



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

No. 152

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 17, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT J. WITTMAN 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.

### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Preparedness Month because when disaster strikes, preparedness is not optional. It is essential.

Since 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has led a national preparedness campaign to improve emergency readiness. From building supply kits to organizing volunteer ef-

forts to raising awareness about emergency alert systems, National Preparedness Month is a reminder that communities can reduce and, in some cases, prevent devastation.

Disasters don't wait for election cycles or budget negotiations. Floods, fires, blizzards, hurricanes, and tornadoes arrive suddenly, shattering lives and testing our Nation's resiliency.

When these moments arrive, FEMA must be ready to act as the lifeline that millions of Americans depend on, especially as these events are becoming more frequent, destructive, and unpredictable.

Last year alone, the United States experienced 27 disasters, costing more than \$1 billion: wildfires in the West, flooding in the South, hurricanes along our coasts, tornadoes in the heartland, and blizzards in the North.

As the ranking member of the Emergency Management and Technology Subcommittee, I have seen firsthand the importance of FEMA's work and the pressing need to safeguard its mission.

This National Preparedness Month, the stakes are much higher. At the very moment when Americans need strong, stable leadership in Federal emergency management, some in this Chamber and in the White House are pushing to undermine it.

Let me be clear: Eliminating FEMA, cutting preparedness grants, or hollowing out the Agency's workforce is not just reckless. It is playing politics with people's lives. It leaves families stranded, communities overwhelmed, and local responders without the Federal support they desperately need.

Preparedness begins locally, with families making plans, schools running emergency drills, local and State leaders building resilient infrastructure, and emergency managers issuing alerts for dangerous conditions, but no city, county, or State can manage the full scale of today's disasters alone.

That is why FEMA exists. It is the backbone of our Nation's disaster readiness and a bridge to recovery.

Now is the time to strengthen FEMA, not to dismantle it. FEMA brings the surge capacity, coordination, and resources that no municipality can summon alone. From housing assistance and debris removal to hazard mitigation and long-term rebuilding, FEMA is the connective tissue of our national preparedness.

As Members of Congress, we have a duty to ensure our constituents and the communities we represent never have to wonder whether their Federal Government will be there to support them when disaster strikes.

Disasters do not discriminate between red States and blue States. Preparedness is not partisan. It is a shared responsibility and moral obligation.

This National Preparedness Month, we owe it to every family, first responder, and community to ensure FEMA stands ready to help, respond, recover, and rebuild.

### CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAUCUS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am proud to be an advocate for CTE and the work we do to support job training, apprenticeships, and CTE programs.

Skills-based education provides learners of all ages with career-ready skills, giving individuals the tools to succeed and restoring the rungs on the ladder of opportunity.

From agriculture to the arts and from marketing to manufacturing,

□ 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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CTE programs work to develop America's most valuable resource: its people. A highly skilled workforce is important to the success of our American economy.

That is why, together with the CTE Caucus co-chair, Congresswoman BONAMICI, I introduced two bills that increase career counseling for students and adult learners.

The Counseling for Career Choice Act would expand K-12 career counseling services and provide more resources focused on financial literacy, registered apprenticeships, dual enrollment programs, internships, and even financing for college or other postsecondary education.

Career counseling gives students the tools that they need to make well-informed decisions about their futures. When we equip school counselors with the resources necessary, we can help close our Nation's skills gap and let students find the pathway to fulfilling careers.

The Counseling for Career Choice Act ensures that middle and high school students are made fully aware of their career and educational options prior to graduation so that they are aware of all the opportunities before them.

CTE has established itself as a path that many high-achieving students choose in pursuit of industry certifications and hands-on skills that they can use right out of high school in skills-based education programs or college.

For adult learners, we introduced the Creating Opportunities to Thrive and Advance Act, or COTA Act for short, to help spread the word about career counseling through public outreach.

COTA amends title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, or WIOA, to bolster career guidance for adults.

For the first time, this bill would allow for public outreach such as public service announcements, social media campaigns, job fairs, and other means to educate the public on workforce development programs.

Mr. Speaker, we must be able to tell the public about the resources available to them. Increasing access to career opportunities is a good investment, and the COTA Act will give individuals the resources they need to take the next step in their careers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support both bills and to join the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus today.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF LLOYD WILLIAMS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a good friend, Lloyd Williams, president and CEO of The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and cofounder of HARLEM WEEK.

Lloyd was a dear friend and beloved member of the Harlem community. Through his lifetime of public service, spanning more than 50 years, more than one-half century, Lloyd was dedicated in his unparalleled dedication to fostering economic empowerment, cultural pride, and social equity in the village of Harlem.

□ 1010

Born on January 16, 1945, in Jamaica and immigrated to New York City at the age of 2, where he was raised in Harlem, Lloyd committed a lifetime of service to the advancement and empowerment of the Harlem community. In many ways, Lloyd Williams was Mr. Harlem.

He earned his higher education degree at The City College of New York and developed a lifelong passion for civic engagement, economic development, and cultural preservation.

In 1974, Lloyd Williams, along with Manhattan Borough President Percy E. Sutton, Voza Rivers, and others, co-founded Harlem Week, which was initially designated as a 1-day event to restore community pride, yet it grew into a multi-week cultural festival celebrating Harlem's history, art, music, business, and contributions to society, attracting millions of people annually.

In 1988, Lloyd was appointed president of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, becoming one of the longest serving leaders of this important organization, guiding the Chamber through periods of economic challenges and revitalization over more than four decades.

Under his visionary leadership, the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce expanded its mission to promote minority-owned businesses, attract investment, foster entrepreneurship, and support workforce development initiatives that improve economic opportunities for Harlem's residents.

Lloyd championed key social issues, including affordable housing, education reform, health equity, climate change awareness, and bridging the digital divide, working tirelessly to ensure that Harlem's growth was inclusive and reflective of the need of its diverse population.

Lloyd was a champion of Harlem's cultural institutions and heritage and served as a dedicated mentor, friend, and adviser to many others throughout New York City.

We are all saddened by his passing and will miss him greatly, but we will always and forever remember him and his enduring commitment to civil rights, social justice, and community advocacy.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, Lloyd Williams was my friend. In the political terrain, I believe that he paid for our friendship, but he never backed down. His last message to me, a text message, simply said: Proud.

Well, we are all proud of Lloyd Williams. We will never forget him. His

impact and influence will be remembered across Harlem USA and across the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING JEFF WILSON

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly great South Carolinian, Mr. Jeff Wilson. He is an outstanding public servant and beacon of our farming community. As head of Cotton Hills Farm in Lowrys, South Carolina, he recently was named the South Carolina Farmer of the Year for 2025 by the Sunbelt Ag Expo. This distinct honor is for his decades of dedicated service to farming, conservation, and community.

For over 40 years, Jeff Wilson has exemplified the very best of what it means to be a South Carolina farmer. He is hardworking, he is innovative, and he is deeply committed to preserving the land and the legacy of his family.

Cotton Hills Farm has been in the Wilson family since 1882. That is over 143 years ago. Originally starting with only 100 acres gifted to Jeff by his great-grandmother, it now spans over 1,000 acres producing a diverse array of crops.

Jeff's story is one of dedication not only to the land but to the family. After serving our Nation in the Air Force during the Vietnam war, Jeff returned home to carry on the farm. He followed in the footsteps of his father, who took over the farm at the age of 13. Now, four generations later, Jeff farms alongside his sons, Jeb and Pete.

Jeff has truly been an innovator in the agriculture industry. He has upheld sustainable farming practices long before they were commonplace and adopted no-till methods, cover cropping, and efficient underground irrigation to conserve water and to protect the soil. His commitment to conservation has earned him statewide and national recognition, including leadership roles on the soil and water conservation state board and the Southeast Region Hall of Fame award for the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Jeff also works outside the family farm. He and his family operate three retail markets and a GAP-certified packing facility. These bring the fresh, local produce directly to the consumers.

Throughout his life, Jeff has been deeply involved in serving his community. He has served 50 years with the Ruritan Club, 30 years with the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, and he is on the Clemson Extension Advisory Committee. He was also awarded County Conservationist of the Year.

Jeff's commitment to education through programs like the annual Farm & Tractor Day and the South Carolina Ag + Art Tour reflect his desire to share the values of agriculture with future generations.

Above all, Jeff Wilson's character stands as a shining example of integrity and of gratitude. His faith in our Almighty God and his humility are shown in everything he does, always reminding us of how important it is to give back to our community and to our country.

I can personally attest to the genuine and forward-thinking spirit that Jeff brings to every opportunity. His leadership strengthens South Carolina agriculture, ensures the future of family farming, and honors the heritage that makes our State proud.

On behalf of the people of South Carolina, I thank Mr. Jeff Wilson for his extraordinary contributions to our State, to our city, to our county, and to our country. I pray this work continues to inspire young people to lead by his strong values.

We just had the tragic passing of a great American, Charlie Kirk, who extolled the values of faith, family, and freedom. Jeff Wilson extolls the values that Mr. Kirk extolled for 31 years of his life.

Godspeed.

#### PARTNERSHIP FOR L.A. SCHOOLS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important and critical responsibilities any nation has, any community has, any State has, is the education of its children.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the extraordinary work of an organization from Los Angeles that has lessons for every community in America.

Nearly two decades ago, then-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa partnered with my good friends, philanthropists Melanie and Richard Lundquist, to launch the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools. Dr. Lundquist is with us today.

Their nonprofit is committed to strengthening public schools in some of L.A.'s most underserved and challenging communities.

Today, under the leadership of Guadalupe Guerrero, the Partnership for L.A. Schools manages 20 K-12 public schools, serving more than 13,500 students in Boyle Heights, Watts, and South L.A.

These are not charter schools. They are neighborhood public schools working in close collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The results speak for themselves.

When the partnership began, the high school graduation rate in its schools was just 36 percent. Today, that rate has risen to 92 percent.

The progress does not stop there. This year's partnership schools reached their highest math performance ever and matched their strongest literary results.

□ 1020

Following the pandemic, students demonstrated 3 consecutive years of

growth in math and 2 consecutive years of growth in reading.

Every partnership elementary school advanced in literacy, and nearly all of them advanced in math, as well. Black and emergent bilingual students, those who have historically faced the steepest barriers, made some of the strongest gains.

I had the opportunity to see this outstanding education model at work when I toured Santee High School, one of the partnership's campuses. I was impressed by the students and their learning progress. I was convinced then and am even more certain now that the partnership has created a scalable and sustainable model for schools nationally.

The partnership is not only a success for L.A. but an example for all of America. Their work demonstrates that when we invest in teacher coaching, leadership development, aligned systems of support, and other proven strategies, students make real and, importantly, lasting gains.

Many in our country have taken aim at public schools recently. The partnership is proof that our public schools can deliver for every child so long as we provide them with the right tools and, importantly, the resources. The partnership continues to prove that every day.

I commend the Partnership for L.A. Schools—its educators, students, and families—for showing our country a better path forward.

Dr. Lundquist has become a dear friend and an extraordinary shining example for us all. I recognize my friend, Melanie, who is with me here today, and the tens of thousands of children, teachers, and participants who have made this such a success.

Mr. Speaker, tens of thousands of children have seen brighter futures because of Melanie and her husband Richard's philanthropy, vision, and dedication to improving America's public schools.

My friend, the late congressman Bill Natcher, used to say: "As long as you take care of the health of your people and the education of your children, you'll continue to live in the strongest and best nation on earth."

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what Melanie Lundquist and the partnership for LA Schools are doing.

And for that, they have my thanks and the gratitude of the American people.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SUAREZ-DELGADO FAMILY

(Mr. BACON of Nebraska was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Suarez-Delgado family from my district for Hispanic Heritage Month. Their story is one of resilience, devotion, and the pursuit of opportunity, one that reminds us of the enduring promise of the American Dream.

Father Jaime Suarez-Reyes, born in Mexico, visited Disneyland as a child,

and it lit a spark in his heart. He decided then and there that America would be his home. In 1981, he began raising a family with his wife, Patricia Delgado de Suarez, and set his dream in motion.

The path was anything but easy. The process of immigrating took 7 years of perseverance, paperwork, and determination. In 1990, Jaime was able to bring Patricia and their four children, Jaime Jr., Adrian, Lorena, and Paulina, to Omaha, Nebraska.

Life in America demanded courage and adjustment. The Suarez children entered school, learning English and embracing the culture of their new home. With the support of kind neighbors and welcoming friends, the family grew in confidence and faith in the promise of freedom and opportunity.

Jaime worked tirelessly to support his family. His early jobs included shifts in a meatpacking plant, cleaning offices, and selling cars at H&H Ford. As his English improved, new doors opened. He became a Realtor, an insurance agent, and a banker. Yet, his true calling was entrepreneurship.

Jaime ventured into the restaurant business and steadily expanded into other enterprises, building a foundation of a legacy that his children will carry forward.

Jaime's success was never about business. It was about service. Together with Patricia, he served Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, teaching pre-marriage classes. In 1995, they became ordained family life ministers.

Jaime volunteered in Millard Public Schools as a translator, mentor, and soccer coach. He helped Hispanic students attend national leadership conferences, ensuring that opportunity extended beyond his own family and to a broader community.

From Jaime's example of faith and sacrifice, the Suarez children forged remarkable paths of their own.

Son Jaime Jr., a Creighton Prep and UNO alumnus, stayed in Omaha to continue the family's entrepreneurial tradition. Today, he operates 13 restaurants and cofounded real estate development and construction companies with his brother Adrian. He serves on nonprofit boards, to include OneWorld Community Health. He has been appointed to the Nebraska Latino Commission and the Omaha Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission.

His brother Adrian also remained in Omaha. A graduate of Creighton Prep and Creighton University, Adrian currently runs the family business, managing more than 100 employees. He has served on the board of trustees of the Omaha Public Library.

Their sister Lorena, a graduate of Marian High School, the University of Rochester, and UNMC, became a surgeon specializing in oncology. Today, she serves as a faculty member at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Finally, Paulina chose a career in nursing. Now a registered nurse in Warren, Ohio, she and her husband run

two gyms and manage an office building that supports nonprofits.

The story of the Suarez-Delgado family reflects the best of the American spirit. From humble beginnings to professional achievements, their legacy is one of faith, family, and community. It is proof that the American Dream is alive, that it endures, and that the American Dream can be fulfilled through generations to come through resilience, devotion, hard work, a love of family, and faith.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Suarez-Delgado family for pursuing their American Dream.

#### RESPECT FOR SCIENCE AND PURSUIT OF TRUTH

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a topic that should transcend partisanship: respect for science and the pursuit of truth.

History shows us that when nations embrace science, they grow stronger. When they suppress it, they grow weaker and often less free.

Throughout our history, we have witnessed dictators and authoritarian leaders suppress science and knowledge because it threatened their rule.

In Nazi Germany, Jewish scientists were forced out of universities, and research was put under complete control of the government. The result was not only the loss of a generation of brilliant minds but a society in which truth itself was subjugated to government propaganda.

In Stalin's Soviet Union, biology was condemned as "bourgeois science." Researchers who insisted on facts rather than ideology were imprisoned, killed, or sent to work in slave labor.

Even as far back as Mao's Cultural Revolution, China dismantled academic institutions, silenced experts, and elevated loyalty over knowledge. Generations lost their chance at education, and the nation's progress was stunted.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not learn from our history, we are doomed to repeat it. We are witnessing the same pattern repeating in our own lifetime.

In Hungary, Viktor Orban has taken over universities, closed independent institutions, and forced academic programs to shut down when they contradict his political goals.

In Russia, Vladimir Putin has jailed scientists and censored research, all to preserve the illusion of control and strength.

What these regimes have in common is simple: They know that science, at its core, is a challenge to authoritarianism. Science is a search for truth. It cannot be dictated by politicians, so when science becomes an affront to the goals of authoritarian leaders, they attack it, suppress it, deny it, and replace it with propaganda and misinformation.

Here at home, Donald Trump is following the same playbook. He has mocked climate scientists, dismissed decades of evidence, even as Americans suffer record floods, droughts, and wildfires.

Donald Trump has undermined doctors and public health officials by putting the Nation's leading vaccine denier in charge of our public health. Trump has promoted unproven cures for diseases, cut billions in critical research funding, and dismantled advisory boards that create avenues for government to work with scientists to make good policy.

In his 2026 budget, Trump is proposing to eliminate funding for the Administration for Community Living, which supports older and disabled Americans; the Department of Health and Human Services' Prevention and Public Health Fund; the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund; the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, an association of 16 academic centers and children's hospitals dedicated to trials of novel treatments for pediatric brain cancer; and so much more.

We need to understand why this is happening and why Republicans in this Congress are supporting it. These attacks are not random. They are deliberate, and they prove a tendency by this President to emulate the authoritarians of the past and present.

Trump's goal is to erode trust in experts, replace facts with loyalty, and convince Americans that only one man and one government can be trusted to define what is right and what is wrong. When a leader can erase truth and rewrite reality, they can justify anything. They can jail opponents. They can seize power and ignore the judges and the rule of law. They undermine the very essence of democracy itself.

Mr. Speaker, science is not partisan. It is not our political enemy. It is a safeguard against lies and misinformation. When our Nation's top leaders attack it, they are not only rejecting evidence. They are rejecting accountability.

America has always been strongest when we embrace discovery and not denial. When we put researchers, innovators, and problem-solvers to work—from curing polio to sending humans to the Moon and leading breakthroughs in clean energy and technology—our greatness has always come from empowering science, not mocking it.

Trump and Republicans are working to gut these critical advancements. Their tactics echo the worst chapters of history, and they mirror the tactics of authoritarian regimes today. If we fail to call this out, we risk normalizing it.

I believe the American people know what is at stake. They know that progress, safety, and freedom depend on science and truth, and truth cannot be dictated from a bully pulpit.

□ 1030

Defending science means defending democracy. It is about making sure our children inherit a nation that values evidence over propaganda and freedom over fear.

We cannot let authoritarians' attack on truth take root here. We cannot let science become the casualty of politics because if we do, history shows us exactly where that road will lead.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CHARLIE KIRK

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charlie Kirk. The country is heartbroken. As everyone knows, Charlie Kirk was assassinated last week for his beliefs of faith, family, and freedom.

Words are not violence. Violence is violence, and based on a pattern from the radical left, the message is clear: Keep your different points of view to yourself or else. That is an attack on the most important founding principle of our country and that is our First Amendment freedom of speech.

We must stay strong. We must keep fighting to keep our conservative principles, our Christian principles, strong.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Kirk was a devoted father and husband and a Christian who deeply loved our Nation. His amazing wife, Erika, has lost a husband, and two beautiful children will have to grow up without the guidance of their father. When asked how he would want to be remembered if he passed away, he said: I want to be remembered for my faith. That should be the most important thing.

Those celebrating his assassination and lying about his record, well, that is just disappointing and that is wrong.

Charlie believed civil dialogue could always prevail, standing for civil discourse over violence. His debate skills were second to none and he captured the hearts and minds of all Americans, especially young Americans across our country.

He courageously pushed back against radical leftist divisive ideologies that have eroded our national unity. Unfortunately, some in the media continue to misconstrue his message to be of hate, but he treated all human beings with dignity and respect.

Charlie's legacy on the world left a message that resonates with an entire generation, and it is only getting stronger. He was a devoted servant of our Savior Jesus Christ and it is best to live his teachings every day.

Later this week, I hope everyone in the House will join me in supporting the resolution honoring the life of Charlie Kirk. Charlie lived with courage, compassion, and conviction. He was a fierce defender of the American founding principles, such as limited government, individual responsibility,

life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Since Charlie founded Turning Point USA in 2012, when he was 18 years old in his garage, he became and remained a prominent voice in our political discourse.

He was the strongest defender of our First Amendment. He worked tirelessly to promote unity without compromising his convictions.

Mr. Speaker, my message to all Americans is, we live in a dangerous world. Stay vigilant and let us keep an eye on each other. If you see something, say something, do something. Charlie's death is tragic and sober, but I can already see God is turning this tragedy into a greater good. Charlie will be laid to rest this Sunday in Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, from a grateful nation, we thank Charlie for all he has done. May he rest in peace.

Well done good and faithful servant, Matthew 25:21.

#### REMEMBERING JARED KNEALE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak out on an important issue impacting this Nation and my community in Ohio.

As you may know, September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to pause and recognize mental health and the tragedy of taking one's own life.

Today, I rise with both a heavy heart and a hopeful spirit, because while my community has felt the devastating toll of suicide, I also believe in the power of advocacy and awareness in order to save lives.

Suicide Prevention Month is an opportunity for us to reflect and discuss stigmas around mental health and affirm, once again, that mental health care is healthcare.

Today, I will specifically address the sacrifices of our police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders. These are the women and men running toward danger while others flee for safety.

At the end of the day, after news stories publish details of their heroism, the weight of the trauma may linger long after sirens fade.

In 2021, the CDC acknowledged that law enforcement officers and firefighters are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

Jared Kneale is one such story from northeast Ohio. Born on October 5, 1981, in Euclid, Ohio, Jared graduated from Wadsworth High School in the year 2000. After working for the city of Wadsworth as a fireman and paramedic for 15 years, Jared transferred to the nearby city of Canton, Ohio, in Ohio's 13th Congressional District where he would serve his community for 8 years.

On Friday, May 17, 2024, northeast Ohio and Ohio's 13th District lost a dutiful public servant and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

The Canton Fire Department would later announce in a post on social media that Kneale's death was the result of a suicide due to a post-traumatic stress-related illness and that in his final moments, Jared signaled to us his wishes to use his death to help bring awareness to firefighter mental health. That is why I stand today before you, Mr. Speaker, to do exactly that and carry out Jared's last wishes.

Mr. Speaker, far too many suffer in silence, afraid of judgment or showing signs of weakness, but it is time we stand up for those who run toward danger, that we acknowledge our collective strength far surpasses the individual, and that asking for help is truly the greatest form of strength.

Rarely have I seen a better example of this than in the immediate aftermath of Jared's passing. Upon hearing about the tragedy, over 70 firefighters descended upon the local hospital to pay their respects.

As my community continues to grieve, cases like Jared's cannot be ignored because when we invest in mental health, we invest in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to talk a little bit about Jared and his life and the person that he was.

Jared, who worked with the 2nd Battalion and was assigned to ladder truck one, was loved by his colleagues. During his tenure with the city of Canton, he earned two Medals of Commendation and two meritorious citations for heroic actions on the job.

He was the head chef at station one and took great pride in sharing meals with his colleagues. Jared was known for his infectious laughter and he was the ringleader of the pranks at the station.

He also had a love for peanut butter M&M's and Chewy SweetARTS, always making sure his candy was stocked, knowing full well the rest of his crew would sneak handfuls out of his locker.

Jared was a devoted husband to his wife, Carrie, and a loving father to his six children: Tim, Shaunna, Caden, Aidan, Olivia, and Isabella. He was a fan of the Cleveland Browns, loved riding his Harley, and was a talented carpenter and mechanic. Behind every uniform is a person just like Jared who feels, grieves, and may struggle to cope with the toll of the demands of their work.

According to the National Firefighters Association, 20 percent of firefighters and paramedics meet the criteria for post-traumatic stress at some point during their careers. Additionally, the suicide rate for firefighters is much higher for them than the general public. The connection between PTSD and traumatic rescue work is quite clear. We, as a legislative body, must do more to ensure that first responders never have to carry this burden alone. We also, as human beings, must do more to be there for one another.

In the wake of Jared's passing, the Canton Fire Department said: "We

urge our fellow brothers and sisters to reach out to one another." We must remember that we have more in common than we do that separates us. We must do more to reach out and care for our neighbors who are struggling.

Before I take my seat, Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure that everyone knows that if you are struggling, if you know someone who is struggling, you can call or text 9-8-8 for personalized support during these difficult times. They are not alone.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I thank Jared's family for allowing me to share his story and uplift a firefighter and someone who is so very important to our community but lost their life tragically.

□ 1040

#### WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today still in shock and saddened at the political assassination of Charlie Kirk. There is no place for political violence in our country, and it is antithetical to who we are as Americans.

The beauty of our Nation and the First Amendment is that anyone from anywhere has the right to express their beliefs, engage in dialogue, and disagree peacefully. That is the heart of our democracy. We need to get back to embracing that dialogue.

Charlie often said that when we stop talking, that is when violence happens. I don't want to live in a society where we don't talk to people we disagree with and resort to violence. Leadership is never easy, but it falls on us to lead the way by carrying on the mission that Charlie lived for of open debate in a free society in the greatest nation that the world has ever known.

When al-Qaida terrorists attacked our Nation 24 years ago, they had one goal—to destroy America. They didn't see us as Democrats or Republicans, red States or blue States. They just saw Americans, one nation under God, and their goal was to destroy us. When we lose sight of seeing the humanity in our fellow Americans who think differently than us and convince ourselves they are the enemy instead of our neighbor, we are feeding into the very thing our adversaries want, and destroy our great country from within. We are better than this.

America is the greatest country in the world. All 340 million of us have different perspectives, values, and beliefs. I can't count how many issues I disagree with my colleagues across the aisle on, yet we know we can disagree without turning to violence. Charlie Kirk was an example of this. He did things the right way, having healthy debates with people who saw differently than him and sparking a movement that transformed an entire generation. Charlie believed in the promise of America, and his life's work



was making sure we lived up to that promise.

Audrey and I continue to pray for Charlie's wife, Erika, who has two beautiful young children, and his family, friends, and supporters. Last week, President Trump invited the Nation to commit to praying for the country for 1 hour a week ahead of our 250th birthday. I would encourage us to accept that challenge. It is hard to hate someone when you pray with them and for them regularly.

One of the greatest blessings of this job is that I get to know and spend time with Kansans all across the Big First District, and because of that, I know that we are better than this. America is still the greatest country in the world, and I am hopeful that we will all take the opportunity to follow Charlie's example by engaging on the issues with our neighbors and living up to the promise of our great country.

