going in my darkest of times.

So once again, I rise with bright hope and tremendous humility to deliver my maiden speech as Delaware's 58th U.S. Senator. My presence here would not have been possible without my God, my family, and the people of the great State of Delaware who have put their trust in me.

The word "trust" is important here because this is not a time when Americans are eager to trust their elected officials. Partisan tensions are so high right now that we can barely talk to each other, let alone work together.

So the question is this:

Are we to be one people, bound together by common spirit, sharing in a common endeavor? Or will we become a divided nation?

As much as I would like to take credit, those are not my words. They are the words of the late great Barbara Jordan, the Congresswoman from Texas, the conscience of her Congress, who, in the midst of our Nation's bicentennial in 1976, spoke about the "collective spirit of our nation," about the deeply troubling reality that people did not trust their government. And she offered a path forward, saying:

For all of its uncertainty, we cannot flee the future.

We must address and master the future together. It can be done if we restore the belief that we share a sense of national community.

We are now 50 years removed from the bicentennial, and our present is rhyming with our past—wars built on false pretense, painful economic downturns, incomplete recoveries that leave many behind, and Presidents who abuse their power. The problems persist.

So how do we, before our tricentennial in 2076, build what Barbara Jordan called our common spirit? How do we restore the belief that a more perfect union is even possible? How do we rekindle bright hope for America? These are big questions, but they are not confined to the Halls of Congress. Go into any coffee shop, a sports game, or a family home, and Americans are saying the same thing and asking the same questions. I saw it firsthand in the grocery store about 10 years ago when a dad with three kids in front of me in line put back a bunch of grapes because they were too expensive. It shook me to the core.

You see, the year before that, my husband Charles, the love of my life, played a game of basketball before his business meetings, ruptured his Achilles tendon, and blood clots went to his heart and lungs. At the age of 52, the love of my life died, and I was consumed with grief. But seeing that dad woke me up from my own pain. I would be OK.

At that moment, I decided I had nothing to lose and everything to give. Having never run for anything in my life, I decided to run for Congress. I spread a huge piece of white paper on my living room wall, and I started to write. I asked: Why me? Why now? What for?

And the answers appeared—three words that have driven me forward, three words that have given me bright hope: purpose, peace, and planet. It was clear that if we can help Americans live their purpose, provide peace, and protect our planet, I believe we will be able to rebuild the trust we have lost.

It begins with purpose. I am a big believer that a good-paying job or starting a business can help us find purpose and that the dignity of work is essential to what it means to be an American.

I have often said that if I had another middle name, it would be LISA BLUNT "Jobs" ROCHESTER. For me, I got my first job at the age of 14, and I flipped burgers, worked retail. I was a CEO. I even served as Delaware's secretary of labor. As a matter of fact, in Delaware, a union leader said to me: You can't spell "labor" without "L-B-R."

I know jobs. I love jobs. And I can tell you, we need a new and different approach to jobs in this country, especially as we look to the future of work in the age of artificial intelligence. With reports that AI is poised to push unemployment rates upwards of 20 percent in the next 5 years, we need big, bold solutions now.

Fortunately for us, America has a track record of taking on historic challenges and transforming them into opportunities for success. When the Soviet Union started the space race in the 1950s, we pushed American innovation to new heights. The groundbreaking research from that era still impacts us today—GPS systems, weather satellites, the COVID-19 vaccine, even the internet.

We need to harness the innovative spirit that landed us on the Moon and apply it to our economy. We must mobilize our Nation's leading labor experts, supply chain strategists, and economic innovators and pursue the future instead of waiting for it to come to us.

From workforce development and apprenticeship opportunities to emerging technologies, our common goal must be for everyone to succeed and find purpose in a rapidly changing economy. Access to economic opportunity is a good start.

But many families derive their sense of purpose from where they live, the communities they belong to, the place they call home.

Growing up, my family lived with my grandparents—my mom's mom, my dad's mom. We lived in apartments. We lived in public housing for a short time. But I will never forget the exhilaration I felt on the day we moved into our own home, a place that was truly ours.

But for millions of Americans, that feeling is out of reach. Instead, home ownership feels impossible. And the rent in America is too doggone high. Yet, for too long, the Federal Government has been missing in action. Our Nation's zoning frameworks date back to the 1920s—100 years ago. Times have changed, and it is time we get back in the game.

That is why, a week ago, I was proud to unveil my very first policy agenda as a Senator, "The New Way Home"—a blueprint that will touch every corner of the housing crisis. Together, we can expand housing supply, build stronger communities, make housing more attainable, unlock innovative housing models, and invest in smart tax policy. Together, we can chart a path to a new way home and help Americans find purpose, even peace, in the stability that comes with a roof over your head.

Peace—that is something we all need right now, isn't it?

I studied international relations in college, and I have lived and traveled and worked in over 30 countries. My son was even born abroad. I fundamentally believe that we need peace at a global level.

But today, I want to talk about the need for peace at a more personal level—the peace that comes with knowing our purpose and having a steady job and a place to call home and the peace that comes when we can take care of our families.

Not every family looks the same, but we all want the same things: quality healthcare, affordable childcare, and the comfort of knowing that Social Security and Medicare will be there for us too.

Last summer, I sat at a kitchen table with a mother of young children, one with disabilities. She was taking care of her aging father as well—a role that she inherited from her mother because her mother passed away from all the stress. And I will never forget the look of frustration in her eyes. She was drained physically, mentally, and emotionally from all the administrative hoops and barriers and things she had to jump through and financially from all the bills she had to pay. She was barely holding on.

How are we supposed to rebuild trust in our government, rekindle bright hope in our democracy, when families are struggling to care for their aging loved ones and their children at the same time? We have failed the sandwich generation, their children, and their parents as well.

We now have a patchwork of solutions in States, but we are not working together as a nation. We have an opportunity to provide peace of mind and create jobs by investing in childcare and healthcare, but that is only half the battle. We must also focus on those caring for aging parents by addressing the urgent shortages in home care and nursing workforces.

It is also time to revolutionize Medicare, to truly uplift Americans living

in their twilight years, because we all deserve peace of mind, of knowing that we can retire with dignity.

Ultimately, the solutions are clear. By simplifying access to care and making it more affordable, we give families the tools they need to strive while strengthening our economy, and we have the power to give our families peace of mind.

But none of this will be possible without a planet. Who doesn't want clean drinking water and clean air? How is this controversial? Yet there are many communities in America where unsafe water, dirty air, and playgrounds built on brownfields are still a reality.

In 2022, I was able to work with the Ellendale community in their decades-long fight for clean drinking water. It is still one of the proudest moments of my career thus far. But for many across this country, there are Ellendales everywhere, many communities that still need champions in this Chamber, especially as we confront the threats of climate change.

Let me be clear. As the junior Senator from the lowest lying State in the Nation, from our farms and our beaches to our environmental justice communities, in Delaware, we know climate change is real. Now is not the time to pull back from our oversight of Agencies like the EPA and FEMA; now is the time to lean in. With rising insurance rates pricing people out of their homes and recordbreaking disaster seasons draining State and local budgets, the health and wealth of our Nation depends on our collective action to preserve and protect our environment.

Purpose, peace, planet—this is how we can earn the trust that has been lost, how we can rekindle bright hope in our democracy, because when people have a good job, a roof over their head, the ability to care for their family, and a healthy planet to call home, they will know they have a government that works for them.

It is on all of us, the people that serve in this Chamber, to meet this moment. And if we are successful, 50 years from now, as we celebrate our tricentennial, Americans will not need to read a speech from 2025 and say these are the challenges of our time, too. They will, instead, be able to freely write the next chapter of the American story.

Mr. President, I will end where I began—with bright hope. I often said: Bright hope shines brightest in the darkness. Right now, a lot of people are asking me how I still have bright hope in the moment that we are in.

Well, let me tell you, I have bright hope because God mended my broken heart after the death of my husband and blessed me with the opportunity to serve my State and my country. I have bright hope because I stand here as a descendent of the enslaved men and women who built this place. I have bright hope because I prayed in the

Gallery on January 6, and I am here, alive, standing firm for democracy and love. I have bright hope because in the words of the renowned poet Langston Hughes:

I, too, sing America.

Thank you, Mr. President.
(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

SENATE INTERNS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, it is by way of real honor to bring the interns on their shadow day to track my participation in hearings and speeches and floor votes and conversation with other Senators because it is really hard for our interns to get a full vision of what we do as Senators if they are just in the office helping to answer the mail—because a good share of what they do is writing responses to all the questions that Oregonians write about.

I will never forget the time I spent with Senator Hatfield when I was an intern and had a chance to essentially be his floor monitor 49 years ago. At that time, there was no television on the floor, and there was no fax machine. Of course, there was no internet. There was no cell phone. So each Senator had somebody monitoring the debate, and my assignment was monitoring the debate on the Tax Reform Act of 1976.

There were 125 votes on that. And I sat up in the balcony up here, in the staff section, with many other staff members. The bells would ring, and we would run down to where the reporters hang out outside the double doors now here. I and other staff members would hang out, waiting for our Senators to come out of the elevator, and brief them about the amendment that was being considered. Because there was no television on the floor, folks back in the office had no idea what was being debated and what folks back home thought about the issue.

So I do appreciate the opportunity to help our interns get a fuller vision of the work we do here in the Senate.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, my reason for coming to the floor now is to weigh in on Senator RAND PAUL's proposed budget.

Now, if we could turn the clock back to the beginning of July, Senate Republicans passed President Trump's so-called Big Beautiful Bill.

Many of us consider it a big, ugly betrayal because its core message was that families lose and billionaires win. That was not President Trump's message during his campaign. During his campaign, he said he was going to be fighting for families. Then he gets sworn in just down this hallway in the Rotunda. Who does he have standing behind him? Champions for families? healthcare? for education? for housing? for investment in infrastructure? No. Billionaires.

That revealed what he was really up to, and that entire bill hurt families.

Why? To fund tax breaks for billionaires. Kicking 15 million Americans off their health insurance to fund tax breaks for billionaires. Slashing nutrition assistance for millions of children. Why? In order to give tax breaks to billionaires. Running up \$30 trillion in additional national debt over the next 30 years. Why? To fund tax breaks for billionaires. It is pretty astounding that a single Member of this body would have voted for that bill running up \$30 trillion in debt.

Every single person who gave speeches back home that said "I am all about being fiscally responsible"—what could possibly be more irresponsible than cutting nutrition for children and cutting healthcare for 15 million Americans in order to make the richest Americans even richer? It is like the worst possible reason for a deficit or a debt.

Families lose; billionaires win.

Now Senator PAUL has introduced a budget resolution that compounds that. He says that over the next 10 years, we should cut an additional \$22 trillion out of the programs that serve Americans.

Now, if he had come to the floor and said "We just passed a bill that runs up \$30 trillion in debt to fund tax breaks for billionaires, and we are going to take away those tax breaks for billionaires in order to not run up \$30 trillion," I would be right with him because that would be wise. But cutting fundamental programs for families and our national security?

Now, any responsible budget plan is going to tell you when its cuts are going to happen. So where does Senator PAUL, my good friend from Kentucky—where does he say those spending cuts will happen? Where will that \$22 trillion come from that he is eliminating over the next 10 years? Well, he doesn't answer the question. He says: I am going to create a new category in the budget called "New Efficiencies, Consolidations, and Other Savings." Not one damn detail. How convenient that is.

I am just going to magically cut \$22 trillion out of the spending over the next 10 years and not say a word about the damage it is going to do.

This is kind of a replay of what we saw in the reconciliation debate when our Republican colleagues used magic math and budget gimmicks and smoke and mirrors to slash programs for families and explode the debt.

Don't we owe it to our constituents, don't we owe it to Americans to be honest about what is being proposed? So I will tell you where those cuts are going to come from, something of that size. Well, they are going to come from Medicare. They are going to come from Medicaid. They are going to come from child nutrition. They are going to come from border security. They are going to come from law enforcement. They are going to come from national defense. They are going to come from veterans' care. They are going to come from en-

vironmental protection and investments in infrastructure.

Now, if you spread those cuts evenly over the discretionary budget lines over those 10 years, it cuts 38 percent of what we spend—38 percent. I am pretty sure some of my colleagues will say: Well, whatever you do, don't cut national defense and certainly don't cut support for our veterans.

So then what are we talking about? We are talking about a 48-percent cut in everything else.

OK. So voting for this RAND PAUL budget, you are voting for essentially a 50-percent cut in Medicare, a 50-percent cut in Medicaid, a 50-percent cut in cancer research, a 50-percent cut on top of the cuts already made in child nutrition, and a 50-percent cut on investments in infrastructure. That is what you are voting for, and that is really beyond damaging to our Nation.

You want to cut Medicare in half? Well, then, put that in the line, explain what it is, and then vote for it. That would show some courage. If you really want Medicare cut in half, tell the American people that. Have the courage of your convictions. Don't hide it behind this funny line called "New Efficiencies" or something of that nature.

Well, there are obviously all these things you can find in the budget that need to be cut, and there have been some examples given. I am sure you can find some scientific research that most Americans would look at, even with full information, and they would say: Oh, yeah, we don't need to research that.

But, you know, sometimes the insights in science come from the most unexpected places. For example, there has been some commentary about silly-sounding Federal grants like studying Gila monster venom. Why would you study that? Well, then you find out that what was learned there helped create the drug Ozempic. Well, that is pretty big medical insight that has huge applications in terms of a variety of diseases but also in terms of addiction and in terms of weight loss.

You might say: Why would you study bird songs? Well, it turns out that the study of bird songs led to advances in hearing aid technology, allows people to distinguish sounds they want to hear from background noise so they can have a conversation in a crowded room.

I am just saying that I am sure there are individual items that could be found that sound absurd, but you know what—those are little tiny pennies. It is not cutting Medicare by 50 percent; it is not cutting Medicaid by 50 percent.

If you want to cut \$22 trillion, cut it out of the tax breaks for billionaires. That is the real crime done by the families lose; billionaires win, big, ugly betrayal of a bill. Maybe that is the budget we should be voting on.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Kentucky.

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—
Motion to Proceed

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a budget that balances over 5 years. My budget, the Six Penny Plan, the Six Penny Plan budget, cuts 6 percent of all spending to rebalance in just 5 years.

I am able to introduce this budget because neither Republicans nor Democrats introduced a budget this year. So we are running a \$7 trillion government without a budget this year. So I think it is important that we have at least some debate and vote on a budget.

Most Republicans say they are for a balanced budget amendment. Most of them have voted for it at some point in time. Yet most of the budgets and most of the spending that go through here seem to be adding to the debt, not canceling it out.

Since I was elected, Congress has passed a budget less than half of the time. For almost five decades, Congress has passed all required annual appropriations bills only four times. So four times in 50 years has Congress actually gone through and individually passed the appropriations bills. As a consequence, the looting of the American taxpayer continues.

By promising yet another so-called clean continuing resolution, Republicans are doubling down on embracing what they once considered to be reckless spending levels.

Today, I propose a clear path back towards fiscal responsibility. I urge the Senate to adopt my Six Penny Plan that will balance the Federal budget.

This year, the United States will spend \$6.7 trillion while bringing in about \$4.7 trillion. That is \$2 trillion more being spent than what is coming in. A deficit of this magnitude should be concerning enough even on its own merits. But to add insult to injury, Congress passed a budget just 5 months ago which set a spending cap of almost \$6 trillion for the year. So 5 months ago, Congress did actually pass a budget—halfway through the year we were already in—to spend \$6 trillion this year. Turns out, though, we have spent \$6.6 trillion. So we couldn't even get it right 6 months ago when the vast majority of Republicans voted for a budget that said they were going to spend \$6 trillion in a year that was half over, and now they have spent \$6.6 trillion.

Next year, it is going to be even worse. The budget that was passed in the spring said we would spend \$6.3 trillion next year, but it turns out it is going to be \$7.2 trillion next year.

What is going on here? We keep passing budgets. We keep saying we are going to get better. We keep saying the bills we are passing are making the deficit less. Yet the deficit keeps getting worse.

So even when Congress passes a budget, they seem to immediately renege on the deal they just passed. The numbers in the budget end up not being of consequence because the spending goes on unabated.

This week, Congress will likely vote on locking in spending levels. The spending levels will be the same spending levels that Republicans criticized as the Biden spending levels last December. So when there was a Democrat in the White House, when President Biden was there, all the Republicans were unified in saying “We despise the Biden spending levels. We are against spending in deficit and deficit spending. We are against all of that”—until the Republicans got in charge, and 3 months later, they voted for the exact same levels.

The continuing resolution from March of this year is the exact same levels as the Biden spending levels. What are we going to vote for in a couple of days here? The Biden spending levels again. What does that lead to? Two trillion dollars in deficit.

So every time we vote for a continuing resolution, for continuing the spending at the same level, we are voting for a level of spending that is \$2 trillion short of what comes in.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, enacting a yearlong CR—continuing resolution—will result in blowing through next year’s spending target by nearly \$1 trillion.

So the target that was passed last spring was 6.3, but the spending is actually going to be 7.2. How can you be off a trillion dollars? How can you with a straight face go home and say: Oh, well, we were just off a trillion.

And this year, we don’t have a budget because—I don’t know—maybe our math was so bad last year, we decided not to do it. But the deficit next year is going to be \$2.1 trillion.

It is getting worse, not better. Next year’s deficit will be \$100 billion more than the deficit this year.

It was not that long ago that Republicans were castigating the Biden administration and saying they were reckless. Now we are doing the same thing.

It was not that long ago that Republicans argued to the American people that Biden’s overspending inevitably was causing inflation; it was to blame for the rise in the cost of goods. Anybody remember Bidenomics? Anybody remember Biden inflation? It was accurate because it was based on debt, and debt causes inflation. When the Federal Reserve buys the debt and monetizes the debt, that recreates inflation.

But the same thing is happening. Nothing has changed. A new party in charge, and the same spending and the same debt.

It wasn’t that long ago that conservatives were staunchly opposed to raising the debt ceiling, and only the unholy alliance between Democrats and Big Government Republicans would get the spending bills through, would get the debt ceiling through.

But now it has evaporated. Virtually the entire Republican Party now supports this debt. On an inauspicious day, March 15 of this year, the Republican continuing resolution was signed into law. On the Ides of March, Republicans took ownership of the Biden spending levels. The Biden spending levels are now Republican spending levels.

To make matters worse, this summer, Republicans voted to raise the debt ceiling by \$5 trillion. We have never ever voted to raise the debt ceiling that much. It used to be the conservative line that we held the line and said: We are not doing that or, if we are going to raise the debt ceiling, we are going to do it in a small amount for a short period of time in order that we would discuss this again and again and again until we get it right.

But Republicans now own the spending problem. Republicans now own the debt expansion. Republicans must rediscover our principles of fiscal responsibility. Our country’s future depends on it.

Our national debt now stands at \$37 trillion and grows with each passing second. If you have ever seen the usdebtclock.org, the website, the numbers are spinning literally out of control. To put this debt in perspective, every American household is on the hook for over \$238,000 to cover Uncle Sam’s reckless spending spree.

To put it bluntly, the state of our Nation’s fiscal health is bleak. The government now spends over a trillion dollars just on interest. This is more than we spend on our national defense.

We should heed this fact as a warning. As Hoover Institution Historian Niall Ferguson points out, “Any great power that spends more on debt service than on defense will not stay great for very long.”

We must act now if America is to, once again, be a rising nation, but we are currently on a path toward decline. If we continue down this unsustainable path, American families will be forced to deal with even higher inflation, confiscatory tax rates, rising interest, and a weak economy. It will be harder to find a job and provide for your family because the deals made in the Halls of Congress always stick the taxpayers with the bill. You either are going to have to pay for it through taxes—the debt will always be paid either through taxes or through inflation and high prices at the grocery store.

Government spending and fiscal malfeasance have not only weakened every American family’s purchasing power, but our national economy is weaker as well. At \$37 trillion, the Federal debt is nearly twice what it was 10 years ago. The Federal debt is now larger than the entire economy. Our economy is about \$29 trillion; the debt is at \$37 trillion or, to put it in more tangible terms, the U.S. debt is large enough to fill 34 NFL stadiums with \$100 bills.

Government spending is so out of control that even if every bank account in the United States were

emptied to pay down our debt, it would only cover just about half of what Washington owes. So if everybody’s bank account was liquidated in the whole country, it only would pay for half of the debt.

This is an amazing problem. This is an extraordinary problem. Something must be done.

America is in a historic state of financial disarray. Right after the end of World War II, the world’s most expensive war, our accumulated debt was 18 percent larger than the entire economy. We are now 20 percent. So we have now exceeded even the debt of World War II.

America’s leading financial minds have already sounded the alarm. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve said that Federal spending is on an unsustainable path, and it is past time for Congress to correct it.

The CEO of JPMorgan Chase, America’s largest bank, warned that the Federal Government must reduce its deficits before lenders finally say enough and stop loaning the government money.

Just this week, the Director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office suggested that the U.S. economy is weakening. The people who rank our credit have downgraded the U.S. credit rating.

As interest payments on the national debt crowd out the rest of the government’s budget, entitlement cuts, inflation, and eventually default on the debt are what lie ahead for the American economy.

Unfortunately, a debt crisis will not just stop with our economy. A threat to our financial security is also a threat to our national security. We must remember that the surest path to peace is leaving no doubt in your adversary’s mind about your ability to respond with aggression.

With increasingly dubious financial health and a larger share of resources devoted to interest payments, the United States is sending a message of weakness.

Yet Congress has reportedly chosen to ignore the deficit, raise the debt ceiling, and continue to fund foreign wars. Instead of budgeting, Congress decided to kick the difficult decisions down the road. Unfortunately, continuing spending at the Biden administration levels is a path that is not sustainable and will further our fiscal decay with \$2 trillion annual deficits as far as the eye can see.

Since entering the Senate, I have introduced several proposals to lead us back to a balanced Federal budget. In 2017, I introduced a budget that would freeze spending. In 2017, if you simply froze spending—you didn’t cut one penny from anything, but you froze spending for 5 years—we would have balanced in 5 years just by freezing spending.

I introduced a budget a few years later, and it would have taken one penny—1 percent across the board

would balance in 5 years. A few years later, I introduced it again; it was a two-penny plan. Then came the pandemic. We spent so much money. We closed the economy down. We did such terrible things to the country, and now it is a six-penny plan. It takes a 6-percent cut.

How can we possibly survive a 6-percent cut?

I will tell you how I present it to people. I have people come in. They always have something that seems to be of value for people. I will give you an example. The folks that come in and they are looking for Alzheimer's research. I have family members with Alzheimer's. I have a great deal of sympathy. I look at them and tell them where we are, and I tell them we are a rich country; we ought to have some government money researching Alzheimer's. And I say: You know, we are \$2 trillion short this year. If we cut everybody by 6 percent, we will be able to balance the budget. So the Alzheimer's research, we spend \$100 million on. If next year we spend \$94 million and we did that for everyone, we could balance the budget.

Interestingly, people who are emotionally involved with this—moms, dads, grandparents with Alzheimer's—look at me and say: You know what? For the good of the country, we can do that.

Yet if you talk to people around here, they go: Oh, you hate old people. I don't hate old people. I aspire to be an old person.

The thing is, you have to have a little bit of a haircut for every program up here. If you just cut one program, you will never get through it. You have to cut everything all across the board, not because you don't like the recipients, not because you don't want to help people, but because you don't want to destroy our country.

For just six pennies on the dollar, we can reverse this dismal trajectory. In just 5 years, we can restore trust in the U.S. dollar, the U.S. economy, and steer the U.S. Government away from this fiscal cliff. History will remember who had the courage to stand up to make these hard choices. History will remember those who chose not to leave this enormous bill to their children.

Vote yes on this plan. Vote yes on restoring fiscal sanity. Vote yes on securing the future for our country.

MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 159, S. Con. Res. 22.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 159, 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.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The result was announced—yeas 36, nays 62, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 521 Leg.]

YEAS—36

Banks	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moreno
Blackburn	Hoeven	Paul
Britt	Husted	Ricketts
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cornyn	Johnson	Schmitt
Crapo	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Curtis	Lummis	Sheehy
Daines	Marshall	Thune
Ernst	McCormick	Tillis
Fischer	Moody	Tuberville

NAYS—62

Alsobrooks	Hawley	Reed
Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Blunt Rochester	Justice	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schiff
Boozman	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kim	Shaheen
Capito	King	Slotkin
Collins	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Cotton	McConnell	Warner
Cramer	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Mullin	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Fetterman	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gallego	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young
Hassan	Peters	

NOT VOTING—2

Cassidy	Lee
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The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. HOEVEN. 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. 391, S. Res. 392, S. Res. 393, S. Res. 394, and S. Res. 395.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

U.S. SENATE PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE REGULATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the adopted U.S. Senate Professional Liability Insurance Regulations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

1.0 Scope and Authority—These regulations establish the policies and procedures regarding the partial reimbursement to Senate Office qualified employees for the cost of professional liability insurance pursuant to the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997, Public Law No. 104-208, div. A, title VI, sec. 636, as amended by Public Law No. 106-58 (Sept. 29, 1999), reported at 5 U.S.C. prec. §5941 note.

2.0 Definitions—For purposes of these regulations, the following terms shall have the meaning specified.

2.1 *Management official* means an individual employed by a Senate office, for whom the duties and responsibilities of their position require or authorize the individual to formulate, determine, or influence the policies of a Senate office.

2.2 *Supervisor* means an individual employed by a Senate office with the authority in the interest of the Senate office to hire, direct, assign, promote, reward, transfer, furlough, lay off, recall, suspend, discipline, or remove employees, to adjust their grievances, or to effectively recommend such action, if the exercise of the authority is not merely routine or clerical in nature but requires the consistent exercise of independent judgment.

2.3 *Qualified employee* means a current U.S. Senator, the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, the Secretary of the Senate, and a Senate office employee whose position is that of a supervisor or management official, as determined by the employing U.S. Senator or head of a Senate support office.

2.4 *Senate office* means a Member office, a Committee office, a Leadership office, or a Senate support office.

2.5 *Senate support office* means the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, the Secretary of the Senate, or any other internal Senate entity, as determined by the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, that draws its salaries and expenses from the contingent fund of the Senate.

2.6 *Professional liability insurance* means insurance which provides coverage for—

(A) legal liability for damages due to injuries to other persons, damage to their property, or other damage or loss to such other persons (including the expenses of litigation and settlement) resulting from or arising out of any tortious act, error, or omission of the covered individual (whether common law, statutory, or constitutional) while in the performance of such individual's official duties as a qualified employee; and

(B) the cost of legal representation for the covered individual in connection with any administrative or judicial proceeding (including any investigation or disciplinary proceeding) relating to any act, error, or omission of the covered individual while in the performance of such individual's official duties as a qualified employee, and other

legal costs and fees relating to any such administrative or judicial proceeding.

3.0 Administration—Senate offices may annually reimburse qualified employees not more than one-half the annual premium paid by such qualified employee to maintain the employee's professional liability insurance policy. To effectuate reimbursement under these regulations, the following requirements must be satisfied:

3.1 *Determination of qualified employee status:* Each Senator, the Sergeant at Arms, and the Secretary of the Senate shall determine which of their employees are qualified employees under Section 2.3 of these regulations. A U.S. Senator, the Sergeant at Arms, and the Secretary of the Senate are automatically considered qualified employees under these regulations.

3.2 *Filing for reimbursement/Timely filing:* For any professional liability insurance premium for which a qualified employee seeks partial reimbursement, the qualified employee must file a reimbursement request within the same calendar year in which the qualified employee paid for their insurance policy. Reimbursement filings must contain all required documentation as specified in Section 3.3 of these regulations.

3.3 *Required documentation:* A qualified employee who purchases professional liability insurance must submit to the Senate Disbursing Office and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration—

(A) written certification by the employee's Senate office that the employee is a qualified employee as defined in Section 2.3 of these regulations (for purposes of these regulations, a U.S. Senator, the Sergeant at Arms, and the Secretary of the Senate are exempt from the certification requirement);

(B) a copy of the employee's professional liability insurance policy, including the declarations page;

(C) a copy of the insurance premium invoice or billing notice showing the annual premium or portion of the annual premium applicable to the employee's professional liability insurance coverage; and

(D) proof of employee's payment of the professional liability insurance premium for that calendar year.