#### RETURN TO REGULAR ORDER

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt stands at \$37 trillion. For years, elected officials from both sides of the aisle have come to Washington ringing the alarm on our national debt, and rightly so. The only problem is, often they get to the Nation's Capital, and there is little to no appetite to make hard decisions to get our spending in check.

At the start of President Trump's historic second term earlier this year, he did the unthinkable. He paused Federal spending, went line by line through the Federal budget, and seriously evaluated how we are spending our tax dollars. For some people in this town, it was heartburn. However, Mr. Speaker, Kansans in the Big First District welcomed this fiscal sanity.

The reality is, our national debt is unsustainable. If every single household was to contribute and bring our debt to zero, we would each be responsible for \$289,000. Consider that the average mortgage in America is about \$245,000. No one in this body would allow a loved one to make continuously poor financial decisions like this. Why do we do it with our government?

House Republicans have been clear that we would like to return to regular order, pass 12 individual appropriations bills, and get our spending under control. Despite this reality, the consensus among too many in Washington is that they would rather see President Trump fail than work together to fund the government responsibly. It is frustrating, and rather than coming to the table to work together, they prefer to grandstand to try to score some political points.

We are better than this, Mr. Speaker. I urge my Democratic colleagues to come to the table, return to regular order, and let's get our fiscal house back in order.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, it was just announced this week that health insurance costs in Rhode Island are going to go up by as much as 22 percent next year, costing working people thousands of dollars more per year to pay for their health insurance. This is money that people don't have. Most people in my State, most people in this country are just barely getting by. They can't afford to pay thousands of dollars more for their health insurance.

It is not just in Rhode Island that it is happening. It is all across the country. State after State is announcing next year's insurance rates with double digit increases. We know why this is happening. It is happening because Republicans and the Trump administration just cut a trillion dollars from Medicaid, and now they are also trying to let the Affordable Care Act tax premiums expire.

When you do that, when you take trillions of dollars out of the healthcare system, you are not just taking away health insurance coverage from millions of Americans, you are also taking revenue away from hospitals, community health centers, and doctors' practices. The only way that those healthcare providers can stay in business is to raise prices on everybody else, and that is exactly what is happening.

We told our Republican colleagues that this is what would happen when they passed that trillion dollar cut to Medicaid. We told them that health insurance costs were going to go up for everybody else in the country, but they didn't want to hear it. They were so desperate to give away tax cuts to the rich, and now those people watching at home are going to be paying the bill in the form of higher healthcare costs.

However, it is not too late. We can still restore funding for healthcare so that everyone back home isn't hit by double-digit cost increases on their insurance.

Congress is about to pass a budget for next year, and we can pass a budget that restores funding for healthcare, that extends the Affordable Care Act tax premiums, that restores funding for Medicaid so that working people aren't stuck with higher costs for their health insurance. Not only can we do this, we must.

I want to vote for a bipartisan budget that funds the government and protects healthcare for the American people, but if, as has been advertised, the Republican majority tries to rush a vote on a budget that does not fix the healthcare crisis, the healthcare crisis that they created, then I will be a "no." All of my colleagues should be, as well.

Republicans control the House, Senate, and the White House. If they refuse to pass a budget that protects

healthcare, they own the consequences. If they choose to shut the government down instead of fixing the healthcare crisis that they created, the American people will not forgive them.

#### RESTORING LIFESAVING FOOD AID

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the 41st time to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for children starving around the world. Edesia Nutrition in my district is about to send 15,000 boxes of this lifesaving food aid to children who are starving in Gaza.

Now, in the past, this would have been done with support from America, from the U.S. taxpayers, and the boxes shipped to Gaza would have said "from the American people." However, because the Trump administration has cut off lifesaving food aid for children, instead this shipment is being funded by the Israelis and nonprofit organizations working with Edesia Nutrition.

This is a missed opportunity for America to be building goodwill in a very unstable part of the world, one of many missed opportunities because when we act to save the lives of starving children around the world, we are not just doing the right thing morally, we are helping make America stronger by building goodwill around the world.

The Trump administration has promised repeatedly that they are going to restore this program, but promises do not save the lives of starving kids. Only nutrition can do that.

I will continue to speak on this floor every day until the Trump administration honors its word and restores this program.

#### HEALTHCARE SUBSIDIES AND RESCISSIONS

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

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, today marks 257 consecutive days that this Congress has failed to take meaningful action to address the cost-of-living crisis weighing heavily on struggling American families.

Regrettably, the President and Republican leadership have made life more difficult and less affordable for hardworking families across our Nation through chaotic trade policies and devastating cuts to healthcare and food programs.

□ 1050

The pending expiration of health insurance subsidies at the close of this year, in particular, threatens to impose a severe and unwarranted tax hike on the middle class.

Allowing these subsidies to lapse will cause out-of-pocket premiums for enrolled Americans to soar by an astounding 93 percent.

This drastic reduction in subsidies will also compel many healthy individuals to forgo insurance altogether, leaving a sicker population behind and forcing insurers to raise premiums

across the board. As a result, even families who do not receive these subsidies will see their premiums increase by 18 percent.

This single policy shift would strip health coverage from more than 5 million Americans, adding to the 10 million projected to lose insurance due to President Trump's Medicaid cuts.

Those fortunate enough to retain their insurance will face a staggering cost increase. A family of four earning just \$90,000 annually could see their premiums escalate by as much as 69 percent. That is an increase of over \$3,000 per year, and that is crushing for a working family.

The expiration of these subsidies will also inflict substantial harm on entrepreneurs and small business owners. These are people who comprise roughly 30 percent of marketplace enrollees.

I am deeply concerned about the chilling effect this premium hike will have on business creation and job growth, both of which are already under significant strain in Trump's economy.

Democrats stand ready to work collaboratively with our Republican colleagues to fund the government in a bipartisan spirit. We are eager to negotiate in good faith on a responsible budget that delivers for all Americans.

Extending these vital tax subsidies is but one of many critical items on the table.

Let me be unequivocal on one other issue. No budget proposal that permits additional rescissions is worthy of any serious consideration. Any long-term budget should be shielded against further rescissions because we have already seen this administration's willingness to rescind funds approved in a bipartisan fashion by Congress, canceling support for foreign aid and public broadcasting programs that enjoy broad bipartisan backing.

The administration has also announced plans to exploit a little-known mechanism known as a pocket rescission to unilaterally cancel even more foreign aid.

Of deep concern to myself and Marylanders, President Trump has threatened to rescind funding that is vital to the reconstruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, a project critical not only to our local economy but to the Nation as a whole.

I urge my colleagues to insist that any budget we pass categorically reject any further illegal impoundments.

The power of the purse rests solely with Congress. If the President seeks to cut funding, he must do so through proper channels: by coming to Congress and requesting a lawful change.

Let's be sure to remember that in the days ahead.

#### VACCINES PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the dangerous actions of the Health and Human Services Secretary in regard to vaccines.

Vaccines play a critical role in protecting our entire population in the United States. They are the most powerful tool we have against serious infectious diseases. They help our immune system learn how to fight against viruses and prevent disease from spreading to our neighbors, communities, and loved ones.

A 2024 CDC study showed that routine vaccines have prevented over 508 million cases of illness in children. The impact is immeasurable. That is hundreds of millions of children who are saved from having to suffer through a miserable illness. On top of that, their family, friends, neighbors, classmates, and loved ones are all able to stay guarded from these viruses and diseases.

It is really all thanks to modern medicine, science, research, and the proven success of vaccines.

The United States military administers 17 vaccines to military personnel on the basis of occupation, location of their deployment, and mission requirements.

Once common diseases like polio, tetanus, and hepatitis B are now almost unheard of, thanks to routine vaccinations.

Vaccines have become so effective that people have forgotten the serious threat that they guard against in our communities, and now, they are trying to politicize one of the most revolutionary developments of modern medicine.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kennedy has been on a mission to spread misinformation and fear-mongering to scare parents away from getting their kids lifesaving vaccines. Not only that, he is attacking the research and medical institutions that advance our health systems. He has canceled nearly \$500 million in contracts to develop vaccines.

This blatant disregard for the health of our communities is reckless and puts all of us in danger.

As Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon, I oversaw public health efforts at the Pentagon during the COVID-19 pandemic, which included acquiring and distributing vaccines to military personnel.

In order to maintain the strength of our military, we need people equipped for whatever the world throws at them, and that includes diseases.

Operation Warp Speed was a success. Over 95 percent of Active-Duty personnel were vaccinated. While no vaccine is perfect, only three individuals who took the vaccine while on Active Duty died from COVID-19 complications.

Operation Warp Speed was so much of a success that Secretary Esper included a binder labeled "Operation Warp Speed" in his official portrait. It

is just too bad that no one can any longer see it hanging in the Pentagon.

I find it ironic that the President who spoke out against the distribution of the vaccines for so long is now trying to embrace its success.

Our society has become healthier and more productive because of vaccines. Vaccines have become a global investment in a strong public system.

In our modern times, we no longer need to worry about sending our kids to school, going to large sporting events or concerts, or even traveling, all because of the major reduction in the spread of disease. Vaccines are to thank for that.

There are several consequences to rejecting vaccines and the science behind them. Mr. Kennedy's recent comments attacking vaccines are destroying decades of work and community trust that has fostered safer and healthier communities, trust that is based on good science. It is careless and dangerous, but he continues to follow in the footsteps of the President and create false narratives to spread fear and distrust.

This anti-vaccine mission he is on is going to prevent families and children from getting the proper healthcare that they need. It is going to significantly limit the resources that families have to keep themselves healthy and protect themselves against infectious disease.

It should not be a political issue. This is about the health of our people, the health of our Nation.

Every American should be alarmed about the detrimental impact that this will have on our communities across the Nation and globe, which is why I am fully committed to keeping our country safe and healthy, lowering the cost of healthcare, and making medical resources more accessible.

All Americans deserve access to quality healthcare, including critical preventive care like vaccines.

Secretary Kennedy should be lauded for his campaign to remove dyes from food, and I think that is admirable, but removing dyes from drinks and foods won't protect kids from the threat of measles, chicken pox, polio, or other diseases.

Vaccines are safe, effective, and our best defense against life-threatening diseases.

I urge all Americans to trust our scientists, our doctors, and decades of research. Get vaccinated to protect yourself, your families, and our communities. We have the power to maintain a healthy society and prevent deadly infectious disease.

#### 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 58 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. GUEST) at noon.

## PRAYER

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

Father of lights, from whom comes every perfect gift and in whom there is no shadow, open our hearts this day to receive Your wisdom. As we commemorate the founding of our Nation's Constitution, illumine our understanding of Your divine will and rekindle within us gratitude for the guidance You offered our Nation's Founders in the establishment of American democracy more than two centuries ago.

For even in the early and precarious years of our country's beginnings, when social anxiety and political turmoil threatened the future of this fledgling Nation, Lord, in Your mercy, You built the house that is our United States so that the framers of our Constitution would not have fought for or built this government in vain.

As You granted our Founders a vision of a more perfect Union, grant to our leaders and all American citizens today the will to preserve national unity to defend freedom and to uphold the common good.

As You revealed the principles of liberty and justice to the first lawmakers, reveal to us anew how, when we ground our faith and live our lives in You, the enjoyment of those rights naturally follows.

Eternal God, we thank You for our noble past. We pray for integrity in the pursuit of peace in our present, and we look with hope toward a future worthy of Your blessing.

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 Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM 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.

## PETITIONING TO CHECK PARTISAN MAP

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

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Reserving the right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Reserving the right to object, the gentleman is recognized.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I am reserving the right to object. Does the Speaker know when the Speaker of the House will be addressing Member security in an adequate fashion?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not asking a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, does the Speaker know what the plan is to keep Members secure due to all the security threats and the assassination attempts and assassinations we have seen around the country?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is still not a proper parliamentary inquiry and is not a question that can be answered by the Chair.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation is withdrawn.

The gentleman from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, the State legislature may have forced through their partisan map, but in Missouri, the final word belongs to the people. Our constitution gives Missourians the right to check the politicians through the petition process.

No one asked for this map. Communities didn't demand it. Voters didn't vote for it. It was written to serve the administration, not Missouri. When politicians get it wrong, citizens have the chance to make it right.

That is why the petition process is so important. It is a chance for Missourians across the State—urban, rural, north, south, Black, White, Hispanic, Asian—to come together and say our voices matter, our votes matter, and we will decide what representation looks like.

This is bigger than party politics. It is about who holds the power in our democracy. I believe the power is in the people of Missouri—more specifically, in the pen and signatures of the people of Missouri as we petition to save our democracy.

## WARNING ABOUT SUPPRESSING RIGHTS ON CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized on his reservation.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I am reserving the right to object because Members of the House are open to all sorts of threats, Mr. Speaker. I am just curious, do you know when the Speaker of the House will be putting forward a plan to keep Members safe?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has already responded that this is not a proper parliamentary inquiry, and the Chair cannot advise further.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation is withdrawn.

The gentleman from New York is recognized.

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate the 238th birthday of the U.S. Constitution, and we reflect on the document that enshrines the freedoms that we hold dear.

At the heart of those freedoms is the First Amendment, the right to free speech. It protects popular speech and speech that challenges, provokes, and offends. That is the point.

This week, the Attorney General said that the Department of Justice would "absolutely target you, go after you" for so-called hate speech, a dangerous misreading of the Constitution. Though she has since walked it back, the message was clear: This administration would rather silence dissent than defend liberty.

I hear defense of the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms, but I want to make sure that we defend all amendments, including the Fifth Amendment for due process, and the 10th Amendment, rights that are reserved for the States and the people from the Federal Government.

Our rights don't come with an asterisk. We don't surrender the First Amendment or any others to political convenience.

On this Constitution Day, let us remember the greatest threat to democracy is not exercising our rights. It is the effort to suppress those rights.

## MEDICALLY TAILORED MEALS SAVE LIVES AND LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, food is medicine, and medically tailored meals provide people living with chronic illness essential nutrition to improve their health and keep them out of the hospital.

Incredible providers like Community Servings in my home State of Massachusetts, God's Love We Deliver in New York City, and dozens of agencies across the country have proven these meals work.

Among individuals with complex health conditions, MTMs have led to a



70 percent drop in emergency room visits and cut hospital admissions in half. If all eligible patients received MTMs, studies show that we could save over \$32 billion in the first year alone.

Today, I am reintroducing bipartisan, bicameral legislation with Representatives MALLIOTAKIS, PINGREE, FITZPATRICK, and EVANS and Senators BOOKER, MARSHALL, SMITH, and CASSIDY to pilot the coverage of MTMs in traditional Medicare. Our bill, which expands access to these lifesaving meals, will lead to billions of dollars in savings without adding one dime to the deficit.

I urge my colleagues to join the growing bipartisan Food is Medicine movement and pass our medically tailored meals bill. Let's work together to end hunger now.

□ 1210

#### HONORING DR. G.V.V. RAO

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. G.V.V. Rao, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and true community leader.

Dr. Rao dedicated his life to service, both here in Virginia and around the world. His career and work on global development took him to the World Bank, the United Nations, and the Asian Development Bank.

In the community, Dr. Rao founded the Balavikas of Fairfax, an organization to promote spiritual values and education for kids in Northern Virginia. His PROCEED Project helped mentor low-income students in India as they pursued higher education.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rao's legacy lives on in all the lives he touched and the communities that he strengthened. May he rest in peace.

#### FILLING FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

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

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to an issue that has gone unaddressed for far too long, and it is one this body must take up before it is too late and lives are lost. We must address the alarmingly low staffing levels of firefighters on our military installations.

Recent reports indicate that the military service intends to eliminate vacant firefighter positions, restrict the use of overtime, and interpret requirements in a manner that could lead to station closures.

Let me be clear. While staffing level shortages have been an ongoing challenge, these new actions, coupled with the continued hiring freeze, put our servicemembers in harm's way.

It is why Congresswoman KIGGANS and I wrote to the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force to ensure robust emergency services that maintain safety and mission readiness across the Force.

Across the DOD, more than 8,800 civilian firefighters respond to structural fires, aircraft emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, and other life-threatening events each year.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of a more critical and all-American cause or more of a win-win than having the backs of our fire firefighters and our servicemembers.

#### DELIVERING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, across America, hardworking people are struggling to pay their bills. This includes housing, groceries, healthcare, and more. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been cut due to the DOGE policies. Our economy is sputtering, and the tariffs are jacking up prices.

The so-called big, beautiful bill will decimate Medicaid, taking healthcare from seniors, children, and working families, while driving up premiums.

The President has told the majority not to negotiate with our side to keep the government open. The budget that has been introduced will drive up everyday costs, including healthcare premiums.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to come together and deliver what the American people need, which is access to affordable healthcare and a government that is funded and functional.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to Section 2(b)(4) of P.L. 118-144, the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act, I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Philip Darivoff of Short Hills, New Jersey

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
*Democratic Leader.*

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS REFORM ACT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 707, I call up 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, 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 119-13 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 5125

*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 "District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act of 2025".*

#### SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION.

(a) *TERMINATION.*—The District of Columbia Home Rule Act is amended by striking section 434 (sec. 1-204.34, D.C. Official Code).

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES.*—

(1) *DESIGNATION OF CHIEF JUDGES BY PRESIDENT.*—Section 431(b) of such Act (sec. 1-204.31(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking "the District of Columbia Judicial Nominating Commission established by section 434" and inserting "the President".

(2) *APPOINTMENT BY PRESIDENT.*—Section 433(a) of such Act (sec. 1-204.33(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking "Except as provided in section 434(d)(1), the President shall nominate, from the list of persons recommended to him by the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission established under section 434," and inserting "The President shall nominate,".

(3) *QUALIFICATIONS OF JUDGES.*—Section 433(b) of such Act (sec. 1-204.33(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) by adding "and" at the end of paragraph (3);

(B) by striking paragraph (4) and redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4); and

(C) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking "or of the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission".

(c) *OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 11-1528(a)(2), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (C).

(d) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of contents of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 434.

(e) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to appointments made on or 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.

#### 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. 5125, the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Reform Act.

This legislation aligns with the appointment of D.C. judges with the constitutional process for appointing members of the Federal judiciary. This bill preserves the President's authority to nominate, with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, anyone deemed appropriate to sit on the D.C. court.

The current system, where the President is restricted to nominating only those candidates put forward by the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission, inappropriately limits the President's authority.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Representative from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) for his leadership on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this bill, which would eliminate the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and give a President, any President, the sole power to make nominations for D.C. local courts, which deal with municipal issues.

Right now, under the Home Rule Act, the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission submits a list of three candidates for each judicial vacancy. Of course, then it is considered by the President. This bill would wipe away the commission, and it would allow the President to directly appoint and have full control over the selection of these judges.

This is an absurd level of Federal control over local judges. Every State and territory in the United States selects its own judges. Only in D.C. do Republicans think that President Trump should decide who the local judges are.

Let's also be honest about what the bill is really about. This has nothing to do with public safety. It is a power grab to take away power and authority from over 700,000 residents of this district.

Let's be clear. D.C. does face a judicial vacancy crisis. There are currently 15 open seats across the Superior Court of D.C. and D.C. Court of Appeals. There are 13 on the superior court side and two on the court of appeals. Why do those vacancies actually exist? The commission has submitted names for every single one of those open seats.

The bottleneck is not the commission. It is the slow pace of nominations by the President and confirmations by this Senate. The Senate can solve this tomorrow, and we know who controls the Senate. It is the Republicans.

Let's be honest about what this bill is really about. It is not about the Constitution. It is about partisanship. The House majority wants to give Donald Trump the ability to select judges for local municipal matters for Washington, D.C., and bypass the current commission process that exists.

This is another attempt for Republicans to try to gut D.C.'s nonpartisan judiciary and replace it with partisan rightwing judges.

The legislation does nothing to improve the judicial system. It strips away one of the few tools D.C. residents have to shape their courts, and it erodes judicial independence. The bill isn't necessary. It is undemocratic. It really goes to the independence of our courts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to oppose it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the young chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, what we have heard today is a continuation of this lame excuse of politics and on Donald Trump. The gentleman from California did allude to it but really did not get into much more of the data.

□ 1220

The bottom line is from 9/30/20, 2/25/23, 6/30/23, 7/28/23, 3/22/24, 4/12/24, 10/1/24, each of these people were nominated by the distinguished gentleman, the former President of the United States, Mr. Biden.

This is not political. This is getting the work done that Washington, D.C. needs, and this commission process that we go through does not work.

I know we wanted to hear that this is all related to Donald Trump and Republicans wanting to control the process that goes on so that we can control Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, it is not working is the reason why I am on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, H.R. 5125 is about a process that can work. The gentleman from California is correct. A lot of it is political, but what it is to do is to say that if the people of this country have chosen the President of the United States, then that is the direction we will go. We will give that President, whether it be Republican or Democrat, whether it be a man or a woman, we will give that President the opportunity for the control of this nomination and the system here in Washington, D.C.

We have got a lot at risk. Mr. Speaker, we have got a lot at risk which is

the same reason why President Trump finally had the guts—yes, I will call them guts—to call in the National Guard to take on the crime presence that exists in Washington, D.C.

Members of Congress have had their cars stolen. We have had Members of Congress who were assaulted. We have had staff members of this body who were killed. People who come to this town from across the United States want, need, and expect that Washington, D.C. does not become or continue to be a work-free drug zone.

Washington, D.C. should be safe for visitors not just of the United States, but for international visitors who visit also. The basis of that which Chairman COMER is bringing to the floor today is to look at, from top to bottom, not just the judicial system, but really the entire process of the court system.

I have some background in this. My father served as a chief judge of the Western District of Texas in San Antonio. He served as FBI Director for President Reagan, President Bush, and President Clinton. He understood firsthand that control of crime has a lot to do with how you deal with criminals, Mr. Speaker.

This opportunity that we bring today to the floor is to go back to a process that works and is a process that is driven by the President of the United States who also has authority and responsibility over this beautiful city.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind my good friend that in Texas local judges are elected by Texas citizens, not chosen directly by the President. In this case, in this bill, they want to bypass any sort of local control of the selection of judges and have these appointees be chosen directly by Donald Trump. That is wrong, and Members should oppose this bill.

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 bill, which eliminates the District of Columbia's already small role in the selection of its local judges.

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

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.; Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Ward 2; Councilmember Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4; Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6; 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; Councilmember Trayon White, Sr, Ward 8.

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

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.*

DC BAR,  
*Washington, DC,*  
*September 12, 2025.*

Re: District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission.

JAMES COMER, Chair,  
ROBERT GARCIA, Ranking Member,  
*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER AND RANKING MEMBER GARCIA: I am writing to you on behalf of the District of Columbia Bar (the D.C. Bar) and its Board of Governors in support of the vital work of the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC or Commission) and its essential role in maintaining the integrity and excellence of the District of Columbia's courts. In particular, the D.C. Bar supports the views presented by members of the Commission in their September 9, 2025, letter, a copy of which is attached here. The continued work of the JNC is important and valuable to D.C. Bar members, District residents, and the administration of justice in the District of Columbia.

Congress created the Commission in 1973 to ensure that the District's local judges are selected based on professional qualifications, experience, judicial temperament, and commitment to justice. Comprised of Commissioners appointed by the President of the United States, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia, and the D.C. Bar, the JNC is a hallmark of bipartisan commitment to merit-based judicial selection, and has produced one of the nation's most well-respected local court systems.

The JNC's mission is straightforward: to recommend to the President highly qualified individuals to fill judicial vacancies on the District's local courts, and to select the chief judges of the D.C. Court of Appeals and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. For more than five decades, through rigorous evaluation of legal experience, integrity, intellectual capacity, and community standing, the Commission has consistently provided the President with a carefully vetted pool of highly qualified nominees.

Despite having numerous vacancies in recent years, our local courts constantly handle demanding caseloads comprising complex matters. The commitment and dedication of our local judges are a testament to the work and value of the Commission.

The D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission represents the best of American democratic institutions: independent, merit-based, and committed to the public good. Its continued effectiveness depends on timely confirmation of nominees and sustained support for its mission and recognition of its vital contribution to the administration of justice in the District of Columbia. We respectfully urge your continued support for this exemplary institution and its critical work in the service of justice in the nation's capital.

Sincerely,

SADINA MONTANI,  
*President, D.C. Bar.*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I also insert into the RECORD a letter on this bill from the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION,  
*Washington, DC, September 9, 2025.*

Re H.R. 5125, District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act.

JAMES COMER, Chair,  
ROBERT GARCIA, Ranking Member,  
*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER AND RANKING MEMBER GARCIA: Members of the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission respectfully submit this letter to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in response to H.R. 5125, District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act.

The District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC or Commission) was established by Congress on December 24, 1973 (Public Law 93-198, 87 Stat. 796). The JNC is composed of seven members—two appointed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia, two by the Board of Governors of the District of Columbia Bar Association (Unified), one by the Council of the District of Columbia, one by the President of the United States, and one judicial member appointed by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Each member is appointed for a six-year term, except for the member appointed by the President, who serves a five-year term.

The JNC solicits, screens, and recommends a panel of three candidates to the President of the United States for each judicial vacancy on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. From the panel of names recommended by the JNC, the President nominates a person for each vacancy and submits the nominee's name to the United States Senate for confirmation. The JNC also designates the Chief Judges for the District of Columbia courts.

The JNC, using a merit-based selection process, works to provide the citizens of the District of Columbia with the best possible court system by (a) soliciting a diverse and talented pool of applicants for each judicial vacancy; (b) screening applicants to ensure they have the requisite experience, skill, temperament, and qualifications for judicial office; and (c) recommending the three most qualified applicants to the President of the United States for his or her consideration in selecting a nominee to fill each judicial vacancy on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Since its first list of applicants was sent to President R. Gerald Ford, Jr. on May 8, 1975, the JNC has recommended more than 93 candidates for 31 vacancies on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals (Court of Appeals) and more than 513 candidates for 171 vacancies on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (Superior Court). Working with

both Republican and Democratic Presidents for more than 50 years, the Senate has confirmed 29 Presidential nominations to the Court of Appeals and 159 to the Superior Court. To date, the Senate has confirmed more Republican Presidential nominees to both courts—17 of 29 on the Court of Appeals and 83 of 159 on the Superior Court. All the Presidential nominees were selected from lists the JNC sent to the President pursuant to D.C. Code §§ 1-204.31, 1-204.33. Arguably, the judicial nomination process in the District of Columbia is one of the best non-partisan processes in the country, a process that President Trump engaged in during his first term (with 10 confirmations to the local courts) and on September 2, 2025, when he nominated candidates for three vacancies on the Superior Court.