3.4 *Repayment:* Qualified employees must refund a prorated share of the reimbursement received if their professional liability insurance coverage is discontinued, the qualified employee leaves the Senate, or otherwise becomes ineligible for reimbursement during a period covered by the reimbursement.

4.0 Compliance with Congressional Accountability Act Reform Act of 2018—These regulations shall not be construed to relieve a Senator of any reimbursement obligation applicable to that Senator under 2 U.S.C. § 1415(d).

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have

printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1F. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-42 of June 3, 2021.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-1F

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 21-42; Date: June 3, 2021; Implementing Agency: Army.

(iii) Description: On June 3, 2021, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 21-42 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of twenty-nine (29) AH-64E Apache attack helicopters; sixty-four (64) T700-GE 701D engines (58 installed, 6 spares); twenty-nine (29) AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/AN/AAR-11 Modernized Pilot Night Vision Sensors (M-TADS/PNVs); sixteen (16) AN/APG-78 Fire Control Radars (FCR) with Radar Electronic Units; twenty-nine (29) AN/APR-48B Modernized Radar Frequency Interferometers (MRFI); seventy (70) Embedded Global Positioning Systems with Inertial Navigation Systems plus Multi-Mode Receiver (EGI+MMR) (58 installed, 12 spares); thirty-five (35) AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (29 installed, 6 spares); seventy (70) AN/ARC-231A Very High Frequency/Ultra High Frequency (VHF/UHF) radios (58 installed, 12 spares); eighty-five (85) AGM-114R Hellfire missiles; twenty-nine (29) M36E8 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); and two thousand (2,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System Guidance Sections (APKWS-GS). Also included were AN/APR-39 Radar Signal Detecting Sets; AN/AVR-2B Laser Detecting Sets; AN/APX-123 A Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; IDM-401 Improved Data Modems; Link-16 Small Tactical Terminal KOR-24-A; Improved Countermeasure Dispensing System (ICMD); AN/ARN-149 (V)3 Automatic Direction Finders; Doppler ASN-157 Doppler Radar Velocity Sensors; AN/APN-209 Radar Altimeters Common Core (RACC); AN/ARN-153 Tactical Air Navigation Set (TACAN); AN/PYQ-10(C) Simple Key Loader; M230E1 + M139 AWS Automatic Gun; M261 Rocket Launchers; M299 missile launchers; 2.75 inch rockets; 30mm rounds; High Explosive Warhead for airborne 2.75 rockets, inert; MK66-4 2.75 inch rocket High Explosive warhead M151 fuze M423 motor; MK66-4 2.75 inch rocket warhead M274 motor; MK66-4 2.75 inch rocket motor; M151HE 2.75 inch warhead; Manned-Unmanned Teaming-2

(MUMT-X) video receivers; Manned-Unmanned Teaming-2 (MUMT-X) Air-Air-Ground kits; training devices; communication systems; helmets; simulators; generators; transportation and organization equipment; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of program and logistical support. The total estimated value was \$3.5 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$2.5 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of up to thirty-three (33) Common Infrared Countermeasure (CIRCM) systems (29 installed, 4 spares). The following non-MDE items are also included: Blue force tracking 2 (BFT-2) systems and KGV-72 programmable encryption devices. The estimated total cost of the new items is \$150 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$140 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$10 million to a revised \$1.01 billion. The estimated total case value will increase by \$150 million to a revised \$3.65 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) will constitute \$2.64 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the MDE items for CIRCM systems were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed articles and services will support Australia's capability to meet current and future threats and will enhance interoperability with U.S. and other allied forces.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of the most important U.S. allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the Western Pacific. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The CIRCM system is the next-generation lightweight, laser-based, infrared countermeasure system for rotary-wing, tilt-rotor, and small fixed-wing aircraft across the DoD. CIRCM provides near spherical coverage of the host platform to defeat infrared-seeking threat missiles. CIRCM receives an angular bearing hand-off from the Common Missile Warning System and employs a pointing and tracking system that acquires and tracks the incoming missile. CIRCM jams the missile by using modulated laser energy, thus degrading the tracking capability of the missile and causing it to miss the aircraft.

The KGV-72 programmable encryption device provides traffic encryption for Force Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) Blue force tracking (BFT) satellite network multicast and unicast transmission of mapping, short messaging, and geolocation application data. Designed for use in tactical ground and rotary wing platforms, the KGV-72 connects to a commercial L band transceiver and FBCB2 BFT computer to secure beyond line-of-sight communication.

The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items mentioned.

The highest level of information that may be transferred in support of this proposed sale is classified SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 15, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0H-25. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 24-64 of May 29, 2024.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0H-25

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Austria.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No: 24-64; Date: May 29, 2024; Implementing Agency: Army.

(iii) Description: On May 29, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-64 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of twelve (12) UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters with twenty-six (26) T700-GE-701D engines; fifteen (15) AN/AAR-57 Counter Missile Warning Systems (CMWS); and thirty (30) H-764U Embedded Global Positioning Systems with Inertial Navigation (EGI) with country-unique selective availability anti-spoofing modules (or Future M-Code replacement). The following non-MDE was also included: APR-39C (V)1/4 radar warning receivers; AVR-2B laser detecting sets; AN/ARN-147(V) very high frequency omni-directional range instrument landing system receiver radio; AN/ARN-149(V) low frequency automatic direction finder (ADF) radio receiver; AN/ARN-153 Tactical Air Navigation System (TACAN) receiver transmitter; AN/APN-209 radar altimeter radios; EBC-406HM emergency locator transmitter (ELT); Improved Heads Up Display (IHUD); signal data converters for IHUD; color weather radars; MX-10D electro-optical and infrared with laser designator; Engine Inlet Barrier Filters (ELBF); Ballistic Armor Protection Systems (BAPS); Internal Auxiliary Fuel Tank Systems (IAFTS); Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System (FRIES); External Rescue Hoist (ERH); rescue hoist equipment sets; dual patient litter system

(DPLS) sets; Martin Baker palletized crew chief and gunner seats with crashworthy floor structural modifications; External Stores Support System (ESSS); instrument panel; cockpit multi-function display (MFD); degraded visual environment (DVE) system; Traffic Alert Collision Avoidance System (TCAS II); cargo hook scale; sling load observation capability; Direction Finder DF-935; environmental control system; snow skis provisions; Bambi bucket provisions; Helicopter Terrain Awareness System (HTAWS); CONRAD troop radio capability; TETRA BOS radio capability; very important person kit; 28 volts of direct current 10 ampere utility power socket (cabin); Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging outlet; Crashworthy Extended Range Fuel Systems (CEFS) tanks; Black Hawk Aircrew Trainer (BAT); training devices; helmets; transportation; organizational equipment; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated total cost was \$1.05 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$350 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following MDE items: fifteen (15) ARC-231A RT-1987 very high frequency (VHF)/ultra high frequency (UHF)/line-of-sight satellite communication (SATCOM) radios. The following non-MDE will also be included: APX-123A identification friend or foe (IFF) transponder (or future IFF replacement); AN/PYQ-10 simple key loader (SKL); AN/ARC-231 RT-1808A; KIV-77 common IFF Crypto Appliqué; and AN/ARC-201D RT-1478D radios. The estimated total value of the new MDE items is \$2.4 million but will not require an increase to the previously notified MDE value. The estimated total value of the new non-MDE articles is \$7.2 million but will not require an increase to the previously notified non-MDE value. The total case value will remain \$1.05 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) continues to constitute \$350 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve Austria's capability to deter current and future threats and support coalition operations and the United States' and Austria's goal of greater military interoperability.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a partner that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The AN/ARC-231A RT-1987 is a software-definable radio for military aircraft that provides two-way, multi-mode voice and data communications over a 30 Hz to 512 MHz frequency range. It supports both line-of-sight UHF and VHF bands with AM, FM, and satellite communication (SATCOM) capabilities and includes embedded frequency agile modes, Electronic Counter-Countermeasures (ECCM), anti-jam waveforms including Have Quick and Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (STNCGARS), Demand Assigned Multiple Access, and Integrated Waveform. It provides simultaneous, real-time participation in tactical voice and data communications networks. The RT-1987 will ensure NSA TSVICIS 3.1.1. crypto modernization compliance. Operator selectable air traffic control channel spacing, and other data link and secure communications features, provides battlefield interoperability.

The AN/ARC-231 RT-1808A radio is a software-definable radio for military aircraft that provides two-way, multi-mode voice and data communications over a 30 Hz to 512 MHz

frequency range. It covers both line-of-sight UHF and VHF bands with AM, FM, and SATCOM capabilities.

The AN/APX-123A IFF is a space diversity transponder and is installed on various military platforms. When installed in conjunction with platform antennas and the remote-control unit (or other appropriate control unit), the transponder provides identification, altitude, and surveillance reporting in response to interrogations from airborne, ground-based, and/or surface interrogators.

The AN/PYQ-10 simple key loader (SKL) is a ruggedized, portable, hand-held fill device, for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment. The AN/PYQ-10(C) will contain the KOV-21 communications security card.

The KIV-77 IFF Crypto Appliqué provides cryptographic and time-of-day services for a combined interrogator/transponder or individual interrogator or transponder Mark XIIIA (Mode 4 and Mode 5) IFF system deployed to identify cooperative friendly systems.

The AN/ARC-201D VHF-FM SINGARS airborne radio is a reliable field-proven voice and data communication system used with the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 15, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-66, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Belgium for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$567.8 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-66

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Belgium.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$505.0 million.

Other \$62.8 million.

Total \$567.8 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Three hundred twenty (320) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder tactical missiles.

Two hundred fifty-eight (258) AIM-9X Block II+ Sidewinder tactical missiles.

Fifty (50) AIM-9X Block II tactical guidance units.

Thirty (30) AIM-9X Block II+ tactical guidance units.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: missile containers; weapon software; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (BE-P-ADC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 15, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Belgium—AIM-9X Sidewinder Missiles

The Government of Belgium has requested to buy three hundred twenty (320) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder tactical missiles; two hundred fifty-eight (258) AIM-9X Block II+ Sidewinder tactical missiles; fifty (50) AIM-9X Block II tactical guidance units; and thirty (30) AIM-9X Block II+ tactical guidance units. The following non-Major Defense Equipment items will also be included: missile containers; weapon software; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$567.8 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Belgium's capability to meet current and future threats by providing air-to-air missiles and guidance units for Belgium's F-35 fleet in support of NATO's defense mission. Belgium will have no difficulty absorbing these weapons into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require the assignment of four U.S. Government and two contractor representatives to Belgium on a temporary basis in conjunction

with program technical oversight and support requirements.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-66

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II and Block II+ missile represents a substantial increase in missile acquisition and kinematics performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block I missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate the helmet mounted cueing system. The software algorithms are the most sensitive portion of the AIM-9X missile. The software continues to be modified via a pre-planned product improvement (P³I) program in order to improve its counter-countermeasure capabilities. The most current AIM-9X Block II/II+ operational flight software developed for all international partner countries, which is authorized by U.S. Government export policy, provides fifth generation infrared missile capabilities such as Lock-on after launch, weapon data link, surface attack, and surface launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Belgium can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Belgium.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-68, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$113 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-68

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$107 million.

Other \$6 million.

Total \$113 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Eight hundred sixteen (816) GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bombs Increment I.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; training aids, devices, and spare parts; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NO-D-YAK).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 15, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Norway—GBU-39B Small Diameter Bomb Increment I

The Government of Norway has requested to buy eight hundred sixteen (816) GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bombs Increment I. The following non-MDE items will also be included: spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; training aids, devices, and spare parts; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$113 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to meet current and future threats and increase its interoperability with the United States and other NATO members. Norway will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be The Boeing Company, located in Arlington, VA. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Norway.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-68

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bomb Increment I (SDB-I) all up round is a 250-lb GPS-aided inertial navigation system with precise positioning services provided by Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module or M-Code, small autonomous, day or night, adverse weather, conventional, air-to-ground precision glide weapon able to strike fixed and stationary relocatable non-hardened targets from standoff ranges. It provides aircraft with an ability to four SDBs in place of one 2,000-lb bomb.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Norway can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Norway.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover

letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-96, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Peru for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.42 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-96

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Peru.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$1.81 billion.
Other \$1.61 billion.
Total \$3.42 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Ten (10) F-16C Block 70 aircraft.

Two (2) F-16D Block 70 aircraft.

Fourteen (14) F110-GE-129 engines (12 installed, 2 spares).

Fourteen (14) Improved Programmable Display Generators (12 installed, 2 spares).

Twelve (12) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Fifty-two (52) LAU-129 guided missile launchers (48 installed, 4 spares).

Twelve (12) M61A1 anti-aircraft guns.

Fourteen (14) Embedded Global Positioning System Inertial Navigation Systems (12 installed, 2 spares).

Fourteen (14) AN/APG-83 active electronically scanned array Scalable Agile Beam Radars (12 installed, 2 spares).

Fourteen (14) Modular Mission Computers 7000AH (or next generation mission computer equivalent) (12 installed, 2 spares).

Twelve (12) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder missiles.

Two (2) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder tactical guidance units.

One (1) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missile (CATM) guidance unit.

Two (2) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder CATMs.

Fourteen (14) Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Joint Tactical Radio Systems (12 installed, 2 spares).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Infrared Search and Track systems; missile warning systems; AN/ALQ-254 Viper Shield or equivalent electronic warfare systems; AN/AAQ-28 Litening targeting pods; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM CATMs; Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems II (JHMCS II) helmet-mounted displays; ammunition; cartridges, chaffs, and

flares; weapons support equipment; embedded communications security devices; AN/ALE-47 airborne countermeasures dispenser systems; countermeasure processors, sequencer switching units, and Control Display Units; AN/APX-127 advanced identification friend or foe or equivalent; AN/ARC-238 radios; KIV-78A and KY-58M cryptographic devices; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; night vision devices (NVD) and NVD intensifier tubes; ADU-890 and ADU-891 adaptor group computer test sets; Joint Mission Planning System; pylons, launcher adapters, weapon interfaces, and bomb and ejection racks; fuel tanks; Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory (PMEL) and calibration support; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Re-programming Equipment; targeting systems; spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; aircraft, engine, ground, and pilot life support equipment; classified and unclassified computer program identification number systems; classified and unclassified software and software support; classified and unclassified publications, manuals, and technical documentation; National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) maps and mapping data; personnel training and training equipment, simulators, and training devices; studies and surveys; facilities and construction support transportation, ferry, and fuel support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (PE-D-SAA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 15, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Peru—F-16 Aircraft

The Government of Peru has requested to buy ten (10) F-16C Block 70 aircraft; two (2) F-16D Block 70 aircraft; fourteen (14) F110-GE-129 engines (12 installed, 2 spares); fourteen (14) Improved Programmable Display Generators (12 installed, 2 spares); twelve (12) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); fifty-two (52) LAU-129 guided missile launchers (48 installed, 4 spares); twelve (12) M61A1 anti-aircraft guns; fourteen (14) Embedded Global Positioning System Inertial Navigation Systems (12 installed, 2 spares); fourteen (14) AN/APG-83 active electronically scanned array Scalable Agile Beam Radars (12 installed, 2 spares); fourteen (14) Modular Mission Computers 7000AH (or next generation mission computer equivalent) (12 installed, 2 spares); twelve (12) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder missiles; two (2) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder tactical guidance units; one (1) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missile (CATM) guidance unit; two (2) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder CATMs; and fourteen (14) Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Joint Tactical Radio Systems (12 installed, 2 spares). The following non-MDE items will also be included: Infrared Search and Track systems; missile warning systems; AN/ALQ-254 Viper Shield or equivalent electronic warfare systems; AN/AAQ-28 Litening targeting pods; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM CATMs; Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems II (JHMCS II) helmet-mounted displays; ammunition; cartridges, chaffs, and flares; weapons support

equipment; embedded communications security devices; AN/ALE-47 airborne countermeasures dispenser systems; countermeasure processors, sequencer switching units, and Control Display Units; AN/APX 127 advanced identification friend or foe or equivalent; AN/ARC-238 radios; KIV-78A and KY-58M cryptographic devices; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; night vision devices (NVD) and NVD intensifier tubes; ADU-890 and ADU-891 adaptor group computer test sets; Joint Mission Planning System; pylons, launcher adapters, weapon interfaces, and bomb and ejection racks; fuel tanks; Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory (PMEL) and calibration support; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment; targeting systems; spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; aircraft, engine, ground, and pilot life support equipment; classified and unclassified computer program identification number systems; classified and unclassified software and software support; classified and unclassified publications, manuals, and technical documentation; National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) maps and mapping data; personnel training and training equipment, simulators, and training devices; studies and surveys; facilities and construction support transportation, ferry, and fuel support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$3.42 billion.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important partner which is a force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in South America.

The proposed sale will enhance the Peruvian Air Force's ability to control its sovereign airspace, defend its territorial borders, and conduct precision air-to-ground attack operations in support of ground forces in counter-narcotics and counterterrorism operations. The sale will also enhance Peru's military partnership with the United States on an enduring long-term basis. Peru will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin, located in Greenville, SC; General Electric Aerospace, located in Cincinnati, OH; and RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Peru.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-96

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F-16 Block 70 is a fourth generation, single-engine, supersonic, all-weather multirole fighter aircraft that features advanced avionics and systems. It contains the General Electric F110-129D engine, AN/APG-83 radar, digital flight control system, embedded internal global navigation system, Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems

(JHMCS) II or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tracker (HOBIT) with night vision device compatibility, internal and external electronic warfare (EW) equipment, advanced identification friend or foe (AIFF), Link-16 datalink, and software computer systems.

a. The General Electric F110-GE-129D engine is an afterburning turbofan jet engine that powers the F-16. Engine spare modules are kits made up of spare engine components including the following modules: inlet fan, core engine, fan drive turbine, augmentor duct and nozzle, and gear box.

b. The Modular Mission Computer 7000AHC is the central aircraft computer of the F-16. It serves as the hub for all aircraft subsystems and avionics data transfer.

c. The Improved Programmable Display Generator and color multifunction displays utilize ruggedized commercial liquid crystal display technology that is designed to withstand the harsh environment found in modern fighter cockpits. The display generator is the fifth-generation graphics processor for the F-16. Through the use of state-of-the-art microprocessors and graphics engines, it provides orders of magnitude increases in throughput, memory, and graphics capabilities.

d. The APG-83 Scalable Agile Beam Radar is an active electronically scanned array radar upgrade for the F-16. It includes higher processor power, higher transmission power, more sensitive receiver electronics, and synthetic aperture radar, which creates higher-resolution ground maps from a greater distance than existing mechanically scanned array radars (e.g., APG-68). The upgrade features an increase in the detection range of air targets, increases in processing speed and memory, and significant improvements in all modes.

e. The Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM)—or M-Code receiver when available—and Precise Positioning Service is a self-contained navigation system that provides the following: acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAASM or M-Code enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P(Y or M) signal, providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

f. The integrated EW suite provides passive radar warning, wide spectrum radio frequency jamming, and control and management of the entire EW system. This system is anticipated to be internal to the aircraft although mounted pod variants are used in certain circumstances.

g. The Multifunction Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System is a four-channel software programmable radio for Link-16 digital voice communications and datalink, Tactical Air Navigation, and advanced waveforms. Link-16 is a command, control, communications, and intelligence system incorporating high-capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

2. The LAU-129 guided missile launcher is capable of launching the Air Intercept Missile (AIM)-9 family of missiles or AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM). The LAU-129 launcher provides the mechanical and electrical interface between the missile and aircraft.

3. The M61A1 anti-aircraft gun is a six-barreled automatic cannon chambered in 20x120 mm with a cyclic rate of fire of 2,500-6,000 rounds per minute. This weapon is a hydrau-

lically powered air-cooled Gatling gun used to damage and destroy aerial targets, suppress and incapacitate personnel targets, and damage and destroy moving and stationary light material targets.

4. AN/ARC-238 radio with HAVE QUICK II is a voice communications radio system that is equipped with HAVE QUICK II, which employs cryptographic technology. Other waveforms may be included as needed.

5. The AN/APX-127 AIFF is a system capable of transmitting and interrogating Mode 5. The AN/APX-127 is a form, fit, and function refresh of the AN/APX-126 and is the next generation to be produced.

6. The AN/ALE-47 airborne countermeasures dispenser system provides an integrated threat-adaptive, computer-controlled capability for dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The system is internally mounted and may be operated as a stand-alone system or may be integrated with other on-board EW and avionics systems. The AN/ALE-47 uses threat data received over the aircraft interfaces to assess the threat situation and determine a response. Expendable routines tailored to the immediate aircraft and threat environment may be dispensed using one of four operational modes.

7. The KY-58 is a secure voice module primarily used to encrypt radio communication to and from military aircraft and other tactical vehicles.

8. The KIV-78 is a cryptographic appliqué for AIFF. It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

9. The AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader is a handheld device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

10. The Joint Mission Planning System is a multi-platform, computer-based mission planning system. Its modular suite of systems is tailored to user needs, allowing operators of various aircraft to install planning modules required for flight planning, weapons delivery planning, postflight debrief, and operational integration.

11. The Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System II or Scorpion HOBIT is a device used in aircraft to project information to the pilot's eyes and aid in tasks such as cueing weapons and aircraft sensors to air and ground targets. This provides improvement for close combat targeting and engagement.

12. The AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder missile is a short-range air-to-air missile with a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate the JHMCS. This potential sale will include AIM-9X guidance sections, Active Optical Target Detectors, training missiles, Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs), and CATM guidance units.

13. The AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high and low-flying and maneuvering targets. This potential sale will include CATMs and AMRAAM guidance and control sections.

14. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

15. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

16. A determination has been made that Peru can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

17. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Peru.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0X. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 23-54 of July 27, 2023.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0X

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Romania.

(ii) Sec. 36(B)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 23-54; Date: July 27, 2023; Implementing Agency: Navy.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On July 27, 2023, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 23-54 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of sixteen (16) Assault Amphibious Vehicles (AAVs), Personnel Variant (AAVP-7A1); three (3) Assault Amphibious Vehicles, Command Variant (AAVC-7A1); two (2) Assault Amphibious Vehicles, Recovery Variant (AAVR-7A1); sixteen (16) 50 Cal Machine Guns (Heavy Barrel); and five (5) 7.62 mm M240B Machine Guns. Also included were MK-19 Grenade Launchers; M36E T1 Thermal Sighting Systems (TSS); supply

support (spare parts); support equipment (including special mission kits/Enhanced Applique Kits (EAAK)); training, unclassified technical manuals, technical data package, engineering and technical support and assistance (including Contractor Engineering Technical Services (CETS)); and other related elements of program and logistics support. The estimated total program cost was \$120.5 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$75.5 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: thirty-seven (37) Assault Amphibious Vehicles, Personnel variant (AAVP-7A1) Reliability, Availability, Maintainability/Rebuilt to Standard (RAM/RS); five (5) Assault Amphibious Vehicles, Command variant (AAVC-7A1) RAM/RS; two (2) Assault Amphibious Vehicles, Recovery variant (AAVR-7A1) RAM/RS; thirty-seven (37) .50 caliber machine guns (heavy barrel); and seven (7) 7.62 mm M240B machine guns. The following non-MDE will also be included: MK-19 grenade launchers; M36E T1 thermal sights; supply support and spare parts; support equipment, including special mission kits and Enhanced Applique Kits); training; unclassified technical manuals; technical data package; engineering and technical support and assistance, including contractor engineering technical services); and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost of the new items is \$404.0 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$210.3 million to a revised \$285.8 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$193.7 million to a revised \$238.7 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$404.0 million to a revised \$524.5 million.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will improve Romania's capability to meet current and future threats by modernizing and ensuring its continued expeditionary capability to counter regional threats.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 15, 2025.

HAWAIIAN HISTORY MONTH

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, earlier this month, the State of Hawaii officially designated September 2025 as Hawaiian History Month. Designated on September 2, 2025, the 187th anniversary of the birthday of Hawaii's last ruling monarch Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaiian History Month aims to recognize, reflect, and share Hawaii's true history. I had the honor of recognizing the accomplishments of two pivotal Native Hawaiian leaders, Edith Kanakaole and Mary Kawena Pukui. Both women were chosen to be included in the U.S. Mint's American Woman Quarters Program and Native American \$1 Coin Program, respec-

tively. Having celebrated these pioneering women in their respective fields of Native Hawaiian education and culture, I come to the floor to celebrate Hawaiian History Month by highlighting three more Native Hawaiian leaders that shaped Hawaiian history. These biographies are necessarily brief, and I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to take the time to learn more about these revered leaders.

Hawaii's last reigning monarch Lydia Liliu Loloku Walania Wewehi Kamakaeha—Liliuokalani—was born in Honolulu on September 2, 1838. Liliuokalani was an avid scholar and a talented musician, eventually composing more than 150 songs throughout her lifetime including the beloved "Aloha Oe." When her brother, King David Kalakaua, was appointed to the throne in 1874, Liliu—then granted the title Liliuokalani—was named his heir.

Upon King Kalakaua's death in 1891, Queen Liliuokalani assumed the throne and sought to amend the Bayonet Constitution—a document King Kalakaua was forced to sign under threat of violence from a group of predominantly American and British businessmen, which significantly reduced the monarchy's power and disenfranchised most Native Hawaiians. Fearing the Queen's desire to restore power to the monarchy and the Hawaiian people, those same businessmen—supported by U.S. marines—orchestrated an illegal overthrow of the Queen in 1893 and formed a provisional government.

All the while calling for peace among her people, Liliuokalani traveled to Washington, DC, to seek assistance in undoing the overthrow from President Grover Cleveland. Despite her efforts, President William McKinley signed into law a joint resolution of Congress annexing Hawaii as part of the United States. Through the adversity she faced, Queen Liliuokalani continued to petition Congress and advocate for the restoration of the Hawaiian monarchy. Her commitment to the people of Hawaii and her dignified resistance serve as examples of courage and resilience for all Native Hawaiians.

Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole was born into royal lineage on March 26, 1871. After his parents' death, his uncle King Kalakaua took him in as hanai son and gave him the title Prince. An avid scholar during his youth, Prince Kuhio was also a notable athlete in football, rowing, track, cycling, horsemanship, and marksmanship. He later studied abroad in California and England. During his travels, he was hosted as a guest of the Japanese Government. Following the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, Prince Kuhio joined an unsuccessful attempt to restore the monarchy.

Years later, Prince Kuhio entered public service, representing Hawaii in the House of Representatives from 1902 until his death in 1922. Despite his non-voting status, Prince Kuhio played a significant role in shaping Hawaii's future and was a tireless advocate for the

Native Hawaiian community. He secured Federal dollars for the dredging and construction of Pearl Harbor, helped establish Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and laid the foundation for Hawaii's modern government structure and its county system, which remain in place today. Prince Kuhio also established Hawaii's Hawaiian Civic Club, beginning a movement of advocacy within the Native Hawaiian community which had been literally decimated from a pre-contact number of 800,000 to 1 million, to 40,000 by 1920.

Most notably, Prince Kuhio championed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, HHCA, landmark legislation that serves as the first expression of the United States trust relationship with the Native Hawaiian community. Enacted in 1921, the HHCA set aside approximately 200,000 acres of land to create a permanent homeland for Native Hawaiians, who had suffered from diseases, the overthrow of their kingdom, and the loss of their lands. Through the HHCA, Prince Kuhio sought to return Native Hawaiians to their land and promote self-sufficiency through homesteading on these leased, trust lands.

Prince Kuhio's persistence and effectiveness in advocating for the Native Hawaiian community continues to impact the Native Hawaiian community, especially through the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. His legacy lives on in the many Native Hawaiian families who have benefited—and will continue to benefit—from his vision and leadership.

Daniel Kahikina Akaka was born in Honolulu, HI, on September 11, 1924. Senator Akaka graduated from the Kamehameha School for Boys in 1942. Upon completing high school at the height of World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1943 to 1945 and the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947, with deployments to Saipan and Tinian. Following his military service, Mr. Akaka earned both a bachelor's and master's of education from the University of Hawaii. He went on to serve as a teacher, vice-principal, principal, and chief program planner within the Department of Education. He later became the director of the Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity and served as a special assistant for Human Resources, as well as director of the Office of Progressive Neighborhoods Program.