In conclusion, the Commission members are united in expressing our pride in the JNC's lengthy history of proficient service. The Commission process has been effective for over 50 years, working with both Republican and Democratic administrations. Our process is carefully designed to ensure that the over 700,000 residents of our city have a voice in judicial appointments, while also respecting the President's authority in nominating individuals for the critical role of judicial service in the District of Columbia. We stand in support of the JNC's current role and configuration, and we look forward to continuing to serve our city in discharging our critically important responsibilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

For the Commission:  
Hon. Marie C. Johns, PPC-Leftwich, Washington, DC.

Benjamin F. Wilson, Esq., Washington, DC.  
Addy R. Schmitt, Esq., Kropf Moseley Schmitt, Washington, DC.

Vincent H. Cohen, Jr., Esq., Dechert LLP, Washington, DC.

Yaida O. Ford, Esq., Ford Law Pros PC, Washington, DC.

Hon. Linda W. Cropp, Washington, DC.

Hon. Tanya S. Chutkan, United States District Court for the District of Columbia, United States Courthouse, Washington, DC.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, under the D.C. Home Rule Act, the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate—a chamber in which D.C. has no representation—appoints judges to the local D.C. courts. The President must make a nomination from a list of candidates recommended by the Judicial Nomination Commission. The establishment of the Judicial Nomination Commission provided D.C. with three, albeit limited, roles in the nomination of its local judges. First, members of the commission must be D.C. residents. Second, D.C. appoints three of the seven members of the commission. Third, the commission holds a public comment period on applicants for a vacancy on the local D.C. courts, allowing D.C. residents to express their views on applicants.

Republicans claim the Judicial Nomination Commission is unconstitutional because it limits the President's authority to make nominations. They are wrong. The commission has been in existence for 50 years. Congress, not the President, has plenary authority over D.C.

Congress also has plenary authority over the territories, and Congress has given them authority to select their local judges without any role whatsoever for the President or Congress.

I refer my Republican colleagues to the Supreme Court's decision in 2020 regarding the appointments to the Puerto Rico financial control board, which Congress established pursuant to its plenary authority over Puerto Rico. The court held the appointments clause of the Constitution does not "restrict the appointment of local officers that Congress vests with primarily local duties" pursuant to the territorial or District clauses of the Constitution. Local D.C. judges are local officers that Congress vests with primarily local duties pursuant to the District clause.

The longstanding judicial vacancy crisis on the local D.C. courts is not due to any failure of the Judicial Nomination Commission. The commission always meets its 60-day statutory deadline to submit a list of names for a vacancy to the President. The crisis exists because the President and, to a larger extent, the Senate, regardless of the party in power, do not prioritize local D.C. judges. For example, there has been a vacancy on D.C.'s highest local court since 2013.

Congress should give authority to the over 700,000 D.C. residents to select their local judges in any manner they choose. D.C. residents, the majority of whom are Black and Brown, are capable and worthy of governing themselves.

Since Republicans do not trust D.C. residents with self-government, they should at least address the longstanding vacancy crisis in the local D.C. courts, which is harming public safety and access to justice. A simple solution is to make an appointment to the local D.C. courts effective 30 days after the President makes a nomination, unless Congress enacts a disapproval resolution during that period. That is essentially the same process used for congressional review of legislation enacted by D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the D.C. Judicial Nominations Reform Act and to grant D.C. statehood instead. Free D.C.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 additional minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman coming forth, as she does represent the District of Columbia, but I think in the argument it is important to note that these are not just local judges that we are talking about. They don't handle any matter that is related to a ticket or parking ticket, local matters. In fact, they deal with serious matters, and that is why it comes to the attention of the United States Senate and the President of the United States.

This bill does not remove any sitting judges on either the D.C. Superior Court or the D.C. Court of Appeals, but, in fact, we believe it is important. As the gentlewoman noted, since 2013 we still have people who have been hanging out and not approved.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to go through this, because I really did

not do the due diligence to know why there are people here who have not been approved. They are still pending.

What I would tell you, Mr. Speaker, is that we have lots of time since 2013 where Republicans and Democrats who were in charge in the United States Senate could have moved these nominations forward, and they chose not to.

□ 1230

I am simply standing and saying that I believe that today this bill needs to be passed because Washington, D.C., and the sitting courts do need additional judges. They need competent people who would be prepared to move forward.

If there is one President who would nominate and get this done, it would be Donald Trump. Donald Trump deeply believes in the success of Washington, D.C. He believes Washington, D.C., should be a place that is safe and has good judges. This will be an opportunity for us not only to understand a different way to handle this but a way that we can look back and say we have made Washington, D.C., just a little bit better because the Republican Party cares deeply about Washington, its success, and, mostly, the safety of the people who live here.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the young chairman for allowing me to bring this bill together.

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

Mr. Speaker, I just will clarify for the gentleman from Texas that these are not Federal circuit judges. They have the same jurisdiction as State and local judges. That is what actually the bill presented says. These are local judges. They are not circuit judges. They are not Federal judges.

Let's be clear what this is about. This is about allowing Donald Trump to select local judges for D.C. and bypass a commission system that is currently in place where the President still has an ability to select from a panel of different judges. There is no State in the United States, in our country, that allows the President to directly select local judges. This is an outrageous attempt to take away power from 700,000 residents and to hurt our independent judiciary system here in the District.

This bill is not about safety. It is not about the Constitution. It has nothing to do with Federal Circuit court judges. It is a power grab for Donald Trump to self-select judges.

Finally, as I close, I remind all our friends that all of these D.C. bills in front of us are about Donald Trump trying to play Mayor of Washington, D.C. If he wants to be mayor, he should resign from President and run for mayor himself.

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

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

Another day on the House floor where the Republicans try to address

the D.C. crime crisis with serious, substantive solutions and another day where the Democrats try to act like there is no crime problem in Washington, D.C., and reverberate the symptoms of their Trump derangement syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Sessions legislation which corrects an inappropriate limitation on Presidential authority to appoint judges in the District of Columbia.

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

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

The question is on 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.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICING PROTECTION ACT

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

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOOLENAAR). Pursuant to House Resolution 707, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-11 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 5143

*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 "District of Columbia Policing Protection Act of 2025".*

#### SEC. 2. VEHICULAR PURSUITS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—*The Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 (D.C. Law 24-345) is amended—*

*(1) in subtitle S of title I—*

*(A) in the heading, by striking "LIMITATIONS ON THE";*

*(B) in section 127(a) (sec. 5-365.01(a), D.C. Official Code)—*

*(i) by striking paragraphs (1) through (5);*

*(ii) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: " , except*

that such term does not include a sworn federal law enforcement officer of a covered federal law enforcement agency as defined in section 11712(d) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (sec. 5-133.17(d), D.C. Official Code).";

(iii) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(iv) by striking paragraphs (8) through (11); and

(v) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (3); and

(C) in section 128 (sec. 5-365.02, D.C. Official Code), by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following: "If a law enforcement officer encounters a suspect fleeing in a motor vehicle, the officer may engage in a vehicular pursuit of the suspect unless the officer, or a higher-ranking official with supervisory authority over the officer, reasonably believes that—

"(1) vehicular pursuit would—

"(A) entail an unacceptable risk of harm to a person other than the suspect; or

"(B) be futile; or

"(2) the suspect can be apprehended more effectively or expeditiously by a means other than vehicular pursuit.""; and

(2) in the table of contents, by striking the item relating to subtitle S of title I and inserting the following:

**"SUBTITLE S. USE OF VEHICULAR PURSUITS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

**33".**

(b) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORT ON PURSUITALERT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall—

(1) evaluate the costs and benefits of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia adopting PursuitAlert or another similar technology capable of alerting members of the public to the presence of a police pursuit in their immediate vicinity; and

(2) publish a report on the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1) and submit the report to—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

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. GARCÍA) 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 am pleased to support H.R. 5143, the District of Columbia Po-

licing Protection Act of 2025. This bill repeals subtitle S of the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 and replaces it with policies empowering police to pursue a suspect fleeing in a vehicle.

The 2022 act imposes burdensome restrictions on police pursuit of criminal suspects. This has resulted in less justice for victims of crime in Washington, D.C., and more opportunities for criminals, who would otherwise be apprehended, to continue harming D.C. and surrounding communities.

This bill replaces subtitle S with policies that allow for vehicular pursuit of a suspect fleeing in a motor vehicle if the officer or supervisor deems it necessary, the most effective means for apprehension, and without unreasonable risk to bystanders.

I thank Representative CLAY HIGGINS for his leadership on this critical local policing reform legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support his bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this bill, which would overrule rules implemented by D.C.'s elected leaders on when Metropolitan Police officers should pursue a fleeing car.

Our debate here is a perfect example of why D.C. needs self-rule. We should be clear. High-speed chases are deadly. They often end in needless deaths, injuries, and devastating property damage.

Over 3,000 people died in police car chases in the U.S. between 2017 and 2022. Half of those deaths were innocent bystanders not involved in the chase. I will repeat. Half of the people who have died in police car chases were innocent bystanders. That should alarm every single one of us.

Across the country, Republican-led States have recognized the dangers of high-speed cases. States like Texas, Florida, and Tennessee have all implemented tighter standards to limit pursuits of violent criminals or imminent threats. They know the risks are too high for people who are innocent or could get caught up in one of these car crashes. That is the best practice, and D.C. is following the same path.

But my Republican colleagues want to interfere. They want to lower the standards to allow for more chases and more innocent people getting hurt.

I will remind us that this District is dense. Sidewalks oftentimes are small. Streets are tight. There are a lot of folks who live here. We should not have a one-size-fits-all policy for D.C. We should allow the people of D.C. to decide when a car chase is appropriate.

Congress should not require D.C. police to use tactics that the community does not want. D.C. residents should be empowered to decide when to authorize their police to use dangerous tactics.

Under current D.C. law, pursuits are allowed if a fleeing suspect has committed a violent crime, for example, or

poses an imminent threat to public safety and if the pursuit can be done in a way that minimizes the risk to innocent people.

□ 1240

We should not lower these standards, and certainly not with zero community input and no consultation with the D.C. Council, Mayor, or other folks who are actually trying to manage this city.

There are many tools, we know, that police officers can use to track suspects and make arrests. We should let the Council, the Mayor, and the police work together with the D.C. police to balance public safety, pedestrian safety, and proportionality. If D.C. residents don't like it, they can vote their elected officials out of office.

Today, Congress is again injecting itself as some sort of super city council to write laws for Washington, D.C. As a former mayor of 8 years, I worked with over 700 amazing men and women of a police department who were heroic in the work that they did. I know that, in conversations with our chief, our police officers, and our community, these decisions are best left to our communities to write the laws of when these police chases should actually go into effect.

While I appreciate the author and my friend, this bill, I believe, is unnecessary. It undermines home rule, and it will make D.C. less safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for recognizing me and allowing me to speak in support of H.R. 5143, the District of Columbia Policing Protection Act.

As a matter of background, Mr. Speaker, in January 2023, the D.C. Council enacted the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022, the CPJRA Act, D.C. Law 24-345, among numerous other police-related policy matters, most of which we advised against in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. We met with D.C. officials, including in hearings, and we advised against what they intended to do.

Mr. Speaker, included in those police-related policy matters in the act that they, indeed, passed in 2022 was subtitle S of the CPJRA, which imposed a host of restrictions on police pursuit of criminal suspects.

In doing so, the D.C. Council essentially made it illegal for police to pursue and apprehend criminals if they were fleeing in a vehicle by imposing a complex matrix of 14 factors that police officers have to consider for whether or not they would pursue a fleeing vehicle.



I speak from my own experience as a police officer. I have been, very likely, the only one involved in this debate for several years who has actually engaged in high-speed chases. I tried to add it up the other day, but I probably have engaged in a couple of hundred serious high-speed pursuits in the course of my career. I worked night shift for a long time, 9 years straight, 12-hour shifts. Night shift is when this stuff usually happens.

I am not talking about when someone doesn't stop right away. That is not a high-speed pursuit. Having to drive 100 miles an hour to catch up with somebody that you are pulling over is not a high-speed pursuit.

A high-speed pursuit is when they are running. This is something where the officer has to make very fast decisions, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we consider the totality of circumstances of where we are: Is that a suspect vehicle? Does it match a definition of something that has been put out through dispatch of a vehicle that we are looking for? Has it potentially been involved in a crime that requires police interaction in an effort to enforce and address that crime that took place?

There are a number of factors that a police officer has to figure, but it has to be an option that you can pursue that car.

What D.C. has done, one of the factors, Mr. Speaker, is if anyone in the suspect motor vehicle was afforded an opportunity to comply with an order to surrender any suspected dangerous weapons.

What the hell? There is no way a police officer can know that. There are too many factors, which basically means D.C. has made it illegal for police to pursue a vehicle.

That is what we are correcting here. We are restoring the discretion of the professional law enforcement officer to make a decision in a fraction of a second or two based upon his policies and training and the totality of circumstances of whether or not he needs to pursue that vehicle.

This is what my bill restores. The legislation repeals subtitle S of the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 and replaces it with policies empowering police to make vehicular pursuit of a suspect fleeing in a motor vehicle if the officer or supervisor deems it necessary, that it is the most effective means of apprehension, and if it is without unreasonable risk to bystanders.

Let me say, in all of my vehicle pursuits, there have been a few crashes, but nobody has died. The only crash that I have ever been involved in during those pursuits was when I purposefully crashed the fleeing vehicle, which was the guy who had committed an armed robbery at a local hardware store, had pistol-whipped the manager of that store, made it to his car, and fired at officers.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time yielded and the indulgence of the chairman. I urge strong support of H.R. 5143. It restores legitimate discretion to the police officers who actually work the streets of D.C.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) also for his service in law enforcement. I know that he is trying to help and trying to move public safety forward. I know that is his intention, but I just want to clarify a few things.

It has been mentioned that this committee or this bill has somehow been heard by a committee. We have not held a hearing on these bills. To clarify, our hearing on D.C. is actually tomorrow. There has been no coordination with the Mayor or the D.C. Council. They oppose this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I will clarify. It has been mentioned a few times when we have debated this bill that there are somehow 14 criteria that officers have to consider before engaging in a pursuit.

The law is very clear. The suspect must have "committed or attempted to commit a crime of violence, or poses an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury," and the pursuit is "necessary to protect another person" from "serious bodily injury"; and not likely to cause injury to others; and "all other options have been exhausted or do not reasonably lend themselves to the circumstances." That is actually what the law says.

I just wanted to note that. I am not sure what those 14 criteria are.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman 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 CORNER,  
*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 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.

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 mark up 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.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the D.C. 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. This 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.

□ 1250

Vehicular pursuits by police officers are inherently dangerous not just for officers and suspects but for bystanders, too, and often there are other options to detain a suspect. D.C. permits vehicular pursuits, but it imposes limitations on them. According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, vehicular pursuit policies must "balance the risks, take all of the factors into consideration, and reach a decision that is best suited to their jurisdictions." Unlike D.C., 2 percent of local police departments prohibit vehicular pursuits altogether. The sponsor of this bill, who is from Louisiana, thinks he knows better than D.C. how to strike the proper balance in D.C.

I will read for my Republican colleagues part of the signing statement your fellow Republican, President Richard Nixon, issued on the D.C. Home Rule Act: "One of the major goals of this administration is to place responsibility for local functions under local control and to provide local governments with the authority and resources they need to serve their communities effectively. The measure I sign today represents a significant step

in achieving this goal in the city of Washington. It will give the people of the District of Columbia the right to elect their own city officials and to govern themselves in local affairs. As the Nation approaches the 200th anniversary of its founding, it is particularly appropriate to assure those persons who live in our Capital City rights and privileges which have long been enjoyed by most of their countrymen."

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 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, 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 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, University 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, 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. Policing Protection Act, keep their hands off D.C. and free D.C.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Representative MIN that clarifies that he meant to vote "yes" on H.R. 5143 in committee.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, September 15, 2025.  
Chairman JAMES COMER,  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER: I am writing to respectfully clarify my intent regarding a vote I cast during the House Oversight and Government Reform full committee markup held on September 10, 2025. Because of miscommunication during the evening vote series, my recorded vote on H.R. 5143, the *District of Columbia Policing Protection Act*, does not reflect my intended position.

For the record, I meant to vote "Aye" on the final passage H.R. 5143, which repeals restrictions on the circumstances under which law enforcement officers in the District of Columbia may engage in vehicular pursuits. I ask that this letter be included in the committee's official record to reflect my intent. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

DAVE MIN,  
Member of Congress.

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

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. McIVER).

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep concern for our Nation's Capital, also known as chocolate city.

The four Republican bills on the floor this week are a direct attack on the people of this city, particularly the Black and Brown communities who have called D.C. home for generations.

These are residents who have built thriving small businesses, who have received an education from the D.C. school system, residents who have raised families and who call themselves proud Washingtonians since birth.

This bill, H.R. 5143, would impose the President's twisted vision of justice on D.C., overriding the autonomy of this city and hurting the people who live here.

Enabling deadly vehicle pursuits of suspects in the city, as a former councilwoman and a council president of the largest city in New Jersey, I know firsthand that this is dangerous. That is on top of the other bills that we are debating this week that seek to strip D.C. of its autonomy, force more juveniles into the justice system, expand the President's gross overreach, and make things worse.

The bills proposed by my Republican colleagues will worsen the already rampant injustices we see in the criminal justice system, make law enforcement more dangerous, and steal the futures of many of our youth.

These bills all send the same statement to Washingtonians: The administration does not believe you have the same right to dignity as other parts of this Nation.

If Congress truly wants to make our Nation's Capital as safe as it can be, we would listen to the residents of D.C. and their elected leaders who have lived experiences of what this community needs. The dog whistles used to justify these bills are not true. The D.C. Government has long taken a proactive approach to reducing crime in the District and today is experiencing a three-decade low in crime.

D.C. has done this in part by having a police force that looks like the very people it is sworn to protect, lives in the community it serves, and caters to the unique needs of D.C. residents.

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 gentlewoman from New Jersey.

Mrs. McIVER. H.R. 5143 discourages basic public safety, pushes lies about crime in the Black and Brown communities, and puts everyone in harm's way and at risk.

That is why it is no surprise of who the sponsor is of this very dangerous and wicked bill. This bill is dangerous, once again, and a complete disaster to this community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, let me just diplomatically address a couple of the accusations here regarding the nature of my bill.

The gentlewoman acknowledged that there is danger involved, yes. Yes, enforcing the law is dangerous. This is why the professional law enforcement officers across the country, including here in D.C., are incredibly well vetted and trained and equipped to make decisions in a matter of seconds or less to pursue criminals and to enforce the law.

It is dangerous work. It is dangerous for the officer. It can result in injury or death for the criminal. It can result in injury or death for innocent Americans, but let us never forget that the interaction was initiated by the criminal. Mr. Speaker, enforcing the law is dangerous work.

What is more dangerous, Mr. Speaker, is failure to enforce the law. What is more dangerous for every community, including our Nation's Capital, for which this body has a responsibility to stand, is failure to give discretion for enforcement of law to the very law enforcement professionals that you have trained and equipped and placed on the streets. To not allow those professionals to make decisions and enforce a law, that is incredibly dangerous.

My bill stands on the side of the citizenry of D.C. in an effort to enforce the law by fully empowering the police officers of D.C. to engage criminal conduct and enforce the law.

□ 1300

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY).

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I rise in strong opposition to the gentleman's bill.

I appreciate my colleague from Louisiana. We have had a chance to serve together on committees. I know he has a strong respect for law enforcement, so I am not saying his heart is in the wrong place, but I am saying this bill is wrong. I say that from personal experience.

He is right, I was never in an active car pursuit, but I was a prosecutor here in Washington, D.C., and for 8 years in Prince George's County, which is the eastern border of Washington, D.C., so I have seen the results of some of these high-speed chases.

The bill that is drafted, that he has proposed, actually takes away a reasonable balance that was drawn by the people here of the District of Columbia, as is their right for a democracy.

Also, one of the things we need to keep in mind, and my colleague addressed this kind of briefly but, frankly, skipped over it, what happens when

that chase leads to the death of innocent civilians?

When the gentleman said he had been in 100 car chases, a chill went through my body, I have to say, because I have seen the results, the deadly consequences of some of these car chases. When you have to go talk to that family and tell them why their loved ones died, you don't want to have to say that it was over something minor like a stolen car.

The balance that the city struck was that it should be for an imminent violent offense, high-level felony, something like that that you really understand why they would have engaged in the pursuit. This bill would take that away and expand it open so that you could have high-speed chases taking place with respect to misdemeanors.

This isn't a hypothetical for me. When I was the State's attorney in Prince George's County, we actually had one of these. We had several, but I will just pick one for purposes of time. A police officer saw a stolen motorcycle zip down the beltway and decided to pursue it. Stealing a motorcycle is a misdemeanor and speeding is a misdemeanor, but he decided to pursue it anyway.

Mind you, this is during rush hour, so he had to pursue on the border of the road, and speeds got up to over 100 miles an hour on the beltway in rush hour. Of course, it is hard for a car to catch a motorcycle, especially when it can weave in and out of traffic.

He didn't make the apprehension, but what he did do as he was speeding along on the side of the road at 100-plus miles an hour was come across debris on the road, and he tried to swerve to avoid it. When he did that, the car jumped over the Jersey barrier between the two lanes and took him into the opposite lane of oncoming traffic.

The car jumped over, hit the top of a car coming the opposite direction, and killed two men on their way to a concert. They had nothing to do with any kind of high-speed chase. They didn't have anything to do with any kind of criminal activity. These were people who were good folks, actually just visiting in the area—one was from Buffalo—who died because of a high-speed chase over a minor misdemeanor. That doesn't make any sense. It is not like that only happens in Prince George's County.

Here in Washington, D.C., we had a similar kind of case. It was back in 2016. It led up to a deadly chase on East Capitol and Benning Road. The chases the gentleman was talking about, maybe those were rural areas, but those are high-traffic areas even in the nighttime. Sometimes these pursuits take place during the day.

This led to the death of an innocent man. This was over a stolen car. Think about what you would say to that family when you are explaining to them that their father, brother, or son lost his life over a stolen car.

Then the other part that influences me—again, I represent Prince George's

County now—but sometimes when they start high-speed chases in D.C., they go into Prince George's County, Montgomery County, or Northern Virginia, and we lost someone during a high-speed chase on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway; another stolen car case.

When we make these decisions about when a chase is permitted or should be permitted or not, we need to keep in mind that there can be deadly consequences from when this happens, and it frequently occurs. It is not like this is unusual. The Washington Post just did a piece about the Park Police. There have been 10 of these instances in recent weeks.

I have a couple last points. One is liability. The Federal Government is going to put this burden on the city.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. IVEY. When that liability arises from a car chase ending in death that didn't make any sense to a jury, the city could be on the hook for millions of dollars. I guarantee they are not going to step in and have the Federal Government cover that for them. When we think about these things, we need to keep all of those things in mind.

The last point I will make, a variation on the home rule argument. D.C. is not a rural jurisdiction. In fact, its roads aren't even as straightforward as Manhattan. We have got diagonal roads that cut across, we have circles, and we have very dangerous intersections. I wish my colleagues knew how tricky it can be out there. A high-speed chase in the middle of the District of Columbia, even during the middle of the day is almost, by definition, dangerous almost under any circumstances, so you better have a really good reason to engage in a pursuit like that.

That is not the balance that is drawn by this bill. That is not the balance that was drawn by the people of the District of Columbia. It should be the balance, and they should make the call because when the deaths happen, my colleagues won't be anywhere to be found.

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

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

I strongly oppose this bill. D.C.'s elected leaders have set clear, commonsense limits on high-speed chases and limits that save lives. I just remind folks that States like Texas, Florida, and Tennessee recognize the danger and restrict pursuits to violent crimes or imminent deaths, and D.C. follows that same practice.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation to allow police offi-

cers in the District of Columbia to pursue and apprehend criminals to keep residents and visitors in the District safe. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1631

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS) at 4 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5371, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 719, HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES KIRK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 722 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

### H. RES. 722

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any 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 Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 719) honoring the life and legacy of Charles "Charlie" James Kirk. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except 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.

SEC. 3. 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".

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the 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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, last night, the Rules Committee met and produced a rule, House Resolution 722, providing for the House's consideration of two pieces of legislation.

First, the rule provides for H. Res. 719, Honoring the life and legacy of Charles "Charlie" James Kirk, to be considered under a closed rule. It provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Second, the rule provides for H.R. 5371, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026. H.R. 5371 would be considered under a closed rule, and it also provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees, and provides for one motion to recommit.

Finally, the rule tolls the day counts until January 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, beginning with H. Res. 719, honoring Charlie Kirk.

It is really quite unbelievable that we are here today honoring the life of Charlie Kirk, taken from us far too soon. This is the kind of tribute you would give after a lifetime of service, not usually at the young age of just 31, but Charlie Kirk made a lifetime's worth of impact in his short 31 years on this Earth, and we are grateful for it.



Charlie Kirk was a generational leader and a cultural icon. He was dedicated to engaging young people, defending our constitutional freedoms, and calling on Americans to live with courage and conviction.

Whether you agreed with him or not, he showed up, he listened, and he engaged in respectful dialogue. He never backed down from the belief that ideas should be debated in the open.

Charlie Kirk believed that freedom is worth defending, that faith has a rightful place in the public square, and the next generation deserves leaders who tell the truth and invite honest debate. He believed that every human life had value, even those who vehemently disagreed with him.

What happened last week was evil, but we can't fear it because if we do, then evil wins. Therefore, we will not back down, and we will not allow hatred to intimidate us or to silence our speech.

He leaves behind a loving wife and two children. He was a child of God, a son, a husband, a father, and a conservative leader who, even in death, still inspires millions around the world.

I hope the whole House will join me in praying for Erika and his precious children and the family and friends he leaves behind. May God surround them with love, comfort them with His presence, and provide a peace that surpasses our understanding.

We will never forget Charlie Kirk. Let us carry on his legacy and always defend the ideals he lived out.

I was proud last night to be a member of the Rules Committee, and I thank Ranking Member MCGOVERN and the other Democratic members of the committee for recognizing that many of us on this side of the aisle knew Charlie personally. I also thank Representatives DEBBIE DINGELL, TOM SUOZZI, DON DAVIS, JOHN LARSON, JIMMY PANETTA, MARIE GLUESENKAMP PEREZ, and CHRIS PAPPAS, who joined our prayer vigil for Charlie earlier this week.

I was and am glad that we condemned political violence together and were able to share compassion for one another.

Moving on to H.R. 5371, this rule also provides for consideration of the continuing resolution. Passing a continuing resolution is never our first choice, but as Chairman COLE said last night, real progress is being made, and he is encouraged by this year's appropriations process.

The House has already approved 60 percent of government spending, and the Appropriations Committee has finished its work at the committee level. Chairman COLE and every member of the Appropriations Committee deserve credit for the long hours of work that have already been done and the progress that has been made.

Following this good example, under the leadership of Leader THUNE and our Senate Republican colleagues, they have also advanced appropriations

measures on the Senate floor, something Senate Democrats failed to do in the last appropriations cycle when they controlled the Chamber.

Though a CR, a continuing resolution, is not ideal, this year we are further ahead than we have been in a long time. We cannot allow a government shutdown to derail the important work of the Trump administration.

As Chairwoman FOXX said last night, this short-term CR gives our Appropriations colleagues the time they need to keep negotiating and work toward bipartisan funding bills that fulfill our priorities to the American people.

There has been plenty of debate about what is and isn't in the CR, but our priority must be keeping this process moving forward and avoiding the chaos that a government shutdown would create.

If our colleagues on the other side of the aisle really care about our military, about law enforcement, about our Federal workers, they will join us in keeping the government open.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the consideration of these important pieces of legislation, and I urge the passage of this rule. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1640

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

Mr. Speaker, first, I think it is important to say that we all condemn the murder that occurred last week in Utah, and I know that some of my colleagues knew Mr. Kirk and are experiencing a personal loss as well. His family is certainly in our prayers, and violence is never ever the answer.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to the CR that is before us today, here is the deal. Republicans have three choices. One is to work with Democrats on a bipartisan CR that ensures millions of Americans don't lose health insurance or see their premiums skyrocket; two is for Republicans to do what Donald Trump said and pass the CR themselves—Republicans are in charge after all; or, three, Republicans can shut down the government.

If they choose door number two or door number three, make no mistake about what will happen. ACA tax credits will expire, and nearly 24 million people will see their premiums skyrocket by 93 percent, on average.

Let me paint a picture. A mom and a dad in their early sixties both have jobs and make \$80,000 a year combined. Right now, they can afford their healthcare—barely. If these ACA credits expire, their bill jumps more than \$17,000 a year. That is like a house mortgage. That is \$1,400 a month, every month, just for the privilege of not going bankrupt if they get sick. Or, take a family of four making \$64,000. Their premiums rise by \$2,600 a year. That is groceries. That is car payments.

It might not sound like a lot of money to my friends on the other side. Maybe the billionaires don't think \$2,600 a year is a lot, but my constituents do, Mr. Speaker. My guess is that millions of Americans will think that is a high cost to pay.

Mr. Speaker, if these tax credits disappear, it is a five-alarm fire, and Republicans are acting like they don't even smell the smoke. Should we be surprised? Of course not.

The American people are already drowning in a cost-of-living crisis, one fueled by Donald Trump and the Republican economic policies. Their big, ugly bill didn't just raise costs for housing, groceries, and utilities. Its cruelest blow was to healthcare.

They made the largest cut to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act in American history, kicking millions of working people off their coverage. That means hospitals closing, nursing homes shuttering, preventative care denied, and, by the way, families going hungry because food assistance was ripped away, too.

While families are trying to stay afloat, while farmers are struggling with tariffs, and while regular people suffer, Donald Trump decided to take an ax to medical research. He slashed the NIH, shut down cancer research, stopped clinical trials, and torpedoed vaccine programs. I mean, what the hell is wrong with him? What is he thinking?

But don't worry about healthcare. Don't worry about ACA tax credits. We will deal with this later. That is what the Speaker said. Kick the can down the road. Well, guess what. We have reached the end of the road. Later is too late.

The Congressional Budget Office says that if we don't act now and instead wait until December, an additional 1.5 million people will lose their coverage. That is a lot of people. That is a lot of people, I say to my colleagues. That is people in every single city and town in America. Premiums will climb even higher. Families will start getting cancellation notices in weeks, and open enrollment starts November 1. This is something we need to deal with now.

Here is the message to Republicans: Work with us. Fund the government. Protect healthcare. Stop writing bills for the rich and powerful. Start working on solutions to the everyday problems that people have. The choice is yours.

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ).

Ms. De La CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for yielding her time.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart. We should not have to debate this legislation this evening. This legislation is the result of a horrific decision to assassinate a man of faith, a husband, a father, and a friend, Charlie Kirk.

My heart aches for his wife, Erika, and their two beautiful children, his loved ones, and all those who looked up to him, including my own two kids. They looked up to Charlie as well. My prayers are with his family and the entire Turning Point community, who lost a leader and a friend.

Charlie was taken from us in a cowardly act while exercising our most sacred American right, the right to free speech. He was sharing his values with young people on campus, inspiring them and debating them at a university, a university that should be a safe place where ideas should be debated, not silenced.

I am absolutely heartbroken over this evil act. I stand with many of my fellow Americans today mourning this deep, deep loss. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this rule and the passage of the resolution to condemn the attack and honor the life of Charlie Kirk.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless the Kirk family and the entire Nation that is mourning this deep loss.

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

Mrs. HOUCHEIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Indiana for yielding me her time.

Mr. Speaker, just days ago, Charlie Kirk was assassinated by an act of deranged cowardice. His death was not only the loss of a husband, but a father, and a friend to many. It is also a sobering reminder that the very rights he spent his life defending must never be taken for granted, rights endowed to each of us by our creator and effectuated by our Constitution.

This resolution officially 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.

From the beginning of our Nation, freedom of speech has been a foundational liberty for the American people. The architects of our Republic enshrined the right to speak one's mind without fear as a first principle, knowing that if the people were silenced, then every other freedom would be in peril.

Throughout our history, Americans have disagreed fiercely and vigorously about politics, morality, and the course of our Nation, but history shows that responding to words with hatred or violence only sets us back. Instead, generation after generation, we have chosen the harder path: to keep the conversation going and to answer speech we oppose with more speech and with reason, civility, and conviction, rather than be intimidated by violence or dragged down into vengeance.

The Founders placed their faith in the power of truth and discourse. They knew that in a free republic, the solution to false or harmful ideas is to

counter them in the light of public discussion.

As Thomas Jefferson reminded us, "error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it." We must hold fast to that principle. We will turn more hearts with calm truth than with angry thunder. We will not let violence intimidate us, and we will not let violence drown out truth.

Every great struggle for justice, every step forward for our Nation, and even its very survival has relied on the ability of courageous voices to speak out and enlighten the people.

Charlie Kirk was more than just a prominent political leader. He was a devoted husband, father, and man of deep convictions. As a father myself, I cannot begin to imagine the pain of such a loss. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Erika, and two amazing young children.

Mr. Speaker, we offer our heartfelt condolences to Erika and those children, and we hope they find comfort and peace in this time of unimaginable grief.

Charlie lived with purpose and a clear understanding of what matters most. He loved his family and pursued truth, and he shared those values boldly with the world. He gave young Americans the courage to believe their voices mattered, that they, too, could take part in shaping the future of this Nation.

Just last week, I sat with students who told me they first found their way into political engagement because of Charlie's example. That is his legacy, not only the words he spoke, but the lives he touched, the movement he built, and the spirit of civic courage he inspired.

Mr. Speaker, let us pray that God bless and receive Charlie Kirk, and may He grant comfort and strength to Erika and their children. May God bless our Nation and unite us against violence, unite us in the fight for free speech and truth. I pray that we lift one another up and resolve to leave our children a brighter future and more free than the one we inherited.

□ 1650

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few minutes to talk about what will happen if we defeat the previous question.

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to strike the sections of yesterday's and today's rules, which together block privileged considerations of measures ending the administration's global tariffs and tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and Brazil.

Speaker JOHNSON and this Republican majority are hell-bent on blocking us from even debating Trump's reckless trade policy, which is driving up costs for consumers, for businesses, and for farmers.

Let's just take this week. On Monday, Republicans voted to block debate

on the tariffs that Trump slapped on Brazilian coffee, beef, and other goods. These are the tariffs that are forcing everyday people to spend more on a cup of coffee in the morning.

I think most Republicans in Congress were too scared of Trump to actually stand up and fight to protect everyday consumers. Then yesterday, Republicans barely passed a rule that blocked votes on all of Trump's illegal tariffs until March 31, 2026. I say "barely" because there were a few Republican holdouts threatening to vote against their party because they know how reckless Trump's trade policies are.

Mr. Speaker, it took only 45 minutes for them to fold. Here is what they reportedly got in return. They got an agreement to create a new trade working group. Really? They got a new working group, I mean, to get a meeting? Are my Republican colleagues aware that the House of Representatives already has a working group on trade? It is called the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade.

These brave rebels also apparently want a provision tucked into today's rule that says votes on tariffs will only be blocked until the end of January instead of March. I mean, wow, what a victory.

If my colleagues object to Donald Trump's trade policy, which is raising costs on everyday Americans right now, I can't for the life of me figure out how they were won over by an agreement to keep his policies in place for at least 4 more months.

President Trump promised to lower prices "on day one," but his disastrous trade war is increasing the prices that Americans are paying for food, gas, and everyday goods.

According to independent estimates, Trump's tariffs are resulting in a \$2,300 tax increase in 2025 for the average American household. The August inflation report, put out by Trump's own Bureau of Labor Statistics, said inflation is increasing at the highest rate since January.

Mr. Speaker, I serve on the House Committee on Agriculture, and we are hearing day in and day out from farmers who are being crushed by Trump's erratic trade policies. They are losing markets abroad. Input prices are going up. Farm bankruptcies are up 95 percent this year compared to last.

Back when I was on a farm tour in my own district, a coffee roaster told me tariffs are hurting his business. He and countless others in his position can't wait while House Republicans hide their heads in the sand for another 4 months.

Give us up-or-down votes on Trump's reckless tariffs. Stop hiding. This body, this House of Representatives has a responsibility to do oversight and to vote on whether or not we should have tariffs. It really is disappointing to me that so many of my friends on the other side of the aisle have not chosen to step up to the plate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the text

of my amendment, along with any 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, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would be willing to sacrifice making a few cheap political points, he might find that we are making bipartisan progress toward the goal that he has set forth. I, for one, am glad the Democrats have finally found a tax they don't like.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday we considered a resolution that altered the law by extending the authority of the President to impose tariffs by 6 months, from September 30 until March 31.

I agree with the gentleman that our Constitution entrusts Congress with the power to set tariffs but that that responsibility has unwisely, and perhaps even unconstitutionally, been delegated over the years to the President. I think it is time we did revisit that issue. Yesterday, the Speaker committed personally to two things.

First, he promised that the next rule resolution would reduce the extension of this authority from 6 months to 4 months, expiring on January 31 rather than March 31. The gentleman says that is not soon enough. Some of us would agree. This resolution fulfills that promise.

Second, the Speaker promised to convene a working group within the Republican Conference to establish a clear and coherent congressional policy on the use of tariffs to report before the end of January. This is important because there are increasing signs of tariff-related damage to the economy—the gentleman is absolutely right on that point—and because the courts may be moving to restore the guardrails between the executive and legislative branches with respect to tariffs.

I would hope he would support this resolution and thank the leadership for being responsive to those of us who fervently believe that free trade is an essential foundation of a healthy, growing, and thriving economy.

As Bastiat warned nearly two centuries ago, tariffs, by definition, raise prices and reduce resources. They are a tax. This is the first time I have ever found the Democrats to be in opposition to a tax. I think they will find willing and enthusiastic outliers on our side of the aisle as this discussion moves forward.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that every producer is a consumer. Every consumer is a producer. No producer has ever benefited by scarcer resources. No

consumer has ever benefited by higher prices. Yet this is the bitter fruit of protectionist policy down through the ages.

Mr. Speaker, we need to have a serious and sober discussion on this issue and bring it to a resolution. The Speaker has committed to do this. For that, I thank him, and I suggest that the gentleman across the aisle thank him, too.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman just said that these tariffs are harmful to our economy and to working families in this country. He could work with us right now to do something about it. We could bring a bill to the floor. We could bring an amendment to the floor. We can block them. We can stop them.

The gentleman said that he is working in a bipartisan way to try to deal with this issue. It is funny, but this working group that they have all agreed on is just a Republican working group. Democrats are not part of it. It is kind of a crazy way to be bipartisan.

Then he says that he gets this great deal in terms of when we will next be able to have a vote on this stuff. They moved the deadline from the end of March to the end of January. That is 4 months from now.

What will happen in 4 months? I will tell my colleagues what will happen in 4 months. We will get a rule that comes to the floor that will extend the prohibition on us being able to debate any kind of tariff legislation, to be able to have a debate or an up-or-down vote.

All I can say is: Where I come from in Massachusetts, we call that being a cheap date because I don't think we get very much, to be honest. Meanwhile, the American consumer, the American people, will suffer with higher prices as a result of these tariffs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), who will speak on this topic.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member MCGOVERN for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the previous question, which includes a detrimental and damaging provision that abdicates, that gives up, and that capitulates Congress' constitutional authority over this administration's disastrous tariff policy.

□ 1700

I think we all know Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of our Constitution clearly states that Congress has purview over foreign commerce. Now, more than ever, with the high prices that Americans are experiencing, our communities, our constituents, and this country, need us. They want us. They demand us to reclaim our constitutional powers over trade and fulfill our responsibilities as a check and as a balance over this executive branch.

This administration's incoherent, inconsistent, and incompetent tariff policy is causing Americans to get

crushed by high prices. These are people and businesses who don't have the margins to survive these tariff policies and who don't have access to the Oval Office to cut a backroom deal for relief. These are people and producers who are having to personally pay the high prices that are directly being affected by the high costs.

The tariffs not only have caused high prices, they have caused uncertainty that has destroyed what was once a strong jobs market. When it comes to manufacturing, it is getting tanked as the costs of inputs are increasing and markets are becoming impossible to predict.

Diplomatically, the President's tariff policy is causing consternation amongst our biggest trading partners and our allies and contributing to diplomatic crises.

Legally, the President's tariffs are hanging by a thread after a Federal court found that their claims of emergency power is dubious at best.

The reality is the President's trade policies that are based on his 40-year fetish with tariffs is bad for Americans. It is bad for American foreign policy, and it is bad for our American Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, for what?

Details of any trade deals remain fuzzy and unenforceable, and there is an unstable dynamic that he is creating in which markets are either swinging wildly or fail to react, expecting the President to chicken out.

Yet, in the 119th Congress, this majority is allowing this President to not just bulldoze over not just the well-being of our constituents, Speaker Johnson is allowing the President to run roughshod over our constitutional authority.

Now, more than ever, with these high prices, our communities and our constituents need us to reclaim these constitutional powers over trade and, yes, live up to our responsibilities as an Article I branch of our government.

It is time to repeal these various tariff powers that Congress has granted the executive branch over the past few decades. I am not just talking about IEEPA, but also the many other sections that we have afforded the President. Mr. Speaker, because of those authorities that the President is using capriciously and whimsically to impose his tariffs, it is causing great damage to our economy, and they are creating a crisis with these high costs that all of us are facing.

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 California.

Mr. PANETTA. That is exactly why Congress, that has purview over trade, should defend that jurisdiction, should defend our independence, and we should defend our duty to the American public. It is our job, and it is our responsibility.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that is the least we can do for our country, for this Congress, and for our constituents.

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

Mr. Speaker, what is more hurtful to working families is unfair trade practices that have undermined the American worker for decades. The tariffs imparted by President Trump are proving necessary to ensure fair trade, protect American workers, and reduce trade deficits by bringing other nations to the negotiating table.

Access to the American economy is a privilege. President Trump is taking decisive action to comprehensively renegotiate the tariff posture of the United States and the rest of the world for the first time since World War II.

His efforts are focused on achieving global free trade, decoupling developing countries from competitive nations like China, and for national security purposes.

From what we have seen, President Trump is winning.

According to an article from NPR on August 11, tariffs are adding tens of billions of new dollars to Federal revenue, with Treasury bringing in more than \$29 billion in customs and excise taxes, a category that is overwhelmingly tariff revenue. Countries like India, China, and South Korea are among the newest nations across the world flocking to the negotiating table.

This comes on the heels of a successfully negotiated trade deal with President Trump like with the EU, Japan, the U.K., Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

President Trump is utilizing all available tools in his pressure campaign to make good on his promises to secure the border, protect our communities, and level the global playing field to ensure fair trade for American producers and the American worker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just say to the gentlewoman that that is a lot of words to justify the biggest tax increase on the American people, an average of \$2,300 a year more because of these tariffs.

However, I would just say to the gentlewoman, as well, that if she thinks that these policies are great, if she wants these tariffs to continue, then she shouldn't be afraid to vote for them. Have the debate on the floor and let people vote up or down on them.

I don't understand why that is such a controversial thing to want to advocate for, especially in the House of Representatives where we are supposed to be able to debate important issues. If the majority has the votes, if everybody thinks this is a great policy, then they will all vote "yes," and they continue.

I am glad the gentlewoman brought up the economy because I want to speak about the economy just for a couple of minutes here.

Mr. Speaker, the consequences of Trump's economic policy are being felt

in communities across the country. Prices on fruits and vegetables, meat and poultry, and dairy are all up. They are likely to climb even higher as Trump's tariffs ripple through the supply chain.

President Trump and Republicans promised to reduce grocery prices. Instead, grocery prices spiked at the fastest pace in 3 years last month. They have promised to cut electricity prices in half. Instead, August electricity prices were over 6 percent higher than they were 1 year ago. They promised to reduce inflation. Instead, we saw the largest monthly increase in inflation since January. They promised to create jobs, and instead for the first time in nearly 4 years, the economy lost jobs in June. We lost jobs in June, and job growth has been stagnant for months.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump economy is not working for the American people.

Do you know whom it is working for, Mr. Speaker?

It is working for the millionaires and billionaires who contributed to his campaign.

Hardworking Americans deserve a hell of a lot better than a rigged economy that only works for the ultra-wealthy. People are hurting. Do townhalls, I would say to my Republican friends, and they can hear it firsthand. Go to the grocery store and watch as people are putting items back because the prices have gone up so much.

This is not sustainable. At a minimum, the Republican leadership here should not be afraid of debate and votes. We ought to bring these important items to the floor. We have a constitutional responsibility when it comes to trade and tariffs and to debate and to vote on these items. We ought to bring them to the floor. Let's have a thoughtful debate. Then people can vote accordingly, and then they can defend that vote when they go back to their districts.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is a little bit disingenuous to criticize the President on tariffs when every single Democrat voted for the largest tax increase in American history just recently.

In the Working Families Tax Cuts Act under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the typical family now, because of House Republicans, is going to get up to \$10,900 in additional take-home pay. Workers will see increased wages up to \$7,200. Households earning less than \$100,000 a year will get a 12 percent tax cut compared to today.

Up to 7.2 million jobs have been protected and created, and 1 million new jobs annually will be created by small businesses. No tax on tips, no tax on overtime, car loan interest relief, and tax relief for seniors will put more money annually into Americans' pockets. Mr. Speaker, that is \$1,300 per tipped worker specifically, and \$1,400 for hourly workers. We lock in and fur-

ther boost the double child tax credit to \$2,200 for more than 40 million American families.

To put it quite simply, we are starting to build the financial future for this country after years of Democrat mismanagement.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the gentlewoman is talking about, but the Yale Budget Lab finds American households could pay \$2,300 more, on average, as a result of the current tariff policy, nearly three times the average roughly \$800 benefit from the OBBBA's new tax provisions in the big, beautiful bill, or whatever they call it. We call it the big, ugly bill, which, by the way, is the most unpopular piece of legislation I think in history.

Do you know what, Mr. Speaker?

Don't take my word for it. Talk to regular people. Go to a grocery store. Go to a coffee shop. Do a townhall and talk to people about how they are feeling. They are not feeling good. They are not feeling good, Mr. Speaker. They are going to feel even worse if you don't address the healthcare cliff that we are about to confront.

□ 1710

Mr. Speaker, across the country, children, families, grandparents, small business owners, teachers, and veterans are about to receive the unwelcome news that their healthcare premiums are skyrocketing to record highs. Millions of Americans face an awful decision on the horizon as they sort through their bills and are forced to decide which ones to pay.

Republicans could have spent the summer working with Democrats to reach a bipartisan agreement. Instead, they spent it slashing Medicaid and the ACA by a trillion dollars.

Make no mistake: Republicans are kicking 15 million off their healthcare coverage. Republicans are jeopardizing access to prenatal care. They are cutting NIH's budget and taking food benefits away from families, all basically to help pay for tax cuts to the ultrarich.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 24 million people in this country have health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. With Republican inaction, their premiums will increase by an average of 93 percent. A 60-year-old couple making \$80,000 per year would see their premiums increase by over \$17,000 per year. That is like over \$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?

Five million Americans, including 2 million with chronic conditions, will lose their healthcare coverage due to the Affordable Care Act cuts alone, not to mention the 10 million more who will lose coverage due to the already

enacted Medicaid cuts in the Republicans' big, ugly bill.

In each of the districts we represent, Americans will have to choose between paying rent, buying groceries, or affording healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, 26,000 Americans in the gentilewoman's district in Indiana will face higher premiums or lose their healthcare altogether. That is a lot of people. We live in the richest country in the world, and Republicans have no problem forcing families to go without food because healthcare premiums are sky-high. This is crazy. Healthcare ought to be a right in this country. It ought not to be a privilege.

When people lose their healthcare, what do they do? They get their healthcare at emergency rooms. That is the most costly and inefficient form of healthcare.

Honest to God, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how my Republicans friends can talk to people back home in their districts and somehow justify what they are doing. Do Republicans actually think that denying healthcare coverage is good for someone? Seriously, is that popular in Indiana? Is it popular in any State in this country? This is shameful, Mr. Speaker. The American people deserve better.

Congress must address this healthcare cliff now. When the Speaker of the House says: Oh, well, we will deal with it in December; we will talk about this in December—first, we have no guarantees that they will want to deal with it—but let's push this discussion out to December. December is too late. The crisis is about to occur. We have an opportunity to do something, and we are doing nothing. We are doing nothing. This is so wrong. This is immoral, Mr. Speaker. This cannot be justified. There is no way to be able to explain this back home.

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

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

What the American people know, what I hope they know, is that this is a lot of political theater going on today, and I am sorry about it. I really am.

Premiums are high because of ObamaCare. The un-affordable care act did nothing to lower healthcare costs and instead raised costs. Subsidizing the failed policies of the Democratic Party is not a solution. It is a Band-Aid at best, and it perpetuates the problem.

Republicans are focused on fixing healthcare, on reducing costs, on raising reimbursement rates, and reforming the system which Democrats broke in the first place. They are fighting for their constituents against a problem that they created. This is a crisis created by the ObamaCare plan in the first place, and we can't just keep throwing money at the problem. That can't be the only answer. We need to have conversations about how to make these programs work for the American

people, and it is House Republicans that are leading that charge.

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

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

The central issue right now is healthcare. Let me repeat: Healthcare, healthcare, healthcare.

I love it. I don't know how—I am surprised they didn't blame Bill Clinton. Now we are going back to Obama to blame him for the current crisis in healthcare. Give me a break.

Look at the polling. The ACA is pretty popular. What is not popular is the big, ugly bill that the Republicans passed just a few months ago. People are outraged over the fact that Republicans are cutting Medicaid by a trillion dollars and cutting moneys for NIH. The National Institutes of Health is where we fund research to find cures to diseases and to sicknesses.

You want to save money? Let's find a cure to Alzheimer's. Let's find a cure to Parkinson's disease. Let's find more cures to cancer. That is a way you can save money.

I think what the Republicans are doing right now is they want to say that the Affordable Care Act is not working by defunding it, by dismantling it.

My Republicans friends are doing nothing to address the central issue at hand right now, which is healthcare. People are going to lose their healthcare. People are going to see their premiums skyrocket. All the while, we are trying to help here. We are saying we will work with them and let's address this so people don't suffer.

I mean, the whole point of what we are doing here should be about improving the lives for people we represent, improving the lives of people in this country. An all-out assault against their healthcare is coming down the road, and we can do something about it. We want to work with them to do something about it, and my Republican friends keep on saying: No, we are not interested.

What are my Republican friends interested in? If you look at the big, ugly bill, it is tax cuts for the multimillionaires, tax cuts for multibillionaires, and all these giveaways to the fossil fuel industry. It is like the Republican prescription for healthcare is take two tax cuts and call me in the morning.

The bottom line is a crisis is about to happen in this country. We are right at the cliff, and we can do something about it. We can help our constituents. We are urging them, and we are begging them to work with us so we can address these concerns in healthcare, and we are being told no way, no consultation, no cooperation, no collaboration, no negotiation, no nothing.

Remember, it was Democrats who capped the price of insulin for Medicare. It is Republicans who cut Medicaid by a trillion dollars. That is the difference here.

Again, we ought to be addressing this crisis now before our constituents are

hurt in a way that, quite frankly, they are not prepared for.