Mr. Akaka was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976, where he served until May 16, 1990. He was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1990 to fill the vacancy caused by the passing of Senator Masayuki "Spark" Matsunaga. After winning a special election later that year, Senator Akaka became the first and only Native Hawaiian to serve in the U.S. Senate, where he represented Hawaii until his retirement. During his tenure, Senator Akaka served on the Committee on Armed Services, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-

mental Affairs, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Committee on Indian Affairs, and Committee on Ethics.

Throughout his distinguished career, Senator Akaka was a tireless advocate for Native Hawaiians and worked to ensure that the U.S. Government fulfilled its trust responsibilities. In 1993, he helped pass the Apology Resolution, which acknowledged the U.S. Government's role in the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and issued a formal apology to Native Hawaiians. The resolution also committed the United States to a process of reconciliation. Senator Akaka also championed the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, which sought to establish a pathway for Federal recognition of Native Hawaiians and their right to self-governance, based on their unique political and historical relationship between the United States. Although the bill did not pass, it laid critical groundwork for ongoing discussions about Federal recognition and justice for Native Hawaiians.

Senator Akaka's unwavering commitment to the people of Hawaii and the Native Hawaiian community serve as an inspiration. His legacy reminds us of the importance of humility, service, and steadfast dedication to the communities we are called to represent.

Every day, but particularly during this month, we honor and thank Queen Liliuokalani, Prince Kuhio, and Senator Akaka for their extraordinary vision, leadership, and commitment to the Native Hawaiian community.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise, on behalf of all Floridians, to recognize the meaningful visit of Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew of the Orthodox Church to our Nation's Capital. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been on the forefront of religious freedom for his entire ministry, and now as the longest serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two millennia history of Christianity, he has worked to bring people together for the purpose of advancing greater cooperation and mutual understanding. He has been honored with the Congressional Gold Medal and, soon, the Templeton Prize. Florida is home to many Orthodox churches, Orthodox Christians, and communities who share deep gratitude for the leadership of His All-Holiness Bartholomew and his mission to serve others. I join with Floridians and the U.S. Senate in welcoming His All-Holiness Bartholomew to the United States and our Nation's Capital.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome to our Nation's

capital His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head of the second-largest Christian Church in the world. His All-Holiness serves as the current Archbishop of Constantinople and leads over 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.

His All-Holiness is visiting Washington, DC, from September 15 through September 17 and will meet with President Trump at the White House. This visit coincides with his receipt of the Templeton Prize, a prestigious award previously bestowed upon renowned figures such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

For decades, His All-Holiness has been a steadfast advocate for religious freedom and unity among Christians worldwide. He has consistently called for the protection of religious minorities and has championed the rights of Orthodox Christians to worship freely. His efforts to promote dialogue between the Orthodox Church and other Christian denominations have significantly strengthened interreligious understanding.

In my home State of Kansas, we are honored to have a strong and active Greek Orthodox community, with more than 4,300 Orthodox Christians and two parishes: St. Dionysios in Overland Park and Holy Trinity in Wichita. These churches embody the deep spiritual connection that Kansans share with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodox Christians around the world.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this historic visit and in honoring His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his unwavering commitment to faith and the common good.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Eastern Orthodox Church to the United States of America. Since 1991, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has served as the spiritual leader for 300 million Orthodox Christians across the world. Throughout his diakonia, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has dedicated himself to fostering inter-religious dialogue, advancing initiatives to promote understanding and tolerance amongst Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the Middle East.

In addition to his commitment to religious tolerance and freedom, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a champion for ecological justice and the protection of the environment. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's dedication to the spiritual responsibility of environmentalism and the necessity of caring for God's creation led to him being referred to as the "Green Patriarch." As a result of his efforts, the John Templeton Foundation has awarded Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the 2025 Templeton

Prize for helping “bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity’s relationship with the natural world.”

It is an honor to have him visit Washington, DC, and our government officials during his trip to receive the Templeton Prize.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s visit to Washington, DC. His All-Holiness is visiting our Nation’s Capital in conjunction with his acceptance of the prestigious Templeton Prize, an award which has been received by faith leaders including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The Greek Orthodox community in Ohio and across the country take great pride in this recognition of their faith leader’s global influence.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THREE KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize three Kansas community colleges that were recently ranked among the top 2-year colleges in the Nation by WalletHub: Manhattan Area Technical College, Pratt Community College, and Colby Community College.

Community and technical colleges play a vital role in building the workforce of the future and making higher education accessible to students from all backgrounds. They provide affordable, high-quality education that prepares students for meaningful careers or further study. For many, especially in rural areas, these colleges offer the best path to career success and personal advancement.

Manhattan Area Technical College earned the No. 2 national ranking, driven by its consistent record of placing graduates into high-demand careers with strong earning potential. Its focus on career and technical education equips students with skills that are both practical and accessible.

Pratt Community College earned the No. 3 spot nationwide, celebrated for instilling financial responsibility in its graduates, who maintain one of the lowest student loan default rates in the country. This recognition underscores the college’s exceptional return on investment and its commitment to preparing students for long-term professional success.

Colby Community College earned the No. 15 national ranking, reflecting its ongoing excellence in serving students across western Kansas. The college has posted the highest graduation rate among Kansas community colleges in 7 of the past 10 years and led the State’s community colleges in fall-to-fall retention in 5 of the past 6 years.

As a proud community college alum, I know firsthand the opportunities that community and technical colleges provide their students. They open doors for hard-working Americans seeking a better future through education and training. I am proud to see these Kansas colleges leading the way in providing affordable, effective, and transformative education.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Manhattan Area Technical College, Pratt Community College, and Colby Community College on this national recognition.●

RECOGNIZING THE HOISINGTON DAIRY QUEEN

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the closure of a staple restaurant and icon of Hoisington, Ks. After more than 70 years of service to the local community, the Dairy Queen in Hoisington is closing its doors. The Hoisington location opened in 1953, and the business served the area for the following decades until officially closing on August 28, 2025.

For more than 40 of those years, Becky and Leon Steiner owned and operated the business, providing the Hoisington community with decades of good memories and tasty food.

Anyone from a small, close-knit community knows firsthand the importance of a restaurant like Dairy Queen to the town. These restaurants are a place for folks to grab a bite to eat after church, a safe hangout spot for students to gather after school is out, and a place for people of all ages to gather for a cold treat when it is hot. For many, the local ice cream spot is an important part of the community.

Throughout the years, the location of the Dairy Queen had remained the same, despite updates and repairs to the building, including a rebuild after the April 2001 tornado that caused significant damage to the Hoisington community.

The location faced further hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic when, in March 2020, all Dairy Queen franchise stores were required to close their dining rooms as a result of the virus.

And yet, despite these challenges, the Hoisington community consistently rallied around the business and supported its owners by remaining loyal customers of the restaurant.

In 2023, Hoisington’s Dairy Queen recognized the commitment of the community and celebrated 70 years of business at the location by offering a week of special deals with discounted treats such as ice cream cones, fries, hamburgers, and sundaes.

While running a business for decades is no easy task, the Steiners credit the tremendous support of the Hoisington community as the key to their success over the years.

While Becky and Leon Steiner have closed the doors to their restaurant,

they announced that their daughter Amber and her husband John Crawford will open a new business, bringing a “hometown fast food” restaurant to the community to help fill the void left.

I congratulate the Steiners on many decades of successful business in the local community, and I offer my best wishes to the Crawfords as they launch a new restaurant to continue the family legacy of service to the people of Hoisington.●

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

As 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 Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate 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 message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1107. An act 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.

H.R. 1860. An act 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.

H.R. 2034. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.

H.R. 2334. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to preempt any squatter’s rights established by State law regarding real property owned by a member of the uniformed services.

H.R. 2701. An act 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.

H.R. 3400. An act 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.

H.R. 3426. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3427. An act 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.

H.R. 3494. An act 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.

H.R. 3579. An act 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.

H.R. 3767. An act 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.

H.R. 3854. An act 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.

H.R. 3951. An act 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.

H.R. 4446. An act 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.

H.R. 5100. An act to extend the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, clause 10 of rule One and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. CUELLAR of Texas, Mr. CORREA of California, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR of Texas, and Mr. CARBAJAL of California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1107. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1860. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2034. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2334. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to preempt any squatter's rights established by State law regarding real property owned by a member of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3400. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3426. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3427. An act 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; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3494. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3579. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3767. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3854. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3951. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4446. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5100. An act to extend the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 76, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Extension of Deadlines in Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review Final Rule," and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Edward J. Markey, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Ben Ray Lujan, Peter Welch, Martin Heinrich, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, John W. Hickenlooper, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, Gary C. Peters, Michael F. Bennet, Andy Kim, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Mazie Hirono, Bernard Sanders, Chris Van Hollen, Ron Wyden.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 76. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Extension of Deadlines in Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review Final Rule".

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2805. A bill to provide for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

S. 2806. A bill to provide for automatic continuing appropriations.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1402. An act to require sellers of event tickets to disclose comprehensive information to consumers about ticket prices and related fees, and for other purposes.

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-1816. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the September 2025 monthly cumulative report on rescissions; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations; the Budget; and Foreign Relations.

EC-1817. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Codification of Certain U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Law Enforcement Authorities" (RIN1615-AD03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1818. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Prohibited Exports, Imports, and Sales To or From Certain Countries-Cyprus" (RIN1400-AG10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2025; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1819. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment with an original acquisition value of approximately \$83,445,034 to the Government of Ukraine's Armed Forces (Transmittal No. RSAT 25-11218); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1820. 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 12978 of October 21, 1995 with respect to significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1821. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995 with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1822. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Medicare and Medicaid Integrity Programs for Fiscal Year 2024"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1823. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare National Coverage Determinations for Fiscal Year 2024"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1824. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-148, "Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Support Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1825. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-147, "Fiscal Year 2026 Local Budget Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1826. 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 Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1827. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director of Offshore Regulatory Programs, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Restoration of Names That Honor American Greatness; Gulf of America" (RIN1014-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1828. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director of Offshore Regulatory Programs, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf-Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (RIN1014-AA62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-19. A petition from a citizen relative to support for an Article V Convention; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2807. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the applicability of the authority to reconsider decisions of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary of the Army to inter remains or honor the memory of a person in a national cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 2808. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a report on the fertilizer industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ERNST, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 2809. A bill to require reporting of price increases on noncompetitive contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 2810. A bill to allow individuals to choose to opt out of the Medicare part A benefit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2811. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufacture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce of commercial asbestos and mixtures and articles containing commercial as-

bestos, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2812. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a national public safety messaging campaign relating to the dangers of illegal passing of stopped school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JUSTICE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 2813. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit capacity-based restrictions on firearm magazines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2814. A bill to improve safety on transit systems; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. GRAMHAM):

S. 2815. A bill to repeal the District of Columbia Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act and Second Look Amendment Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 2816. A bill to prohibit the administration of any political loyalty test as a condition of Federal employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GALLEGRO (for himself, Mr. KIM, Ms. WARREN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 2817. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit dual appointments of employees of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2818. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a corporate tax rate increase on companies whose ratio of compensation of the CEO or other highest paid employee to median worker compensation is more than 50 to 1, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KIM, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2819. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to improve the Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. KIM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2820. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 2821. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform the H-1B non-immigrant visa program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2822. A bill to improve voter access to ballot box through automatic voter registration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2823. A bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2824. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the temporary enhanced premium credits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2825. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to faith- or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S.J. Res. 77. A joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose duties on articles imported from Canada; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 389. A resolution condemning the extreme anti-vaccine policies of Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., strongly opposing the policies of the State of Florida that roll back immunization requirements, and expressing the sense of the Senate that vaccines are critical to protecting public health, eliminating preventable illness and death, and reducing hospitalizations and severity of illness, work best when adopted at a high level within each community, and must be made available to the public; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. Ms.

ALSOBROOKS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 390. A resolution designating September 2025 as "National Voting Rights Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORENO (for Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. GALLEGRO):

S. Res. 391. A resolution condemning the assassination of Charlie Kirk and honoring his life and legacy; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 392. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2025, as "National Warrior Call Day" and recognizing the importance of connecting members of the Armed Forces and veterans in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 393. A resolution designating September 25, 2025, as "National Lobster Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JUSTICE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 394. A resolution designating September 2025 as "National Literacy Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 395. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. Res. 396. A resolution condemning the tragic act of violence on September 10, 2025,

in Evergreen, Colorado, recognizing the victims, survivors, and responders, and expressing condolences and support to their families and their communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 142

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 142, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 186

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 186, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to improve the provision of care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes.

S. 602

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 602, a bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to support research and development of ungulate grazing land management techniques for purposes of wildfire mitigation, fuel reduction, and post-fire recovery.

S. 723

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 723, a bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to prohibit the slaughter of equines for human consumption.

S. 1221

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1221, a bill to prohibit

contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1547, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1696

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1696, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration from issuing a rule or promulgating a regulation requiring certain commercial motor vehicles to be equipped with speed limiting devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1711

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1711, a bill to address national security risks and prohibit the use of Federal funds for the procurement of certain vehicles and vehicle technologies produced or provided by entities based in certain countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1726, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that the Department of Veterans Affairs definition of "medical services" includes medically necessary automobile adaptations, and for other purposes.

S. 1808

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1808, a bill to permit a registered investment company to omit certain fees from the calculation of acquired fund fees and expenses, and for other purposes.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a pro-

gram of research, training, and investigation related to Down syndrome, and for other purposes.

S. 2019

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2019, a bill to establish a Task Force for Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams, and for other purposes.

S. 2130

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2130, a bill to make improvements to the AUKUS partnership, and for other purposes.

S. 2155

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2155, a bill to ensure greater accountability by licensed firearms dealers.

S. 2438

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2438, a bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 in transforming their business and program models to models that support people with disabilities through competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes.

S. 2452

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) were added as cosponsors of S. 2452, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2647

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2647, a bill to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2722

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2722, a bill to promote the energy security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 2755

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) 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. 2763

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2763, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to permanently appropriate funding for the administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2764

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2764, a bill to require disclosure of the total amount of interest that would be paid over the life of a loan for certain Federal student loans.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) 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.J. RES. 38

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution establishing the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

S.J. RES. 71

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 71, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy.

S. RES. 351

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 351, a resolution requesting information on the Kingdom of Eswatini's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 352

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 352, a resolution requesting

information on the Republic of South Sudan's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 353

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 353, a resolution requesting information on the Republic of Costa Rica's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 354

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 354, a resolution requesting information on the Republic of Panama's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 355

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 355, a resolution requesting information on the Republic of Rwanda's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 356

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 356, a resolution requesting information on the United Mexican States' human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 386

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 386, a resolution designating the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week".

AMENDMENT NO. 3288

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3288 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. 3714

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3714 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 389—CONDEMNING THE EXTREME ANTI-VACCINE POLICIES OF SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., STRONGLY OPPOSING THE POLICIES OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA THAT ROLL BACK IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT VACCINES ARE CRITICAL TO PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH, ELIMINATING PREVENTABLE ILLNESS AND DEATH, AND REDUCING HOSPITALIZATIONS AND SEVERITY OF ILLNESS, WORK BEST WHEN ADOPTED AT A HIGH LEVEL WITHIN EACH COMMUNITY, AND MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 389

Whereas there is strong bipartisan support for wide access to vaccines, ensuring vaccines are affordable, trusting science and relying on peer-reviewed medical information, and protecting all individuals, especially children and vulnerable populations, from preventable illness;

Whereas it is dangerous and harmful to children's health to promote conspiracy theories and restrict access to life-saving preventive medicine, including vaccines;

Whereas having a high rate of community adoption of vaccines is critical to protect individuals who medically cannot receive certain vaccinations, including infants and individuals with weakened immune systems, such as cancer patients;

Whereas routine childhood immunizations for children born between 1994 and 2023 have prevented approximately 508,000,000 cases of illness, approximately 32,000,000 hospitalizations, and over 1,100,000 deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas measles is a highly contagious and deadly disease with a range of serious health complications, and the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) is safe and effective in preventing this disease and has prevented over 60,000,000 deaths worldwide between 2000 and 2023;

Whereas COVID-19 has caused over 1,200,000 deaths in the United States and over 7,100,000 deaths worldwide, with fatalities dropping dramatically once the COVID-19 vaccine became widely available;

Whereas after the hepatitis A vaccine was introduced in 1995, between 1996 and 2011, the rate of hepatitis A infection dropped by 95 percent;

Whereas after the hepatitis B vaccine was introduced with implementation of the birth dose recommendation, there has been a 95 percent reduction in infant hepatitis B infections, and an estimated 90,100 deaths have been prevented;

Whereas polio was a major cause of significant disability and paralysis of children prior to the polio vaccine being released in 1955, with over 21,000 paralytic cases in 1952, and the disease was eradicated in the United States by 1979 due to effectiveness of the vaccine;

Whereas diphtheria, described in history dating back to the 5th century, is a contagious disease that causes respiratory illness, has a 30 percent fatality rate (with higher fatality rates for young children), and caused up to 15,000 deaths in the United States annually in the 1920s, but due to widespread vaccination, there has been only 1 reported death from diphtheria in the United States between 1996 and 2018;

Whereas smallpox is a deadly disease that has existed for over 3000 years, with a fatality rate around 30 percent, that was eradicated in the United States by 1949 and worldwide by 1977, due to the effectiveness of vaccines;

Whereas vaccines for seniors, including vaccines for influenza, COVID-19, and shingles, are a critical prevention tool to keep older individuals healthy and out of the hospital;

Whereas there are numerous additional diseases, including some cancers, that are preventable by vaccines;

Whereas vaccine research to discover new ways to prevent additional disease or treat disease should continue to receive Federal research funding with no political interference;

Whereas availability and insurance coverage of vaccines for the entire population through a wide range of medical and community settings, such as pharmacies, clinics, hospitals, physician offices, health departments, health centers, mobile clinics, and other locations, is essential to ensure access to vaccines and protect public health;

Whereas recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on vaccines are tied to, and impact, a wide array of health programs, including the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the program under section 1928 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396g; commonly referred to as the "Vaccines for Children program"), the TRICARE program under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, hospital care and medical services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs under chapters 17 and 18 of title 38, United States Code, the Medicare program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), and private health insurance;

Whereas a lack of private or public insurance coverage for vaccines could make vaccines prohibitively expensive for millions of patients to access, forcing patients to forego vaccinations due to cost;

Whereas in June 2025, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. took the unprecedented step of dismissing all 17 members of the previously independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and appointed a new set of members;

Whereas such Advisory Committee has advised the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on vaccine recommendations for more than 60 years;

Whereas Secretary Kennedy's actions directly threatened access to the COVID-19 vaccine in several States, including Nevada, by making it more difficult for individuals who want the vaccine to get it; and

Whereas in September 2025, the State of Florida became the first State in modern history to take steps to eliminate its immunization requirements for schoolchildren, putting Florida children at a higher risk of contracting preventable diseases like measles, pertussis, and other life-threatening diseases: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports public health decisions based on science;

(2) agrees with the stance of the American Academy of Pediatrics and other professional medical organizations in strongly recommending immunization as the safest and most cost-effective way of preventing disease, disability, and death;

(3) condemns States taking steps to weaken school immunization requirements, putting children and vulnerable individuals at serious risk;

(4) strongly opposes the anti-vaccine policies proposed by the State of Florida in September 2025;

(5) condemns the misguided policies of Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. that are based on anti-vaccine conspiracy theories and have resulted in confusion, fear, and lack of vaccine access for American families;

(6) opposes the politicization of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and calls for a return to relying on unbiased and qualified medical professionals;

(7) affirms that vaccines, including for COVID-19, should remain accessible, including through insurance coverage, and that the government should not mandate policies that make COVID-19 vaccines unavailable for those who want them; and

(8) expresses the sense of the Senate that vaccines—

(A) are critical to protecting public health, eliminating preventable illness and death, and reducing hospitalization and severity of illness;

(B) work best when adopted at a high rate within each community; and

(C) should remain easily accessible and affordable, without restriction.

SENATE RESOLUTION 390—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS MONTH”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. Kaine, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 390

Whereas voting is 1 of the single most important rights that can be exercised in a democracy;

Whereas, over the course of history, various voter suppression laws in the United States have hindered, and even prohibited, certain individuals and groups from exercising the right to vote;

Whereas, during the 19th and early 20th centuries, Native Americans and people who were born to United States citizens abroad, people who spoke a language other than English, and people who were formerly subjected to slavery were denied full citizenship and prevented from voting by English literacy tests;

Whereas, since the 1870s, minority groups such as Black Americans in the South have suffered from the oppressive effects of Jim Crow laws that were designed to prevent political, economic, and social mobility;

Whereas Black Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other

underrepresented voters were subject to violence, poll taxes, literacy tests, all-White primaries, property ownership tests, and grandfather clauses that were designed to suppress the right of those underrepresented individuals to vote;

Whereas, as of 2024, 4,000,000 people in the United States were disenfranchised from voting because of a felony conviction, including 1 in 16 Black adults, due to the shameful entanglement of racial injustice in the criminal legal system and voting access in the United States;

Whereas members of the aforementioned groups and others are currently, in some cases, subject to intimidation, voter roll purges, and financial barriers that act effectively as modern-day poll taxes;

Whereas, in 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) to protect the right of Black Americans and other traditionally disenfranchised groups to vote, among other reasons;

Whereas, in 2013, in the landmark case of *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), the Supreme Court of the United States invalidated section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10303), dismantling the preclearance formula provision in that Act that protected voters in States and localities that historically have suppressed the right of minorities to vote;

Whereas, since the invalidation of the preclearance formula provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), gerrymandered districts in many States have gone unchallenged and have become less likely to be invalidated by the courts;

Whereas gerrymandered districts in many States have been found to have a discriminatory impact on traditionally disenfranchised minorities through tactics that include “cracking”, diluting the voting power of minorities across many districts, and “packing”, concentrating the power of minority voters into 1 district to reduce their voting power in other districts;

Whereas the courts have found the congressional and, in some cases, State legislative district maps in Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Alabama, and Louisiana to be gerrymandered districts that were created to favor some groups over others;

Whereas, despite courts finding some State legislative district maps to be gerrymandered, Republican-controlled State legislatures in 2025 are actively working to further gerrymandering before future elections are held;

Whereas these restrictive voting laws encompass cutbacks in early voting, voter roll purges, placement of faulty equipment in minority communities, requirement of photo identification, and the elimination of same-day registration;

Whereas these policies could outright disenfranchise or make voting much more difficult for more than 80,000,000 minority, elderly, poor, and disabled voters, among other groups;

Whereas, in 2016, discriminatory laws in North Carolina, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Texas were ruled to violate the rights of voters and were overturned by the courts;

Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), calls on Congress to update the formula in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.);

Whereas addressing the challenges of administering future elections requires increasing the accessibility of vote-by-mail and other limited-contact options to ensure access to the ballot and the protection of the health and safety of voters, and access to the ballot amid a global pandemic like the

Coronavirus Disease 2019 public health emergency;

Whereas Congress must work to combat any attempts to dismantle or underfund the United States Postal Service or obstruct the passage of the mail as blatant tactics of voter suppression and election interference;

Whereas following the 2020 elections there has been a relentless attack on the right to vote with more than 400 bills having been introduced to roll back the right to vote, including such bills being introduced in almost every State and at least 44 of such bills having been signed into law in 18 States;

Whereas the Trump administration has repeatedly attempted to restrict voter registration and access to the ballot, including vote-by-mail, for eligible citizens of the United States;

Whereas there is much more work to be done to ensure all citizens of the United States have the right to vote through free, fair, and accessible elections, and Congress must exercise its constitutional authority to protect the right to vote;

Whereas National Voter Registration Day in 2025 is Tuesday, September 16; and

Whereas September 2025 would be an appropriate month—

(1) to designate as “National Voting Rights Month”; and

(2) to ensure that, through the registration of voters and awareness of elections, the democracy of the United States includes all citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2025 as “National Voting Rights Month”;;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to uphold the right of every citizen to exercise the sacred and fundamental right to vote;

(3) encourages Congress to pass—

(A) the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2025 (S. 2523, H. R. 14, 119th Congress), to strengthen protections for voters by restoring and modernizing key protections in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) to prevent discriminatory gerrymandering and to ensure minority voting rights are safeguarded; and

(B) other voting rights legislation that seeks to advance voting rights and protect elections in the United States;

(4) recommends that public schools and universities in the United States develop an academic curriculum that educates students about—

(A) the importance of voting, how to register to vote, where to vote, and the different forms of voting;

(B) the history of voter suppression in the United States before and after passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.); and

(C) current measures that have been taken to restrict the vote;

(5) expresses appreciation for the United States Postal Service having issued a special Representative John R. Lewis stamp—

(A) to honor the life and legacy of Representative John R. Lewis in supporting voting rights; and

(B) to remind people in the United States that ordinary citizens risked their lives, marched, and participated in the great democracy of the United States so that all citizens would have the fundamental right to vote; and

(6) invites Congress to allocate the requisite funds for public service announcements on television, radio, newspapers, magazines, social media, billboards, buses, and other forms of media—

(A) to remind people in the United States when elections are being held;

(B) to share important registration deadlines; and

(C) to urge people to get out and vote.

SENATE RESOLUTION 391—CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF CHARLIE KIRK AND HONORING HIS LIFE AND LEGACY

Mr. MORENO (for Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. GALLEG0)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 391

Whereas Charlie Kirk was horrifically assassinated on September 10, 2025, at Utah Valley University while speaking to a large group of college students;

Whereas Charlie Kirk was a devoted husband, father, and Christian;

Whereas, in 2012, Charlie Kirk founded Turning Point USA, a conservative campus advocacy group that quickly became one of the fastest growing college campus chapter organizations in the country; and

Whereas Charlie Kirk frequently engaged college students of all political backgrounds in open debates and discussion, encouraging civil discourse on college campuses and among college students: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the assassination of Charlie Kirk in the strongest possible terms;

(2) extends its deepest condolences and sympathies to Charlie Kirk's family, including his wife, Erika, and their two young children; and

(3) honors Charlie Kirk's commitment to the constitutional principles of civil discussion and debate between all people of the United States, regardless of political affiliation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 392—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 16, 2025, AS “NATIONAL WARRIOR CALL DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS IN THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT STRUCTURES NECESSARY TO TRANSITION FROM THE BATTLEFIELD, ESPECIALLY PEER-TO-PEER CONNECTION

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SUL-

LIVAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 392

Whereas establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces and veterans in the United States whose connection to one another is key to supporting those members and veterans who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the number of suicides of members of the Armed Forces was 523 in 2023, 363 of whom were on active duty;

Whereas in 2023, the overall rate of suicide deaths per 100,000 members of the Armed Forces reached 25.6;

Whereas in 2022, there were 6,407 suicide deaths among veterans, a slight increase from 6,404 suicide deaths in 2021;

Whereas the rate of suicide among veterans, not adjusted for sex or age, in 2022 was 34.7 per 100,000;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2022 was nearly 10.5 percent more than the rate of suicide in non-veteran adults;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs found in its 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report that in 2022, “Suicide was the 2nd-leading cause of death for Veterans under age 45-years-old.”;

Whereas many of the veterans who die by suicide have had no known contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas a myriad of factors leads to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, anxiety, and depression;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can present as or exacerbate a mental health condition, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to establish traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 16, 2025, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of November 16, 2025, as “National Warrior Call Day”;

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States, especially members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and veterans, to call a warrior, have an honest conversation, and connect them with support, understanding that making a warrior call could reduce isolation and potentially save a life; and

(3) implores all individuals in the United States to recommit themselves to engaging with members of the Armed Forces and veterans through “National Warrior Call Day” and other constructive efforts that result in solutions and treatment for the invisible scars that can afflict veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

SENATE RESOLUTION 393—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, AS “NATIONAL LOBSTER DAY”

Mr. KING (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 393

Whereas lobstering has served as an economic engine and family tradition in the United States for centuries;

Whereas thousands of families in the United States make their livelihoods from catching, processing, or serving lobsters;

Whereas lobster is a prized and versatile seafood delicacy, celebrated for its unique flavor, tender texture, and ability to enhance a diverse range of culinary creations, from classic dishes to innovative new recipes;

Whereas the lobster industry employs people of all ages year-round, and many harvesters begin fishing as children and stay in the industry for their entire working lives;

Whereas the lobster industry has spearheaded sustainability measures for more than 150 years, ensuring the health of the lobster stock and the marine environment;

Whereas consumers are looking to add more sustainable seafood to their diets, and more people are enjoying lobster at home;

Whereas historical lore notes that lobster likely joined turkey on the table at the very first Thanksgiving feast in 1621, and lobster continues to be a mainstay during many other holiday traditions;

Whereas lobster harvesters are evolving and diversifying their businesses to help maintain the health of the ocean, including through kelp farming, which absorbs carbon dioxide from seawater;

Whereas throughout history, Presidents of the United States have served lobster at their inaugural celebrations and state dinners with international leaders;

Whereas lobster is a versatile source of lean protein that is low in saturated fat and high in vitamin B12;

Whereas lobster is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which are essential for heart health and preventing heart disease, lowering blood pressure, and improving the overall function of blood vessels;

Whereas the peak of the lobstering season in the United States occurs in late summer;

Whereas the Unicode Consortium added a lobster to its emoji set in 2018 in recognition of the popularity of the species around the world;

Whereas lobsters have inspired artists in the United States and throughout the world for hundreds of years;

Whereas lobsters have been, and continue to be, used as mascots for sports teams;

Whereas lobster inspires innovation of all kinds beyond the culinary realm, including skincare, fertilizer, robotics, and biodegradable golf balls;

Whereas countless people in the United States enjoy lobster rolls, grilled lobster tails, and lobster bakes to celebrate summer, from beaches to backyards and from fine-dining restaurants to lobster shacks;

Whereas lobster is a cornerstone of New England's cultural identity, serving as a major tourist attraction and boost to the region's economy; and

Whereas lobster is a staple on the menus of beloved restaurants across the United States, and in kitchens across the United States, bringing families and friends together: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 25, 2025, as “National Lobster Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 394—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH”

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JUSTICE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 394

Whereas reading is a cornerstone for personal growth, economic opportunity, and a strong society;

Whereas recent assessments, such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress, report unacceptably poor student reading proficiency, highlighting the need for effective literacy instruction;

Whereas the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies estimates that 28 percent or 59,000,000 adults in the United States perform at the lowest proficiency level in literacy;

Whereas educational disparities persist among students in various States and districts, particularly impacting students of color, those from low-income backgrounds, and English learners;

Whereas citizens who struggle to achieve reading proficiency are less likely to graduate high school or be employed and are more likely to be incarcerated;

Whereas the interim report by the National Reading Panel found that the cost to taxpayers of adult illiteracy is \$224,000,000,000 per year and that United States companies lost nearly \$40,000,000,000 annually because of illiteracy;

Whereas reading proficiency is linked to economic mobility and overall life success;

Whereas an interdisciplinary body of research, known as the science of reading, demonstrates the effectiveness of evidence-based reading strategies in improving literacy outcomes;

Whereas access to reading materials and robust content knowledge is essential for literacy success, with disparities affecting millions of children, particularly those from low-income households and communities of color;

Whereas evidence-based reading strategies include reading instruction and interventions based on rigorous scientific research that have demonstrated effectiveness in improving literacy development and skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; and

Whereas the Federal Government currently invests in literacy education through programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.), and the Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.); Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2025 as “National Literacy Month”; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, libraries, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe National Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 395—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 395

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exoneration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the week of September 14, 2025, to September 20, 2025, is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic science service providers—

(i) to acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) to organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) to provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and

(iv) to contact and invite local media outlets to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers—

(i) to recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) to formally declare the week of September 14, 2025, to September 20, 2025, to be “National Forensic Science Week” by proclamation;

(iii) to visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) to discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media—

(i) to attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) to take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) to ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local forensic science laboratories in the

communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court—

(i) to attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) to take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) to discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) to engage with local forensic science laboratories about working together more effectively.

SENATE RESOLUTION 396—CONDEMNING THE TRAGIC ACT OF VIOLENCE ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2025, IN EVERGREEN, COLORADO, RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND RESPONDERS, AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT TO THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 396

Whereas, on September 10, 2025, a student violently opened fire at Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colorado;

Whereas this tragic shooting traumatized the staff and students of Evergreen High School and resulted in the hospitalization of 2 victims;

Whereas responders from the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office and Jeffco Public Schools R-1 security officers arrived within 2 minutes of the school’s lockdown;

Whereas the swift actions of educators, staff, and neighbors helped protect students and staff and prevent further harm, demonstrating courage and dedication in the face of crisis;

Whereas the medical care of the trauma staff at CommonSpirit St. Anthony Hospital and Children’s Hospital Colorado gave the victims a chance to survive their wounds;

Whereas countless students, educators, and faculty experienced significant trauma as a result of this shooting;

Whereas the entire Evergreen, Colorado, community has been forever changed by this tragic event; and

Whereas all children should be able to attend school without fearing for their lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the horrific act of violence that occurred at Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colorado, on September 10, 2025;

(2) honors the victims and survivors of this horrifying incident;

(3) extends its deepest condolences and support to the friends and families of the victims and survivors, and to the communities of Evergreen High School and Jefferson County, Colorado;

(4) recognizes the strength of the Evergreen community in responding to this tragedy; and

(5) honors the law enforcement, school safety officers, health care providers, educators, faculty, and neighbors whose quick actions safeguarded lives during and after the attack.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3890. Mr. CRUZ 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 3891. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) 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.

SA 3892. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3893. Mr. KIM 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.

SA 3894. Mr. BOOKER 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.

SA 3895. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3896. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) 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.

SA 3897. Mr. BOOKER 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.

SA 3898. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3890. Mr. CRUZ 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SKYFOUNDRY PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a program to encourage the rapid development, testing, and scalable manufacturing of small unmanned aircraft systems and components, with potential expansion to associated energetics and other autonomous systems as determined by the Secretary, leveraging existing competencies within the commercial sector and the Department of Defense organic industrial base.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The program established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be known as the “SkyFoundry Program” (in this section the “Program”).

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) administer the Program through the Secretary of the Army; and

(B) establish the Program as part of the Defense Industrial Resilience Consortium.

(b) ALTERNATIVE ACQUISITION MECHANISM.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary of Defense shall prioritize alternative acquisition mechanisms to accelerate development and production, including—

(1) other transaction authority under section 4022 of title 10, United States Code;

(2) middle tier of acquisition pathway for rapid prototyping and rapid fielding as authorized by section 3602 of such title; and

(3) software acquisition pathway as authorized by section 3603 of such title.

(c) COMPONENTS.—The Program shall have two components as follows:

(1) INNOVATION FACILITY.—An innovation facility for the development of small unmanned aircraft systems. The facility may be operated by United States Special Operations Command in collaboration with United States Army Materiel Command, serving as the research, development, and testing hub, integrating lessons learned from global conflicts to rapidly evolve United States small unmanned aircraft systems designs in partnership with contractor entities.

(2) PRODUCTION FACILITY.—The Commander of United States Army Materiel Command shall identify a production facility with the competencies for producing various forms of small unmanned aircraft systems and components of small unmanned aircraft systems. The facility shall be operated by United States Army Materiel Command in collaboration with industry partners to enable scalable production as needed.

(d) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL.—To support the Program, the Secretary may leverage authorities, including section 2474 of title 10, United States Code, to foster voluntary public-private partnerships. Such partnerships may include—

(1) agreements with private industry, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations in support of the Program; and

(2) innovative arrangements that allow industry partners to utilize government facilities and equipment, such as co-located hybrid teams of military, civilian, and contractor personnel, to promote technology transfer, workforce development, and surge capacity.

(e) FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall prioritize utilizing or modifying existing Army Depot facilities and select at least two separate sites for the Program, one to house the innovation facility required by paragraph (1) of subsection (c) and one to house the production facility required by paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(2) AUTHORITY TO RENOVATE, EXPAND, AND CONSTRUCT.—The Secretary may renovate, expand, or construct facilities for the Program using available funds, notwithstanding chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) SELECTION OF SITES.—When selecting sites for the Program, the Secretary shall consider that the production facility required by subsection (c)(2) shall be housed at an existing Army Depot.

(f) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that any public-private partnership established under this section provides the United States delivery of technical data and rights in technical data for any systems or technologies developed under the Program using Federal Government funding in accordance with sections 3771 through 3775 of title 10, United States Code.

(g) DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT DESIGNATION.—The President (or the Secretary of Defense under delegated authority) may use authorities under title III of the Defense Pro-

duction Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531 et seq.) to support domestic industrial base capacity for small unmanned aircraft systems and associated energetics and autonomous systems.

SA 3891. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) 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 appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10 ____ . PERMITTING FOR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND LAND PORTS OF ENTRY.

Section 6 of the International Bridge Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 535d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “December 31, 2024,” and inserting “December 31, 2035;” and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), and inserting the following:

“(A) An international bridge between the United States and Mexico.

“(B) An international bridge between the United States and Canada.

“(C) A port of entry on the international land border between the United States and Mexico.

“(D) A port of entry on the international land border between the United States and Canada.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by inserting “or land port of entry” after “international bridge”;

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “or land port of entry” after “international bridge”;

(3) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “or land port of entry” after “international bridge”; and

(4) in subsection (f), by inserting “or land port of entry” after “international bridge” each place it appears.

SA 3892. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. REPORT ADDRESSING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE AS A GLOBAL HEALTH THREAT.

Not later than 160 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives analyzing how the Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy can develop programming that addresses the development of anti-microbial resistance as a global health threat.

SA 3893. Mr. KIM 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 subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. ACCESS TO COUNSEL AT INSTALLATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (e), the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security—

(1) shall ensure prompt access to counsel for aliens detained by the Government on installations of the Department of Defense;

(2) shall not require counsel of an alien detained at such an installation to provide prior notification of intent to visit such alien at the installation;

(3) with respect to counsel representing an alien detained at such an installation, may request from such counsel such information as may be necessary to allow counsel to enter and exit the installation without delay; and

(4) shall provide counsel and the detained alien concerned access to a designated location, within the detention facility at the installation concerned, with a measure of privacy to discuss sensitive information.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of Defense may limit access to installations of the Department of Defense by counsel in an emergency.

(c) PRESERVATION AND PUBLICATION OF RECORDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, shall maintain a record of each counsel who seeks access to an alien detained at an installation of the Department of Defense, including—

(A) the name of the counsel;

(B) an identification of the installation to which counsel seeks access;

(C) the date and time of arrival of counsel at the installation;

(D) the date and time at which counsel obtains entry to the installation, if such entry was obtained; and

(E) in the case of counsel denied entry to the installation at which an alien is detained, a justification for the denial.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not less frequently than daily, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, make the record required by paragraph (1) for the preceding day available to the public on a website of the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) ALTERNATIVE ACCESS.—In a case in which counsel cannot physically visit an alien detained at an installation of the Department of Defense whom such counsel represents, the Secretary of Defense shall provide for an alternate manner by which counsel and the alien concerned may communicate, such as by telephone, teleconference, or video teleconference.

(e) RESTORATION OF LEGAL ACCESS AND REPRESENTATION PROGRAMS.—The Attorney General shall restore funding and operations for the following legal access and representation programs of the Executive Office for Immigration Review:

(1) The legal orientation program for detained adults.

(2) The immigration court help desk.

(3) Family group legal orientation.

(4) The counsel for children initiative.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT.—Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act may be construed to authorize the Secretary of Defense to engage in or support immigration enforcement.

SA 3894. Mr. BOOKER 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:

In title X, after section 1035, add the following:

SEC. 1035A. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STANDARDS FOR THE DETENTION OF ALIENS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Every Department of Defense facility in which aliens are detained shall comply with the facility requirements set forth in the National Detention Standards for Non-Dedicated Facilities, established by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in 2019, and any successor standards.

(b) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—Beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, any Department of Defense facility that is not in compliance with the requirements described in subsection (a) may not be used to detain aliens.

SA 3895. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 334. REPORTING ON MILITARY READINESS AND USE OF INSTALLATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the military readiness impacts of operations conducted based on the request of the Secretary of Homeland Security for assistance in immigration enforcement, including any operations undertaken pursuant to section 284 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a detailed description of—

(1) the installations of the Department of Defense used by the Secretary of Homeland Security for purposes of immigration detention and removal operations;

(2) the population detained by the Secretary of Homeland Security at each such installation, including country of origin, age, gender, and immigration disposition for each individual detained;

(3) the number of aircraft of the Armed Forces used for removal flights, including the destination of such aircraft and the number of military personnel on each flight;

(4) in the case of installations of the Department of Defense used to detain individ-

uals pursuant to section 284 of title 10, United States Code, the alleged nexus to drug or transnational organized crime activities for each individual detained; and

(5) an assessment by the Secretary of Defense of the operational and readiness impact from the use of military personnel, installations, or other resources for detention and removal operations of the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) UPDATE.—Not less frequently than once every 90 days after the date of the submittal of the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees an update to the information included in such report.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section confers any authority to engage in or support immigration enforcement.

SA 3896. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) 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 subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. LIMITATIONS ON DOMESTIC DEPLOYMENTS OF NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS.

Section 12406 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Whenever” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(b) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—(1) Not later than 24 hours before calling into Federal service members and units of the National Guard of any State under subsection (a), the President shall notify Congress of the planned deployment.

“(2) The notice required under paragraph (1) shall assert a good-faith claim for federalizing the National Guard and describe with specificity—

“(A)(i) the invasion, including the United States territory, the foreign power, and the act or acts of the foreign power that constitute an invasion necessitating the use of authority pursuant to subsection (a)(1);

“(ii) the rebellion against the authority of the Government of the United States, including the place and time of the rebellion, the person, persons, or group engaged in the rebellion, and the activities of those engaged in the rebellion necessitating the use of authority pursuant to subsection (a)(2); or

“(iii) the laws of the United States which the President is unable to execute, the reasons that regular military forces are unable to execute the law, and, where the President is taking such action without the consent of the Governor of the State, evidence of the Governor’s inability or refusal to provide for the safety and welfare of the public, or the Governor’s refusal to obey a court order, or other active steps the Governor has taken to obstruct the President from faithfully executing the law; and

“(B) the geographical area where the National Guard will be called to and the duration of the federalization of the National Guard.”.

SA 3897. Mr. BOOKER 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____ . LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SUITABILITY AND FITNESS REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the term “law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the term in section 115(c)(1) of title 18, United States Code.

(b) **BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.**—Each Federal agency hiring a law enforcement officer shall, before hiring such officer, ensure that the applicant is subject to a Moderate Risk Public Trust Background Investigation to determine if the officer meets the suitability and fitness requirements for employment.

(c) **INELIGIBILITY.**—If the background investigation described in subsection (b) finds any of the following, the applicant shall not be eligible to be employed as a law enforcement officer:

(1) Membership in or affiliation with white supremacist, anti-government, and other extremist organizations that advocate for violence or advocate acts of terrorism or activities designed to overthrow the United States Government by force.

(2) Participation or involvement in, or past conviction for, a conspiracy to overthrow the Government of the United States in violation of section 231(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, or obstruction of Congress in violation of section 1512(c)(2) of that title.

(3) Participation or involvement in the planning of, or past conviction for, any act under section 1512(c)(2) or 2383 of title 18, United States Code.

(d) **RULE.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to infringe upon, or otherwise impact, the protections provided by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

SA 3898. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 550. ASSISTANCE FOR DEPLOYMENT-RELATED SUPPORT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES UNDERGOING DEPLOYMENT AND THEIR FAMILIES BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAM.

Section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection (k):

“(k) **SUPPORT BEYOND PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall provide funds to States, Territories, and government entities to carry out programs, and other activities as the Secretary

considers appropriate, that provide deployment cycle information, services, and referrals to eligible individuals throughout the deployment cycle. Such programs may include the provision of access to outreach services, including the following:

“(A) Employment counseling.

“(B) Behavioral health counseling.

“(C) Suicide prevention.

“(D) Housing advocacy.

“(E) Financial counseling.

“(F) Referrals for the receipt of other related services.

“(2) **APPROPRIATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated, to carry out paragraph (1)—

“(i) for fiscal year 2026, \$25,000,000; and

“(ii) for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated for the preceding fiscal year, adjusted to reflect the percentage (if any) of the increase in the average of the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period compared to the Consumer Price Index for fiscal year 2025.

“(B) **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term ‘Consumer Price Index’ means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 16, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to my interns for their shadow days on the following dates: Flora Xia for October 1, 2025; Alexander Aguilar for October 7, 2025; Samuel Armour for October 9, 2025; Nidhi Nair for October 21; Maxwell Robben for the 23rd; Audrey Schlotter for the 28th; Malina Yuen for the 30th of October; Andrew Faris for November 4; Jeremy Zwick for November 6; Mrinmayee Kulkarni for November 19; and Inez Nieves for December 3, 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17, and that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Democratic whip.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, the world witnessed an unprovoked violation of NATO airspace by Russia. Nearly 20 Russian drones entered Polish airspace, some traveling up to 300 miles in the country. For nearly 6 hours, NATO aircraft sought out and destroyed these Russian intruders.

Then this weekend, fighter jets intercepted another Russian drone that entered NATO airspace—in this case, Romania.

The EU’s chief diplomat Kaja Kallas promptly said of the recent incident: “The violation of Romanian airspace by Russian drones is another unacceptable breach of an EU member’s state sovereignty. This continued reckless escalation threatens regional security.”

I couldn’t agree more. With such brazen testing of NATO defenses, one would expect our leader, the President of the United States, to make a similar condemnation and reaffirm the alliance’s formidable defensive capabilities.

But the response from President Trump has been silence or bizarre musings saying maybe it was just a mistake by Russia. After months of Russian President Putin ignoring Trump’s deadlines for negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, he is once again letting Putin embarrass him on a global stage.

Can anyone here imagine Ronald Reagan being played over and over again by the Russians like this? How about John McCain? How about the Republican Party before Trump, which has sat quietly month after month afraid to speak the truth about Vladimir Putin?

Is there anyone in this Chamber who would argue with a straight face that a Democratic President repeatedly kowtowing to Russian aggression wouldn’t be met with howls of criticism?

So let me say this once again to President Trump: I don't fault you for trying to negotiate an end to this horrific war in Ukraine, but it has been clear for some time to everyone that Mr. Putin is not serious about your overtures.

In fact, he has repeatedly responded with embarrassingly clear replies. What did he do when we told him we wanted peace in Ukraine? He increased bombing. He violated NATO airspace. He teamed up with other global despots in acts of sabotage and mayhem all across Europe.

I urge President Trump to finally see Putin for the person he is and what he is doing to America's reputation and the President's own personal legacy. And we in Congress should finally move this week to pass the Russian sanctions bill, which I understand has 85 cosponsors. It is long overdue. Let's do it.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are life experiences which you carry for the rest of your life because they are so meaningful and change the course of your life.

I will never forget what it was like to be the father of our new baby when she had a serious medical condition and I had no health insurance. I never felt more helpless than I did at that moment. It is a terrible feeling I wouldn't wish on anybody. That experience comes to mind when I think about healthcare. I thought about it when we passed the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and again when we expanded the ACA premier tax credit in 2021 and 2022, making insurance more affordable for tens of millions of Americans. We set a record.

There were more Americans covered by health insurance as a result of those actions than ever in our history. Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues are preparing to subject millions of Americans to the stress-filled sleepless nights as part of heading up a family when you have no health insurance.

At the end of this year, the ACA's enhanced premium tax credits will expire. If they are not renewed, insurance premiums will spike across the country for the people least likely to be able to pay, and millions and millions of Americans will lose their healthcare.

These tax credits subsidize the price of healthcare for lower and middle-income families, ensuring that premiums for marketplace health plans never exceed 8.5 percent of the families' income. This cap on premiums makes healthcare affordable for millions of Americans. Some only have to pay as little as \$10 a month for coverage; others pay almost nothing.

Since the creation of these enhanced tax credits, the number of Americans enrolled in ACA plans has almost doubled, from 11.4 million in 2020 to 24.3 million in 2024. These credits are especially important for people living in

small towns, as they often have few options and higher insurance premiums. The expiration of these tax credits as part of the so-called Big Beautiful Bill will devastate families of limited means and threaten the existence of hospitals all across the country, including in my State of Illinois. The people who run these hospitals in small towns, which are absolutely critical for healthcare, for the local economy, are bracing for the Medicaid cuts that are coming, again as part of the Republican Big Beautiful Bill.

If Republicans allow these tax credits to expire, insurance premiums are going to skyrocket by more than 75 percent for most marketplace plans. In Illinois, a family of four making \$126,000 can see their annual premiums increase by \$7,500. A couple making \$82,000 can see more than a \$17,000 increase. These price increases can be too much to bear for many families who are already dealing with some of the impacts of the tariff policies.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 4 million people will become uninsured because of the ACA credit expiration. That is 4 million people who won't know if they will be able to afford a hospital bill if their child has an injury; 4 million people who might have to forego a doctor's visit because they can't afford it. Millions of people might be forced to put off a dentist visit because they lost their healthcare.

The expiration of these health insurance subsidies will be devastating for families across America in red States and blue States alike, and it will deal yet another blow to the American public who were promised by this President that he will bring down their cost of living.

I had two of my constituents contact me about this issue, Kristin from Rochester, IL, just outside Springfield said:

As a previously very healthy person recently diagnosed with a long-term degenerative disease, health care is at the top of my mind.

Without health insurance, one of my multiple medications would cost \$7500. I will likely be on that or something similar for the rest of my life.

I'm a freelance writer—

She writes—

so I depend on the ACA marketplace for insurance. Without those subsidies, I would be unable to cover the cost of my care.

And Zachary from Highland, IL, in Madison County near St. Louis writes:

Please do everything you can to protect the Affordable Care Act. It has been a lifesaver for my family.

We have four children and starting our own business is not easy when factoring in healthcare costs.

It would ruin us if we lost the benefits from the [Affordable Care Act]. It would ruin us economically and physically if we lost these big beautiful benefits from the ACA.

Real people, real life, real problems, brought on by the passage of the big beautiful budget bill of Donald Trump.

When these credits for health insurance hit, we are going to hear about it

all over the United States, and it is just a matter of days before they are announced. Now it is time to do something meaningful.

Let us come together on a bipartisan basis and say that this was a serious mistake. Families of limited and modest means need a helping hand for health insurance. Let's give them the peace of mind to know that the most expensive medical bills will be covered.

I yield the floor.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., recessed until Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

KELLY G. KILCOYNE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

COURTNEY L. GLASS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

DANIEL F. GWOSCH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JENNIFER D. CEPEDA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

GARY L. HELTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ADAM D. WEAVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

MERRILL M. MOE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

RAYMOND A. AKERIWE

KLAY A. ASPINWALL

SEUNG E. BAEK

ANDREW R. BARCLAY

BENJAMIN C. BEHRENDT

TIMOTHY E. BOWSER

BRANDON R. BOYLES

MICHAEL B. COATS

JACOB J. CORN

JAMES R. DAMUDE

CHRISTOPHER M. DAVIS

DAVID L. DAVIS

JOHN M. DAVIS

STEVEN H. DELANEY, JR.

BYRON L. DENMAN

DAVID M. DODSON

HOMER S. EDWARDS

JOSEPH A. EFFIONG

TALON Z. ERICKSON

CHARLES ESTANOL

MATTHEW J. FROST
 BRIAN C. FRUCHEY
 BRYAN J. FUNK
 GUIDO A. GONZALEZ
 JOEL C. HAFNER II
 DAVID J. HENSHAW
 JOSEPH B. HIGGINS
 JUMAN KIM
 LUKASZ KOZLOWSKI
 JOSEPH F. KUMOR
 JONATHAN LANDRUM
 CALEB C. LAU
 JINSUP LEE
 KYUNG M. LEE
 OCTAVIA S. LINDSEY
 TIMOTHY J. LYNCH
 JOHN D. MARR
 JOSEPH M. MCCALL
 CALEB W. MCCARY
 JASON D. MCKEON
 TIMOTHY S. MCMEANS
 SHARON E. MCQUEARY
 JOSE R. MERCHAN
 CAMERON B. MICHAEL
 CALEB J. MILLER
 KAREN D. MOORE
 EMEKA OKIWE
 JOSEPH D. QUILTY
 ERIC L. REYNOLDS
 DANIEL D. RITCHEIE
 IAN T. ROBERTS
 ALEXANDER B. SCOTT
 JASON L. SEAMAN
 MATTHEW M. SHAW
 AMY J. SMITH
 VERNON G. SNYDER IV
 TIMOTHY R. STOKES
 LEO M. THEORET
 JAMES A. TURNER
 MONSERRATE VERGARASOTO
 MARK S. WALDO
 JAMES L. WALKER
 TIMOTHY D. WILSON II
 TRAVIS M. WILSON
 BRYCE A. WILTERMOOD
 BRITTANY L. WOOTEN
 SE J. YU
 RACHEL M. ZARNKE
 MATTHEW S. ZINN
 0003774215

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MA-
 RINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

DANIEL R. ARNEY
 JULIE E. AHO
 MIKAIL A. ALI
 SALAHUDIN E. ALI
 NILS P. ALPERS
 JESHUA O. ALSTON
 MATTHEW J. ANGEL
 WESLEY D. ANLIKER
 JUSTIN D. ATKINS
 LANE C. AVERY
 ALEX L. AVILA, JR.
 KIRK A. BALESKIE
 PHILIP M. BALMES II
 CAMERON J. BARKER
 BRANDON E. BARNES
 ANDREW C. BARTON
 BRIAN D. BASSI
 DANIEL S. BEHNE
 RYAN D. BEIL
 RICHARD B. BENNING
 RYAN C. BERGER
 TREVOR A. BERGMAN
 ANTHONY J. BERTOGGLIO
 SCOTT R. BETSHER
 MICHAEL A. BLANCA
 RALPH W. BIDDLE
 MATTHEW D. BIESECKER
 KEVIN J. BISHOP
 JUSTIN R. BISSELL
 RICARDO R. BITANGA
 LARRY S. BLACK, JR.
 ANNE M. BLECHLE
 STEPHEN A. BLOODSWORTH
 ALLAN R. BOEHM
 ANDREW B. BONELL
 KATHERINE E. BOOKHOUT
 JOSHUA C. BOOKWALTER
 GREGG R. BORMAN
 PETER A. BOSE
 ANTONIO B. BOYD
 KATE M. BRANNON
 BENJAMIN P. BROADMEADOW
 AARON E. BROWN
 NICHOLAS J. BURLEY
 TIMOTHY A. BURNAM
 JACOB T. BURTON
 GENTRY T. CALHOUN
 ROBERT D. CALLISON
 BERNARDO CAMACHO, JR.
 ISAIAH L. CAMEJO
 NATHAN A. CAMPBELL
 ROSS W. CAMPBELL
 CHRISTOPHER R. CANTER
 MATTHEW J. CAREY
 GEORGE W. CARPENTER II
 DARRIN K. CARRIER
 GREGORY H. CARROLL
 BRIANA L. CARTER
 ERIC D. CASH