They don't even know this is coming. We all know it is coming. There is no excuse to not know what is about to happen. Every major organization—CBO, everybody, the insurance industry—has already told us what is about to happen. My Republican friends are like: No, business as usual. Let's just kick the can down the road. We will fund the government for 7 weeks and no promise of anything.

This is not the way this Congress should be run.

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, here is the bottom line. Congress must act now to prevent one of the most staggering healthcare premium hikes in history—not in November, not in December, but now.

Let's be honest. Donald Trump and his billionaires he has surrounded himself with won't feel an ounce of this pain. They have got the best doctors on speed dial, concierge care, and private chefs. They don't worry about grocery bills. They don't sit at the kitchen table with a stack of medical bills and wonder which one of them they can afford to pay this month.

Regular people, working families, and seniors on fixed incomes do. That is who Democrats are fighting for: regular people who buy their own food, who worry about the rent, and who pray that the car doesn't break down because they can't handle another bill.

□ 1720

If Members want to stand with the billionaires, by all means, vote for the CR. Let a million people get kicked off of healthcare. It won't impact Members of Congress. We all have great healthcare. Republicans don't have to worry about that.

Guess what. Democrats are not going to stand by and watch while Republicans make healthcare more expensive and less accessible for millions of our friends and neighbors. Stop the cuts and fund the government, or own the shutdown that is coming. Protect people's healthcare, or own the consequences when millions lose their coverage.

That is what the choice is for this Republican-controlled government. Right now, Mr. Speaker, it sure as hell looks like Republicans are choosing to shut it down instead of working to keep people insured.

Again, we live in the richest country in the world. Healthcare ought to be viewed as a fundamental right for people in this country. People shouldn't have to worry about going bankrupt if they get sick.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the top issues on the minds of people all

throughout this country right now. The price of groceries and the price of healthcare are what they are worried about. People are deeply concerned that they are not going to be able to afford both, and they are in for a rude awakening when they start to see their premiums go up this November.

Here is the kicker: This Congress can do something about it. All we need is for our Republican friends to work with us. Let us make the necessary adjustments, and let us protect millions of people from losing their healthcare. Let us protect countless people from seeing their premiums go sky-high.

We can do this. This is solvable. We can do it, but for whatever reason, Republicans are not interested. That is what is particularly sad at this particular point, Mr. Speaker.

Prohibiting health insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history, that is what Democrats did. We have prohibited health insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history.

We prohibited health insurance companies from charging sick people more.

We prohibited private health insurance companies from denying coverage because of preexisting medical conditions.

We prohibited health insurance companies from denying coverage to pregnant women.

We prohibited private health insurance companies from charging sick people higher premiums than healthy people.

We required health insurance companies to cover the cost of most preventative services.

We prohibited health insurance companies from setting a lifetime limit.

We gave States the option of expanding their Medicaid programs.

We provided financial help to low- and moderate-income Americans to help them purchase coverage.

We prohibited private health insurance companies from setting an annual limit.

We also allowed young adults to stay on their parents' insurance plans until they were 26.

When we think of helping people with healthcare, that is the kind of stuff that we think of. I mentioned before the capping of the cost of insulin in Medicare. We ought to be making it easier for people to get good, quality healthcare. We ought to make sure that it is more affordable and more accessible, and we are going in the opposite direction under this Republican leadership.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this rule for a whole bunch of reasons, but mostly because healthcare is important to people in this country, and they are about to get screwed. We have an opportunity to do something, and I regret that under this rule, nothing will be done.

Mr. Speaker, let's defeat this rule. Let's go back to the drawing board.

Let's sit down in a bipartisan way. Let's figure out ways to avert this crisis. Let's do what is right for the American people, not what is right for the big contributors in this country and for the well-off and the well-connected.

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this rule is pretty straightforward. With respect to the continuing resolution, it is simple. It is a clean, short-term continuing resolution to prevent disruptions to national security and programs that our constituents depend on. It is a bill that extends government funding until November 21.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are trying to argue and insist that a healthcare discussion is inserted into this, but that is not a debate for a September funding matter. They are really trying to insert unrelated matters into the middle of a clean government extension.

I don't think that is going to work because if the government shuts down because they are making this last stand, which is something that we will be addressing in the future, it will solely be blamed on Democrats if the government shuts down because we are not playing politics with this at all. We are just trying to keep the lights on.

What they are trying to do is insert a last-ditch effort to regain their footing because their party is reeling right now.

Mr. Speaker, this clean extension of government funding will ensure that the government remains open and working for the Nation. It shouldn't be partisan. If Democrats force a shutdown, it could cost the American taxpayer billions due to back-paid furloughed workers, increased costs from delayed starts, and constrained economic growth.

No matter how hard the Democrats try to characterize this CR as a partisan maneuver, always claiming that we are hurting every special interest group, it doesn't make it true.

Remember, virtually every single House Democrat for the last 4 years under the Biden administration voted "yes" on every continuing resolution. In fact, over the last several years, many Democrats, including Democratic leaders, have made comments about the harm a government shutdown would cause.

The minority leader says it is about the harm. Families will be hurt. Farmers will be hurt if the government shuts down. Others have said: Let's take a moment to see what is truly at the center of this story. It is about the servicemembers who will work without a paycheck.

Some House Democrats accused House Republicans of leading the country toward a reckless government shutdown that will take food off the table for mothers and children and force servicemembers to work without pay.

Make no mistake, if Democrats vote against this simple government funding bill that will extend funding to November 21, they are the very people who are hurting those whom they have claimed that Republicans have perpetually tried to hurt, unfairly and untruly.

Mr. Speaker, again, this rule is straightforward.

First and foremost, we are here to honor the life of a husband, father, and friend. Charlie Kirk was a proud American and this country that he loved. Charlie was the kind of person who inspired millions to engage in our democracy. It is right that we take the time as a body to honor him and condemn political violence in all forms.

Finally and secondly, we must keep the government open and allow the appropriations process to continue. While CRs, continuing resolutions, are never ideal and, by definition, are not all-encompassing, if we are truly to address the many issues before this body as a country, we cannot do that under a government shutdown. We must let the appropriations process continue.

I look forward to moving these bills out of the House this week, and I ask my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on the rule.

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to unequivocally condemn the act of political violence that ended the life of Charlie Kirk. Violence has no place in our democracy, and no American, regardless of political beliefs, should ever be the target of an assassination.

I send my sincere condolences to his wife Erica, his children, and all who mourn his loss.

But condemning violence is not the same as endorsing a legacy. In fact, it is a sign of the strength of our republic that we can both mourn Mr. Kirk's death and openly acknowledge that he was a polarizing figure in American politics. Many Americans justifiably find his words and actions divisive and offensive.

It is entirely legitimate to say that Mr. Kirk's legacy is controversial. To present his life and work in only heroic terms fails to acknowledge his promotion of misinformation and the harmful impact his words have had on marginalized communities. Having these conversations openly, without fear of recrimination or harassment is part of what it means to live in a free society.

As we condemn political violence in the strongest possible terms, let us also reaffirm our commitment to honest debate, to teaching the totality of our history, and to preserving a democracy where it is safe to disagree.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 722 OFFERED BY  
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Strike section 3 and add the following:  
SEC. 3. House Resolution 707, agreed to September 16, 2025, is amended by striking sections 9, 10, and 11.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. 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.

□ 1730

#### DELIVERING DIGITALLY TO OUR VETERANS ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3481) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for electronic communication relating to educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The 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.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### 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 722;

Adoption of House Resolution 722, if ordered;

Passage of H.R. 5125; and

Passage of H.R. 5143.

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. 5371, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026; H. RES. 719, HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES “CHARLIE” JAMES KIRK; 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. 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 bill (H. Res. 719) honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk; 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 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 272]

YEAS—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  
Bresch  
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  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Fong  
Foxy  
Franklin, Scott  
Fry  
Fulcher

Garbarino  
Gill (TX)  
Gimenez  
Goldman (TX)  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Graves  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
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)  
Kiley (CA)  
Kim  
Knott  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
Langworthy  
Latta  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Letlow  
Loudermilk  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Mackenzie  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Massie  
Mast  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McDowell  
McGuire  
Messmer  
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)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rulli  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schmidt  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Shreve  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Spartz  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Strong  
Taylor  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner (OH)  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dwyne  
Van Orden  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Westerman  
Wied  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

NAYS—207

Adams  
Agullar  
Amo  
Ansari  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragan

Beatty  
Bell  
Bera  
Bishop  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown

Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bynum  
Carbajal  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Casar

Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Conaway  
Correa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Dexter  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Elfrith  
Escobar  
Espallat  
Fields  
Figures  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Friedman  
Frost  
Garamendi  
Garcia (CA)  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gillen  
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  
Krishnamoorthi  
Landsman  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latimer  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Liccardo  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Mannion  
Matsui  
McBath  
McBride  
McClain Delaney  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McDonald Rivet  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McIver  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Min  
Moore (WI)  
Morrison  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Olshewski  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pelosi  
Perez  
Peters  
Petterson

NOT VOTING—12

Beyer  
Costa  
Evans (PA)  
Gray

Grothman  
LaMalfa  
Lucas  
Morelle

□ 1757

Messrs. TORRES of New York and CARBAJAL changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was at an event out of the building. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 272.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 272.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK). 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 216, noes 210, answered “present” 1, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 273]

AYES—216

Aderholt	Jimenez	Miller (OH)
Alford	Goldman (TX)	Miller (WV)
Allen	Gonzales, Tony	Miller-Meeks
Amodei (NV)	Gooden	Mills
Arrington	Gosar	Moolenaar
Babin	Graves	Moore (AL)
Bacon	Greene (GA)	Moore (NC)
Baird	Griffith	Moore (UT)
Balderson	Grothman	Moore (WV)
Barr	Guest	Moran
Barrett	Guthrie	Murphy
Baumgartner	Hageman	Nehls
Bean (FL)	Hamadeh (AZ)	Newhouse
Begich	Haridopolos	Norman
Bentz	Harrigan	Nunn (IA)
Bergman	Harris (MD)	Oberholte
Bice	Harris (NC)	Ogles
Biggs (AZ)	Harshbarger	Onder
Biggs (SC)	Hern (OK)	Owens
Bilirakis	Higgins (LA)	Palmer
Boebert	Hill (AR)	Patronis
Bost	Hinson	Perry
Brecheen	Houchin	Pfuger
Bresnahan	Hudson	Reschenthaler
Buchanan	Huizenga	Rogers (AL)
Burchett	Hunt	Rogers (KY)
Burlison	Hurd (CO)	Rose
Calvert	Issa	Rouzer
Cammack	Jack	Roy
Carey	Jackson (TX)	Rulli
Carter (GA)	James	Salazar
Carter (TX)	Johnson (LA)	Scalise
Ciscomani	Johnson (SD)	Schmidt
Cline	Jordan	Schweikert
Cloud	Joyce (OH)	Scott, Austin
Clyde	Joyce (PA)	Self
Cole	Kean	Sessions
Collins	Kelly (MS)	Shreve
Comer	Kelly (PA)	Simpson
Crane	Kennedy (UT)	Smith (MO)
Crank	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (NE)
Crawford	Kiley (CA)	Smith (NJ)
Davidson	Kim	Smucker
De La Cruz	Knott	Spartz
DesJarlais	Kustoff	Stauber
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Stefanik
Donalds	LaLota	Steil
Downing	LaMalfa	Steube
Dunn (FL)	Langworthy	Strong
Edwards	Latta	Stutzman
Ellzey	Lawler	Taylor
Emmer	Lee (FL)	Tenney
Estes	Letlow	Thompson (PA)
Evans (CO)	Loudermilk	Tiffany
Ezell	Lucas	Timmons
Fallon	Luna	Turner (OH)
Fedorchak	Luttrell	Valadao
Feenstra	Mace	Van Drew
Fine	Mackenzie	Van Dyne
Finstad	Malliotakis	Van Orden
Fischbach	Maloy	Wagner
Fitzgerald	Mann	Walberg
Fitzpatrick	Mast	Weber (TX)
Fleischmann	McCaul	Webster (FL)
Flood	McClain	Westerman
Fong	McClintock	Wied
Fox	McCormick	Williams (TX)
Franklin, Scott	McDowell	Wilson (SC)
Fry	McGuire	Wittman
Fulcher	Messmer	Womack
Garbarino	Meuser	Yakym
Gill (TX)	Miller (IL)	Zinke

NOES—210

Adams	Boyle (PA)	Cherfilus-
Aguilar	Brown	McCormick
Amo	Brownley	Chu
Ansari	Budzinski	Cisneros
Auchincloss	Bynum	Clark (MA)
Balint	Carbajal	Clarke (NY)
Barragán	Carson	Cleaver
Beatty	Carter (LA)	Clyburn
Bell	Casar	Cohen
Bera	Case	Conaway
Beyer	Casten	Correa
Bishop	Castor (FL)	Courtney
Bonamici	Castro (TX)	Craig

Crockett	Kennedy (NY)	Ramirez
Crow	Khanna	Randall
Cuellar	Krishnamoorthi	Raskin
Davids (KS)	Landsman	Riley (NY)
Davis (IL)	Larsen (WA)	Rivas
Davis (NC)	Larson (CT)	Ross
Dean (PA)	Latimer	Ruiz
DeGette	Lee (NV)	Ryan
DeLauro	Lee (PA)	Salinas
DelBene	Leger Fernandez	Sánchez
Deluzio	Levin	Scanlon
DeSaulnier	Liccardo	Schakowsky
Dexter	Lieu	Schneider
Dingell	Lofgren	Scholten
Doggett	Lynch	Schrier
Elfreth	Magaziner	Scott (VA)
Escobar	Mannion	Scott, David
Españat	Matsui	Sewell
Evans (PA)	McBath	Sherman
Fields	McBride	Sherrill
Figures	McClain Delaney	Simon
Fletcher	McClellan	Smith (WA)
Foster	McCollum	Sorensen
Foushee	McDonald Rivet	Soto
Frankel, Lois	McGarvey	Stansbury
Friedman	McGovern	Stanton
Frost	McIver	Stevens
Garamendi	Meeks	Strickland
Garcia (CA)	Menendez	Subramanyam
Garcia (IL)	Meng	Suozi
Garcia (TX)	Mfume	Swallow
Gillen	Min	Sykes
Golden (ME)	Moore (WI)	Takano
Goldman (NY)	Morale	Thanedar
Gomez	Morrison	Thompson (CA)
Gonzalez, V.	Moskowitz	Thompson (MS)
Goodlander	Moulton	Tlaib
Gottheimer	Mryan	Tokuda
Green, Al (TX)	Mullin	Tonko
Harder (CA)	Nadler	Torres (CA)
Hayes	Neal	Torres (NY)
Himes	Neguse	Trahan
Horsford	Norcross	Tran
Houlahan	Ocasio-Cortez	Underwood
Hoyer	Olsewski	Vargas
Hoyle (OR)	Omar	Vasquez
Huffman	Pallone	Veasey
Ivey	Panetta	Velázquez
Jackson (IL)	Pappas	Vindman
Jacobs	Pelosi	Walkinshaw
Jayapal	Perez	Wasserman
Jeffries	Peters	Schultz
Johnson (GA)	Pettersen	Waters
Johnson (TX)	Pingree	Watson Coleman
Kamlager-Dove	Pocan	Whitesides
Kaptur	Pou	Williams (GA)
Keating	Pressley	Wilson (FL)
Kelly (IL)	Quigley	

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—5

Costa Gray Titus  
Crenshaw Rutherford

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

□ 1804

Mr. DONALDS changed his vote from “present” to “aye.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS REFORM 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. 5125) to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to terminate the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission, 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. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 211, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 274]

YEAS—218

Aderholt	Jimenez	Miller (OH)
Alford	Goldman (TX)	Miller (WV)
Allen	Gonzales, Tony	Miller-Meeks
Amodei (NV)	Gooden	Mills
Arrington	Gosar	Moolenaar
Babin	Graves	Moore (AL)
Bacon	Greene (GA)	Moore (NC)
Baird	Griffith	Moore (UT)
Balderson	Grothman	Moore (WV)
Barr	Guest	Moran
Barrett	Guthrie	Murphy
Baumgartner	Hageman	Nehls
Bean (FL)	Hamadeh (AZ)	Newhouse
Begich	Haridopolos	Norman
Bentz	Harrigan	Nunn (IA)
Bergman	Harris (MD)	Oberholte
Bice	Harris (NC)	Ogles
Biggs (AZ)	Harshbarger	Onder
Biggs (SC)	Hern (OK)	Owens
Bilirakis	Higgins (LA)	Palmer
Boebert	Hill (AR)	Patronis
Bost	Hinson	Perry
Brecheen	Houchin	Pfuger
Bresnahan	Hudson	Reschenthaler
Buchanan	Huizenga	Rogers (AL)
Burchett	Hunt	Rogers (KY)
Burlison	Hurd (CO)	Rose
Calvert	Issa	Rouzer
Cammack	Jack	Roy
Carey	Jackson (TX)	Rulli
Carter (GA)	James	Salazar
Carter (TX)	Johnson (LA)	Scalise
Ciscomani	Johnson (SD)	Schmidt
Cline	Jordan	Schweikert
Cloud	Joyce (OH)	Scott, Austin
Clyde	Joyce (PA)	Self
Cole	Kean	Sessions
Collins	Kelly (MS)	Shreve
Comer	Kelly (PA)	Simpson
Crane	Kennedy (UT)	Smith (MO)
Crank	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (NE)
Crawford	Kiley (CA)	Smith (NJ)
Davidson	Kim	Smucker
De La Cruz	Knott	Spartz
DesJarlais	Kustoff	Stauber
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Stefanik
Donalds	LaLota	Steil
Downing	LaMalfa	Steube
Dunn (FL)	Langworthy	Strong
Edwards	Latta	Stutzman
Ellzey	Lawler	Taylor
Emmer	Lee (FL)	Tenney
Estes	Letlow	Thompson (PA)
Evans (CO)	Loudermilk	Tiffany
Ezell	Lucas	Timmons
Fallon	Luna	Turner (OH)
Fedorchak	Luttrell	Valadao
Feenstra	Mace	Van Drew
Fine	Mackenzie	Van Dyne
Finstad	Malliotakis	Van Orden
Fischbach	Maloy	Wagner
Fitzgerald	Mann	Walberg
Fitzpatrick	Mast	Weber (TX)
Fleischmann	McCaul	Webster (FL)
Flood	McClain	Westerman
Fong	McClintock	Wied
Fox	McCormick	Williams (TX)
Franklin, Scott	McDowell	Wilson (SC)
Fry	McGuire	Wittman
Fulcher	Messmer	Womack
Garbarino	Meuser	Yakym
Gill (TX)	Miller (IL)	Zinke

NAYS—211

Adams	Boyle (PA)	Cherfilus-
Aguilar	Brown	McCormick
Amo	Brownley	Chu
Ansari	Budzinski	Cisneros
Auchincloss	Bynum	Clark (MA)
Balint	Carbajal	Clarke (NY)
Barragán	Carson	Cleaver
Beatty	Carter (LA)	Clyburn
Bell	Casar	Cohen
Bera	Case	Conaway
Beyer	Casten	Correa
Bishop	Castor (FL)	Costa
Bonamici	Castro (TX)	Courtney

Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Dexter  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Elfreth  
Escobar  
Espallat  
Evans (PA)  
Fields  
Figures  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Friedman  
Frost  
Garamendi  
Garcia (CA)  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gillen  
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  
Krishnamoorthi  
Landsman  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latimer  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Liccardo  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Mannion  
Matsui  
McBath  
McBride  
McClain Delaney  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McDonald Rivet  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McIver  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
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  
Sánchez  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Simon  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Subramanyam  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Tran  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Vindman  
Walkinshaw  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Whitesides  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)

## NOT VOTING—3

Gray Rutherford Titus

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1810

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICING PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is on the passage 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, 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 245, nays 182, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 275]  
YEAS—245

Goodlander  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Graves  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Hamadeh (AZ)  
Harder (CA)  
Haridopolos  
Harrigan  
Harris (MD)  
Harris (NC)  
Harshbarger  
Hern (OK)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Hinson  
Horsford  
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  
Maloy  
Mann  
Mannion  
Massie  
Mast  
McCauley  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McDonald Rivet  
McDowell  
McGuire  
Messmer  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Moolenaar  
Moore (AL)

Moore (NC)  
Moore (UT)  
Moore (WV)  
Moran  
Moskowitz  
Murphy  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Obernoite  
Ogles  
Onder  
Owens  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Patronis  
Perez  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Pou  
Reschenthaler  
Riley (NY)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rulli  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schmidt  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Sherrill  
Shreve  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Sorensen  
Spartz  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Strong  
Stutzman  
Suozi  
Taylor  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Tran  
Turner (OH)  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dwyne  
Van Orden  
Vasquez  
Vindman  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Westerman  
Whitesides  
Wied  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

## NAYS—182

Adams  
Aguilar  
Amo  
Ansari  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragán  
Beatty  
Bell  
Beyer  
Bishop  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
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  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Dexter  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Elfreth  
Escobar  
Espallat  
Evans (PA)  
Fields  
Figures  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Friedman  
Frost  
Garamendi  
Garcia (CA)  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzalez, V.  
Green, Al (TX)  
Hayes  
Himes  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jacobs  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy (NY)  
Khanna  
Krishnamoorthi  
Landsman  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latimer  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Liccardo  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Matsui  
McBath  
McBride  
McClain Delaney  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McIver  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Min  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Morrison  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Olszewski  
Omar  
Pallone  
Pelosi  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Pressley

## NOT VOTING—5

Arrington Nunn (IA) Titus  
Gray Rutherford

□ 1816

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution that was previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 713

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 credibility 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.

□ 1820

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

#### MOTION TO TABLE

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. I have a motion at the desk, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Clark of Massachusetts moves to lay the resolution on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 213, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 276]

#### YEAS—214

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

#### NAYS—213

Aderholt	Bentz	Carey
Alford	Bergman	Carter (GA)
Allen	Bice	Carter (TX)
Amodei (NV)	Biggs (AZ)	Ciscomani
Arrington	Biggs (SC)	Cline
Babin	Bilirakis	Cloud
Bacon	Boebert	Clyde
Baird	Bost	Cole
Balderson	Brecheen	Collins
Barr	Bresnahan	Comer
Barrett	Buchanan	Crane
Baumgartner	Burchett	Crank
Bean (FL)	Burlison	Crawford
Begich	Cammack	Crenshaw

Davidson	Jackson (TX)	Obernolte
De La Cruz	James	Ogles
DesJarlais	Johnson (LA)	Onder
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (SD)	Owens
Donalds	Jordan	Palmer
Downing	Joyce (OH)	Patronis
Dunn (FL)	Joyce (PA)	Perry
Edwards	Kean	Pfluger
Ellzey	Kelly (MS)	Reschenthaler
Emmer	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (AL)
Estes	Kennedy (UT)	Rogers (KY)
Evans (CO)	Kiggans (VA)	Rose
Ezell	Kiley (CA)	Rouzer
Fallon	Kim	Roy
Fedorchak	Knott	Rulli
Feenstra	Kustoff	Salazar
Fine	LaHood	Scalise
Finstad	LaLota	Schmidt
Fischbach	LaMalfa	Schweikert
Fitzgerald	Langworthy	Scott, Austin
Fitzpatrick	Latta	Self
Fleischmann	Lawler	Sessions
Fong	Lee (FL)	Shreve
Fox	Letlow	Simpson
Franklin, Scott	Loudermilk	Smith (MO)
Fry	Lucas	Smith (NE)
Fulcher	Luna	Smith (NJ)
Garbarino	Luttrell	Smucker
Gill (TX)	Mace	Spartz
Gimenez	Mackenzie	Staubert
Goldman (TX)	Malliotakis	Stefanik
Gonzales, Tony	Maloy	Steil
Gooden	Mann	Steube
Gosar	Massie	Strong
Graves	Mast	Stutzman
Greene (GA)	McCauley	Taylor
Griffith	McClain	Tenney
Grothman	McCormick	Thompson (PA)
Guest	McDowell	Tiffany
Guthrie	McGuire	Timmons
Hageman	Messmer	Turner (OH)
Hamadeh (AZ)	Meuser	Valadao
Haridopolos	Miller (IL)	Van Drew
Harrigan	Miller (OH)	Van Duyne
Harris (MD)	Miller (WV)	Van Orden
Harris (NC)	Miller-Meeks	Wagner
Harshbarger	Moolenaar	Walberg
Hern (OK)	Moore (AL)	Weber (TX)
Higgins (LA)	Moore (NC)	Webster (FL)
Hill (AR)	Moore (UT)	Westerman
Hinson	Moore (WV)	Wied
Houchin	Moran	Williams (TX)
Hudson	Murphy	Wilson (SC)
Huizenga	Nehls	Wittman
Hunt	Newhouse	Womack
Issa	Norman	Yakym
Jack	Nunn (IA)	Zinke

#### NOT VOTING—5

Calvert	Gray	Titus
Gottheimer	Rutherford	

□ 1828

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed Roll Call votes numbered 272 through 276. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 272, ordering the previous question; NO on Roll Call No. 273, agreeing to H. Res. 722; NAY on Roll Call No. 274, final passage of H.R. 5125; NAY on Roll Call No. 275, final passage of H.R. 5143; and YEA on Roll Call No. 276, the motion to table H. Res. 713.

#### RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

(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 Constitution Day.

Today, in 1787, our brave Founding Fathers gathered in Pennsylvania to

sign the United States Constitution, one of the most significant documents in history.

For 238 years, this document has laid the groundwork for our Nation's principles and has served as a beacon of freedom worldwide.

Our Constitution guarantees our freedoms, from the right to free speech to the right to practice our faith. The Constitution is a promise that we the people are at the forefront of our government.

Today, the Constitution remains as relevant as ever. As we face new challenges, we must remember that our Constitution has provided us the framework to debate, disagree, and, most importantly, unite.

I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting a resolution recognizing today, September 17, as Constitution Day, highlighting our Nation's beginnings as we approach our 250th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, let us celebrate the principles that make our Nation great on this Constitution Day.