JOSE A. CASTILLO
 CHRISTOPHER J. CAVANAUGH
 JONATHAN A. CHAMPAGNE
 ADAM L. CHASE
 JONATHAN S. CHAVEZ
 CODY D. CHENOWETH
 DOMINIC J. CHIAVEROTTI
 MATTHEW A. CHOMIAK
 BRIAN A. CHWALISZ
 CHARLES M. CLARK
 MICHAEL R. CLARK
 ALEXANDER W. CLONINGER
 NICHOLAS R. COCOZZA
 DAVID A. COLE II
 BRADLEY J. COLER
 CHRISTOPHER T. CONKLIN
 HEATHER CONNER
 MICHAEL J. COOK
 MICHAEL A. COOLEY
 ANDREW M. COONS
 NICHOLAS J. CORMIER
 ROBERT J. COSTELLO, JR.
 STEVEN A. COX
 ADAM M. CRISE
 JACOB C. CROCKETT
 ANDREW C. CRUZ
 MICHAEL A. CUBILLOS
 RACHEL E. CUMMINGS
 WILLIAM C. CUNNINGHAM
 WILLIAM H. CUNNINGHAM II
 PRESTON P. CURRY
 RYAN J. DALY
 CHRISTOPHER M. DANIEL
 MATTHEW E. DANIELSON
 EDWARD G. DAUPHIN III
 TYLER W. DAVENPORT
 SAMUEL P. DAVID
 BRANDON T. DELL
 BRETT A. DE MARIA
 ZACHARIAS G. DENTES
 CHRISTOPHER A. DENZEL
 JUAN DIAZ
 MATTHEW D. DIESKA
 RANDY E. DIGGINS
 CHRISTOPHER J. DIPPEL
 SARA R. DIXON
 MICHAEL M. DOBRINEN
 ROBERT M. DONOVAN
 SEAN Q. DZIERZANOWSKI
 MICHAEL J. EADY
 BRIAN M. EBENAL
 DANIEL C. ECKERT
 ELLIOT D. EGERT
 KENNETH M. ENDICOTT
 DANIEL A. ERWIN
 KEVIN S. ESTES
 KYLE J. FAHERTY
 AARON J. FALK
 JOHN A. FAUCETTE II
 ADRIAN W. FELDER
 CHARLES M. FELPS
 MARK A. FERRIS
 THOMAS M. FIAMMETTA
 EVAN K. FIELD
 THOMAS W. FIELDS
 MATTHEW W. FINNERTY
 KEVIN S. FLEISCHER
 JASON M. FLORENCE
 JOSEPH R. FORBES
 ZACHARY P. FOX
 ADAM J. FRANKLIN
 LUKE M. FRANKLIN
 MICHAEL S. FRAZER
 RYAN J. FULLMER
 JASON H. FURMAN
 JAMES J. GARVIN III
 AARON A. GARBADA
 JASON S. GARBADE
 TYLER W. GARRETT
 ANDREW J. GERDES
 EARL D. GERLACH
 MELISSA I. GIANNETTO
 GRAY P. GISH
 JEREMY W. GLASS
 STEFAN A. GLIW
 GEORGE W. GOLDEN II
 JEREMY G. GOLDSTEIN
 DANIEL GONZALEZ
 SCOTT R. GORNALL
 JAIME L. GOSS
 KINGSLEE G. GOURRICK
 DANIEL P. GRANT
 CHRISTOPHER M. GREEN
 JUSTIN T. GREEN
 BRANDON A. GRIFFITH
 CLAYTON A. GROOVER
 ALEXANDER I. GRUBBS
 DANIEL M. HALL
 SHANE P. HALPERN
 LEIF C. HALVERSON
 THOMAS C. HAMBIDGE
 JAMES W. HAMMOND IV
 MATTHEW S. HANKS
 MICHAEL T. HANLON
 BRIAN J. HARDING
 JONATHAN M. HARRIS
 MARK S. HARRIS
 RYAN J. HART
 CAMERON C. HARTNER
 PATRICK S. HASSETT
 THOMAS W. HATHAWAY
 JOSEPH W. HAWKINSON
 STEPHANIE G. HEBDA
 PATRICK H. HECOX
 JESS M. HESSOCK
 ANDREW M. HICKS
 ANDREW N. HILLER

JARED D. HIMES
 ROBERT C. HOFFMAN
 VICTOR L. HOLLAR
 TYLER A. HOOGERVORST
 ERIC S. HOPKINS
 JOSHUA D. HORMAN
 SHELLEY C. HOUSE
 JOHN A. HOWSER
 CAMERON A. HUBBARD
 NICHOLAS W. HUDDLESON
 JESSE D. HUME
 CAROLYN M. HURTADO
 PAUL M. HUTCHINSON
 ROYCE B. HYLAND
 KENDALL J. IGNATZ
 MARC D. JESSUP
 VINCENT E. JOCHEN
 JOSHUA R. JOHNSON
 MATTHEW A. JOHNSON
 THOMAS C. JOHNSON
 JARED H. JUNTUNEN
 JAYME L. KARLSTROM
 KYLE E. KAUFFMAN
 EDWARD W. KAY III
 BENJAMIN C. KESSLER
 JAMES M. KING
 JOSEPH C. KING
 NICHOLAS S. KING
 KYLE E. KIRCH
 PATRICK M. KIRK
 ADAM K. KLEMM
 RYAN M. KLENKE
 MARK W. KOCIBA
 KEVIN T. KOLBAY
 MARK P. KRATZER
 ERIC J. KROEGER
 KYLE R. KUHN
 THOMAS S. LACEY
 JOSHUA E. LANGHAM
 ANDREW M. LARK
 LAURA B. LAURITA
 JONG M. LEE
 JOSHUA A. LETTNER
 RICHARD M. LEWIS
 JOHN H. LINDBERG, JR.
 LAURA R. LINDENTHAL
 PAUL R. LINDHOLM
 SCOTT C. LINDSAY
 NATHAN P. LIVERSEDGE
 BARRY B. LOSEKE
 MATTHEW D. LOWEN
 SAMUEL R. LUTZ
 BRADLEY B. MA
 NICHOLAS G. MACALUSO
 MICHAEL J. MADER
 MICHAEL P. MAGYAR
 JASON K. MAHUNA
 ZACHARY M. MALDONADO
 BRUCE A. MANUEL, JR.
 ZACHARY S. MARAVILLAS
 MICHAEL C. MAROSCIA
 DANIEL P. MARTIN
 SKYE C. MARTIN
 JOSEPH C. MASINI II
 MATTHEW R. MASSMAN
 KRISTIN A. MATHIAS
 JACOB T. MATHESON
 JOSEPH P. MAY
 ROYSE W. MAYO
 WILLIAM H. MCCABE, JR.
 PATRICK L. MCCONNELL
 ADAM L. MCCOY
 BRYAN C. MCDONALD
 CHRIS MCFADDEN
 BRANDEN C. MCGAHA
 JAMES J. MCGEADY
 MATTHEW J. MCGOWAN
 ERIC J. MCHENRY
 MICHAEL J. MCHUGH
 KYLE K. MCLEOD
 TAYLOR A. MEAVE
 MATTHEW R. MEDINA
 ERIC C. MEDDER
 NICHOLAS J. MEIER
 STEPHEN C. MERCER
 HOLLY J. MEREDITH
 DALE E. METCALF, JR.
 MICHAEL H. MIERSMA
 JONATHAN A. MIKKELSON
 JACOB B. MILLER
 JENNIFER E. MILLER
 MATTHEW T. MILLER
 PATRICK K. MILLIKIN
 JOSHUA K. MILLS
 THOMAS D. MILROY
 NATHAN L. MINDEMAN
 ANDREW M. MIRSCH
 PATRICK J. MOECHER
 NICHOLAS F. MOELLER
 ANTHONY J. MOLESPHINI IV
 EMLIE M. MOONAGHAN
 MARK C. MOORE
 ELLI J. MORALES
 ROBERT W. MORTENSON
 WILLIAM J. MOSSOR
 JUSTIN R. MOTENKO
 CORY R. MOYER
 AUSTIN J. MULCAHY
 DANIEL J. MULCAHY
 SUZANNE L. MULET
 MARC A. MUNDY
 VINCE M. MURRAY
 NATHANIEL P. NAVARO
 THOMAS S. NELL
 BRADLEY L. NELSON
 BRADLEY T. NESSL
 IAN A. NETZEL

JONATHAN E. NEWBOLD
CHRISTOPHER M. NGUYEN
MICHAEL H. NOLAN
DUSTIN M. OAKES
WILLIAM T. OBLAK
RICHARD K. OBRIEN
NICHOLAS S. OLTMAN
TIMOTHY A. ORNELAS
AMANDA M. OTT
KYLE N. OWENS
DAVID A. PADGETT
WILLIAM C. PAFFETT
JEFFREY P. PARDEE
STEVEN S. PATTERSON
MATTHEW L. PAULL
NICHOLAS S. PAYNE
JAMES R. PEREZ
DAVID H. PERKINS
ALEX J. PFANNENSTIEL
BENJAMIN K. PHILLIPS
DANIEL C. PHILLIPS
JOSEPH F. PHIPPEN II
FRANCISCO L. PIETRI
ZACK A. PINKERTON
ALEXANDER M. POLIVKA
ALEXANDER M. PONCE
AUSTIN J. PORTER
TRAVIS M. POWELL
EDWIN B. POWERS
SEAN K. PRICE
BRIAN C. PRIOR
DANIEL J. PUTNAM
ALEC A. RACKISH
BENJAMIN E. RADCLIFF
BRIAN R. RAIKE
DUSTIN M. RALPH
DREW B. RASMUSSEN
RYAN C. RATCLIFFE
TYLER A. REED
JASON A. RETTER
ZACHARIAH D. RILEY
CHRISTOPHER A. ROBBINS
TAYLOR D. ROBERTSON
ERNEST C. ROBINSON
LAMONT R. ROBINSON II
JEFFREY J. ROLLINS
DANIEL A. ROMANS
JOSE C. ROMERO
VICTOR C. ROSE
KEITH Q. RUDOLF
ERIC J. RUSSELL
MEREDITH L. SAKOVICH
VIC E. SANCEDA
ALEX B. SCARBOROUGH
JOSHUA P. SCHATZ
RYAN T. SCHETZ
BRANDAN K. SCHOFIELD
LUKE W. SCHOLL
CHELSEA R. SCOTT
GREGORY M. SCOTT
MICHAEL D. SCOTTO
JOSHUA W. SEDLOCK
DAVID M. SHANK
JOSHUA G. SHARP
JACOB A. SHOWALTER
ISAAC J. SHULTS
ANTHONY E. SIERAWSKI
STEVEN C. SIFUENTES
MATTHEW A. SILVERSTEIN
NEIL G. SIMMONS
TYLER M. SIMMONS
MATTHEW J. SIMPSON
JAMES M. SISSON II
BENJAMIN A. SKARZYNSKI
JONATHAN S. SMITH
MICHAEL S. SMITHSON
JAY T. SNELLING
JOSHUA B. SOLTAN
DANNY D. SORRELLS
BRANDY A. SOUBLET
JAMES F. STENGER
KEVIN J. STIER
KELLY T. STRECK
BRANDAN P. SULLIVAN
BENJAMIN F. SUTPHEN
MICHAEL P. SWEENEY
JONATHAN R. THOMAS
MARTIN O. THOMAS
MYRON J. THOMAS
VERONICA A. TIJERINA
THOMAS W. TOALSTON
OWEN T. TROTMAN
ELIZABETH TRUJILLO
ROBERT J. TRUVER III
SERENA N. TYSON
KRISTOPHER A. ULBRICH
ROTHANA L. UM
MICHAEL T. VALDEZ
DAVID M. VANBUREN, JR.
ERIC E. VANHORN
AARON E. VIANA
KHALID R. WAHEED
BRIAN M. WALSH
ANTHONY T. WALTERS
SEAN C. WARNER
RYAN A. WEBSTER
JEFFREY R. WEINMEISTER
CHRISTOPHER R. WERNER
SEAN R. WETHERILL
PHILIP M. WHEAT
DANIEL P. WHELAN
DAVID L. WHITE
KYLE W. WILMOUTH
SCOTT T. WILSON
THOMAS M. WILSON
WYATT E. WILSON
ZACHARY S. WILSON

COREY D. WINTERS
TYLER R. WINTERS
ZACHARY J. WINTERS
CAMERON P. WOLF
COLLIN M. WOOD
ERIN M. WRIGHT
ZULY G. YARBER
BRYANT C. YEE
MARK W. YOUNG
ZACHARY S. YOXTHEIMER
MATTHEW S. ZACH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JOHN R. TEST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ANDREW E. PAUL

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

THOMAS J. AUGUSTINE
MICHAEL W. BARBER, JR.
BRYAN A. BARNES
DERRICK J. BAUDER
SONYA R. BEJINES
GREGORY W. BOWMAN
RUSSELL G. BROUSSARD, JR.
RYAN L. CAMERON
THOMAS G. CATSIGRIS
DONALD E. CONKLIN III
ROBERT K. COVINGTON, JR.
JASON M. DARRAGH
IVAN M. DAVIS
FREDYS A. DELCID
DEMETRIUS A. FOUNTAIN
DAVID J. GIULIANO
NATHAN D. GLOWACKI
JASON D. GRANSTAFF
NICHOLAS R. HOBSON
SHAUN M. HOLBROOK
KEITH C. HOLZEN
MICHAEL P. JENNING
CHRISTOPHER A. LAMBACH
RICHARD D. MATTER II
RICHARD A. MCINTOSH
JOSEPH E. MILLARD
NEAL E. NEFF III
WILLIAM Z. PATE
ALEXANDER N. PELLETIER
MATTHEW R. PERRY
BRANDON S. SHELLENBERGER
SHANE R. SHUMAN
ANDREW C. SIMS
BRANDON S. STEVENS
ANTHONY M. STEVENSON
RICHARD F. STRUBEL
DAVID A. WAKEMAN
BRADFORD M. WINKELMAN
STEFAN WINTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ELIJAH J. COX
PATRICK N. MATTHEWS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MARYAM AL-HASSAN
JOHN T. ALLEN II
MCKENNA BLASCHUM
TASIA D. BLUE
SARA E. CARTER
DARREN C. ESPREE
KOJO A. NKUAKO
KAYLA OWENS
CHRISTOPHER R. POELLINGER
MARK A. RYNN
ADAM R. SCHROEDER
PAUL F. SMITH
AMOUR A. WILHELM
PAUL A. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JAMES E. ALTIDOR
ALVIN G. BALTHAZAR
THOMAS J. BAUER
MICHAEL L. BERNARD II
DOMINIC D. BILLS
JOSHUA M. BLODGETT
CHRISTOPHER R. BOX
BRANDON A. BOYD
THOMAS A. BOYD III
JASON D. CALATA
BRANDON E. CARNEY
JOHN P. CASAS
MICHAEL J. CASSIDY

ERNESTO CASTANEDA ROBLES GIL
JUSTIN H. DEJAN
SAMUEL G. DEWITT
BRANDON J. DOCTOR
JASON A. DUNAWAY
HARVEY FARMER, JR.
SAMUEL J. FIKES
ROBERT B. GANT
DUSTIN J. GARREN
ROBERT C. GEISSINGER
ROLLIN R. GEORGE, JR.
JUSTIN W. GERDES
MARC A. GREGORY
JOSHUA A. HAYS
BRADLEY D. HEISLER
ANDREA L. HOWLAND
JENS G. HOWLETT
DESMOND JOHNSON
ANDREW R. KERN
KYLE M. LAFLAMME
JEFFREY A. MARTIN
ANTONIO O. MARTINEZCHAPEL
DEWEY D. MCKOY
JESSICA T. MILLS
TIMOTHY P. MITCHELL
DENARIUS J. MOBLEY
TRINOL D. MONDAYA
JASON L. MUSTAIN
ANOOP K. NAUTH
TARENTA L. PAYNE
BRYAN E. PENTLIN
IGAN A. PETERS
STEPHEN R. POTTER
THOMAS C. PRESTON
JEFFSHERWIN D. RAFAEL
EZEKIEL S. RAMIREZ
BRIAN K. REESE
THOMAS W. ROSS
RICHARD P. SPENCER
ROBERT M. SWALES
HAZEL M. TAYAG
VINCENT P. TURNER
MELVIN D. WATKINS
GARETT B. WATT
CORREY A. WILSON
ALI R. ZALEKIAN
JENNIFER F. ZELT
AMBER R. ZUPELT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MICHAEL G. GARCIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JERELYN M. ALVIS
MISTY D. BECK
ZACHERY D. BERNAT
ANTHONY V. BOCCIA
PETER H. CERVANTES
JESSE R. COLLIER
ANTHONY M. COSTANTE
CHRISTOPHER L. EASTMAN
STEPHEN L. EDLIN
JOSHUA L. ELMORE
TIMOTHY P. FENNELL
JOHN R. FISHER
JAMES K. GIVENS
MARK A. GREEN
CHRISTOPHER C. HAMILTON
DAVID L. HARRIS
WESNEL HILAIRE
MATTHEW B. KELLY
BRIAN A. KIRKER
STEPHEN A. LAUDERDALE
SONIA L. MANTILLAPENA
DANIEL J. MCCAFFREY
JULIAN E. MOLINAR
JEFFERY J. MONZELLA
RYAN L. MOUNT
MELVIN M. NAVALTA
RODOLFO NORIEGA
GARETT T. POPE
BRANDON N. QUINA
JESSE J. SCHENEMANN
WILLIAM J. SEARS
DAVID B. SEWELL
MATTHEW D. SHAW
FRED J. SIGEARS III
PAUL L. K. TANENGGEE
WALTERJOE C. UMALI
CIRILO VELEZ
KEITH E. VILLANUEVA
UPTON N. WALLACE
TRAVIS J. WILLIAMS
DAVID J. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JOSE C. ALMONTE
MICHAEL D. ALSBROOKS
ALEXIA D. ALTUNA
MATTHEW H. ANDERSON
STEPHEN J. CAEZZA
ASA E. CALLOWAY
BENJAMIN D. CRAIN
DERRICK L. DAUGHERTY
ADAM L. DAVIS
BARRY A. DESPOT

ROBERTO L. DUARTESANTIAGO
LEE E. ECKERT
ROGER J. ENGELHARDT
LORENZO F. GARCIA
KRISTINE L. GAVINO
JACQUELINE M. HELINSKI
TRUCQUYNH T. HUA
RONALD D. HUGHES
DUSTIN A. KENTZELL
CATRIBA L. KOLAPO
SAMANTHA C. LEDOUX
PATRICK O. LEMMING
DENISE M. MASELLA
AMY D. PEARSON
ESTHER G. POPO
KENYATTA D. POWELL
GLENN RILEY, JR.
MARK E. SCHLOM
ANDREW M. SEXTON
MATTHEW M. SHEA
THOMAS J. STARNES
THOMAS C. G. STILL
SHANELLE M. STRIBLINGGARIA
JOSE TEJEDA
JOEL R. THIESFELDT
DAMON WALTHALL
RYAN M. WELLS
ROY E. WIGGINS
AARON P. YBARRA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ALVIN A. R. ABES
BRYSON D. ABILAY
ERIC E. ABNEY
THOMAS W. ADAIR
DANIEL V. ADAMS
TAYLOR J. ADAMS
ADAM D. AHLSTROM
NATHANIEL J. ALBIA
DANIEL G. ALCANTOR
MATTHEW A. ALCARAZ
CHARLES A. ALCASID
BRANDON M. ALCORN
MARCO C. ALFOS
DONALD S. ALEXANDER
GINO ALFONSO
DRAKE A. ALFORD
TYLER M. ALGER
THOMAS J. ALLEN
ZACHARY G. ALLEN
NEWTON B. ALLRED
JASMIN AL SAIED
SANTINO P. AL TERI
CHAD D. ALVAREZ
CHARLES D. AMBAT
ZACHARY A. AMICUCCI
ANDREW D. ANDERSON
CAMERON T. ANDERSON
TERESA H. ANDERSON
SEAN C. ANDINO
DANA N. ANDRES
ALEXANDER L. ANICETTI
COOPER D. ANSELL
DAX J. ANSLEY
KRISTOPHER M. APPEL
EUGENE L. ARAI
IAN A. ARBUCKLE
THOMAS B. ARLOWE
CONNOR D. ARMITAGE
PERRY M. ARTZ
COLLIN J. ASCHERL
SETH M. ASHLEY
KHALED A. ATEF
CORY V. AYERS
JAMES M. BACHMAYER
KELSEY A. BACON
CHRISTOPHER J. BAGNICK
DAVID A. BAILEY
GIOVANNA P. BAILEY
ROBERT J. BAILEY
RYAN P. BAILEY
TANNER D. BAILEY
NOAH P. BAILY
MATTHEW A. BAIN
LESLYN R. BAKER
JOSEPH M. BALAK
ANTHONY M. BALDESSARI
ANDREW N. BALHOFF
SETH D. BALLARI
RYAN M. BALLASTER
ROCHELLE M. BALLUN
MICHAEL J. BALMONTE
DOMINICSTEVEN B. BARBUSA
BRENDAN D. BARNES
ALEXANDER E. BARNHARD
MICHAEL W. BARNOSKY
AARON A. BARNUM
BLAKE H. BARROW
TAYLOR E. BATES
ANDREW J. BAXTER
BEAU W. BAYLESS
TRAVIS R. BEACH
MIRANDA K. BEAL
BRIAN J. BEALI
JESSICA BEAUDINO
JOHN T. BEAVER III
CECILIA L. BEAVERS
JENNA C. BECERRA
DANIEL R. BECK
THEODORE D. BECK
TRAVIS L. BECK
GREGORY C. BECKER
LAMAR M. BEE

SEBASTIAN M. BELETIC
ANDREW M. BELL
EZRA T. BELL
LOGAN B. BELL
STEVEN C. BELLAVANCE
JOSE G. BENITEZ
BLAKE E. BENJAMIN
JONATHAN P. BENNETT
JOSHUA P. BENNETT
RODNEY BENOIT
EUGENE S. BENVENUTTI
ZACHARY R. BERMAN
MARIUS P. BERNOTAS
ZACHARY D. BERTHIAUME
KWAZEL A. BERTRAND
KATHERINE E. BERTSCH
RACE E. BETANCOURT
THOMAS A. BEUTLER
LUKE J. BIELAWSKI
AUDREY C. BIGGER
ERIK W. BIGGERS
CHARLES J. BILL
ROY D. BILLODEAU
SAMANTHA BILLY
MORGAN S. BINGLE
IKECHUKWU E. BINNS
MALEAH S. BINNS
JACOB R. BISHOP
CHAS J. BLAIS
IAN P. BLANKENSHIP
RACHEL M. BOELSCHKE
NATALIE L. BOERIO
JOSIAH C. BOGGS
CHRISTOPHER A. BOGNAR
ABIGAIL K. BOHLIN
ERIK R. BOHMAN
GREGORY H. BOHMKE
DEVEN C. BOLDING
TYLER H. BOLLMAN
COLLIN R. BOLTON
KEVIN L. BOND
ANDREW S. BONN
ANDREW BONNER
PAYTON A. BOOHER
TYLER C. BORCH
NICHOLAS J. BOSWELL
JEFFREY F. BOUCK
MOIRA K. BOWDEN
TAYLOR S. BOWDEN
KRISTEN M. BOYE
DREW P. BOYER
NICOLE A. BOYKINS
ERIC H. BOYNTON
LAVADA A. BRADFORD
GARRETT S. BRADLEY
LAWSON C. BRAKEFIELD
JONATHAN W. BRANCH
MARY F. BRASS
DOMENIQUE J. BRASWELL
ADAM C. BRAWER
THOMAS G. BRAWLEY
CHARLES C. BRENNAN
JEREMY F. BRENNER
KYLE W. BRIGGS
ALEXANDER O. BRINKERHOFF
KEVYN J. BRINKMAN
JAMES R. BRISOTTI
ALEXANDER M. BROWN
JOSHUA R. BROWN
MICHAEL E. BROWN, JR.
SAMANTHA R. BROWN
TIMOTHY D. BROWN
TYLER S. BROWN
SAMUEL R. BRUCE
BENJAMIN S. BRUCKERHOFF
MYISHA A. BRYAN
TYLER S. BRYANT
BRADY N. BUBENIK-EVANS
TAYLOR D. BUCK
BRANDON P. BUI
THOMAS R. BUNTS
STEPHEN M. BURBIC
ROBERT E. BURGESS
DANIEL C. BURNS
LAUREN A. BURNS
NOAH J. BURNS
ROBERT J. BURNS, JR.
ABIGAIL A. BUSTOS
ANDREY I. BYELOGUROV
JOHN M. CAHALL
MATTHEW M. CAINE
DEVIN D. CALCOTE
PATRICK W. CALDWELL
KYLE A. CAMILLI
ADAM B. CAMPBELL
RICHARD J. CAMPBELL
WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL
JONPAUL L. CANCLINI
JERAMY T. CANNON
ROSS M. CANO
JOSEPH G. CAPSTAFF, JR.
BRIDGID E. CAREY
THOMAS E. CARPENTER
GORDON W. CARROLL
ALLA C. CARTWRIGHT
SEAN W. CASEY
ROGER A. CASTLE
JAMES J. CATTINA
DAVID V. CATTANO
HEATHER S. CERF
ZACHARY A. CEROLI
CODI G. CHALKLEY
SHEPARD S. CHALKLEY
EDWARD T. CHAMPAGNE
MITCHELL K. CHEN
ALEC M. CHESIRE
SARRAH CHILDRESS

THOMAS J. CHIMIAK
SHEENA J. T. CHONG
BILLY J. CHISUM
KEVIN K. CHOI
CONNOR G. CHROMAN
THUAN D. CHU
VINCENT CHU
MACKENZIE M. CLAIR
SEAN P. CLANCY
MARK S. CLANTON, JR.
CHRISTOPHER M. J. CLARK
MICHAEL A. CLARK
ROBERT N. CLARKE
GARRETT D. CLAY
AARON K. CLAYTON
NATHANIEL S. CLEGG
DILLON L. COALE
DAVID M. COCHRANE
BRADY E. COCKERHAM
THOMAS R. COFFIN
JEREMY M. COLE
JONATHAN T. COLLINS
BRIAN R. COLON RODRIGUEZ
TYLER J. COLSON
DAVID A. COLVILLE
ALEC B. COMITO
ARIEL M. CONKEL
ROBERT M. CONKEY
ANDREW B. CONN
JUSTICE M. CONSTANTINE
JACKDOMINGO W. CONWAY
EVAN T. COOK
LAMAR I. COOPER
TIMOTHY R. COOPER
DEAN C. CORBETT
CODY L. CORDERO
ANDREW S. CORDOVA
JOHN J. CORONA
MATTHEW J. CORRENTY
ALEXANDER M. COUCH
WILLIAM G. COUCH
MICHAEL R. COUNTOURIS
THOMAS J. COURTNEY
KATHARINE V. COUZENS
SAMUEL G. COWART
BRADLEY R. COX
BRENDAN M. CRAIG
CARSON A. CRAIG
THOMAS A. CRAIG, JR.
BENJAMIN A. CRANNA
DAVID B. CRAVEY
JACOB W. CRANKOVICH
SAMUEL P. CROCKETT
DEREK E. CRUZ
CHRISTOPHER S. CRYER
JODI L. CULL-HOST
JAMES J. CULLINGFORD
KATHERINE E. CULLINGFORD
BENJAMIN M. CUMBERLAND
ROBERT S. CURRIE
JOSEPH P. CURTIS
KONNOR E. CUTRER
GIAN D. DABU
STEPHEN H. DACRUZ
JOHN G. DALBORA
MARK E. DALLAIRE
CRAIG M. DALLING
GREGORY D. DAUPHIN
SCOTT B. DAVIDS
TAYLER J. DAVIDSON
GEORGE A. DAVIS, JR.
HARRISON W. DAVIS
JOEL M. DAVIS
JOHN H. DAVIS
NEIL L. DAVIS
XAVIER B. DAVIS
WILLIAM C. DAVISON
DANIEL T. DAWSON
JAMES A. DEAN
JONATHAN G. DEBAUGH
LORENZO M. DEBONI
JOANTHONY DEHOYOS
JULIO A. DELGADO
BRENDAN A. DELMONTE
DAVID W. DENNIS
DREW W. DENNO
ANTOINE E. DERAOU
RUSHI S. DESAI
BRETT T. DETERS
MICHELLE M. DEVENTE
JOHN M. DEVEREAUX
DAKOTA K. DEVERILL
TIMOTHY J. DEVLIN
ANDREW M. DEVRIES
JACOB A. DEWITT
TYLER W. DICKENSON
DAVID R. DIDIER
JENNIFER L. DILEY
JOSEPH M. DILLDINE
THERON M. DIRKAS
CLARK D. DIRKSNODONNELL
BRIAN Z. DISALVO
TRISTAN A. DMITRIJEV
PAIGE R. DO
BENJAMIN J. DODSON
NICHOLAS W. DOELLER
MICHAEL C. DOLAN, JR.
BRENDAN R. DOOLEY
BENNETT L. DOTSON
SAMUEL S. DOUGLAS
CARL W. DOWZICKY
HARRINGTON M. DRAKE
JOSEPHDOUGLAS R. DUBE
JAMES M. DUBYOSKI
JAY E. DULAVITCH
STEVEN G. DULL
AUSTIN K. DUMAS

JORDAN K. U. DUNGA
 NATHAN T. DUNHAM
 BRETT F. DUNLAP
 QUOC H. DUONG
 JACOB T. DWYER
 GREGORY T. DYKSTRA
 MATTHEW S. EASTBURG
 JASON C. EASTER
 CHRISTOPHER I.M. EATON
 DEREK R. EATON
 THOR J. EATON
 MATTHEW W. ECKES
 JAMES W. ECKLES
 JUSTIN D. EDL
 GREIG L. EDWARDS
 TODD L. EGGENBERGER
 JOSEPH W. EGGIMANN
 PETER A. EHRENBERGER
 JOSHUA S. EHRHARDT
 URIAH R. ELLINGER
 ROBERT B. ELLIOT
 ALYSON ENG
 NICKOLAS L. ENGLAND
 DANIEL M. ENS
 SAMUEL J. ERICKSEN
 THOMAS G. ERNST
 DANIEL ESTRADA
 DAVID R. ETSCHIED
 CHRISTOPHER O. EVANS
 PAUL J. EVERTS
 BRIAN A. EVERTSON
 KELLY E. EVERTSON
 MARI G. F. EVES
 PATRICK C. EYCHISON
 QUENTIN X. EZELL
 PETER N. FAHAN
 JENNIFER A. FAIRBROTHER
 MICHAEL C. FARINA
 PHILIP L. FARIS
 MARGARET B. FARMER
 COLEMAN H. FARRIS
 ERIC D. FAST
 DANIEL T. FEENEY
 JORDAN L. FEIGHT
 JEREMY L. FELDMAN
 ALEC D. FERLEY
 CHRISTIANI F. FERNANDEZ
 COURTNEY N. FERNANDEZ
 SALVADOR A. FERNANDEZ
 SHARON L. FERRACCI
 NICKOLAUS E. FIGHTER
 JESSICA C. FIEDLER
 CHASE P. FIELDS
 JESSE G. FINE
 WILLIAM T. FINNELL
 BRANDON L. FIORDELISI
 JAXON S. FITCH
 JONATHAN C. FITZGERALD
 JACOB A. FLACK
 JONATHAN D. FLEMING
 SHANE C. FLESHER
 DEVON L. FLORENDO
 MARIA T.R. FLORES
 MATTHEW A. FLORES
 DANIEL J. FOLEY
 GRANT T. FOLEY
 PATRICK R. FONDA
 JOHN P. FORD
 JOHN R. FORD
 LUCINDA M. FORD
 TERRY A. FORD
 NEIL E. FORSBERG
 EVAN V. FORST
 LAUREN G. FORTIER
 AIDAN R. FOUHY
 JAMIE R. FOY
 DANIEL P. FRANCESCINA
 ANDRE F. FRANCISCO
 MICHAEL J. FRANKLIN
 JACOB M. FRANTZ
 RYAN L. FREDERICK
 ANDREW J. FREDERICKS
 ADAM S. FREEBURG
 JOSHUA E. FREIDEL
 DAVID A. FRICK, JR.
 KYLE J. FRIES
 JESSICA R. FROMULARO
 STEPHANIE M. FULTANO
 PETER Y. FULTON
 JONATHAN T. FURSETH
 NICHOLAS R. GAETANO
 DONALD E. GAHRES
 NATHAN J. GAINNEY
 MASON D. GALEANO
 ERICK A. GALEANO
 KAITLYN A. GALLAGHER
 AMANDA R. GALLY
 THOMAS J. GALVIN
 JEREMY T. GANSE
 MATHEW A. GARBER
 EDGAR R. GARCIA
 FRANCIS A. GARCIA
 IRVING S. GARCIA
 SAMUEL L. GARGIS
 GARRETT C. GARMON
 DANIEL T. GARTRELL
 ALFRED P. GARVEY
 JOSE O. GARZA SALINAS
 SAMUEL K. GATES
 NATHAN B. GAULKE
 WARD F. GAVIN
 ZACHARY L. GEBHART
 BRETT M. GENTILE
 SEAN P. GERAGHTY
 GLENN A. GETTTY
 MIKAL A. GEYER
 ADARSH A. GHOSH

VICTORIA G. GIBBONS
 JEREMIE J. GILBERT
 JOHN P. GILDERSLEEVE
 KYLE T. GILLAM
 TAYLOR S. GILLIAM
 SAWYER J. GILMORE
 DANIELLE M. GIVEN
 JOHN G. GIVENS
 JACOB GLASGOW
 LAUREN O. GLASS
 WALTER H. GLENN IV
 AARON J. GODEAUX
 RUDY J. GOFF
 PATRICK A. GOLDMAN
 VIANEY C. GOMEZ
 JOSHUA R. GONG
 RACHEL C. GONSALVES
 CONNOR D. GONZALES
 JOSE M. GONZALEZ
 WESLEY W. GOODRUM
 THOMAS W. GOODWIN IV
 EVAN P. GOSS
 REESE R. GRABOWSKI
 JOCELYN R. GRAHAM
 ADAM T. GRANT
 TIMOTHY D. GRANT
 EMMA E. GRAY
 LESLIE L. GREENE
 JOSHUA M. GREENSTEIN
 DAVID G. GREGORY
 AUSTIN K. GRELL
 JARED M. GRIGGS
 ABIGAIL L. GROSS
 IAN M. GROVER
 AUSTIN S. GROW
 CHARLOTTE T. GUERRERO
 JONATHAN GUERRERO
 THOMAS P. GUMPERT
 NAVEEN F. GUPTA
 STEPHEN C. GUSE
 JACOB T. GUSTAVSON
 FRANK J. GUZMAN
 CHRISTOPHER J. HABIAK
 MARK A. HACKWORTH
 RONNY Y. HAFEZA
 PATRICK K. HAGEMAN
 ELIZABETH A. HAGER
 JONATHAN D. HAGGERTY
 BRIAN T. HALL
 STEVEN T. HALLGREN
 LUKE J. HALLIBURTON
 JOSEPH M. HALPIN
 CHRISTOPHER M. HAMILTON
 WILLIAM H. HAMITER
 ANDREW E. HAMMILL
 MICHAEL E. HAMMOND
 MICHAEL E. HAMP
 ERICA M. HAMPTON
 KEITH P. HAMBREN
 THOMAS C. HANDE IV
 MATTHEW J. HANEY
 RYAN C. HANISCO
 CULLEN M. HANKS
 DONALD P. HANSON
 JAMES E. HANSEN
 JORDAN N. HANSEN
 ALEC T. HARDIN
 KELAN R. HARDY
 RICHARD A. HARRELL
 JOSHUA K. HARRELLSON
 TAUTIANA B. HARRIOTT
 MAURICE M.S. HARRIS
 BENJAMIN S. HARRISON
 JACOB A. HARRISON
 NICOLAS D. HART
 RICHARD M. HARTMAN
 JACOB N. HASTINGS
 GAVIN M. HAWBAKER
 JONATHAN G. HAWKINS
 BRYCE L. HAWLEY
 PATRICK L. HAYES
 BENJAMIN E. HAYFORD
 ASHLEY M. HEATH
 JOSIAH A. HEDGES
 WHITNEY A. HEEB
 WILLIAM P. HEGARTY
 KURT A. HEIDEMANN
 ALEXANDER M. HEILLE
 SAMANTHA R. HEIN
 JOEL M. HEINDEL
 JOHN M. HENDERSON
 SOPHIA C. HENDERSON
 THOMAS J. HENDRIX
 TEAGUE K. HENKLE
 ZACHARY M. HENRY
 TAYLOR R. HERMANN
 NICHOLAS M. HERMBERG
 ALLAN A. HERNANDEZ
 JORDAN HERNANDEZ
 ZACHARY HESTER
 THOMAS M. HETZEL
 BROCK W. HIGHTOWER
 AVERY M. HILL
 RICKY G. HILL
 RUSSELL C. HILL
 THOMAS O. HILL
 KURT E. HILLER
 JACOB R. HILLIARD
 ZACHARY D. HIRSCH
 KELLEY A. HITE
 MATTHEW E. HITE
 TAYLOR L. HIXSON
 WILLIAM B. HOAD
 THOMAS W. HOBGOOD III
 VERONICA M. HOECHERL
 LUKE A. HOERNING

ROSS C. HOLCOMB
 JUDSON B. HOLCOMBE
 DAVID A. HOLMAN
 BENJAMIN M. HOLSBRO
 EDWARD O. HONEY
 ROBERT G. HONIG
 EVAN S. HOVENDEL
 WESLEY J. HOWELL
 WESTON M. HOWSE
 PETER J. HUBBARD
 RYAN J. HUBBS
 GREGORY T. HUDIK
 MARY RILEY C. HUELBIG
 HANNAH M. HUGHES
 CODY R. HULL
 KEVIN M. HUNTER
 MICAH L. HUNTER
 WILLIAM C. HUNTSMAN
 JAMES G. HUTCHESON
 ROBERT M. HUTTULA
 JASON B. HUYNH
 BRITTANY I. HYLAND
 ANDREW G. IDE
 KENT J. IZUKA
 MORGAN C. INSKIP
 KEVIN S. IRVING
 RYAN C. IRVING
 ANDREW F. IUSO
 NICHOLAS J. IVES
 CHATWIN M. JACKSON IV
 CODY A. JACKSON
 JESSICA L. JACKSON
 PAUL F. JACKSON
 BENJAMIN D. JACOBSEN
 CHRISTOPHER L. JACOBSEN
 RYAN A. JAENKE
 MONIQUE K. JEFFERSON
 ERIC L. JENSEN
 JARED A. JENSEN
 JULIANNE B. JENSEN
 KARI E. JERDE
 JEFFREY A. JERNIGAN
 LEWIS J. JERRILS
 ROBERT C. JOHANNSEN
 ANDREW M. JOHN
 DAVID P. JOHNSON
 HERALD D. JOHNSON
 RYAN W. JOHNSON
 WILLIAM S. JOHNSON
 ANDREW C. JOHNSTON
 TAYLOR M. JOHNSTONE
 ROBERT H. JOINER
 JESSE A. JOKINEN
 ADAM P. JONES
 DANIEL G. JONES
 KRISTIAN D. JONES
 LEO M. JONES
 MICHAEL R. JONES
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 WILLIAM T. JONES
 ZACHARY R. JONES
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 BRIAN A. LIPSCOMB
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 ETHAN D. LUDWIG
 RYAN P. LUKACOVIC
 COLIN J. LUZZI
 SARAH K. LYKINS
 KURT C. LYNN
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 BRIAN C. MCGEE
 ALEXANDRA E. MCINTOSH
 SAMUEL A. MCKAY
 CHRISTOPHER H. MCKEE
 MATTHEW R. MCKINLEY
 BERL D. MCLAURIN

CRYSTAN S. MCCLYMORE
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 COLLIN M. MCNAMARA
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 GEORGE A. MCPHERSON
 ALEXIS R. MCPIKE
 JOSHUA W. MCVY
 ANDREW P. MEAGHER
 NATHANIEL J. MEAGHER
 JOHN E. MECADON
 TY D. MECHLING
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 BRISSA N. MEDINA
 MATTHEW N. MEGLI
 JACOB L. MENDELSON
 JOHN L. MERKLEY
 ELIZABETH M. MERLINO
 CHRISTOPHER C. MEYER
 RILEY C. MEYER
 DANIEL C. MICHAELS
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 DAVID M. MILES
 MATTHEW C. MILLAR
 ALEXANDER W. MILLER
 CHARLES D. MILLER
 JONATHAN G. MILLER
 JOSEPH W. MILLER
 MATTHEW E. MILLER
 MAX L. MILLER
 ALLEN C. MILLS
 TIMOTHY P. MIRE
 CONOR G. MITTAUER
 REBECCA MODIANO
 JOSHUA M. MOKRACEK
 CONNER J. MONETTE
 MITCHELL D. MONROE
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 DAVID J. MOORE
 JACKSON W. MOORE
 LAURENCE H. MOORE
 MICAH C. MOORE
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 JOSEPH D. MORALESVARGAS
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 NICHOLAS T. MORRIS
 ERIC M. MORRISON
 KYLE R. MORTENSEN
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 KYLE J. MUKA
 DANIEL P. MULDOON
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 CHAD L. MUNK
 THOMAS J. MUNNS
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 MATTHEW T. MURPHY
 MOLLY E. MURPHY
 SEAN J. MURRAY
 KAMRON A. MURRELL
 DOMINIC J. MUTTER
 JOSHUA C. MYERLES
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 NAM N. NGUYEN
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 TIMOTHY C. NIITANI
 HI K. NILES
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 CURTIS L. NOEL
 JUSTIN M. M. NORTON
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 JOHN S. NOTACKER
 BRANDON J. NUNES
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 WILLIAM OAKLEY
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 BRANDON G. OLEJNICZAK
 ROBERT S. OLIVAREZ
 ERIC J. OLIVER II
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 SARAH M. ORNDORFF
 MALANA D. OSBORN
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 DANIEL L. OSBORN
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 ANDREW J. PETERMAN
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 ZACHARY A. WASSON
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 BENJAMIN L. WEAVER
 VICTORIA L. WEAVER
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 JORDAN P. WEBSTER
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 WILLIAM S. WELLAND
 LUCAS R. WEILBACHER
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 DUSTIN D. WELLS
 KEVIN R. WENDEL
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 JENNA M. WESTERBERG
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 THOMAS E. WHEELER III
 WILLIAM L. WHITAKER
 CHARLES E. C. WHITE
 DANIEL J. WHITE
 DUSTIN L. WHITE
 ETHAN E. WHITE
 KOLBY W. WHITE
 NOAH D. WHITFIELD
 MATTHEW J. WHITFORD
 KYLE D. WICKISER
 ROBERT J. WIEBER
 MAXWELL E. WIECHEC
 STEPHEN J. WIERZBOWSKI
 LIAM D. WILBER
 KYLE N. WILCOX
 TIMOTHY J. WILCOX
 ROBERT G. WILHELM
 WILLIAM E. WILKERSON
 SEAN M. WILKS
 MARGARET M. WILLETTS
 ALEXANDER E. WILLIAMS
 BRADLEY J. WILLIAMS
 ELYZABETH I. WILLIAMS
 GUY A. WILLIAMS, JR.
 MARK A. WILLIAMS
 NICOLE J. WILLIAMS
 SAMUEL S. WILLIAMS
 TANNER S. WILLIAMS
 TUCKER W. WILLIAMS
 TYLER D. WILLIAMS
 SEAN P. WILLIAMSON
 REX WILLIS, JR.
 NATHANIEL D. WILSON
 THOMAS J. WILSON
 ZACHARY D. WINDERS
 JANE C. WISSMANN
 BRIAN W. WISTNER
 JORDAN L. WITT
 CYRUS J. WOLFFINGER
 FRANCIS M. WOMACK
 MARGARET E. WOOD
 RICHARD K. WOOD III
 MATTHEW J. WOODFORD
 MICHAEL A. WOULFE
 TIMOTHY C. W. WU
 JENNIFER L. WUKAWITZ
 ALEXIS R. WYLLIE
 JAKOB A. YAGER
 DANIEL S. YASSUDA
 TYLOR J. YATES
 ANDREW J. YERRELL
 JOANAH R. YERRELL
 ZHONG YI
 ANDREW C. YOUNG
 JEREMIAH J. ZAMORA
 ETHAN J. ZEBRON
 WILLIAM W. ZELL
 MATTHEW L. ZIELINSKI
 NATHAN S. ZIMMERER
 FRANK R. ZIMMERMAN IV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ANGEL B. ABEYTA
 KRISTIE D. ALVARADO

TAYLOR N. ALVAREZ
OLLIEANNA P. BURKE
CHRISTINA CARACOZA
KHANYA K. CHARLESWELL
MATTHEW A. CHARLTON
BRITTNI D. CURRIE
PERI A. CURTIS
HOWELL B. DAKIS
WITCHY DESORMO
JAZZMINE D. ENNALS
ALLYSON E. FRANCHI
CHARLES E. FRYE
BAILEY E. R. GREENE
LORRAINE A. GUSTILO
ROBERT C. COCK III
YOUNG S. HONG
JACOB A. JEPSSEN
JORDAN A. KENNEDY
SAMANTHA K. KENNEDY
WILLIAM J. KOCH
LILY A. KOWALSKI
DAVID P. LEE
PAIGE R. MARTIN
TORIE R. NAWA
WESLEY A. NORTON
MAMIE E. OWENS
MARLENE M. PEREZ
DENISE N. RAMSEUR
DISHAN ROMINE
JUDITH H. ROONEY
SIERA T. SNAPP
NICHOLAS P. SOLLENBERGER
JUSTIN P. STRAUSS
RACHEL TAYLOR
THEARYNA S. THLANG
DEBORAH M. WEATHERS
GRADY S. WEBER
JACOB L. WOOLMAN
JASON M. XU

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JOSEPH A. ACEVEDO
LONDON D. ALVARADO
JASMAINE R. ARNOLD
SHANE M. BOHN
ALEXANDRIA M. BONITZ
KEISHA K. K. BREWER
XAVIER M. CANLAS
JOHN H. CATHCART IV
KELSEY O. CATHCART
YONGSUNG A. CHO
LAUREN P. CLARKJOHNSON
JOSHUA G. COHEN
MATTHEW J. COLEMAN
NICHOLAS B. CULLY
QUYEN T. DANG
JONATHAN J. DAUS
CAMILLO DUQUE LONDONO
JOSEPH C. PEZIO
CARL D. FUEMMELER
TYREL D. F. GEORGE
RICHARD S. GONONG
SEAN B. GREENE
ZACHARY T. HALL
BRIAN E. HARRINGTON
DAVID J. HECKMAN, JR.
MATTHEW J. HEUBACH
THINH B. HOANG
DENNTRICK A. HORTON
JOSE C. IZURIETORRES
AMANDA E. JACKSON
KAHRA L. KELTY
BRENDAN P. KLOVEKORN
VERNA J. MACAPAGAL
EMMA K. MARKOFF
JOHN K. MARTIN II
ALEJANDRO M. MATA
TAMISHALA R. MCNEIL
MIKALA N. MOLINA
EMMA L. NOBILE
IGNATIY ORLOVSKIY
JOHN H. PARKER
ANNA A. POTDAR
JACK W. RANDALL
ANNA R. RAYMOND
LINDSEY N. RIDDICK
JORGE H. RIVAS
MARY H. ROBERTSON
GARRETT A. SABESKY
CHRISTOPHER J. SARAQ, JR.
PETER R. SCHULTZ
ALEX J. SHELANDER
ALEXANDRA K. SHERENCO
MATTHEW P. SHIRK
FRANK C. SMEEKS IV
GABRIELLE A. SMITH
KATHERINE C. SPAETH
ANDREW J. SWARTZ
JESSICA N. TOLL
JOSEPH I. TORCHIA
SARAH M. TOWERS
JESSICA M. VALESKE
ANNAKATRINA M. VARGAS
BRANT C. VERHULST
BRADLEY J. VILLENEUVE
MICHAEL C. WAKELAND
JOHN R. WALTER
THOMAS J. WASSER
DANIEL J. WEATHERS
JESSICA L. WEBSTER
KEVIN J. WEEKS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JONATHAN E. BAUMGARTNER
JUAN D. CARDONA
MADELINE R. CUNNINGS
JONATHAN T. DIBLING
DANIEL G. GEREW
THOMAS L. GLADE
BRONWYN A. HARPER
JAROD M. HAUPT
SUSANNA Z. HEIDT
MATTHEW P. KASTURAS
CODY L. KEIM
ATISH MALIK
JEFFERY A. MCNAIR
ADAM P. NEVINS
NINA Y. PERSHALL
SARAH K. PLATT
HELEN C. ROBERTSON
AUSTIN C. VANARSDALL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

THERON M. ANDERSON
CARMAN C. ARNOLD
KRATON A. BRENNEMAN
JAI M. CHAPPELLE
LAUREN O. DULLE
JACOB K. ENGBL
SERENA M. GARDNER
ALAN J. HATLESTAD
CELENA A. HILL
MATTHEW G. LEMBO
MEGAN M. LYVERS
MICHAEL C. MAGNESS
ALEJANDRA J. MURILLO
NICOLE M. PETERSON
KYLE B. PRIDDLE
ELIJAH R. RAY
CODY A. RIGNEY
ELIZABETH C. ROONEY
CHADRIK D. SKYBERG
NICOLE I. STEGALL
JHALYSSA S. WILLIAMS
DAWN H. YOO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ALEXZANDRIA S. ANDERSON
FAITH M. ASUNCION
JUSTIN G. ASUNCION
CHRISTOPHER E. BERTKE
GREGORY S. BOYER
JEFFREY R. BRUMMEL
BRANDI T. BUTLER
EVAN S. CAMPBELL
NICHOLAS A. CAMPBELL
BRITTANY J. CAVAZOS
MINH B. CHAU
DANIEL P. CHMURA
BRYAN C. CLANCY
JAMES N. CORONADO
ROBERT F. DECORT, JR.
DAVID A. DOEBRICK
BRYAN R. EIDSON
MARK A. FERGUSON
BROOKS R. FURLEIGH
LOREN K. GABLE
JOHN M. GRIFFITH
TIMOTHY A. HIX
TYLER V. HONEYCUTT
JUSTIN H. HOOVER
PATRICK C. HOWELL
JASON A. HUNTSMAN
AARON G. JOHNSON
KYLE B. JOHNSON
LISA M. KOENIG
MICHAEL A. KOPPEL
NATHAN R. KRENNING
ANDREW J. LOUVAT
ELLIOT P. MALLIS
GARRETT B. MANARIN
JASON J. MARTZ
PHILLIP T. METCALFE
NICHOLAS J. MICHEL
ZACHARY W. MONROE
ANDREW C. MORRISSEY
MATTHEW J. NUCIFORE
ALICIA M. OBERHOLTZER
COREY E. RANCE
ADRIENNE A. RANDALL
ANDREW J. RAVES
MICHAEL W. RILEY
NAOMI E. SANDERS
RYAN J. SHULTZ
JARRAD B. SINGLEY
ELIZABETH C. SITLER
DALTON K. SPATZ
KEIFER M. VALENCIA
TERRENCE A. VEVERKA
DAVID M. WILLIAMS
STEVEN J. WILSON
DAVID M. YEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

KIEL L. ALBARRAN
TINA C. ALBERTS
JOSEPH L. ANDRICOLA

ADRIAN J. BARNABY
NICHOLAS A. BELL
JACOB S. BOLDES
JEFFREY B. BROWN
ANDREW M. BURGETT
JAMES G. CARLTON
CONOR M. CASHIN
JAMES A. CATRON III
ERIC R. CHAMBERLIN
NEAL P. CHAUHAN
RESHAD D. COMER
KAILY W. CORNICK
BENJAMIN W. COX
SCOTT K. FRECHIONE
AUSTIN M. GARVEY
JOHN D. GLAMM
JONATHAN M. GREEN
ETHAN R. HAVILAND
JAMES B. HENSON
BENJAMIN HODGKISS
BRYAN B. JAMES
FREDERIC KEYHEA
ALANA R. KRAMER
DANIEL T. LAHNALA
DESTINY M. LORTZ
VLADIMIR MASSILLON
MARIO A. MEDINA
JOSHUA U. MEISTER
AMANDA C. MOFFITT
THOMAS H. MOHLMAN
ANDREW M. MONTANTE
JACKSON K. PELOW
ASHTON J. PICEK
ROBERT E. REESE
MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ
ERIC M. ROHM
ARTHUR F. SCHEXNAYDRE
ALONDRA E. SERRANO
ALONZO SWEET, JR.
ANTONNEA M. THOMPSON
JASJIT S. VIRK
DIANA E. WAYMAN
BLAKE L. R. WILSON
KHAALIF I. WOLFE
RAYMOND T. YOO
CHING TING YUAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

THOMAS B. ADMONT
LEAH O. ALSTAD
DANIEL T. ANTOUN
GEORGE C. ASHBRIDGE
MCKENZIE E. BARNETT
BRADLEY G. BASALA
KABELA N. BENNETT
RANDY J. BENNETT
CHARLES B. BLANTON
WILLIAM F. BUSBY
PATRICK L. A. CEDDIA
DANIEL E. COREY, JR.
ANDREA K. CORNETT
JONATHAN H. CROCKETT
JAMES R. DALEY, JR.
LAURA A. DAVIS
KYRA A. DEBONI
RYNE M. DECAMP
MATTHEW B. DUNCAN
ASHLEY J. FISHMAN
JILL M. GENTRY
IAN S. GILLIAM
JOSEPH A. GRAMLING
SEAN K. HARDING
RUSSELL T. HERRPER
KELSEY A. HERRABAEZ
THOMAS P. HINKEL
KARA K. S. HORNSBY
PATRICK J. HUGHES
DANE J. HURLEY
ANTHONY J. IAVARONE
TAYLOR E. JACKSON
LORNE W. JAMES
IAN N. JOHNSON
BRODY G. JONES
WYATT B. KAMIN
ALYSSA M. KENNEDY
MARCUS A. KILLEBREW
BRENDAN J. KOCH
ANASTASIA N. KOESARIE
MELISSA M. KOPFLOW
SAMUEL S. H. LEE
CHRISTOPHER M. LOMBARDI
NICHOLAS J. LYNCH
CHASE M. MILLER
CHRISTOPHER A. NOALL
TABITHA L. PALMER
TYLER C. PHILLIPS
KETH E. PITSTICK
DYLAN C. PRENDA
DEVIN A. RADFORD
JEREMY T. RATH
NINA S. REYNOLDS
ZACHARY P. RHOADES
DYLAN F. RIORDAN
SEAN B. RUBALCAVA
TYLER D. RUBIN
HARRISON R. RUBY
JULIAN B. SALMON
PETER L. SEGALL
JEFFREY D. SHEETS
REBECCA E. STANLEY
MATTHEW R. STEIGHNER
NATHAN R. STINSON
TAYLOR R. STIPE

RICHARD C. SWEENEY
SHELLY M. TAFLINGER
THOMAS J. TRETTIN
JAKE C. TUNMIRE
MATTHEW K. WEISS
DOUGLAS G. WOJCIECHOWSKI
JEFFREY D. WOOD
ANDREW A. ZHAO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

DENNIS M. DEVEY
LUCAS R. FOPPE
ERIC W. GASTON
MICKY S. HALL
BRADLEY A. VOMOCIL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander
KATHERINE M. NELSON
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

HUGO M. ARGOTE
KARIN G. BENJAMIN
BRITTAIN R. CHRISTIE
BERNARD A. M. FAJARDO
MATTHEW S. GAMPP
JOSHUA C. GATHRIGHT
MARSHALL K. GREENHAW
ANTONIO J. HART
ANDREW R. KIRK
MIKHAIL D. KOOH
JOSEPH P. MORRISON
ANTHONY M. PASSALACQUA
ASHLEY N. RICHEY
STEPHANIE J. ROSE
TYRONE D. SCOTT
STEPHEN L. SMITH

JOSHUA J. SONNIER
FELIX J. VAZQUEZRIVERA
JENNIFER S. WUELZER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

LEWIS C. ALDRIDGE
COURTNEY R. AVON
MOLLY J. FRESHER
ALYSON R. HANDS
GRACE KORDING
NICHOLAS R. LINGO
JARRED R. M. REIDDIXON
KATHERINE I. SERRANO
NICHOLAS R. SPALENY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER J. FREELAND

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CASA 0101 IN BOYLE HEIGHTS

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 25th Anniversary of CASA 0101, located in the community of Boyle Heights.