#### FIRST AMENDMENT IS KEYSTONE OF OUR LIBERTIES

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago, four Republicans saved this House from disgrace. We almost passed a resolution to remove a Member from committees for the sin of exercising free speech.

Charlie Kirk was a prominent figure, beloved by many, disliked heartily by others.

If the First Amendment means anything, it means the ability to say anything we want, short of actionable libel, with respect to any subject. It even means, according to the Supreme Court in the Brandenburg decision in 1969, the ability to advocate violence except in a manner calculated to induce immediate violence.

We forget the First Amendment at our peril. It is the keystone of our liberties, and we almost disgraced ourselves by traducing it a few minutes ago. I am glad we did not.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MIKE VAINI

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dear family friend, Mike Vaini.

Mike was like an uncle to me. He was my father's best friend. He was the best man at my parents' wedding.

For nearly eight decades, Mike was the go-to man for our church, the Springfield First Church of the Nazarene.

In addition to his distinguished 35 years at Kraft Foods, he dedicated himself to his faith, family, and church.

Mike did everything. He served as a Sunday school teacher and a church board member. He even served as the bus driver and, yes, the lawn mower for our church. Mike was simply Mr. Reliable.

When the church needed someone to entertain, he would dress up as Mickey Mouse or Tiny Tim. While his voice probably didn't win any choir competitions, that never stopped him from singing just to light up the room.

Mike loved music. From southern gospel concerts to the great hits of the 1950s and 1960s, he knew all the bands and all the songs.

Mike was a huge sports fanatic. He was a huge fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and the Springfield Cardinals, and he loved playing golf and pinball and watching the Olympics.

I will never forget moments, like going to basketball games with Mike. He would always bring licorice for my brother and me.

Mike and his wife, Linda, were known for hosting parties and bringing people together. He lived 78 amazing years with faith, humor, and generosity. He poured himself into others, especially his family, including Linda.

So many of us thank God for his life. May he rest in peace.

□ 1840

#### REMEMBERING PORTER MCNEIL

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and a public servant in the Quad Cities, Porter McNeil.

Porter served as a leader in Rock Island County for decades, most recently on our county board, but also as a leader and lover of democratic values.

Porter was an incredible communicator, family man, and friend to all of us. He was in a class all his own. He was a steadfast Democrat, but just this week, a GOP member back home called him "a good man, with class."

Porter loved the Quad Cities and believed in making our home a better place.

In his passing, I am thinking of his wife, Mary, the McNeil family, and his friends. To have so many people remember you so fondly is a testimony of being a great man.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Porter McNeil for being there for us. We will miss him.

#### RECOGNIZING TRINITY LOVE HOBLIT FOUNDATION

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, did you know that 1 in 50 Americans is living with an unruptured brain aneu-

rysm? It is a silent killer hiding in plain sight. Most won't know it is there until it is too late.

Today, I rise in recognition of Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month and to highlight the lifesaving work of the Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation, based in Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Founded by Olivia and Phil Hoblit in honor of their daughter, pictured here, a vibrant 14-year-old who tragically passed away from a ruptured aneurysm, the foundation is turning grief into action. Their mission is research, training, and treatment for brain aneurysms and strokes, and raising awareness about warning signs.

One of their most important initiatives is the Florida Familial Brain Aneurysm Research Project, a program dedicated to understanding the genetic links and safeguarding future generations.

Mr. Speaker, this month, let us all honor Trinity's legacy by raising awareness and championing early detection because lives truly depend on it.

#### BILLIONAIRES DON'T PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today Representative BEYER, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator WYDEN, and I introduced a billionaires tax bill.

Billionaires don't pay their fair share of taxes, and with the Trump tax program starting in 2017, they have increased their wealth tremendously.

Not paying taxes on real estate and stocks and all that they don't trade or sell, just accumulating that wealth over and over again while hardworking people, firemen, nurses, you name it, pay on their wages is wrong.

We need to have a tax system that collects from people who can afford it, as well. Pope Leo said in an interview recently: "CEOs that 60 years ago might have been making four to six times more than what the workers are receiving," now, it is "600 times more than what average workers are receiving."

To the news that Elon Musk is going to be the first trillionaire in the world, Pope Leo said: "What does that mean, and what is that about? If that is the only thing that has value anymore, then we are in big trouble."

We are in big trouble because that seems to be what is valued all the way to the White House, where they are using cryptocurrency to make money out of their position, and it is wrong.

#### HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome to America His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. He is the spiritual head of the second-largest Christian church in the world and leads over a million Greek Orthodox in the U.S. He is here this month to meet with government leaders and to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize.

Throughout His All-Holiness' decades as Ecumenical Patriarch, he has sought to bring together people of all faiths to combat religious intolerance and enhance understanding. He convened an interfaith international conference on Peace and Religious Tolerance in Istanbul. The conference brought together Christians, Jews, and Muslims to find ways to encourage understanding and peaceful coexistence among followers of the three faiths.

The Patriarch has been honored also by the United Nations, the European Union, and dozens of governments, universities, and institutions. In 1997, he was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome His All-Holiness to the United States.

#### IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE JIM EDGAR

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life of former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

Governor Edgar was a mentor and a true public servant, but most of all, he was a dear friend.

As a graduate of the University of Illinois' Edgar Fellows Program, I had the privilege of seeing firsthand how Governor Edgar brought people together. He had a rare gift for bridging divides, encouraging voices from all perspectives, and helping us discover common ground on even the most difficult issues.

Governor Edgar led Illinois with integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the people of our State.

Governor Edgar was a voice of reason, a champion of civility, and an unwavering advocate for collaboration.

In today's era of division and political turmoil, his example of steady leadership and his voice of wisdom will be profoundly missed. His passing is a loss felt across the political spectrum and throughout Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts are with his wonderful family, especially Brenda, Brad, and Elizabeth, along with our entire State, as we mourn his passing and celebrate his extraordinary life.

#### CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY

(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, today, we celebrate Constitution Day.

Constitution Day is observed on September 17 each year. It was originally passed as a law in 2004 for citizens to remember the founding document, our Constitution, and the hard work they did in Independence Hall back in 1787 to give us the pieces that are really important to our American citizenship.

This law requires educational institutions and Federal agencies to commemorate and teach about it in schools. It is very important that schools emphasize the Constitution, how we got here, and how it is the core of our existence as a free nation.

We have to know about the Constitution as it protects our rights, but it can only do so if we protect the Constitution.

I commemorate each day a person whose rights weren't protected. Iryna Zarutska was a refugee from Ukraine killed needlessly on a train in North Carolina by a guy who had been released 14 times for other crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I wish we could have protected her more. We have a lot to do.

#### RECOGNIZING JENNIFER DENSON

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a member of our community doing incredible work to combat hunger in Eugene: Jennifer Denton.

Since 2015, she has led as executive director of Burrito Brigade, a volunteer-driven nonprofit that has hand-delivered hundreds of thousands of warm, nutritious meals to hungry people across Eugene and Springfield. She also created Free Little Pantries, giving neighbors a way to share food directly with those in need.

During COVID, she launched Waste to Taste, a free, no-questions-asked grocery store that now serves more than a thousand families each month.

Time and time again, Ms. Denson has stepped up to serve our most vulnerable neighbors. Her grassroots work has touched thousands of Oregonians and should serve as an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Jennifer for her contributions and am grateful to have her in our community.

□ 1850

#### SUPPORTING FARMERS

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, when the cost of farming rises, it is not just a challenge for our farmers, but it is a challenge to our Nation's security because agriculture is the foundation of America's strength and stability.

During the district work period, I visited the Herr Farm, a fifth-genera-

tion farm, and visited with the northwest Indiana farmers and members of the Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Growers Association.

At that time, they shared with me during harvest time their grave concern for skyrocketing input costs, such as insecticides, fertilizers, and nitrates. These rising costs of goods and services driven by tariffs and the simultaneous loss of export markets caused by those same tariffs are threatening our economic livelihood.

On top of this, challenges with access to workers through the H-2A program leave them uncertain if they can sustain their operations at all. These men and women feed our Nation and power our economy. Yet today many do not know if they will be able to sustain their business for tomorrow.

As we take up fiscal year 2026 appropriations and agriculture legislation, I am committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure all of our farmers get the support they need to continue their essential work.

#### DEVASTATING HARM CAUSED BY TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today what a privilege it is to join with a dear dozen Members from across the Congressional Labor Caucus and Congressional Steel Caucus to address the devastating harm the Trump administration and DOGE have exacted on people, our communities, the cost of living, and job losses across our Nation.

Job loss and the withholding of funding by the Trump administration of awarded contracts, Federal contracts, withdrawing those from investment across our country, has caused real ruptures in district after district after district. We are going to summarize just some of those tonight.

Today, the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates by a quarter percent. Why did they do that? It was to soften the ongoing damage of an unsteady economy.

From our region of northwest Ohio all the way to Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Louisiana, New Mexico, Maryland, Michigan, Hawaii—the list is long—please listen to the stories of real U.S. companies, workers, and communities that are being devastated by job losses and broken promises. Meanwhile, inflation and prices are steadily on the rise due to the GOP's reckless tariffs.

First, we must ask why the Trump administration is stopping the investment of billions upon billions of dollars in projects that were awarded to make America great again. The answer is the Trump trade war. Well, but then on top of that, this tariff regime is raising prices on everything for American households. The American people are



being squeezed hard every time they try to buy a home, buy a car, afford health insurance, go to the grocery store, or go shopping for clothes, toys, tools, and school supplies. It is a reality that our Nation functions under the weight of unfair global supply chains.

While we can all agree that it is great to manufacture as much as possible in America, that requires real investment in companies and in their workforce. It means building new factories and production capabilities that can compete in the 21st century.

For example, in my district of northwest Ohio alone, the Trump administration just canceled \$107 million in investment for three major projects aimed at modernizing U.S. manufacturing production and distribution. All of those projects were debated and passed last year in both Chambers of Congress under regular order. They were the result of compromise within the Budget and Appropriation Committees, as well as the authorizing committees, and then advanced to the floor for a vote in both the House and the Senate. That is called regular order.

They were signed by the President and awarded—first of all, they were vetted inside these departments and awarded, then, based on merit back in March of 2024. In essence, they were legal, following standard procedure, and were regulated by Federal agencies with receivables awarded and contracts signed.

The recent appointees to the Cabinet agencies, however, reneged on all of these promises. That is not just unfair, it is a breach of legal contract. These breaches of contract for strengthening U.S. manufacturing included \$45.1 million taken from Libbey Glass in Toledo, Ohio; \$16 million taken from Kraft Heinz in Fremont, Ohio; and \$57.3 million taken from Owens-Illinois Glass, which is headquartered in Perrysburg, Ohio, and also operates a facility in Zanesville, Ohio.

These cancellations, these upendings hurt Ohio manufacturing jobs. The Trump administration should reconsider where and who is being harmed. These projects based in our country were part of 24 projects approved by the Department of Energy for a total of \$3.7 billion to modernize and make more efficient facilities across America to combat fierce foreign competitors like China, Mexico, Korea, and others. Make America Great Again means investing in America to improve and modernize here at home.

I have other companies to mention who had the rug pulled out from under them, but I yield now to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BUDZINSKI) from Illinois' 13th District, who is vice chair of the Labor Caucus. I thank her for participating.

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for cohosting this Special Order hour alongside me today.

I rise today for my district, for our economy, for our workers, and for our

clean energy future. Last year, my district in central and southern Illinois had investments through the Inflation Reduction Act that would have been transformational.

Take the \$32 million investment awarded to the Kraft Heinz facility in Champaign. This was the single largest award among the 10 sites approved under the Kraft Heinz \$170 million grant from the Department of Energy. These funds would have reduced emissions from this plant by 99 percent. Yet this administration chose to cancel this project, along with countless others, simply because it did not fit their political agenda.

This story isn't unique. Today, you will hear from other Members whose districts received the same frustrating news. It is not just canceling funds to help companies modernize and decarbonize. It is canceling tax credits to help union workers find jobs and to help working people keep the lights on.

The President's so-called big, beautiful bill isn't beautiful. It is a big, ugly joke. The only thing this bill does is hand out tax breaks to billionaires while making it harder for working people to get by.

As we know, the bill canceled tax credits designed to lower people's energy bills, transform our Nation's clean energy economy, and create thousands of good-paying union jobs.

The administration called these investments wasteful spending. I am here to tell you that they are wrong. Good-paying union jobs are not a waste. Building the clean energy infrastructure of tomorrow right here in America is not a waste. Across the country, there were thousands of clean energy projects planned, underway, or just finished that would have benefited from the IRA incentives tied to good labor standards.

To get the full tax credit, these projects needed to meet wage and apprenticeship requirements. This was a huge chance to raise pay and improve job quality for clean energy workers nationwide. Estimates show that without these tax credits, \$522 billion in planned clean energy investments are now at risk. More than \$263 billion of this is wind, solar, and energy storage facilities, while \$110 billion of announced clean energy manufacturing is at risk.

□ 1900

This will have direct implications for Illinois. For our State, eliminating these tax credits means losing 21,000 potential jobs by 2030.

These tax credits are more than just financial incentives. They are lifelines for working families and for working-class communities. Without these tax credits, families' energy bills will go up around \$110 next year and over \$400 per year in the next 5 years.

Yet, this administration has prioritized tax cuts for billionaires over support for everyday Americans, leaving families struggling to make

ends meet in an increasingly difficult economy.

This is not just unfair. It is wrong. If this administration truly cares about working people, now is the time to act. Now is the time to invest in families, create jobs, and invest in a clean energy future.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman and Labor Caucus members for participating this evening and for their tremendous leadership, and I thank them for being with us tonight and telling this story.

Mr. Speaker, when we had the joint session here not so many months ago, I said to the new Vice President, who ran from the State of Ohio as a Senator, then-Senator JD VANCE, now Vice President VANCE, please don't forget Ohio.

The biggest of the cancellations of these investments that was stolen back in Ohio by the Trump administration was another major Ohio company, steel producer Cleveland-Cliffs.

Please let me remind folks that steel helps create America's spine, certainly for manufacturing, and Cliffs traces its roots in our Great Lakes region back to 1847. Get ready for this: Their canceled project amounted to over \$500 million, half a billion dollars, in an industry where China manufactures four times as much as the world uses and then strategically dumps, including in countries like ours, and diverts production in order to get in here through the back door.

Shockingly, Vice President VANCE himself helped cancel this hydrogen-based modern steel project in his own hometown of Middletown, Ohio.

Our Ohio community knows that China produces way too much steel and knows exactly how to wipe out elements of production. Thus, the Vice President's actions make absolutely no sense.

Mr. Speaker, also joining us this evening is Congressman BILL FOSTER, a real leader, including in the scientific community, and he represents, as co-chair, the Research and Development Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KAPTUR and Congresswoman BUDZINSKI for giving us a chance to set the record straight on President Trump's abject failure to restore the strength of U.S. manufacturing, perhaps his number one campaign promise.

I am best known around here as being the Ph.D. physicist in Congress. Before that, I was a manufacturer.

When I was 19 years old, my little brother and I started a company in our basement with \$500 from my parents. That company now manufactures more than half of the theater lighting equipment in the United States. Our company does hardware, software, sheet metal, wiring harnesses, and customer support. We have kept all of those manufacturing jobs in the United

States, and it is something I am very proud of.

I think it is significant also that now, 50 years after we started that company, due to an employee stock ownership plan, it is 100 percent owned by the employees who built the company.

I know how to create jobs, and I know that with what President Trump and his administration are doing, they are not going to deliver. I am, unfortunately, not surprised.

Why is this? I think it is best summarized, actually, by paraphrasing the pithy tweet of Elon Musk when he said, You guys, meaning you guys on Trump's tariff team, haven't built squat, though he was a little more rude in his choice of words.

The point I want to make is that this is not new. The ignorant tariffs that he is applying come from the fact that they simply don't get it with manufacturing because none of them—think about it. There is no one on the Trump tariff team who has ever built anything in their career. They are a bunch of finance people. They are a bunch of real estate dealers.

If you are a real estate dealer, it is a very different kind of job than a manufacturer. If you are a real estate wheeler-dealer, what you want to do is rook your counterparty. You succeed as a real estate wheeler-dealer if your counterparty goes away angry. I tell you what, if you are a manufacturer, the last thing you want is an unhappy customer.

Democrats understand that the real job creators in this economy are customers, and we understand that customers come from the middle class.

For time immemorial, the Republican Party has been about sucking money out of the middle class to provide giant tax cuts for the very wealthy. We can see how that has ended time and again for manufacturing employment in the United States.

Here is the history: Here we have, since before I was born, the history of U.S. manufacturing employment, depending on which party held the Presidency. You can see the huge job increase when FDR—that was when we were coming out of the Depression, which is understandable. It continued through President Truman. Then, it went down when the Republican Dwight Eisenhower took over. Then, it went up strongly under President Kennedy, down under President Nixon, up in Carter's administration, down in Reagan's administration, and down again in Bush the elder's administration. It went up during the Clinton administration and down strongly during George Bush's administration. That was, frankly, because of the historic mistake that was made by both parties to let China into the World Trade Organization without having an understanding that they should obey the requirements of good membership in the WTO and not manipulate their cur-

rencies. That is not what President Bush was about.

Then, it went up, of course, during President Obama, down during the first Trump Presidency, and up during the Biden Presidency. Now, of course, it is trending downward again in the Trump Presidency, so this is not a surprise. This is something that is really, I think, easy to understand because of the basic philosophy of the Republican Party.

This is just the data in a bar graph, just the same thing.

In Presidency after Presidency, when the middle class is strong, demand is strong, and manufacturing is strong. Manufacturing employment follows.

This is not rocket science. This is simple, basic economics. A strong middle class yields strong manufacturing growth and strong manufacturing employment. It is a lesson that we have had to learn again and again in the history of our country, and I hope we remember that history and don't forget it in the future.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for participating and for that excellent information that we will share across both Chambers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), a Steel Caucus vice chair and a Labor Caucus member from the great State of Indiana in the industrial north.

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. KAPTUR for bringing us together.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in great urgency to voice the concerns of hardworking families in Indiana's First Congressional District.

Communities across northwest Indiana are feeling the economic hardship and uncertainty brought on by this administration's policies.

I was proud to support the bipartisan infrastructure law, which awarded \$1 billion for a clean hydrogen hub that would create thousands of jobs in northwest Indiana. BP's oil refinery prepared to make a private investment of over \$6 billion. Members of organized labor created apprenticeship programs to ensure we had the workforce to bring this project to fruition, but the so-called big, beautiful bill terminated the clean hydrogen production tax credit, causing BP to put the project on indefinite pause for reasons related to economic uncertainty.

These policies are conscious decisions to create confusion, hesitation, and uncertainty, not just in hydrogen production, but also the challenges for our auto industry to grow and for the outsourcing of American steel production and our national security to the highest foreign bidder.

□ 1910

Mr. Speaker, the loss of American manufacturing jobs is a direct result of the administration's failed economic policies that harm hardworking families in my district.

Just today, I met with the equipment manufacturers from Indiana. They

make essential products in the construction, automotive, energy, and agricultural industries. Rising costs on inputs, market uncertainty, and disruption in supply chains are harming these businesses and putting millions of good-paying jobs at risk.

When costs for these businesses rise, so does the cost of living for the families across the country. I believe that targeted tariffs such as section 232 is not only a national security issue but boosts domestic manufacturing. Many steel workers in the steel industry in my district rely on our ability to combat unfair trade practices from China and elsewhere that flood our markets with heavily subsidized and cheaply made products.

Mr. Speaker, we must have a more surgical and sector-based approach toward our trade policies; or we will continue to see job loss in the manufacturing sector, rising costs at the grocery store, and long-lasting impacts on our economy.

I will continue to work across the aisle to find middle ground to make sure we support our working families and that we lower the costs to live in northwest Indiana, in Indiana, and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to create domestic manufacturing that creates jobs so those individuals can have a healthcare policy and so those individuals can have an economy that grows and works for them. Again, I thank Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR for leading us today.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MRVAN.

I have traveled over to Indiana many, many times. When I first ran for office, it was part of the Congressional Steel Caucus and remained one. I saw the U.S. steel industry crushed, and I have spent my entire career trying to help rebuild it in America. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to serve with Representative MRVAN because I know he shares that same commitment. I thank him for coming down to the floor tonight.

After Mr. TONKO's presentation, I will turn to Representative VAL HOYLE from Oregon's Fourth District. She is also a vice chair of the Congressional Labor Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the Representative from upstate New York and also a member of the Congressional Labor Caucus.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for leading us in this evening's discussion. I offer heartfelt thanks for the drive she provides for economic development and, perhaps more importantly, economic recovery. I thank her for her intellect.

Mr. Speaker, in New York's capital region, we know the value of hard work and the dignity that comes with a paycheck, a steady paycheck. I think that is driven somewhat, perhaps greatly, by the DNA of our Nation, which is the pioneer spirit. People are just about innovation. They want to discover and create a stronger economy.

It is also inspired in upstate New York because I represent the eastern-most portion of the Erie Canal. This is a bold vision that connected a great ocean, the Atlantic, with the Great Lakes. It allowed for not only the strengthening of the port of a small place called New York—New York City—but gave birth to a necklace of communities dubbed “mill towns” that became the epicenter of invention and innovation. They not only inspired a westward movement but addressed favorably the quality of life of people across the great world.

Mr. Speaker, all of this is a part of history and now underpins the opportunity to grow an innovation economy. Yet, under the Trump administration, working people are being betrayed. Reckless tariffs and political maneuvers have created chaos for manufacturers, for farmers, for scientists, and union workers alike.

We saw the promise of good-paying jobs in offshore wind manufacturing at our ports. Yet, instead of stability, this administration issued stop-work orders and launched sham investigations that have chilled the industry.

Some manufacturing projects are pressing forward; but others have been forced to walk away, robbing our region of jobs, stalling clean energy deployment, and denying New Yorkers the growth that they were promised. This loss is not confined to New York’s 20th, my congressional district.

Across the Nation, 142 clean energy projects have already been threatened, delayed, or canceled. This puts at risk nearly \$87 billion worth of investment and more than 91,000 good-paying jobs.

The same story is unfolding in research and innovation. For decades, Federal funding has fueled jobs, discovery, and partnerships amongst universities, business, industry, and manufacturing. Cuts are now forcing campuses to lay off researchers and driving businesses to look elsewhere for stability.

With world-class universities, a surge of semiconductor investment, and transformative projects like the EUV accelerator at New York CREATES, the capital region is at the cutting-edge of the innovation economy.

When Federal support for these institutions and industries is threatened, it doesn’t just hurt today’s jobs. It jeopardizes tomorrow’s breakthroughs, our competitiveness, and the livelihoods of the next generation.

This is about whether America leads in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, quantum computing and semiconductors, or cedes those opportunities to competitors abroad. We are supposed to win all the races and make us great again. We are falling behind in competition.

Construction workers, researchers, manufacturers, and students are ready to build the next generation of American industry. Instead of investing in them, this administration is pulling the rug out from under them. This is

not just bad policy. It is a cruel betrayal of working people.

We owe it to our workers, our communities, and the future of American innovation to end these destructive policies and commit to building it all. Let’s take our history to remind us that we are at our greatest when we embrace and reach to the pioneer spirit in all of us.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman TONKO for his time. He is such a leader. He doesn’t have to be here this evening, but I know how hard he works on his committee and on his subcommittees. I know how grateful the people of New York are to have his service here.

I thank him for helping to trace the history of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, which connects his part of America, all the way west to Duluth, Minnesota. It takes us to the Atlantic and to the world. I thank him so very much for being here tonight, and it is an honor to serve with him.

Mr. Speaker, before I call on Congresswoman HOYLE, I thank her for coming. I am reminded, as I was listening to Congressman TONKO, there is a plaque way up practically at the top of the ceiling here. We have to have really good eyes to see it.

For those who can’t be with us in the Chamber tonight, let me remind them of the quote of Daniel Webster, one of the Founders of our Republic, who called on us to: “Let us develop the resources of our land, draw forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests and ask whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered.”

That is why we are here tonight. Each of us is working in our regions to perform something worthy to be remembered. It is quite painful when the President of the United States and his minions inside the administration take away something that was legally passed, signed, juried, awarded, and then taken back.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE), who represents Oregon’s Fourth Congressional District and is the vice chair of the Congressional Labor Caucus. Coast to coast, New York to Oregon, I thank her for joining us.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative KAPTUR for yielding time.

Across the central and south coast of Oregon, where I represent, we have seen the real consequences of the Trump administration’s reckless tariff policies. These aren’t just bad economic choices. They have created ripple effects that hurt working families up and down the supply chains.

Mr. Speaker, 99.4 percent of businesses in Oregon are small businesses. These are small businesses and manufacturers who utilize parts from all over the world.

Rising costs due to the erratic tariff policy of this administration are in-

creasing their costs, which means that they have to increase their costs to consumers. That means that we are losing market share here and abroad.

We also have our world-class winegrowers, and they are facing fallout from the tariffs against some of our closest allies such as Canada, which alone makes up nearly half of Oregon wine’s export market. Overnight, those sales went away.

The impact doesn’t stop at the vineyard gate. It hurts the farmhands tending the fields, the bottlers, the distributors, the small retailers, and the restaurants that proudly serve Oregon wine.

□ 1920

Some of our manufacturers are also closing up shop and moving offshore to avoid the tariff uncertainty, so the pain spreads to our machinists and our welders and also to the parts makers, the shippers, and the communities counting on those paychecks. That is because people in my District earn their money by the hour, not off of stock dividends.

The through line is clear. These policies have created uncertainty at every level of our economy. They don’t just take away jobs. They destabilize the entire supply chain and the communities behind it.

Oregon workers and businesses deserve better. They deserve policies that strengthen industries instead of pulling the rug out from under them. They deserve to know that Congress is standing with the workers to keep our communities running.

Today is the day that we remember the Constitution. The Constitution has directed that Congress should be the ones determining tariffs. It is Congress. The majority has handed away our constitutionally given duty to an administration that is now hurting jobs in my district and across this country.