Since 2000, CASA 0101 has been committed to educating and uplifting the next generation of storytellers in Los Angeles. Under the innovative leadership of its founder Josefina López, CASA 0101 has blossomed into one of the leading arts organizations serving the East side of Los Angeles, hosting theatrical productions, film festivals, and no-cost arts education classes for young Angelenos.

Guided by López's vision to bring live theater programs and the arts to Boyle Heights, the organization has spent the last 25 years cultivating an inclusive space where aspiring artists and storytellers of all backgrounds feel empowered. The impact of CASA 0101's efforts can be seen in their successful track record, with 281 alumni working on a main stage production, 528 youth participating in free classes, and over 12,000 visitors attending a performance at their theater.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring CASA 0101 on their 25th Anniversary.

COMMEMORATING STAFF
SERGEANT HENRY GERALD GISH

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a very special patriot, Henry Gerald Gish. A tragic casualty of the Vietnam War, U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Jerry Gish's remains were identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency on June 23, 2025.

SSgt. Jerry Gish was born in Hershey, Pennsylvania on December 18, 1942, and grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Following high school graduation, SSgt. Gish entered the U.S. Air Force in 1961. He served with Detachment 1, 1043rd Radar Evaluation Squadron. In 1968, SSgt. Gish and 18 other men were assigned to Lima Site 85, a tactical air navigation radar site on a remote 5,600-foot mountain peak called Phou Pha Thi in Houaphan Province in Laos. In the early morning of March 11, 1968, North Vietnamese commandos attacked the site with grenades and mortars. The Americans sought safety on a narrow ledge of the steep mountain. After a few hours, U.S. helicopters were able to rescue eight of the men under the protective cover of A-1 Skyraider aircraft. SSgt. Gish

and ten other Americans were killed in action, and their bodies were unable to be recovered.

From 1994 to 2009, joint teams led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command conducted multiple recovery operations, pursuing witness leads and recovering evidence and remains. In 2023, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency personnel in Hawaii and members from partner organizations discovered unexploded ordnance, incident-related materials, and possible remains, leading to the identification of an American service member. In 2025, two more excavations were conducted at the site and human remains were recovered. Modern forensic techniques were used to identify SSgt. Gish. He is survived by his wife Doris Eden Gish, daughter Terrie Gish Bayless, and sister Janice Kautz as well as several other family members.

SSgt. Gish is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. His name, and the names of his fallen comrades, are inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. After 57 years, the remains of this courageous patriot are being returned home for final rest with full military honors at the Berea Cemetery in Kentucky. I am grateful to the DPAA personnel who worked diligently to recover and identify his remains. I am also grateful to SSgt. Jerry Gish, who gave the ultimate sacrifice when our Nation called. May he never be forgotten and may he rest in eternal peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JIMMY ALEXANDER

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Mr. Jimmy Alexander of Meridian, Mississippi. Jimmy and his wife, Ann, spent their life together investing in their family and the community of Meridian. As a member of Northcrest Baptist Church since 1986, Jimmy dedicated much of his life to service within the church and the community. He was a leader, mentor, and family man who spent his life serving others.

Jimmy will be most remembered for his contributions as a founding member of The Partnership, which later became the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, and service on boards of the Meridian Community College Foundation, the Associated Builders & Contractors, the State of Mississippi District Workforce Council, the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, and the State of Mississippi Job Training Coordinating Council.

Jimmy's contributions did not go unnoticed. He was honored with the Ernst and Young Entrepreneurial Award, the Hartley Peavey Award, and numerous other business accolades over the years. For Jimmy, however, the

true measure of success was in the opportunities he created for others including his family, employees whom he considered his family, and the communities that grew stronger because of his vision.

Jimmy's legacy is best summarized in the business he poured his life and soul into. In 1974, alongside his business partner, Henry Burns, he founded A&B Electric Company Inc. It began as a small venture and grew into a remarkable legacy. Through Jimmy's tireless work ethic, steady leadership, and genuine relationships, A&B Electric became the catalyst for the creation of fifteen additional companies in the fields of manufacturing, mechanical, communications, and development. Over the decades, these businesses have collectively employed more than 1,200 people across the Southeast.

Jimmy was a man who believed in doing things the right way—by earning trust, keeping his word, and leading with humility. His legacy lives on in the companies he created, the countless lives he touched, and the family who will carry his memory forward with pride and love. I am honored to memorialize his legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed all the votes in the vote series on Monday, September 15, 2025.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 266, final passage of H.R. 3400, the TRAVEL Act; and NAY on Roll Call No. 265, final passage of H.J. RES. 117, On Motion to Table the Motion to Discharge Committee.

HONORING KATHRYN REXRODE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kathryn Rexrode and her service and contributions to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

Kathryn joined my district team four years ago and has served our office well. Kathryn is a highly motivated individual who was energetic about both her work and her relationships. Her work ethic and commitment to service have helped countless constituents of Virginia's 1st District.

I would like to thank Kathryn for her many contributions and dedicated service. She has been an invaluable member of my team, and I wish her the best of luck as she moves on to the next chapter of her professional career. May the Lord bless her as she embarks on a

• 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.

new challenge, and I look forward to seeing her continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you in joining me to recognize Kathryn Rexrode for her service to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, 2025, I missed a recorded vote. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 266, H.R. 3400, the TRAVEL Act, I would have voted Yea.

HONORING CASEY D. YOUNGER, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an outstanding Mississippian, Mr. Casey D. Younger, Sr., for his exemplary academic achievements, athletic excellence, professional success, and recent induction into the Millsaps College Athletics Hall of Fame.

A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Mr. Younger has always demonstrated a commitment to excellence. A proud graduate of Vicksburg High School, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Millsaps College in 2008, where he stood out as both a scholar and an athlete. He was named to the Dean's List, served as Chair of the Political Science Club, and received several athletic honors, including selection to the National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society, the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Team, and NCAA Football All-American honors.

Mr. Younger continued his academic pursuits at the Mississippi College School of Law, earning his Juris Doctor degree in 2012. During his time in law school, he was awarded the Best Paper Award in the Constitutional Law Seminar, the John B. Fareese Trial Advocacy Scholarship, and the prestigious R. Jess Brown Award. He also held leadership roles as Vice President of the Black Law Students Association, Editor of The African American Law School Survival Guide, Chair of the Thurgood Marshall Trial Practice Team, and served as a Star Mentor to his peers.

Today, Mr. Younger is a respected attorney based in Jackson, Mississippi. His primary areas of legal practice include medical malpractice defense, motor vehicle defense, nursing home and long-term care defense, premises liability, products liability, and workers' compensation defense.

His athletic legacy continues to be recognized. In 2021, Mr. Younger was named to the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) 30th Anniversary Football Team and inducted into the Vicksburg Warren School District's Athletics Hall of Fame. Now, in 2025, Millsaps College has honored him as a member of its Athletics Hall of Fame—a fitting rec-

ognition of his contributions to collegiate athletics and leadership on and off the field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable life and accomplishments of M. Casey D. Younger, Sr. He is a shining example of the talent, discipline, and integrity that Mississippi produces and a role model for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for two Roll Call votes on Monday, September 15, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

NAY on Roll Call No. 265, On Motion to Table the Motion to Discharge Committee of H. Res. 117; and YE A on Roll Call No. 266, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 3400.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I welcome to Washington His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians and the 270th successor to the Apostle Andrew.

Patriarch Bartholomew has long been a voice for faith, unity, and reconciliation, serving as the head of the second largest single Christian church globally. Along with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's admirable leadership and work within the Orthodox Christian church, his deep commitment to religious freedom, interfaith dialogue, and environmental stewardship was recognized this year with the Templeton Prize. The award is administered by the John Templeton Foundation in collaboration with the Templeton World Charity Foundation and the Templeton Religion Trust. By receiving this internationally recognized honor, he joins a distinguished group of past laureates that includes Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Beginning with the founding of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Houston in 1917, this visit is incredibly meaningful to the historic Orthodox Christian community within Texas, as well as Orthodox Christians all across America.

We are grateful for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to Washington and for his lifelong dedication to bringing together people of different faiths to heed the call for stewardship of creation. I join my Greek Orthodox constituents and people of faith everywhere in offering him a warm welcome.

CONGRATULATING THE 2026 SOUTH DAKOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDEE

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Becky Haenfler of Avon School District, who has been named the 2026 South Dakota Teacher of the Year.

A graduate of University of South Dakota with a master's degree as a reading specialist, Mrs. Haenfler has built a reputation as a teacher who not only educates but also transforms lives. She currently teaches English Language Arts to fifth, sixth, and seventh graders in the very school she once attended, even in the same classroom where she first discovered her love of reading.

For nineteen years, she has created a learning environment filled with energy, curiosity, and high expectations, inspiring students to connect with literature in ways that challenge and motivate them. Her dedication has left a lasting impact on both her students and her community.

As South Dakota Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Haenfler will represent our state in the National Teacher of the Year program in Washington, D.C. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to extend my congratulations on this well-deserved honor and to express gratitude for her remarkable commitment to her students, community and teaching profession.

RECOGNIZING, HONORING, AND SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN COVID MEMORIAL

HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and support the American Covid Memorial established by the U.S. Covid-19 Victims & Heroes National Memorial Foundation, as the 65th U.S. National Memorial. The memorial will serve as our Nation's solemn tribute of dignity and reverence to those we lost in the pandemic.

The U.S. Covid-19 pandemic is the deadliest human tragedy to occur in all 250 years of American History, with more than 1.2 million deaths. The scale of this tragedy is almost incomprehensible. Covid killed as many Americans as every war since the foundation of our country combined—twice as many people as the 1918 influenza pandemic and three times as many Americans as died in World War II. These are losses that every person in this country feels deeply, and it is a moment in history that will shape the United States for years to come.

In addition to remembering those we lost, the American Covid Memorial will serve to celebrate the 31 million heroes—16 million medical and 15 million non-medical, essential frontline workers—who bravely and selflessly worked to provide lifesaving healthcare, deliver supplies, and maintain vital community services during the pandemic. Their efforts saved lives and kept our country running.

The first recorded U.S. case of the new Coronavirus was reported January 20, 2020, in a 35-year-old American citizen traveling from Wuhan, China to his home in Snohomish County, Washington State.

On February 6, 2020, 57-year-old Patricia Dowd, a semi-conductor manufacturer in San Jose, California became the first confirmed U.S. Covid-19 death in the United States.

On March 13, 2020, U.S. Presidential Proclamation 9994 was issued declaring the Coronavirus pandemic a National Public Health Emergency.

On February 22, 2021, Proclamation 10148 was issued by the President of the United States recognizing 500,000 Covid-19 deaths, calling on the Nation to conduct a moment of national silence during a candle lighting ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial.

On May 12, 2022, the President of the United States issued Proclamation 10394 marking the tragic milestone of one million American lives lost to Covid-19, stating that "As a Nation, we must not grow numb to such sorrow. To heal, must remember.

On April 11, 2023, the President of the United States signed House Resolution 7—Public Law 118-3, declaring the Covid-19 National Public Health Emergency terminated.

National memorials are an American tradition to commemorate people and events of historical significance and, the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States is an event of profound historical significance. It is in the public interest to establish a National Memorial to remember the lives of those no longer with us and honor the incredible service to our country by heroes working on the front lines.

I ask my fellow Members of Congress and leaders across our country, to join me in supporting the dedication of an American Covid Memorial and to help build the U.S. Covid-19 National Registry of Victims and Heroes to help preserve the memories of the 1.2 million lives we lost.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C.

Known as the "Patriarch of Peace" by the Eastern Orthodox Church, he guides millions of faithful around the world in their spiritual journey and relationship with God. He has long championed interfaith dialogue, global peace, and religious tolerance. His presence reflects the deep ties between the Orthodox Christian community and the United States. His work has uplifted Eastern Orthodox Christians around the world, including many in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District.

During this visit, Patriarch Bartholomew is being honored as the recipient of the Templeton Prize. This prestigious international award recognizes his scholarly contributions in exploring the intersection of faith and the natural world. Past recipients include Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

In 1997, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his contributions

to the United States. His efforts have fostered dialogue among Christians, Muslims, Jews, and people of all faiths. His visit reminds us that our Nation is strongest when we work together in mutual respect, despite our differences.

Throughout his ministry, His All-Holiness has exemplified how faith can contribute to a just and peaceful planet. He has unapologetically spoken out against violence, international terrorism, and the degradation of the environment. He once stated, "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." In a time of global Turbulence, his visit marks a moment of deep significance for Orthodox Christians in New Jersey and across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to Washington, D.C. as he receives the Templeton Prize for his lifetime of work curating harmony between science and faith.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew not only serves as the spiritual leader to the upwards of 300 million Orthodox Christians around the globe, he serves as a model for us all, having dedicated his life to peacemaking, environmental advocacy and conservation, and facilitating inter-faith dialogue around the globe.

Leading the Church since 1991, His All-Holiness has shepherded our world through tumultuous shifts in national borders, been instrumental in orchestrating peace between adversaries, and facilitated harmony between religions. Throughout his tenure, he has remained on the forefront of meeting the rising challenges our global community is facing. Be it climate change, wars, violations of human rights, His All-Holiness is undaunted and unwavering in his commitment to alleviating suffering and championing justice.

During this chaotic time in our world, and especially our Nation, the Ecumenical Patriarch's presence in our capital is particularly meaningful and serves as a reminder to us all how to lead with compassion and courage, how to minister to our communities with empathy, and how to live with moral fortitude.

His ability to unify, to guide anyone and everyone to set aside differences and divisions and treat each other as equals is deeply inspiring and is what we should all strive for. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's impact on our world is immeasurable, boundless, and magnified all the more through the countless people he has inspired.

It is a great honor to add my voice to the many, including the Greek Orthodox Christians at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Kingston, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Newburgh, Kimisis tis Theotokou Greek Ortho-

dox Church in Poughkeepsie, and across the Hudson Valley, thanking him for his leadership in our world, his zeal for environmentalism and social harmony, and his commitment to uplifting the dignity of every person of every faith and nation.

APPRECIATING CHARLIE KIRK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the abysmal assassination of American Patriot Charlie Kirk on September 10, 2025, this tragedy inspired South Carolina Poet Tony Pichoff of Hopkins, South Carolina, with his heartfelt poem of Turning Point:

TURNING POINT

On this twenty-fourth eve of 9/11,
One of Satan's minions
Sent your faithful soul to Heaven.
And in so doing,
Sowed the seeds
Of their undoing,
On the road to reckoning and ruin.
In this epic battle
For the very soul of America,
Never yielding
To the terror of
Those who seek to silence, you,
The disarming bearer of
God's good news.
Wielding intellectual weapons
Of well reasoned wisdom
With calm confidence
And articulate precision
That did mortally threaten
To undo the institution
Insidiously dedicated
To undermining our constitution.
An unholy breeding ground
Of hatred and division
Infecting our very youth
With lies disguised as truth.
Administered via "higher learning's"
Spiritual circumcision.
In obedience to God,
Upon these battle grounds
You bravely trod,
And did not do so in vain.
For even in your very death,
You delivered victory again!
And just as the attack on 9/11
Our national resolve did anoint,
Your MAGA martyrdom
Marks THIS historic turning point.
And when 45 became 47,
Just as certainly as then we knew,
The tide continues to turn in our favor
Now confirmed by you.
As challenging as it may be,
While we mourn we must also see,
That it is through those like you
We shall remain the indomitable land of the
Free.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 265, and YEA on Roll Call No. 266.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and spiritual leader of over 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. I am honored to welcome him to Washington, D.C.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of modern-day Gökçeada, Turkey, His All-Holiness Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th successor to the Apostle Andrew, who founded the Church of Constantinople nearly 2,000 years ago. His formal office is the Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch, a historic title dating to the sixth century.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew studied theology around the world, including at esteemed schools in Turkey, Italy, Germany, Greece, and Switzerland. His doctoral dissertation, submitted to the University of Athens, was in the field of Canon Law, and he was a founding member of the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches. For nearly three decades, His All-Holiness served the Church in many capacities, from his ordination as a deacon in 1961 and priest in 1969, to Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki, Metropolitan of Philadelphia, and later Metropolitan of Chalcedon, before becoming Patriarch.

He has received dozens of honorary doctorates from leading universities around the globe, including Georgetown, Yale, Athens, Thessaloniki, Louvain, and Moscow, and is fluent in multiple languages.

As the primary spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian world and a transnational figure, the Ecumenical Patriarch has exceeded the traditional scope of his office. His All-Holiness advocated for Christian unity, participating in meetings with numerous Church and State dignitaries, addressing national parliaments, and speaking to the European Parliament, the United Nations, UNESCO, and the World Economic Forum. He has led and contributed to reconciliation efforts between Christian Churches through theological dialogues, bilateral consultations, and personal encounters to address issues of common concern.

Furthermore, his faith-led work has led to international meetings and theological conversations with Muslim and Jewish leaders to promote interfaith tolerance on a global level.

He has convened historic synaxes of Orthodox Primates and presided over the 2016 Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, the first such gathering in over a millennium. He restored the independence of churches long suppressed under persecution and, in 2019, granted autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Through his vision, courage, and devotion, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has led as a beacon of faith, unity, peace, and reconciliation in our time.

HONORING THE DOMTAR MARLBORO MILL

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Domtar Marlboro Mill in Bennettsville, South Carolina, which since 1990 has been a cornerstone of economic growth, innovation, and community service.

As the last greenfield paper mill built in the United States, it employs more than 300 workers, contributes over \$800 million annually to the regional economy, and produces essential paper and pulp products used across the Nation.

The mill has earned recognition for its commitment to safety, efficiency, and responsible forestry, while also investing in Marlboro County through scholarships, service projects, and support for local organization.

The Marlboro Mill stands as a source of pride for South Carolina's 7th District, and I commend its workforce and leadership for their lasting contributions to our state and country.

RECOGNIZING THE SPIRITUAL HEAD, ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head and leader of the second largest Christian Church in the world. His All-Holiness is visiting Washington, D.C. in conjunction with his acceptance of the distinguished Templeton Prize in New York City—an honor previously bestowed on Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, among others. While here, he will visit both the White House and the Congress.

Elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2,000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader of 250 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. He is also a leading figure in the dialogues among the Abrahamic Faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—and his presence in our Nation's capital is an opportunity to highlight the positive role religious leaders of his stature bring to the cause of peace and religious liberty.

The true peacemakers of history not only sought to reduce conflict but also showed compassion toward those who persecuted them. Patriarch Bartholomew fits that definition precisely. Despite facing harassment by foreign governments and attacks by extremists, he has remained steadfast in his mission to promote reconciliation, environmental stewardship, and human dignity.

His contributions have been recognized around the globe. In 1997, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the United States Congress. The Guardian identified him as one of the world's foremost leaders in raising environmental awareness. And Time Magazine, in its

category of Leaders and Revolutionaries, named him one of the world's most influential people.

Mr. Speaker, as we welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C., let us also celebrate his unwavering commitment to interfaith dialogue, peace, and religious liberty. His leadership serves as a reminder of the power of faith to unite people across nations and traditions.

COMMEMORATING THE VISIT OF PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Head of the second largest Christian Church in the world, Orthodox Christianity.

Patriarch Bartholomew will be in Washington, D.C. to visit both the White House and Congress. His All-Holiness will then travel to New York City to accept the distinguished Templeton Prize, which "celebrates pioneers of scientific and spiritual insight for their contributions to human well-being and spiritual prosperity."

I would like to thank Patriarch Bartholomew for his spiritual work and wish His All-Holiness the best of luck in continuing to serve as a model for the Orthodox Christian community of Maryland's 1st Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Pew Charitable Trusts, an incredible organization that is focused on improving and invigorating civic life. Founded in 1948, The Pew Charitable Trusts has been advancing solutions to societal challenges for 77 years, and I know that the Philadelphia community has benefited immensely from this important work.

Founder Joseph Newton Pew and his wife, Mary Anderson Pew initially focused their philanthropic work on anonymously providing grants to priorities such as cancer research, the Red Cross, and a pioneering project to assist historically Black colleges. Over the years, this institution has evolved into a much more expansive enterprise, allowing flexibility to engage in a variety of community issues and inform the public on responsible governance.

A tireless champion for social good, The Pew Charitable Trust has remained committed to the civic life of Philadelphia and the importance of an informed democracy. This endeavor, inspired by Joseph Newton Pew's vision, stands as a testament to this organization's enduring impact on our city.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their unwavering commitment to serving others, we honor The Pew Charitable Trust.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF HERMAN BLACKMON, SR.**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Herman Blackmon, Sr., an extraordinary man whose service, intellect, and compassion enriched the Bay Area and beyond.

Born in Houston, Texas, Herman spent his early years there before serving three years in the United States Air Force. Following his military service, he made the Bay Area his home, earning a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley.

In the late 1990's, Herman served as both council member and mayor of Hercules, California. His leadership was defined by tireless dedication to his community, championing Capital Improvement Programs and advocating for equitable educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged students. As managing partner of his family-owned business, Amanco, Inc., he was instrumental in the rebuilding of several West Contra Costa Unified School District campuses, including Coronado, Riverside, Sheldon Elementary, and Pinole Middle School.

Herman's professional career also included 13 years with Pacific Bell. Yet, beyond his many accomplishments, he was a man of diverse passions—an avid reader, skilled mechanic, and enthusiastic player of dominoes and pinochle. Above all, he cherished time spent with his grandchildren; Jhana, Mark, Aleah, Charles-Justin, Langston, Levi, and Winter.

Herman is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 54 years, Peggy, and is survived by his sons Herman, Jr., and Marcus, his seven grandchildren, and a wide circle of friends and neighbors whose lives he touched through his good deeds.

Herman Blackmon, Sr. leaves behind a profound legacy of public service, civic leadership, and devotion to family. His impact will be felt for generations, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Blackmon's loved ones. I know they and the people of Contra Costa County will join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BROAD IN DOWNTOWN
LOS ANGELES**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 10th Anniversary of The Broad in Downtown Los Angeles.

Since 2015, The Broad has expanded public access to a diverse collection of contemporary art for Angelenos and visitors from around the globe. Founded by philanthropists Edythe and Eli Broad, the museum offers free general admission to all visitors so they can explore their collection of more than 2,000 pieces of art and gain a newfound appreciation for modern art-work.

Through its permanent and special exhibitions, The Broad has remained committed to uplifting the voices of artists of unique and diverse backgrounds, such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Takashi Murakami and Julie Mehretu. The museum's commitment extends to its Diversity Apprenticeship Program, where the museum prepares its participants with the knowledge and experience they need to pursue a profession in the arts.

As part of The Broad's mission to increase access to contemporary art, the museum also hosts The Broad Art Foundation, an innovative lending library which has loaned artwork to museums worldwide over 9,000 times. The library seeks to build strong relationships with fellow institutions built on a shared appreciation for the arts that allows them to share their resources and continue expanding access to meaningful artwork.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 10th Anniversary of The Broad.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW I OF CONSTANTINOPLE
TO THE UNITED STATES**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, this week, the United States Congress and our Nation's capital will be honored with a visit from the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew I. Patriarch Bartholomew is not only the denominational leader of 300 million Eastern Orthodox Christians worldwide—he is a global spiritual leader who has advanced the sacred causes of peace, interreligious understanding and environmental stewardship.

Patriarch Bartholomew is stopping in Washington, D.C. on his way to New York City to accept the Templeton Prize for his groundbreaking harmonization of faith and science in service of environmental protection. The Templeton Prize, given to singular champions of human dignity and progress such as Mother Teresa and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, honors people who have harnessed the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. His All-Holiness Bartholomew has earned this storied honor through the same works that gained him the moniker of the "Green Patriarch." Since assuming his office in 1991, Patriarch Bartholomew has convened leaders across borders and disciplines to redefine human-caused climate change, environmental destruction and pollution as not just practical crises but spiritual and moral failings. He does so because of his conviction that "we are not owners of this planet. It belongs to the coming generations as well. We are simply stewards and priests of the environment and not proprietors of it."

In addition to his environmental stewardship, Patriarch Bartholomew finds common cause with Americans in advancing the causes of democracy and peace. He assumed the Patriarchate of Constantinople during the same year that the Soviet Union dissolved. His leadership was instrumental in advancing the spir-

itual and political self-determination of the Eastern Orthodox faithful in former Soviet republics. Today, he is a steadfast and unflinching moral leader supporting the people of Ukraine as they resist Vladimir Putin's bloody imperialist invasion and a forceful counterweight to the Moscow Patriarchate's Putinist subversion. This is a cause that most Americans support, recognizing that the cause of the people of Ukraine and their war of self-defense and self-determination is now the cause of all humanity.

During this time of great uncertainty and fear, we Americans would do well to learn from Patriarch Bartholomew's example. Over the past 36 years, Patriarch Bartholomew has sought to build relationships across faith traditions, cultures and borders. In 1997, Patriarch Bartholomew was the first Eastern Orthodox Patriarch to denounce the great horror and evil of the Holocaust. He has traveled to Muslim-majority countries to foster interreligious understanding. And he has taken great care to cultivate relationships with Roman Catholic Popes and leaders across the world. These examples of moral and spiritual bridge-building are essential to our own democratic and human progress as a multi-religious, pluralist democracy.

Twenty-eight years ago, the U.S. Congress recognized Patriarch Bartholomew with the Congressional Gold Medal for his extraordinary and courageous leadership. Today, on behalf of my constituents in Maryland's beautiful 8th District, I welcome Patriarch Bartholomew back to our Nation's Capital and congratulate him on earning the Templeton Prize as the latest of many well-deserved honors.

RECOGNIZING EMMA WEIR

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize and express my deep appreciation and gratitude to Emma Weir, who served as Communications Director and Senior Advisor for the New Democrat Coalition over the past 4 years.

Emma has been an extraordinary part of our team—bringing not only her sharp communication skills and strategic insight but also her kindness, dedication, and unwavering passion for public service. Her excellent work has helped shape our message, build connections, grow the New Dem brand, and advance the values we hold dear. As a communicator, Emma is second to none.

As Chair of the New Democrat Coalition, and before that Vice Chair for Communications, I have worked hand-in-hand with Emma to find new ways to address the challenges facing our country, adapting to a constantly evolving media environment to connect with the American people and earn their trust. Emma's hard work has ensured every New Dem Member and their staff has the tools, knowledge, and resources they need to succeed. As she starts her next chapter, Emma should know she has made an indelible mark on our Members and the Coalition.

While we will deeply miss her at New Dems, I am so proud and excited to see her step into

a new opportunity with Chairman PETE AGUILAR and the House Democratic Caucus. I have no doubt Emma will bring the same compassion, professionalism, and excellence to the House Democratic Caucus that made her so effective with the New Dems.

Emma's tenure with the New Dems has been—by any measure—an immense success. As she departs, Emma leaves behind a strong New Dem brand and media presence that will continue to grow atop the foundations she worked so hard to establish. Though we are sad to see her go, the Coalition, our leadership team, and I, wish Emma all the best. We look forward to working with her in her new capacity to move our country forward and deliver results for the American people.

HONORING ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital, and to honor him for his contributions to the Greek Orthodox community in the Inland Empire and beyond.

In 1940, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was born on an island called Imvros, which is located in modern-day Turkey. He completed his elementary and secondary education in both Imvros and Istanbul. For his undergraduate degree, he attended the historic Theological School of Halki, and for his graduate studies, he attended the Pontifical Oriental Institute of the Gregorian University in Rome, the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, and the University of Munich. He completed his doctoral dissertation on the topic of Canon Law.

In 1961, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was ordained to the Diaconate, and in 1969, he was ordained to the Priesthood. During this time, he served as the Assistant Dean for the Theological School of Halki, then as the Personal Secretary for the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios, before being elected as Metropolitan of Philadelphia and subsequently Metropolitan of Chalcedon.

The Ecumenical Patriarch was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Orthodox Church. His office is a historic title dating to the sixth century—Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch. At 85 years old, he is the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople and leads more than 300 million congregation members nationwide. I am proud that one of those congregations, Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, is part of my congressional district in Upland, California.

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has used his influence to travel to every continent, where he has taken an active role in the World Council of Churches, addressed both the European Parliament and U.S. Congress, met with heads of state, and visited Orthodox churches in various countries. He has advanced diplomatic relations between Christianity, Islam, and Judaism internationally by co-sponsoring international peace conferences centered on racism and extremism. He has

also supported traditionally Orthodox countries emerging from decades of wide-scale religious persecution, facilitated conversations with Muslim and Jewish leaders to promote mutual respect and religious tolerance, and has traveled to Muslim countries rarely visited by Christian leaders.

The Ecumenical Patriarch is a champion for environmental advocacy, introducing environmental issues in his sermons, which has earned him the nickname the "Green Patriarch." He has used his impact to found several major conventions, including a global bishop assembly that has met regularly since 1992, the inaugural Synaxis (assembly) of Orthodox Primates, the Clergy-Laity Congress, and the World Youth Conference of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Ecumenical Patriarch has received many awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal of the United States Congress in 1997, and has numerous honorary doctorates from institutions worldwide, including Georgetown University, Yale University, and several other international institutions.

I warmly welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as he visits Washington, D.C., following his acceptance of the Templeton Prize—honoring those who have made significant contributions in the fields of Religion and Science. His service to our community and beyond is worthy of the highest recognition.

HONORING MS. CYNTHIA LEE'S RE-
TIREMENT FROM FEDERAL
SERVICES

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ms. Cynthia Lee for her remarkable 44 years of federal service with the Department of the Army.

Ms. Lee began her journey at Virginia State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She then went on to pursue a Master of Science in Contract and Acquisition Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, laying the academic foundation for a career that would span more than 4 decades.

At the age of 18, Ms. Lee began her career as a student hire. From those early days, she demonstrated exceptional leadership, rising through the ranks to become a well-respected leader.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Lee's contributions have left a lasting impact on both her peers and the entire federal workforce in her role as Program Manager of Small Business Programs within the Department of the Army.

In recognition for her exceptional performance, Ms. Lee has received numerous awards that reflect her commitment and dedication. As Resource Management Chief, she was commended for her service as Acting Deputy Commander from May 2021 to January 2022, a role in which she displayed exceptional professionalism.

I want to personally thank Ms. Lee for her decades of service. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Lee for her 44 years of outstanding federal service. We

are deeply grateful for her dedication, her leadership, and her invaluable contributions to our Nation.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRI-
ARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE, HIS
ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW'S
2025 VISIT TO THE UNITED
STATES

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the spiritual leader and "First Among Equals" of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. During this historic visit to the United States, His All-Holiness will receive the Templeton Prize—the world's most prestigious award in Religion and Science.

Patriarch Bartholomew's efforts to promote religious freedom and human rights and his initiatives to advance religious tolerance among the world's religions, together with his work toward international peace and environmental protection, have justly placed him at the forefront of global visionaries as an apostle of love, peace, and reconciliation.

We are privileged to host the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in history here in our Nation's Capital, as he meets with the President, Secretary of State, and Congress. His visit to the United States serves as a testament to his unwavering commitment to fostering mutual respect and religious tolerance on a global level.

I look forward to the opportunity to welcome His All-Holiness and express our collective gratitude for his continued leadership and dedication to the cause of peace and religious liberty. In the words of His All-Holiness: "If our age will be remembered, it may be for those who dedicated themselves to the cause of peace."

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAOR-
DINARY LIFE OF DIXIE DEMUTH

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the legacy and remarkable life of a Louisville hometown hero, Dixie Demuth, who fought for equality for women in Kentucky and left a permanent mark on our city and commonwealth.

Born in 1917 in the famous Samuels House in Samuels, Kentucky, Dixie moved to Louisville with her mother in 1933 at the height of the Great Depression. From an early age, she worked in restaurants and bars, learning the trade in popular downtown spots until she opened her own place on 5th Street in Louisville. She called it Dixie's Elbow Room. Although Dixie was allowed to own and run a bar, a two-hundred-year-old Kentucky law prohibited women from working as bartenders or even sitting at bars. Dixie decided that just

wasn't right, and, in 1968, she hired her very first woman bartender and served a woman seated at her bar—her own adult daughter, in fact.

The Kentucky Alcohol Beverage Control Board came down hard and fast, incensed not only that she was breaking the law but also that she openly advertised her rulebreaking in the hope that other bar owners would join her fight, but no one did. Though the ABC shut her down and took her liquor license, Dixie did not give up the fight. Found guilty of violating the antiquated state law, Dixie appealed her sentence and brought her case to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, who decided in her favor in 1972, calling the law “invidious and arbitrary.” Her quiet revolution behind the counter became a landmark victory for women's rights in the commonwealth and across the country.

At 100 years old, when asked why she decided to take her bold stand, Dixie remembered: “I said this is ridiculous, I'm going to change that, so I did.” Dixie died in 2020 at the age of 102, but her legacy lives on. In 2023, she was inducted into the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame, which recognizes sacrifice and determination in the bourbon industry. Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg recently unveiled a new historical marker, part of the Louisville Metro Historical Marker Program, placed where her bar once stood, ensuring that future generations will learn about Dixie's fight and victory.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Bourbon Caucus, and as a proud son of Louisville, I am grateful for the path Dixie paved for the bourbon industry and the many women who work in it. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Dixie Demuth, as well as to celebrate the unveiling of the historical marker that enshrines her in our city's history.

RECOGNIZING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW, ARCHBISHOP OF
CONSTANTINOPLE AND ECU-
MENICAL PATRIARCH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch, as he visits the United States to receive the Templeton Prize.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis on the island of Imvros, known today as Gökçeada, Turkey, Patriarch Bartholomew was elected the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch in October 1991. Today he leads a community of 300 million Orthodox Christians and is the longest serving archbishop in the church's 2,000-year history. Patriarch Bartholomew pursued theological studies in Istanbul, Rome, Switzerland, Germany, and Greece, earning a doctorate in Canon law. Recognized for his scholarship and global perspective, he has received honorary doctorates from leading institutions across the world.

Throughout his time as Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew has worked to build unity among the Christian churches and foster meaningful dialogue between world religions.

He has convened many international conferences, bringing together religious leaders from across the globe to promote coexistence and tolerance. Known as the “Green Patriarch,” Patriarch Bartholomew has brought significant attention to ecological concerns, organizing global, interfaith symposia on climate change and ecological responsibility. For his environmental leadership, he has received numerous awards and international recognition.

Patriarch Bartholomew has addressed the United Nations, the European Parliament, and the World Economic Forum, earning accolades from around the world. In recognition of his global contributions, he received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997. In September 2025, Patriarch Bartholomew will travel to the U.S. to receive the Templeton Prize, one the most prestigious awards recognizing those who use the power of science to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. Previous recipients include St. Teresa of Kolkata and the Dalai Lama.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the work of His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch, and I ask that my colleagues join me in welcoming him to Washington, D.C. and thanking him for his ongoing commitment to advancing peace and religious freedom.

RECOGNIZING TESS KUENNING

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tess Kuening, president and CEO of Bi-State Primary Care Association. Her community-based approach to public health and exceptional leadership have significantly improved both the quality and accessibility of health care in New Hampshire, Vermont, and the rest of the country.

Tess has dedicated her entire career to improving public health. After earning her Master's in Nursing and Public/Community Health in 1990, she worked in Nepal as a Peace Corps nurse for five years. There, Tess taught women to be birth attendants and designed sustainable maternal and child health programs. While Tess loved working one-on-one with patients and clinicians, she wanted to expand her impact to the community level, pushing her to transition to public health. After returning to the United States, she worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the principal public health advisor throughout New England and as a nurse consultant for the Health Care Finance Administration.

For the past thirty years, Tess has led Bi-State Primary Case Association, which advocates for Community Health Centers in New Hampshire and Vermont. Community Health Centers play a crucial role in delivering primary care, especially in areas where medical services are limited or unaffordable. Offering accessible, preventive, and routine care, they serve as a vital lifeline for low and moderate-income families who might otherwise go without essential health services. As president and CEO of Bi-State PCA, Tess has been instrumental in leveraging her clinical background,

experience in public health, and many connections to stakeholders, nonprofits, and Congressional Offices like my own to uplift community health centers in our state. Under her leadership, Bi-State has grown from a staff of 6 to over 20 and now serves over 312,000 patients across New Hampshire and Vermont.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with Tess multiple times over the past few years, and I am always inspired by her determination, creativity, positivity, and genuine passion for community health. I am so grateful to Tess for sharing her experience and knowledge with me and other Members of Congress, helping us improve our healthcare system. Tess is a true leader and public servant, and I want to acknowledge the profound positive impact she has had on community health in her community.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, I thank Tess Kuening for her selflessness and dedication to the patients she serves. Her dedication to advocating for community health centers has improved healthcare in our state and has made her community a better place. Tess's work has brought us one step closer to ensuring that health care is a right, not a privilege, for all. I wish her all the best in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILLION-
AIRE INCOME TAX ACT AND
NOTING THE POPE'S CONCERN
ON INCOME INEQUALITY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I plan to introduce the Billionaire Income Tax Act on Wednesday and will hold a press conference with the House cosponsor Congressman DON BEYER and the Senate bill sponsor RON WYDEN.

It is an effort to establish a level of fairness in federal income taxation and prevent millionaires and billionaires, and the aspiring trillionaire, Elon Musk, from taking advantage of the tax code to pay what, for them is pocket change. I have not asked him, but it looks like Pope Leo would endorse the Billionaire Income Tax Act. He recently did an interview with a biographer and excerpts were released on Sunday. Speaking of societal polarization, he said it is in part caused by income inequality. One factor, he said, and I'm quoting him, is “the continuously wider gap between the income levels of the working class and the money that the wealthiest receive. For example, CEOs that 60 years ago might have been making four to six times more than what the workers are receiving, the last figure I saw, it's 600 times more than what average workers are receiving. Yesterday the said news that Elon Musk is going to be the first trillionaire in the world. What does that mean and what's that about? If that is the only thing that has value anymore, then we're in big trouble.” I agree with Pope Leo and hope our bill will have a significant effect on what everyone seems to acknowledge is a huge and growing problem.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS,
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is an extraordinary honor to welcome His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to Washington, D.C. We are grateful to receive not only the spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, but also a man whose life and ministry have embodied courage, compassion, and an unshakable commitment to peace and human dignity.

He was born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of Imvros in Turkey—most inhabitants of Imvros were Greek until the 1960's, when the Turkish government forced them to emigrate. In 1970, the Turkish government officially renamed Imvros to Gökçeada. Thus, Patriarch Bartholomew's journey has been marked from its earliest days by faith and perseverance in the face of religious persecution and nationalistic intolerance. Educated at the Theological School of Halki and later in Rome, Munich, and Switzerland, he distinguished himself in the fields of theology and canon law, becoming a respected scholar even before his ordination. In October 1991, he was elected the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, assuming the role of "first among equals" in the ancient Patriarchate founded by the Apostle Andrew.

Since that time, His All-Holiness has been called many things: the "Patriarch of Peace," the "Green Patriarch," and, above all, a bridge builder. For more than three decades, he has labored under extraordinary difficulties. In a region where the Orthodox community has suffered harassment and intimidation by Islamic extremists, he has stood steadfast, not only defending the faithful, but offering reconciliation to their adversaries. He has endured hostility, threats, and attempts to silence his office, yet his response has always been guided by the Christian virtues of forgiveness, humility, and love.

His All-Holiness has taken that witness far beyond the walls of the Patriarchate in Constantinople. He has convened dialogues among Christians, Muslims, and Jews, creating unprecedented opportunities for mutual understanding in the Middle East, one of the world's most divided regions, and beyond. From Libya to Syria, from Egypt to Azerbaijan, he has sought not confrontation, but instead "a dialogue of loving truth."

Mr. Speaker, His All-Holiness is not only a voice of principle, but a leader of action. He presided over the historic Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church in Crete in 2016, granted autocephaly to the Church of Ukraine in 2019, and continues to strengthen unity within the Orthodox world while opening channels of dialogue with the Catholic Church and other Christian traditions. His leadership is defined not by power or coercion, but by example—the examples of service, sacrifice, and fidelity to Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves.

As we welcome him, we are mindful that the challenges he faces are immense. Religious

freedom is often denied to Orthodox Christians—and under constraint in many of the lands they have inhabited for centuries. Christians and other minorities in many regions still face persecution.

I thank His All-Holiness for his witness, courage, and example. Washington welcomes him, not only as a guest, but as a brother, a teacher, and a peacemaker. May his visit strengthen the bonds between our peoples, and may his ministry continue to inspire us all to walk humbly, act justly, and love mercifully in the service of God and one another.

HONORING HALLIE COYNE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hallie Coyne and her service and contributions to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

Hallie joined my office in 2022 and quickly became one of the most effective and recognized personal office defense staffers in the House. As my National Security Advisor, Hallie has spearheaded numerous legislative efforts that delivered tangible results to the constituents of my district, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the country. Among her many accomplishments, Hallie spearheaded efforts to bolster the shipbuilding ecosystem in Virginia, strengthen commercial space launch infrastructure, bridge the gap between new defense start-ups and the Pentagon, and was a champion of defense technology and innovation.

Hallie has served as a mentor and leader for my legislative staff and the entire office, sharing her expertise and experience with the rest of my team. Her counsel and guidance have shaped my staff into the most effective and successful team on Capitol Hill.

I would like to thank Hallie for her many contributions and dedicated service over the last three and a half years. She is thorough, a true team player, and a spark in my office that will be dearly missed. Hallie has been an invaluable member of my team, and I wish her the best of luck as she moves on to the next chapter of her professional career.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you in joining me to recognize Hallie Coyne for her service to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed all the votes in the vote series on September 8, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 241, final passage of H.R. 3425, the POST Act; and YEA on Roll Call No. 240, final passage of H.R. 3424, the SPACE Act.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF KATHY LUKE

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Mrs. Kathy Chester Luke of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Mrs. Luke spent most of her life living in Philadelphia with her husband, Bob Luke, and always considered it home. Kathy was a devoted teacher who poured patience, encouragement, and a belief that the children she encountered would help shape a better future for their families and communities into every student who entered the doors of her classroom. The love Kathy showed to her students was a small glimpse into the selfless matriarch her family remembers her to be. Nothing brought Kathy more joy than seeing all her family gathered in one room. She loved to decorate for the holidays, travel with her husband, and play mahjong weekly with her friends.

Kathy's time as an educator impacted countless lives as she served as a selfless pillar of strength to her students and coworkers. Her life and legacy are forever marked with generosity, wisdom, and a deep love for others. I am honored to remember her legacy here today.

HONORING STABLE RECOVERY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month, I rise to honor Stable Recovery for their work around mental health, suicide, and addiction. Stable Recovery is a small, peer-driven, equine-focused rehabilitation program located in Kentucky. This program was launched on Taylor Made Farm in 2022 by co-founders Frank Taylor and Christian Countzler. Their vision was simple but powerful: to help individuals find strength and healing through the power of the horse, the principles of 12-step recovery, and the dignity of meaningful work.

The School of Horsemanship, created by Frank Taylor and built on decades of horsemanship knowledge, provides a 90-day residential program for education and healing. Residents find structure, discipline, and purpose as they learn equine care, farm work, financial independence and participate in daily therapy, support groups, and 12-step instruction. The goal was to not only allow residents to thrive and learn in recovery but to provide a natural employment pathway to jobs in the equine industry, an industry that needs more skilled talent.

The horse industry has been extraordinarily supportive. In just three short years, Stable Recovery has already seen lives transformed and exceptional growth. They credit their success to evidence based clinical practices, consistency of the program, mentorship, community and the healing power of horses. The men and women that have completed the program have reached milestones of sobriety. Many now live in recovery while working in the

equine industry. Stable Recovery's metrics exceed national norms. As of today, 80 percent of Stable Recovery's legacy graduates remain sober and are employed in the equine industry. Generous individuals and organizations, like HISA and Jockeys' Guild, believe in their mission. Their support has given residents a chance to recover at Taylor Made Farm and strategic partners have provided stable employment, allowing graduates to build lives of independence and purpose.

I am honored to recognize the work of Stable Recovery as we consider their incredible work for our community and what more can be done to prevent suicide in our Nation. We can heal people through horses, and in the process, create better lives, stronger families, and the opportunity of a bright future.

HONORING JOSEFINA LÓPEZ ON
THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CASA 0101 IN BOYLE HEIGHTS

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Josefina López, a playwright, artistic director, and community leader.

The daughter of a bracero, Josefina López immigrated to the United States from Mexico at the age of 5. Her family settled in Boyle Heights, where López grew up as an undocumented individual for 13 years until she was granted amnesty. López's experience as a Mexican, undocumented woman is what inspired her to write her acclaimed play *Real Women Have Curves*.

The play, which was later adapted into a film, is based on López's lived experience jug-

gling her family's expectations to work at their sewing factory, her dream of pursuing an education in New York, and the ever-present fear of immigration authorities entering their communities. Along with her other works, López has had over 100 productions of her plays performed in the United States.

At the start of her writing career, López was often the sole woman of color in the room, inspiring her to create a path for Latinos like herself to achieve success in the arts. In 2000, López founded CASA 0101 to, make this dream a reality by bringing theater and arts programs to the community she grew up in. For the last 25 years, the organization has produced hundreds of plays, provided free arts classes for young Angelenos, and supported the next generation of storytellers and artists. The impact of López's work can be felt from Boyle Heights to Broadway.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Josefina López.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. SUMMER L. LEE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, to Washington, D.C.

This week, His All-Holiness is visiting our Nation's Capital to receive the Templeton Prize, the most prestigious international award in religion and science. With this honor, he joins the ranks of Mother Teresa, Archbishop

Desmond Tutu, and the Dalai Lama. The recognition reflects not only his scholarship and spiritual leadership but his unwavering witness for peace, human dignity, and care for creation.

For more than three decades as Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness has been a global voice for reconciliation among peoples of different faiths and traditions. He has also been one of the first religious leaders to insist that harming the environment is not simply a failure of policy but a moral failing. His leadership reminds us that stewardship of our planet is inseparable from justice for our communities.

His leadership has been honored across the world. In 1997, he received the Congressional Gold Medal here in the United States, and he has been recognized internationally as one of the most influential figures of our time. Yet the true measure of his ministry lies not in awards, but in his call for peace over division, compassion over violence, and responsibility over indifference. As he has said, "We have it in our power either to increase the hurt inflicted on our world or to contribute toward its healing. The choice is ours."

His life's work reminds us that building a better world depends on moral courage, the same courage we need to meet our own fights for justice at home.

The people of Pennsylvania's 12th District, including the faithful of the Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in East Pittsburgh and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh, are proud to share in this welcome.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary ministry of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and in congratulating him on this well-deserved honor.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6625–S6665

Measures Introduced: Nineteen bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2807–2825, S.J. Res. 77, and S. Res. 389–396. **Pages S6647–48**

Measures Passed:

Charlie Kirk life and legacy: Senate agreed to S. Res. 391, condemning the assassination of Charlie Kirk and honoring his life and legacy. **Page S6637**

National Warrior Call Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 392, expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2025, as “National Warrior Call Day” and recognizing the importance of connecting members of the Armed Forces and veterans in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection. **Page S6637**

National Lobster Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 393, designating September 25, 2025, as “National Lobster Day”. **Page S6637**

National Literacy Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 394, designating September 2025 as “National Literacy Month”. **Page S6637**

National Forensic Science Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 395, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week. **Page S6637**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act: Senate resumed 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, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S6625–26, S6626–31**

Pending:

Wicker/Reed Amendment Modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6625**

Wicker (for Ernst) Amendment No. 3427 (to Amendment No. 3748), to require the Comptroller

General of the United States to conduct a study on casualty assistance and long-term care programs. **Page S6625**

Thune Amendment No. 3863 (to Amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6625**

Thune Amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6625**

Thune Amendment No. 3865 (to Amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6625**

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune Amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date. **Page S6625**

Thune Amendment No. 3867 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3866), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6625**

Thune Amendment No. 3868 (to Amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date. **Page S6625**

Emissions Budget and Allowance Allocations for Indiana Under the Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update: By 47 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 520), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 60, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Emissions Budget and Allowance Allocations for Indiana Under the Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update”. **Pages S6631–35**

Budget Resolution: By 36 yeas to 62 nays (Vote No. 521), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 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. **Pages S6635–37**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S6657–65**

Messages from the House:	Pages S6645–46
Measures Referred:	Page S6646
Measures Discharged:	Page S6646
Measures Placed on the Calendar:	Page S6646
Executive Communications:	Pages S6646–47
Petitions and Memorials:	Page S6647
Additional Cosponsors:	Pages S6648–50
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S6650–53
Additional Statements:	Page S6645
Amendments Submitted:	Pages S6653–56
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Page S6656
Privileges of the Floor:	Page S6656
Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—521)	Pages S6633, S6637
Recess: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and recessed at 6:27 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6656.)	

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FBI OVERSIGHT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after receiving testimony from Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

AI CHATBOTS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism concluded a hearing to examine AI chatbots, after receiving testimony from Robbie Torney, Common Sense Media, San Francisco, California; Mitchell J. Prinstein, American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.; Matthew Raine, Adam Raine Foundation, Orange County, California; and Megan Garcia, Orlando, Florida.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 48 public bills, H.R. 5370–5417; 1 private bill, H.R. 5418; and 9 resolutions, H. Res. 719–721 and 723–728, were introduced. **Pages H4361–63**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4365–66**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 722, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 719) honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–299). **Page H4361**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Gimenez to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4315**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:37 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H4319**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:21 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Pages H4328–29**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, September 15th.

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, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 413 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 269. **Pages H4330–31**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 721, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H4331**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Mace announced her intent to offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 713) censuring Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and removing

her from the Committee on Education and Workforce and the Committee on the Budget.

Pages H4331–32

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Casar announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution.

Pages H4332–33

Recess: The House recessed at 4:02 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m.

Page H4345

DC Criminal Reforms to Immediately Make Everyone Safe Act: The House passed 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, by a ye-and-nay vote of 240 yeas to 179 nays, Roll No. 270.

Pages H4333–39, H4345–46

H. Res. 707, providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4922), (H.R. 5143), (H.R. 5140), (H.R. 5125), (H.R. 1047), (H.R. 3015), and (H.R. 3062) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 213 yeas to 211 noes, Roll No. 268, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 267.

Pages H4321–28, H4329–30

Lowering 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: The House passed 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, by a ye-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 271.

Pages H4339–45, H4346–47

H. Res. 707, providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4922), (H.R. 5143), (H.R. 5140), (H.R. 5125), (H.R. 1047), (H.R. 3015), and (H.R. 3062) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 213 yeas to 211 noes, Roll No. 268, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 267.

Pages H4321–28, H4329–30

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four ye-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4329–30, H4330, H4330–31, H4345–46, and H4346–47.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AN EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF THE SPECIALTY CROP INDUSTRY

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “An Examination of the State of the Specialty Crop Industry”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NO MORE SURPRISES: REFORMING COLLEGE PRICING FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “No More Surprises: Reforming College Pricing for Students and Families”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPLIANCE AND BUILDING POLICIES: RESTORING THE AMERICAN DREAM OF HOME OWNERSHIP AND CONSUMER CHOICE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Appliance and Building Policies: Restoring the American Dream of Home Ownership and Consumer Choice”. Testimony was heard from Jeff Novak, Acting General Counsel and Principal Deputy General Counsel, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

FROM GRIDLOCK TO GROWTH: PERMITTING REFORM UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled, “From Gridlock to Growth: Permitting Reform Under the Clean Air Act”. Testimony was heard from Ali Mirzakhali, Air Quality Division Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon; Clint Woods, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Management, Indiana; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1531, the “PROTECT Taiwan Act”; H.R. 5344, the “Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Program Act”; H.R. 2478, the “Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2025”; H.R. 3484, the “Business Owners Protection Act of 2025”; H.R. 5317, the “Community Bank Deposit Access Act of 2025”; H.R. 3682, the “Financial Stability Oversight Council Improvement Act of 2025”; 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. 5262, the “Bank Competition Modernization Act”; H.R. 5276, the “Community Bank LIFT Act”; H.R. 5291, the “Merchant Banking Modernization Act”; and H.R. 5270, the “Stress Testing Accountability and Transparency Act”. H.R. 1531, H.R. 5344, H.R. 2478, H.R. 3484, H.R. 5317, H.R. 3682, H.R. 3234, H.R. 5262, H.R. 5276, H.R. 5291, and H.R. 5270 were ordered reported, as amended.

SURVEYING THE THREAT OF AGROTERRORISM: PERSPECTIVES ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND VETERINARY DEFENSE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology held a hearing entitled “Surveying the Threat of Agroterrorism: Perspectives on Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MAINTAINING ELECTION OPERATIONS IN THE FACE OF NATURAL DISASTERS

Committee on House Administration: Subcommittee on Elections held a hearing entitled “Maintaining Election Operations in the Face of Natural Disasters”. Testimony was heard from Cord Byrd, Secretary of State, Florida; and public witnesses.

UNMANNED AND UNCHECKED: CONFRONTING THE RISING THREAT OF MALICIOUS DRONE USE IN AMERICA

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled “Unmanned and Unchecked: Confronting the Rising Threat of Malicious Drone Use in America”. Testimony was heard from Robert Dooley, Statewide UAS and C-UAS Coordinator, Florida Highway Patrol; and public witnesses.

UNLEASHING ALASKA’S EXTRAORDINARY RESOURCE POTENTIAL

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PLAYING GOD WITH THE WEATHER—A DISASTROUS FORECAST

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency held a hearing entitled “Playing God with the Weather—A Disastrous Forecast”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FROM PROTECTION TO PERSECUTION: EPA ENFORCEMENT GONE ROGUE UNDER THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement held a hearing entitled “From Protection to Persecution: EPA Enforcement Gone Rogue Under the Biden Administration”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026; HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES JAMES KIRK

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 5371, the “Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026”; and H. Res. 719, honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5317, the “Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026”, and H. Res. 719, Honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5371, the “Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 719, Honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 719. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees. Finally, the rule further provides that Sections 9, 10, and 11 of House Resolution 707, agreed to September 16, 2025, are each amended by striking “March 31, 2026” and inserting “January 31, 2026”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Cole, and Representatives DeLauro, Diaz Balart, Luna, LaMalfa, and Moskowitz.

PATHWAY TO CAPITAL: THE ROLE OF SBA LENDING IN SUPPORTING MAIN STREET AMERICA

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Pathway to Capital: The Role of SBA Lending in Supporting Main Street America”. Testimony was heard from Thomas Kimsey, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access, U.S. Small Business Administration.

VIRTUE SIGNALING VS. VITAL SERVICES: WHERE TAX-EXEMPT HOSPITALS ARE SPENDING YOUR TAX DOLLARS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled “Virtue Signaling vs. Vital Services: Where Tax-Exempt Hospitals are Spending Your Tax Dollars”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

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, 10 a.m., SR–253.

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, 9:50 a.m., SD–562.

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 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: 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.

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, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rebecca L. Taibleson, of Wisconsin,

to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Lindsey Ann Freeman, and David A. Bragdon, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Matthew E. Orso, and Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, and Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, 10:15 a.m., SD-G50.

Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, to hold hearings to examine missing unaccompanied alien children and criminal sponsors, 2 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: 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: to hold hearings to examine strengthening services for veterans with spinal cord injury and disorder, 4 p.m., SD-106.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine drug safety, supply chains, and the risk to aging Americans, 3:30 p.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, 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, 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.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "The Reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Task Force on Monetary Policy, hearing entitled "Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity: Less Mandates. More Independence", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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 the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, 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.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled "Shaping Tomorrow: The Future of Artificial Intelligence", 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Streaming Success: Small Businesses in the Age of Digital Influence", 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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, 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: to hold hearings to examine conspiracy theories, antisemitism, and democratic decline, 2 p.m., 2358C–RHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 17

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 2296, National Defense Authorization Act.

At 11 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on consideration of the en bloc nominations under the provisions of S. Res. 377, En Bloc Consideration of Certain Nominations. Senators should expect additional roll call votes in relation to the en bloc consideration of the nominations.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H. Res. 722—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 719) honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk; and for other purposes. Consideration of H.R. 5125—District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act of 2025. Consideration of H.R. 5143—District of Columbia Policing Protection Act of 2025.

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