I am proud to stand with the Congressional Labor Caucus tonight to make sure their voices are heard and to fight for an economy where every worker, from the mill floor to the vineyard to the factory line, has the security and the respect that they have earned.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman so much for participating and for her focus on tariffs and how devastating those have been.

In our part of the country we call ourselves the Great Lakes nation, and we work with Canada in almost a seamless economy. We are the third largest economy in the world.

These tariffs are wreaking havoc every time parts cross the border. Just in automotive, for example, a part can cross the border seven times from Ohio to Ontario, Canada, and back again and back again and into Michigan, so we really are being harmed deeply every day by these tariffs.

I wanted to just place on the record a few extra details of the plight of Libbey Glass in Toledo, Ohio, in my

hometown. I mentioned that \$45.1 million was canceled by the Department of Energy to Libbey Glass, and it was part of \$6 billion in funding through the Department of Energy for industrial decarbonization.

This is where America lost so much ground, as Congressman FOSTER talked about, to China. We are trying to rebuild the muscle of America. The company was going to retrofit its plant with a new electric furnace technology to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions significantly. The award aimed to add to the capacity of the plant that still operates in its original facility and creates living-wage jobs in the heart of Toledo, Ohio. They call Toledo the Glass City. It is our identity, but now that opportunity has been quashed unnecessarily, so carelessly and thoughtlessly.

Instead of new, modern furnaces that could have lasted more than a decade, the plant will be forced to invest in less efficient and environmentally unfriendly furnaces that will last for 2 to 3 years only.

Because the Trump administration has cut the funding for 2025, the firm will be forced to spend even more in 2028, 2031, 2034, and 2037. You get the picture, Mr. Speaker. It is backwards math that just doesn't add up. It means America becomes less competitive in manufacturing. That does not make America great again.

Please, please, Trump administration, pay attention to the details. I don't think the President would want this outcome. I think there must have been a blip somewhere in the bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the Fourth District of Maryland (Mr. IVEY).

Representative GLENN IVEY is a distinguished judge, as well as a very great intellect, and I am very grateful for his participation this evening.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for hosting this Special Order today and for the great work that she has done on behalf of the State of Ohio and for the Nation. We serve on the Appropriations Committee together, and I have had a chance to see her do outstanding work on a firsthand basis, so I want to thank her for her service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of hardworking public servants who were using their expertise and training for scientific advancement that could save lives and preserve American leadership in technology and innovation. Unfortunately, the Trump administration forced them out of their jobs and out of their laboratories.

I had a chance to meet with many of these individuals over the last few months. We had a job fair in my district not that long ago, and a couple of people came through had a chance to chat with me. Unfortunately, we didn't have anything that met the caliber of the background and expertise that they possessed.

One was a Ph.D. researcher at NIH who had been doing clinical trials on

Alzheimer's research. She told me that what had happened was she had been laid off. Everybody in her lab had been laid off. So what that meant was the trial that they had been running for years got shut down.

As we all know with clinical trials, Alzheimer's, cancer, and others—and I will come back to those—these aren't light switches, Mr. Speaker. We can't just flip the switch and start it back. In some of those instances, we have to start from scratch.

Alzheimer's is a disease that I have a special interest in. It killed my father. I watched him waste away from Alzheimer's, and I now pay closer attention to the impact that that disease can have and the way it ravages thousands of people every year across the country. Instead of doing the research to find a cure for Alzheimer's, their laboratory got shut down.

Medical devices was another one. I met a gentleman who was a mechanical engineer. He had been trained and earned his Ph.D. in research. He worked for the Federal Government. I believe he was at the FDA, if I recall correctly. He did tests to make sure that the medical devices that were up for approval had been tested and actually worked the way that they did.

He gave me an example. He said that pacemakers were one of those. There are people who are trying to make innovations with respect to these kinds of medical devices. The job at his office was to make sure that these worked the right way and were safe and efficacious. His lab got shut down.

I met another individual. She had a master's in public health. She got fired. You won't imagine how ironic it was, Mr. Speaker. She got fired, and she was doing work on measles. Just at the time they had the major outbreak in Texas, she was laid off, and her group was canceled out as well.

The New York Times, just last weekend I believe it was, published a cover story on their magazine about losing the war on cancer. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the United States has been one of the leading innovators with respect to research, and cancer has been a huge focus on that research. We have been doing outstanding work there and making huge strides forward.

As I mentioned a moment ago, I am a cancer survivor, and I was a beneficiary of the fact that we had innovations that changed the way that treatment was provided just in time for when I came along. That was 20 years ago. However, now we are shutting those clinical trials down, and that article lays it out clearly and sadly.

It was a little ironic. Mr. Speaker. You may recall that here in this Chamber, President Trump gave a speech. It looked kind of like a state of the Union, but it wasn't actually that address, but there was a young boy up in the seats over there who was a cancer survivor. He had him stand up. He gave him a badge from, I think it was, Secret Service and celebrated his sur-

vival. Just a few days later, the Trump administration terminated research for pediatric cancer.

We have to find a way to make sure we don't lose the competition with China. I just mentioned medical issues there, but the Trump administration is doing so many things with respect to research and development and high tech.

China, on the other hand, as we heard from one of my colleagues a moment ago, is pushing employees. They are developing them. They can't develop them fast enough, and they are pushing them into research and work with respect to artificial intelligence and quantum computing, while here in the United States, especially in the last 9 months, we are doing everything we can—well, the Trump administration is doing everything it can, it would seem, to limit the number of people who can go into this kind of work. They are cutting back on the grants that would allow people to do the research, and they are cutting the funding for people who are going to school to earn their Ph.D.s to pay for their education.

□ 1930

China is doing the exact opposite. To the extent the United States has been behind on creating its own researchers and developers here in the United States, we have had a lot of people come from overseas, people who are doing outstanding work, but they come from other countries. Then the Trump administration decided it wanted to cancel their visas.

Some of the attacks on Harvard, in particular, the big threat was: We are not going to let you have international students come to study. The result of that was, international students from all around the world who are the top of the line, doing outstanding work, this is the next generation we want to help and have them come. Many of them come to the United States from other places, and they like it here so much they stay. They build their careers.

In fact, many of the research and innovation entities that we have in the United States are run by people who have come from overseas, immigrants who have come to the United States. But we are forcing them away, scaring them away, and pushing them to other countries.

You have got to believe the other countries are welcoming them with open arms. I was just talking to a group who trains doctors, medical doctors. They said the people that we train here, they are being pulled away to other countries now because they can complete their medical training, go work overseas, the medical training gets covered, and so they can get their medical education done and then go to work and have a chance to be successful and provide the type of medical care and treatment that we want to have here in the United States, but we are losing that, as well.

We have got to make sure that we do everything we can to preserve the institutions and the departments and

agencies that are doing great work here in the United States. NASA, NOAA, FDA, and NIST are all doing great work. The universities we have got here are doing great work on the R&D front. That is the only way we are going to be able to win the competition with China. That includes AI, quantum computing, and high-tech. Those are the places that gave us the lead that we have in software and in the computer industry. GPS and LASIK were spinoffs of R&D that was worked on at NASA. Instead of building that up, the Trump administration is laying people off.

Mr. Speaker, 445,000 Federal employees lost their collective bargaining rights. As the Senate report pointed out, in forcing out tens of thousands of people who worked for the government—many of them doing the science and tech work that I just talked about—the Democratic staff report calls it: The \$21 billion blunder, analyzing the waste generated by DOGE.

DOGE didn't focus only on science and tech, but its impact has been resonating there for sure in a very damaging way for the United States.

We need to work together to force the Trump administration to see the error of its ways. We need to make sure that we get back on track so that we can win the competition with China, preserve our leadership role in the world, and build on the great advances that we have had here in the United States.

Let's get to work.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman IVEY. We sure are glad that cancer research resulted in extending his life for these many decades because we sure need him here in Congress. His constituents have really elected a great man here. I thank him so much for being here tonight and working with us to bring these issues before the American people.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHMIDT). The gentlewoman from Ohio has 17 minutes remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY), who is an active member of the Labor Caucus.

I will say to anyone who is listening to us here this evening, these Members have worked all day. They started very early this morning. You can say they are doing a double shift, in my part of the country. They haven't eaten dinner. I just want the American people to know that there are Members of Congress who work very hard, who respect our Constitution, and who respect the laws of this country. It is now almost nearly 8 o'clock in Washington, D.C., moving on that, and they are here to represent you.

Congresswoman STANSBURY is amazing, and I thank her for joining us.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, it is like the changing of the seasons. There is a consistent pattern across our econ-

omy year after year. Democrats rescue and build an economy that empowers workers, that invests in American-made jobs, that invests in our infrastructure and our people just as we did in passing the largest bills in generations over the last several Congresses: the bipartisan infrastructure bill, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, which not only invested millions of dollars in communities all across the United States but created countless jobs and opportunities for our people.

Just like that, a President like the current President comes in, just as he has done twice, and drives up the deficit, borrows against our children's futures, and takes American taxpayer dollars to give billionaires permanent tax credits. Unemployment rises, families fall behind, and the damage is done. Then we are called upon to pick up the pieces once again, put people back to work, and restore stability to our economy.

If you are wondering what season we are in now, all you have to do is take a look at the headlines: "Grocery inflation highest since 2022 as Trump tariffs pile on." Or this one: "Poorer Americans hit hardest as tariffs fuel price rises."

Mr. Speaker, it is a cold winter for families across America under Trump's America, under his failing economic plan, and tariffs that are not even legal and which this House of Representatives, under the GOP, voted yesterday on a rule with language to abrogate their constitutional authority to rein him in. I watched them flip the votes on the floor as they gave away our constitutional authority to hurt American workers.

Long-term unemployment is reaching heights we haven't even seen since the beginning of the pandemic. Grocery prices are more expensive than they have ever been. Inflation is forcing Americans to live on credit cards. Housing is so expensive that young people can't even move into their own homes. People can't access the most basic healthcare in this country right now. That is Trump's economy.

As we take stock of where this economy stands today, I think it is pretty damn clear why Donald Trump went bankrupt six times. He is literally bankrupting this country and the hard-working people that are its backbone. The livelihoods of our communities are on the line, not poker chips in one of his Atlantic City casinos.

These are farmers, ranchers, working people, families whose lives hang in the balance.

In New Mexico, our farmers are being crushed under the weight of these tariffs, losing export markets, watching the USDA programs, that once purchased homegrown, healthy foods to put into our schools and food banks, dry up.

Here is another headline: "Farmageddon. Many U.S. farmers are warning that they are at a breaking

point," a breaking point, just like our families, farmers who depend on reliable markets.

When the President imposes tariffs on our allies, depending on which way the wind is blowing on any given day, he forces hardworking people in this country into financial ruin.

The result is only the largest corporations and the rich get richer, driving the prices up, driving small farmers out, consolidating our food system, and pushing the American Dream, just basic dignity, further out of reach for our people.

For me, this is personal, Mr. Speaker, because I grew up in a working family where people in my family worked multiple jobs and still struggled to get by, where we didn't have access to healthcare, where we didn't always have access to reliable housing.

□ 1940

Mr. Speaker, this is personal. In New Mexico, there are thousands of families who are struggling just to make it to the end of the month.

I will say that, despite the darkness, New Mexico is leading the way and showing what it looks like to lead with integrity and invest in an economy that will make it possible for families to thrive.

In fact, in just a couple of weeks, on October 1, our State legislature will convene in the wake of Republicans' disastrous big, ugly bill, which will gut healthcare and food assistance programs, to actually shore up the programs that will save and support thousands of lives in our State. They will invest in food and healthcare programs and fix the public broadcasting funding that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle blew a hole through when the majority passed the rescissions package.

Perhaps the most consequential legislation and policies that New Mexico has announced in the last several weeks are that we are now officially the first State in the Nation ever in the history of this country to guarantee universal free childcare. That is going to put over \$12,500 back into the pockets of every working family in New Mexico.

That is real money. That is money for putting a roof over your head. That is money for putting food on the table. That is money to go back to school. That is what it looks like when you invest in working families.

In addition to that, New Mexico is the only State in the Nation that guarantees free college. Whether you want to go to trade school or get a higher education degree in graduate school, in New Mexico, you are going to do it without debt because we understand that the future of our country, economy, and communities depends on investing in people, not taking away the vital programs that support them.

Every day, I am working on behalf of our communities to invest in early childhood education, entrepreneurial

programs, bringing millions of dollars home for infrastructure, youth programs, healthcare, behavioral health, and clinics back in New Mexico because we know that that is how you deliver for real working people.

Mr. Speaker, the seasons may change, but we know this cycle is going to go on. Families in New Mexico and across the Nation are going to continue to pay the price for your billion-dollar tax breaks.

Americans literally cannot afford this economy. They can't afford this administration or the GOP's leadership here in this House.

That is why we are here to speak up, speak out, fight back, and stop the damaging programs that are eviscerating our economy and harming our communities. We know the season will change, and we know we will come back and invest in hardworking American families. Until then, we call upon our States, Tribal, and local leaders to do what they can. They should know that we are here in the fight for real Americans.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) for that impassioned plea, and I stand with the gentlewoman.

Coming from New Mexico, with everything happening there with the climate and so forth, the gentlewoman really is such an excellent Representative. I thank her for joining us as a member of the Labor Caucus. The gentlewoman gave just a fantastic delivery.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANNION), a Labor Caucus member from the 22nd District. I thank the gentleman for waiting this evening. It is now 7:45 p.m., and the gentleman is still on the job.

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as the final speaker tonight, let me take you to upstate New York, Syracuse, central New York, the Mohawk Valley, just west down the Erie Canal from my good friend, Representative TONKO, who represents the capital region.

This is a place where I have lived and loved my entire life. These are communities that know firsthand what happens when Washington breaks its promises and when jobs and investments disappear.

We remember back home when Griffiss Air Force Base closed. We remember when Carrier left. Those were our sheet metal workers. We remember when New Venture Gear and a Chrysler plant closed. Those were our UAW brothers and sisters. There were others that have left our region behind.

It is through that prism that we see the Trump administration's \$30 million clawback of Federal funding awarded to Syracuse, New York. This was funding for a project that had bipartisan support and passed in a Republican-majority House. It is a piece of one of the

largest infrastructure projects in the Nation and the largest in the history of upstate New York. That is the reimagining of Interstate 81.

That money was meant to build roads and sidewalks, reconnect utilities, and restore opportunity where an elevated highway divided a community of color in the early 1960s.

Pulling those funds away is a betrayal of the working families who were promised progress and, instead, are left with fewer jobs, less opportunity, and delayed urban renewal. It is uncertainty that has existed over the last 9 months, and that uncertainty is part of a great American city that I have lived in for my entire life.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the only bad policy that is hurting the region and the people I represent. Our economy is tied deeply to Canada. In fact, New York's 22nd District, which doesn't even border Canada, exports \$1 billion in goods and \$227 million in services to Canada each year.

This is a longstanding trade relationship that supports more than 6,400 jobs locally and directly employs 1,400 people at Canadian-owned businesses. Slap-shot tariff policy and volatile trade policy have put those jobs at risk.

Our manufacturers who rely on metals, equipment, and machinery are watching the costs rise. Just yesterday, in a hearing in the Agriculture Committee that I serve on, farmers were talking about their increased costs. Those increased costs are often related to automated farm machinery that they can get only from outside of the United States.

They don't have time to wait and see if, possibly, domestic manufacturing will occur. They need help now.

As my colleague stated before, it is under our purview as Congress. Article I, Section 8, gives us the authority for imposts and excises, not the executive office.

Our manufacturers rely on those things. Our farmers, especially our dairy and specialty crop producers, are losing access to stable export markets. Our small businesses, like local breweries that depend on Canadian aluminum for cans, are feeling the pinch.

When tariffs slam the border, it hits the bottom line for small businesses in Syracuse, Utica, Auburn, Cortland, and other communities across my district.

While we are fighting those challenges, the Trump administration is also attacking renewables, a fast-growing private-sector employer in New York State. That is not just in my district. In Representative STEFANIK's district, a hydrogen fuel cell plant was not going to be completed by the same company that was going to build in California and Texas.

It is not about a red State or a blue State. It is about the demand that we have for energy as we move into the future.

As my colleagues also stated, we are falling behind. Canada is beating us. It

is time to invest. We need more energy. Without that energy, we are going to continue to fall behind.

What jobs were lost in that project for hydrogen fuel cells not even in my district? In Massena, New York, jobs like the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, IUPAT, and others do not have those jobs that were promised. They pulled the plug because those hydrogen fuel tax credits were pulled.

We are fighting that challenge. The cuts, the loss of these jobs, and the loss of promises and tax credits are impacting our ability to hit our clean energy goals and lower our utility bills for consumers. It is making it harder to attract investment and job-creating opportunities in my district and around the upstate region.

We have fought for clean energy manufacturing. I did so in the State senate as the cosponsor of a piece of legislation called Green CHIPS, which has brought Micron Technology into my district, producing semiconductor chips using clean energy. I was the co-prime sponsor of that legislation. This is the largest private investment in the history of this country.

That is where we are: broken promises on I-81; reckless tariff policy that destabilizes trade for the agricultural sector, manufacturing sector, and small businesses; and shortsighted cuts to energy programs, which will make power generation more challenging and cost jobs and investment while driving up energy costs.

□ 1950

I can tell you this: New York-22 communities are resilient. We have rebuilt before, and we are building again. We are building with Micron and others, with investments in advanced manufacturing, with world-class dairy farmers and growers who continue to feed the Nation, and with workers who never stop fighting for a better future.

Washington should be our partner in that progress, not a roadblock. I will never stop fighting for my hometown and the working people of this country. I will always keep telling the truth to my constituents and the American people.

It is bad policy that is hurting our country, leaving us behind, and costing Americans more. The people I serve deserve nothing less than a Congress that works together and does the work that they have been constitutionally given the right to do.

No one should cede our House of Representatives' constitutional power to Donald Trump. We can fix this. We can put our country over politics and workers over partisanship. That is the way forward, and that is what I will be working on to deliver for the people of central New York, along with my Congressional Labor Caucus partners.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for the time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MANNION for his passion



and for his obvious dedication throughout his life to restore the economic might of his district. I know that struggle. Our Federal Government has been too slow to respond to the wash-out of jobs and capacity across this country, and that is what is making our politics so rocky.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your generous gavel this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD some materials that we were not able to verbally enter this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I will invite Secretary of Energy Wright, President Trump, and Vice President VANCE to come and stand with the workers at Libbey Glass in Ohio so they completely understand what it takes to rebuild manufacturing in America. I hope they will show up.

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

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLIE KIRK

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MOORE of Utah was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will use my time to take a brief moment and reflect on the horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk and the importance of free speech in America.

It is not lost on me that I am standing here on the House floor, as my colleagues and I do every session day, sharing my opinions and thoughts about the state of our country and what Congress is doing about it.

It is a special place where we get to link arms with our fellow delegation or caucus members and talk about causes that matter to us, debate back and forth with our friends on the other side of the aisle, welcome the President and foreign dignitaries to speak, and so much more. This place represents open debate and discussion, and Charlie did, too.

As we all process the tragedy that took place just a week ago, I hope we remember the ways he engaged with those who didn't agree with him. That is what makes the American experiment work, from classrooms to workplaces to kitchen tables to the Halls of Congress. Charlie modeled fearlessness in having the conversation and opening the door to debate, and I hope we all can, as well.

My sincerest condolences go out to the Kirk family as they navigate this unimaginable grief. As a society, I hope we can carry forward Charlie's legacy of free speech and commitment to faith.

I also will share my heartfelt gratitude to Utah Governor Spencer Cox for leading with integrity during this difficult time for our State and our country. There is no better person to be in a position of leadership and navigate this than him, and he surely has made Utah proud on the national stage.

He encouraged all of us to disagree better, and while the suspect chose not to heed that counsel, the rest of us can.

Lastly, I will also thank Utah law enforcement, The Federal Bureau of Investigation, and all of our State and Federal partners who worked around the clock to identify the suspect. Your sacrifice is always appreciated.

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

#### EXTREME HEAT CAUCUS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. STANTON of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of the Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, Arizona has suffered year after year after year of record-breaking temperatures. Our summers are getting hotter, lasting longer, and providing little relief at night. This heat is incredibly dangerous for our health and for our economy.

Last summer, tragically, more than 600 of our fellow Arizonans lost their lives to the heat. Today, there are another 406 heat-related deaths in Maricopa County, Arizona, parts of which I have represented for 25 years. Those deaths are under investigation. We are on track, yet again, to be one of the deadliest areas for heat exposure in this country.

That is why I launched the bipartisan Extreme Heat Caucus early this year with Congressman MIKE LAWLER of New York. At one point this summer, nearly half of the country's population was under an extreme heat warning. From coast to coast, we are struggling to keep people safe and to fully understand the challenges posed by extreme heat.

Extreme heat is a danger to public health, but it also threatens our very way of life. As heat waves get worse, roadways will crack, energy grids will falter, and crops will dry out. Insurance rates and electric bills will spike.

Some Arizonans saw triple-digit increases on their electric bills this summer. More evictions will follow. Frontline workers will stay home or end up hospitalized. Our local economies will lose millions.

We have to take this seriously, but this administration has shown a pro-

found disregard for the problem at hand. From his very first day, President Trump has gutted the Federal heat response. Researchers, public health experts, and administrators of critical grant programs were caught up in Trump's mass firings, and it is everyday Americans who will pay the price. A senior, struggling to balance a tight budget, could be left high and dry without LIHEAP funds to cover their electric bills or keep the AC running. A single mother, working full time is worried that her child's school won't be able to keep him safe during recess or after-school sports practice. A landscaper, growing his small business, was diagnosed with kidney disease in his early 30s due to heat exposures.

Members of the Extreme Heat Caucus and I are fighting for the Federal workforce that handles extreme heat to be reinstated. Their work is critical to combat extreme heat and the greater climate crisis.

Without a robust Federal heat response, we put countless lives and billions of dollars at risk. The Extreme Heat Caucus is stepping up to change that. We are championing smart, bipartisan actions to combat extreme heat.

As a former mayor of Phoenix, I have been focused on heat policy that starts local, where the rubber meets the road. Our cities, counties, and universities are pioneering new ways to combat extreme heat and to respond to heat emergencies, but they are often going at it without proper and adequate funding.

My bipartisan bill, the Heat Management Assistance Grant Program Act, will allow States, local governments, and our Tribal partners to apply for dedicated, fast-release funding to respond to extreme heat events. This funding could be used to stand up cooling centers, purchase medical equipment for heat illnesses, or many other critical services.

For families worried about balancing high-energy costs with high grocery bills, I have been working to introduce the LIHEAP Parity Act. The bill will fairly and fully distribute LIHEAP dollars to families in cold weather States who need help with their heating bill in the winter and families in warm weather States like mine who need help with their air-conditioning bill in the summer.

We still don't know much about the possible impacts of extreme heat on our emergency response, so as the ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure's Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee, I partnered with Congresswoman DINA TITUS on the Extreme Weather and Heat Response Modernization Act, which, among many other things, will study the unexpected impacts of heat on key infrastructure and public health.

That study was wrapped into a larger FEMA reform package, and it passed our committee on a huge bipartisan

margin. It will form an emergency response advisory panel to study slow moving natural disasters like extreme heat.

□ 2000

I am glad to see the study one step closer to law, and I will keep working to get the Extreme Weather and Heat Response Modernization Act across the finish line, as well.

I thank my colleagues who have come to speak before the House today. They understand the challenge before us.

As Members of Congress, our most basic duty as elected officials is to keep our constituents and fellow Americans safe. Right now, Congress must rise to the challenge and start actively combating the effects of heat.

All of us here agree on this duty before us. Now we have the responsibility to meet this moment and to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure now to yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), my friend, and the ranking member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for organizing this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, this summer, Americans from coast to coast are enduring the hottest temperatures in recorded history. Days are not just uncomfortable, they are life-threatening for millions of workers across the country.

From agricultural workers in the fields, to warehouse employees, to construction crews and factory staff, many are laboring in extreme heat with no Federal protection from one of the oldest, most serious, most common workplace hazards, and that is, of course, heat stress.

The science is clear, the medical evidence is overwhelming, and the moral case is undeniable. Yet, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, still lacks a national standard to protect workers from dangerous heat exposure on the job.

In addition to the important legislation mentioned by the gentleman from Arizona to address the issue, I am a proud cosponsor of the bill introduced by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) to prevent senseless deaths of workers due to heat. The bill honors the memory of a farm worker who tragically died after working 10 straight hours in 105 degree heat without access to shade, water, or a break. His death was preventable, as are the deaths of so many others happening every year.

We have known for a long time that it does not have to be this way. In the fourth century BC, Alexander the Great was counseled to guard against heat stress as his troops marched through the desert. Heat stress is even documented several times in the Old Testament. Our own military adopted a heat stress prevention program in 1952, and I remember when I was in basic training in the Army, when the heat

reached certain temperatures, we would have to loosen the bottom of our pants and stop doing physical training, or PT. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, advised OSHA on the need to protect workers from heat stress back in 1972, and again in 1986, and yet again in 2016.

Workers have waited long enough. Thanks to Representative CHU's leadership, we have reintroduced a bill that will end delays and excuses and finally bring workers the commonsense protection they deserve. Within one year, OSHA would be required under the bill to finally issue an enforceable rule setting out the strongest feasible protections against heat illness. It empowers OSHA to require rest breaks, access to water, shaded or cool recovery areas, and training that delivers information in a language and format that workers can certainly understand. These are simple and sensible safeguards that will save lives.

As the climate crisis accelerates, workers are increasingly at risk. Heat stress is a predictable problem, but it is also a preventable problem. The urgency of the crisis requires us to act now, and this legislation is the roadmap for that action. Workers' lives depend on it.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona for forming the Extreme Heat Caucus and for organizing this Special Order to give us the opportunity to emphasize the importance of this issue.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SCOTT for his leadership on this important issue and the bill that he referenced supporting our workforce dealing with extreme heat. That is an important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, that is all of our speeches on this important topic of the extreme heat and the Extreme Heat Caucus. I yield back the balance of my time.

#### BREAKDOWN OF TRADITIONAL FAMILIES

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GROTHMAN of Wisconsin was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, tonight I will talk one more time about what I think is the most pressing problem facing America as we try to address the crime rate, the drug problem, and the education problem. It is a problem that was, sadly, not addressed in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

As a matter of fact, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act went, to a certain extent, in the opposite direction. I want to educate the American public on this problem, and that is the breakdown of the traditional family with a man in the household over the last 60 years of America.

As this Congress tries to make America great again, it is hard to imagine America being that great if we continue to punish and penalize any family that has both parents at home.

America has changed dramatically. In the 1960s, about 5 percent of the children in this country were born into families without both a mother and father at home. I want to point out, I know families of all sorts of backgrounds. I know parents who have done a fantastic job of raising children in all backgrounds, and sometimes beyond their fault, there are families who appear to be doing a perfect job of raising their children, but nevertheless have a problem.

I think most Americans, though, with common sense would say it is more difficult for, say, the post-1995 generations, where 40 percent of American children are born without a mother and father at home, compared to the generation of children born in the 1960s, when that number was only 5 percent.

We have to ask ourselves why that happened. Sometimes when I talk to people back home, they mention the decline in religion, and maybe that is why we shot up from 5 percent to 40 percent.

Actually, if you look at programs the government authors, and I am going to reference George Gilder a little bit here, who was a great sociologist, if I can call him that, who wrote "Wealth and Poverty" in 1980. He looked at single-parent families to see if he had any observations. The families he looked at were specifically from the poorer parts of Albany, New York. At the time a woman got pregnant, if the family was not a married group, they began to collect benefits, and it was not a panic situation in which, how are we going to support the child? What are we going to do? Are we going to have to live with your parents? What are we going to do? It was kind of gleeful as they went from government office to government office getting their low-income housing, getting their free healthcare, getting their free college education if they wanted to go to college, food stamps, like I said, free apartment, which I think is the most generous giveaway of all.

Now, I don't know that it is good that we have created a situation in which a young person getting pregnant should be happy because of all the government benefits they are eligible for, but if you look at the eligibility requirements for every one of these programs, they are based on what we call percent of poverty. If you have somebody in the household—it could be a woman or it could be a man—if a man is in the household, you could penalize that family by easily \$25,000 or \$30,000 cash for having both parents at home.

An example of programs which fit the bill, which we penalize people for getting married, would be formerly called food stamps, certainly low-income housing, which by itself can be a benefit of over \$12,000 a year; something called the earned income tax credit, which can easily be \$6,000 or \$7,000 a year, provided you work and keep your income under \$17,000 or \$16,000 a year.

□ 2010

If you do a little bit of work, unlike, say, if you had a sister who is married to a husband with a salary, you would get free childcare, childcare not available to a couple with two incomes.

There is a TANF program for people who aren't employed, giving free cash away. Again, it is much easier to get if you don't have a working parent in the household.

We have our child credit, which is, again, something that is phased out and appears to be designed to discourage people from getting married.

We have Pell grants—and I will tell you a story about that in a minute—a program that gives free college to a family without a working person.

Not surprising, if you spend some time talking to people who aren't at your country club fundraiser, spend some time talking to people who are not lobbyists, you will be surprised how many young people today are not getting married because they want that \$25,000, \$30,000 cash benefit that you get if you stay single and frequently don't have a man in the house.

I will also point out that frequently these benefits allow you to get benefits better than people who are working are getting. For example, it is a well-known thing, but if you talk to people, clerks at the local food store will tell you that people on food stamps are frequently buying things that the clerk in the food store cannot afford.

When it comes to low-income housing, particularly because we have a horrible program called the low-income housing tax credit program, the government incentivizes developers to build housing that costs \$300,000, \$400,000, or, in some cases, over a million dollars per unit, in which some people will be able to live, provided their income is low enough. You will find out what a person working for me once found out.

She got married, and she and her new husband were looking for a new apartment. They found what they felt were the nicest apartments in Madison, Wisconsin, were the low-income apartments. Not only do you get a free apartment, but it is superior to the apartments that other people are paying for.

With regard to childcare, I have heard a childcare provider say that she preferred to get the vouchers—and I don't know if this is always true; I have heard a mixed bag—but get vouchers from somebody from the government because those were always paid.

Childcare is very expensive today. If you agree to take care of a child, maybe sometimes that family will not have enough income to pay for the child. If you are on the government dole, it is more consistent. You will always get the childcare credit.

With regard to college, I will tell you a story. I once gave this speech about 15 years ago in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and I wondered what the people would

think of the marriage penalty. Most of the people who were listening to the speech were older people. It was a Tea Party group, and they, of course, all agreed with me that it was scandalous that we were bribing somebody \$25,000 a year not to get married.

I asked a gal who was present in the room that night—her job was a bartenderess—what she thought about these programs in which you would get a benefit, not only if you didn't get married, but an even larger benefit if you didn't work too hard. She said she got married before she had a baby, but a lot of her friends preferred not to get married before they had a baby because they got free college. In other words, one more time we had a situation in which this woman—and I found there were other people in the same boat making the same observation.

Young people going to college—kind of hard to believe, but it is true—may decide not to get married because they get the Pell grant, another poorly designed program, and get it to pay for either all or part of their college.

You may say: Is this all on purpose? Did the government design these programs to destroy the American family? Who would do that?

Let's not forget that Karl Marx, a socialist who is looked up to in some universities, said one of his goals was to abolish the family.

More recently, in 1960, a woman who has been described as the mother of women's studies—which is a major we make fun of in college. Nevertheless, it is something that a lot of kids take as an elective. Kate Millett, the mother of these classes, said: The complete destruction of the traditional marriage and the nuclear family is the utopian goal of feminism.

I have a feeling a lot of people don't realize that the utopian goal of feminism was to get rid of the nuclear family. Obviously, Kate Millett's successors are probably thrilled that we penalize married couples \$25,000, \$30,000 for getting married.

More recently, a Wisconsin Supreme Court judge—this is just what we call dictum. Nevertheless, she was a judge elected statewide. She said the notion that marriage serves as the foundation of the family is at best outdated and at worst misogynistic.

This is a woman who didn't, obviously, put that on her television commercials. It is interesting that a very liberal judge in the State of Wisconsin clearly had contempt for traditional marriage. Apparently, she maybe took some women's studies classes in college.

It seemed from her comments in this court case that she would be thrilled if traditional marriage was no longer the norm.

I talked to an Indian immigrant back home in my district. He made an interesting observation. Congressmen should go out of their way to talk to their immigrants because, frequently, they have observations as to what is

going on in America that Americans who have been here their whole lives do not have. What he said is that, in America, the woman marries the government, and that is exactly true.

When we have a country in which the woman is encouraged to marry the government, the woman, the child, and the father pay a price. Children born in a difficult background like this are, by almost every standard, on average—and I realize there are examples of tremendous parents—on average, have a tougher go of it in life. They are going to struggle more in school. They are going to be more likely to use drugs. They are going to be more likely to commit crimes.

It is kind of interesting when I sit in committee hearings around here. We had a committee hearing on crime earlier this week. People look around for the causes, or this or that, of the problems we have, problems related to drug abuse, problems related to crime, maybe problems related to depression. They never talk about what the real problem is, the real problem being the breakdown of the family.

Does anybody doubt that if we still had a rate of fatherlessness in the home of—or a rate of intact families—back to 5 percent as we did in the 1960s, that our crime rate would drop like a stone? Does anybody think or not think that the number of—even though it can happen in the best of families—the number of people dying of drug abuse wouldn't fall? Does anybody think our education would improve if we had kids who are doing a better job of focusing at school?

It is high time, in the second bill that this Congress passes, that we begin to address this problem. We can't address it by giving every married couple \$25,000 a year because we don't have that kind of money and would probably only encourage more people not to work very hard.

□ 2020

Mr. Speaker, by the way, I should mention, just as these programs discourage marriage, they all discourage work. I will mention the low-income housing tax credit program.

Mr. Speaker, I ran into somebody a couple of months ago. In order to be eligible for these very nice apartments, they could make only so much money. I will speculate that this person was making, say, \$50,000 a year. If they got a second job, they had to be aware that their rent would go up.

In this country, particularly with the low-income housing tax credit, we penalize people who work hard. I think that is horrible public policy, but that is what we do.

Mr. Speaker, in any event, when the next reconciliation package comes through, I strongly hope that the Republican leadership, rather than allowing something like the low-income housing tax credit to go through and be expanded, of all things, Republican leadership recognizes this is a problem.

Even if they don't care if a man is in the house or not, at least they shouldn't penalize him. They shouldn't hate families in which a man and woman are raising their children together. I think that should be the number one priority of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the second issue that I will take on is that we passed a defense authorization bill last week that I think had a serious problem. I would hope our slumbering press corps would do a little bit more work on the problem.

Elon Musk and DOGE were here. They did a good job pointing out that there were some, particularly in offices, Federal employees in the District of Columbia, or even around the country, that maybe weren't working that hard. Some of this happens in the private sector. More likely, it will happen in the public sector.

Right now, we have about 80,000 employees—I think a little bit under that; it might be 76,000—in the Department of Defense who are non-uniformed. I assume most of these employees are not people who cut the lawn or something. Most of these employees are in an office, and at least Elon Musk seemed to point out that a lot of them might not be working that hard.

Under the defense authorization, they anticipate, over the next year, the number of non-uniformed employees will drop by maybe another 30,000 or 40,000. When DOGE was riding high, I think one would have expected this number to drop more like 200,000 or 300,000.

I then asked the Department of Defense to, as quickly as possible, put together a proposal and say what would happen if they had to make do with only 400,000 or 450,000 non-uniformed employees in the Department of Defense. I will point out that a lot of these employees are making over \$100,000 or \$150,000 a year, with anecdotal evidence that they do very little.

One of the reasons Congress is so irresponsible is our press corps is asleep. I hope our press corps digs into this situation a little bit and publicizes how many people are working in desk jobs in the Pentagon, desk jobs in which they are not in uniform, and questions whether this is really necessary. We can then see whether there are significant savings here.

Of course, some of the money will not go to reducing our debt. Insofar as we find excess people around here, I think we are not prepared enough in this country for hypersonic missiles. I don't think we have an Iron Dome-type Israel situation in which we are prepared for other sorts of missiles.

I think the reason we are not prepared is that there are way too many people who are not working as hard as they could in the Pentagon. I am going to ask the press corps to wake up and ask people about that.

I will also ask the press corps to wake up and ask Congress whether it is appropriate that we penalize married

couples by \$25,000 or \$35,000 a year because they got married, as opposed to their siblings who may not have gotten married.

Mr. Speaker, there is one other thing I want to comment on tonight. I was listening to a television program on one of the big conservative networks, and I listened to a commentator make fun of socialism. She talked about how much better capitalism was. I don't think she has a good handle on why capitalism is good.

First of all, we ought to require all defenders of capitalism to not call capitalism "capitalism." We ought to call it a free-market economy. The major reason we would rather live in a country with a free-market economy than in a country that is a socialist economy is the government has so much more power in a socialist country than a free-market economy.

In a socialist economy, or as we work toward a more socialist economy, a larger segment of the population works for the government. As an elected official, I have noticed in my time that, frequently, people who work for the government are afraid to speak openly to me about problems in their field.

Mr. Speaker, I am thinking a substitute teacher would be afraid to give me a campaign contribution because they worked for a school district that was hostile to Republicans. They felt they would be discriminated against if they knew they gave money to a Republican politician.

There are people who worked for the Department of Natural Resources in Wisconsin, which is the equivalent of the EPA in Washington, who tell me about problems in their department but caution me that they could never cite them. What they were telling me had to be secret because they worked for the government and because they were afraid the government would discriminate against somebody who backed the party, the less government party, the Republican Party.

In a free-market economy, we can rent from whoever we want. In a socialist state, all the property is owned by the government. Right now, my office is in a place called Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. If I want to live in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, first of all, I pay rent. I am guessing that in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, there are maybe 400 different landlords. The landlords compete for the rental dollar.

I have the ability to buy my own house, paint my house whatever color I want, and maintain my lawn in whatever fashion I want. That is something we do in a free-market economy.

In a socialist economy, the government runs everything. If I want to rent a dwelling, I have to rent from the government. If the government doesn't like me, if I have said the wrong thing, or if I have said something that is politically incorrect, they may say they will not rent to me. They might also give me an inferior place.

The same thing applies to food. In a free-market economy, my guess is, in

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, a city of only about 35,000 people, I bet there are 150 places where I can go to eat and have something made for me.

In a socialist economy, something that the gentleman who is running for mayor of New York would like—I guess he would like only one type of grocery store. There would only be one sort of restaurant because all the restaurants are run by the government.

First of all, since they are owned by the government, they don't have to compete into a better job because they are never going to go through bankruptcy. Secondly, because they are owned by the government, the government determines what fare is offered. They determine how many restaurants we have that will serve Italian fare or Mexican or what have you. It is much better in a free economy.

Even more importantly, in a socialist economy, we have to work for the government. The more people who have to work for the government, the less freedom they have. If we have to work for the government and the government is all-powerful, as it is in a socialist state, the government determines whether we keep our jobs, whether we are promoted in our jobs, or whether or not we get raises.

Mr. Speaker, it is all determined by a government that may look down on us if we are critical of the central planning authority. That is a big difference between a free-market economy and a socialist economy.

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Mr. Speaker, in a socialist economy, you do not have to do well because you are owned by the government, or if you have a restaurant that has crummy food or you have a factory in which the people are not working very hard, because apparently some people are not working very hard for the Department of Defense, you do not get in trouble for that.

Because it is a socialist economy, everybody becomes poorer because there is no incentive to work that much harder. You can't lose your job, Mr. Speaker, because everybody is working for the government. That is another reason why life is so much better in a free market economy.

I think people like being free better. When you talk about testimonials in the old Soviet Union, Mr. Speaker, and probably to this day because the work ethic hasn't changed enough, you run into a lot of very unhappy people because they are stuck in an economic system in which they have to work for the government.

As a matter of fact, I know a friend who went to Cuba. It was an interesting observation. In Cuba, which is an island country, he noticed that there were no, or almost no, boats on the docks as he went around the Gulf of Mexico.

This is a sign of what happens in a socialist state. People are so unhappy there that they won't allow them to

get on boats and go into the Gulf of Mexico to somewhere else. They have got to force the people to stay at home.

In any event, I think in the future when we explain to the younger people why we like a free market economy rather than a socialist economy, we should emphasize the freedom that comes with a free market economy, the freedom to pick one of hundreds of employers in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, or if you want to get around the whole country, one of hundreds of thousands of employers. You have the ability to rent or buy a home wherever you want, Mr. Speaker, not where you are restricted by where the government is. You have the ability when you go to a retail outlet to have people competing for your sales dollar so there are a lot of opportunities to buy this item of clothing or these appliances or whatnot, as opposed to in a socialist state where the government determines what the government bureaucrats think you need.

Finally, of course, you are overwhelmingly wealthier because in a free market economy, Mr. Speaker, you are free to work hard, and you are free to open up your own business. By doing that, all of society is wealthier, as opposed to the socialist state in which everybody has to work for the government. There is no guaranteed incentive for working harder. If you think of a better way to do business, Mr. Speaker, you are not allowed to set up business on your own. All you can do is make a suggestion to your boss, and if he doesn't care to take your suggestion on how the business can improve, well, Mr. Speaker, then it just never improves.

This is why the socialist state in old Russia, the old Soviet Union, was so ineffective.

In any event, to summarize tonight, first of all, I really hope Republican leadership and President Trump begin to address the \$25,000 penalty this country imposes on any married couple with children.

Secondly, I hope Republicans point out when they talk about the difference between socialism and what they refer to as capitalism, that the major difference is the freedom that comes from a free market economy.

Finally, I hope the press corps pays attention to the huge number of non-uniformed employees in the Department of Defense and what the current administration is doing about it.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 18, 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-1949. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Marketplace Integrity and Affordability [CMS-9884-F] (RIN: 0938-AV61) 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-1950. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Administrative Simplification: Modifications of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Retail Pharmacy Standards; and Modification of the Medicaid Pharmacy Subrogation Standard; Updates to Compliance and Other Related Dates [CMS-0056-IFR] (RIN: 0938-AU19) received August 22, 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-1951. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a notification of intent to remove certain items and services from the United States Munitions List (USML), pursuant to section 38(f)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1952. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition-Related Thresholds [FAC 2025-06, FAR Case 2024-001; Docket No.: 2024-0001; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-A073) received September 5, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1953. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Coordinated Health Care Office-Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office Report to Congress, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1315b(e); Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2602(e); (124 Stat. 315); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GUTHRIE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4273. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user fee program for over-the-counter monograph drugs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-300). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3157. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to add a standard related to the evaluation of State intermittent energy policies, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-301). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3616. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review regulations that may affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, with an amendment (Rept. 119-302). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KEAN:

H.R. 5419. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a plan for ensuring timely review of communications use authorizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 5420. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain authorities and requirements relating to health care and benefits furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BELL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. GRAVES):

H.R. 5421. A bill to provide for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in honor of William Lacy Clay Sr., and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BISHOP (for himself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 5422. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the semi-annual report on privatized military housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 5423. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the use of predatory commercial motor vehicle lease-purchase programs by certain motor carriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 5424. A bill to support communities that host transmission lines and to promote conservation and recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 5425. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a uniform policy to provide tuition assistance after on year of active duty service; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 5426. A bill to prohibit States from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a decennial census and apportionment, to require States to conduct such redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. CLARKE

of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FROST, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SIMON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mrs. RAMIREZ):

H.R. 5427. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax loopholes that allow billionaires to defer tax indefinitely through planning strategies such as “buy, borrow, die”, to modify over 30 tax provisions so that billionaires are required to pay taxes annually, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COLE (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5428. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to award grants to accredited public institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 5429. A bill to require the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on improving collaboration in housing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 5430. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the funds under the matching grant program for school security to be used to hire school resource officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 5431. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to pay reparations issued by international bodies or courts for a violations of international law; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 5432. A bill to require the Comptroller General to conduct a comprehensive study of the operations of LUMA Energy and Genera PR in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon (for herself, Mr. RYAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H.R. 5433. A bill to prohibit health insurance issuers and certain health care providers under Medicare from being under common ownership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 5434. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to dedicate sufficient resources for the support of LGBTQ+ youth seeking help from the 9-8-8 suicide prevention hotline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 5435. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for congenital Cytomegalovirus screening of newborns; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MANNION (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 5436. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit an educational institution from withholding a transcript from an individual who pursued a course or program of education at such institution using Post-9/11 educational assistance; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself and Mr. BIGGS of Arizona):

H.R. 5437. A bill to prohibit civil actions brought against a manufacturer or seller of a stone slab product for harm resulting from the alteration of such a product by a fabricator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. CLINE):

H.R. 5438. A bill to incentivize Federal agencies to create savings for the American people, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5439. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Program to test a payment and service delivery model under part A of Medicare to improve clinical health outcomes and reduce the rate of readmissions of certain individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 5440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for small businesses to provide diaper changing stations in restrooms; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 5441. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the advanced manufacturing production credit to include fusion energy components; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

H.R. 5442. A bill to build on America's spirit of service to nurture, promote, and expand a culture of service to secure the Nation's future, address critical needs of the Nation, and strengthen the civic fabric of American society; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, Veterans' Affairs, Homeland Security, Intelligence (Permanent Select), House Administration, the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BONAMICI, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 5443. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on

source of income, veteran status, or military status; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 5444. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to address the shortage of medical laboratory personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHOLTEN (for herself, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, and Mrs. MCIVER):

H.R. 5445. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize Federal-State clean water program development and implementation authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 5446. A bill to limit the authority to impose duties on articles of food; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STRONG (for himself, Mr. FONG, and Mr. WHITESIDES):

H.R. 5447. A bill to amend chapter 511 of title 51, United States Code, to modify the authority for space transportation infrastructure modernization grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KEATING, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. BROWN, Mr. RYAN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AMO, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. CROW, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, and Ms. GOODLANDER):

H.J. Res. 122. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the authority of Congress and the States to regulate contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections and to enact public financing systems for political campaigns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.J. Res. 123. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Marketplace Integrity and Affordability”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mrs.

WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. STRONG, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. RULLI, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HUNT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MILLS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. JACK, Mr.



THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SCHMIDT, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. BACON, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. PALMER, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. BICE, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. COSTA):

H. Res. 729. A resolution expressing support for and honoring September 17, 2025, as “Constitution Day”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H. Res. 730. A resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J.Res.4) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide that debate upon legislation pending before the Senate may not be brought to a close without the concurrence of a minimum of three-fifths of the Senators; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H. Res. 731. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 155) to require States to permit unaffiliated voters to vote in primary elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H. Res. 732. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 30, 2025, as “Rare Cancer Day” to highlight the challenges patients with rare cancers face and to raise awareness and support efforts to improve early diagnosis and treatment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. RANDALL):

H. Res. 733. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 20 through September 27, 2025, as “National Estuaries Week”; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

### 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. KEAN:

H.R. 5419.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 5420.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BELL:

H.R. 5421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BISHOP:

H.R. 5422.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const., article I, Sec. 8, cls. 1, 12, 14, 16, 18

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 5423.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 5424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 5425.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 5426.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 5

Article I, Section 8

Fourteenth Amendment, Section 5

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 5427.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 5428.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 5429.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 5430.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 5431.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 5432.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon:

H.R. 5433.

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 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 5434.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 7

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 5435.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MANNION:

H.R. 5436.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. McCLINTOCK:

H.R. 5437.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. MCCORMICK:

H.R. 5438.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of Section 9 of Article I.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 5439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 5440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 5441.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5442.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 5443.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 5444.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 (Taxing and Spending Clause)

By Ms. SCHOLTEN:

H.R. 5445.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 5446.

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 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STRONG:

H.R. 5447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18, Section 8, Article 1

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.J. Res. 122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article, Section 8

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.J. Res. 123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 14: Mr. WALKINSHAW.

H.R. 51: Ms. POUL and Mr. RILEY of New York.

H.R. 116: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 134: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 138: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 219: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 378: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 485: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 507: Mr. LIEU and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 516: Mr. HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 909: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.

H.R. 924: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 925: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 979: Mr. PALMER, Ms. FEDORCHAK, and Mr. WALKINSHAW.

H.R. 1004: Mr. CLEAVER.

- H.R. 1024: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.  
H.R. 1046: Mr. MORAN and Mr. BRECHEEN.  
H.R. 1055: Ms. BYNUM.  
H.R. 1061: Ms. CRAIG, Ms. SIMON, and Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 1065: Mr. IVEY.  
H.R. 1236: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 1241: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 1262: Mr. AMO.  
H.R. 1269: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCHMIDT, and Mr. WALKINSHAW.  
H.R. 1299: Mr. KEAN and Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 1307: Mr. IVEY.  
H.R. 1340: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.  
H.R. 1357: Mr. STRONG.  
H.R. 1404: Mr. SORENSEN.  
H.R. 1422: Mr. SMUCKER.  
H.R. 1566: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
H.R. 1585: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.  
H.R. 1651: Mr. ESTES.  
H.R. 1661: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. MORELLE.  
H.R. 1672: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
H.R. 1684: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1685: Ms. HOULAHAN.  
H.R. 1708: Mr. BACON and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 1723: Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 1732: Ms. PEREZ and Mr. MENENDEZ.  
H.R. 1761: Mr. MCGUIRE.  
H.R. 1772: Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
H.R. 1793: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 1842: Mr. BRESNAHAN.  
H.R. 1918: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.  
H.R. 1965: Mr. SORENSEN.  
H.R. 1966: Ms. ESCOBAR.  
H.R. 1970: Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Ms. BALINT, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. VINDMAN, and Ms. STRICKLAND.  
H.R. 1993: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H.R. 2013: Mr. STEUBE.  
H.R. 2028: Mr. OWENS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.  
H.R. 2048: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
H.R. 2103: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 2172: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 2189: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 2220: Ms. DEXTER.  
H.R. 2315: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 2366: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 2485: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 2547: Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 2548: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. KENNEDY of New York.  
H.R. 2550: Mr. WALKINSHAW.  
H.R. 2605: Mr. STRONG.  
H.R. 2692: Mr. LANDSMAN.  
H.R. 2717: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 2760: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 2853: Mr. HUNT, Mr. SESSIONS, and Ms. ESCOBAR.  
H.R. 2878: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 2948: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.  
H.R. 3028: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.  
H.R. 3030: Mr. NEGUSE.  
H.R. 3105: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.  
H.R. 3127: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
H.R. 3131: Mr. RYAN.  
H.R. 3139: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3184: Ms. FRIEDMAN and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.  
H.R. 3218: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 3277: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. IVEY, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SUOZZI, and Ms. ROSS.  
H.R. 3365: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 3420: Mr. BABIN.  
H.R. 3483: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.  
H.R. 3495: Mr. MESSMER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 3514: Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
H.R. 3565: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3591: Mrs. FEDORCHAK.  
H.R. 3592: Mr. GUEST.  
H.R. 3597: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.  
H.R. 3632: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
H.R. 3683: Mr. LIEU.  
H.R. 3699: Mr. GUEST and Mr. FRY.  
H.R. 3933: Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
H.R. 4008: Mr. STAUBER.  
H.R. 4044: Mr. HURD of Colorado.  
H.R. 4074: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 4145: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 4176: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 4182: Ms. CHU.  
H.R. 4197: Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 4202: Ms. SCHOLTEN.  
H.R. 4206: Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 4288: Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 4311: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
H.R. 4318: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 4392: Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 4467: Mr. EZELL.  
H.R. 4474: Mr. MORAN.  
H.R. 4582: Mr. IVEY and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.  
H.R. 4583: Mr. IVEY and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.  
H.R. 4624: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SCHMIDT, and Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 4662: Mr. TRAN and Mr. MIN.  
H.R. 4667: Mrs. TORRES of California.  
H.R. 4669: Ms. GILLEN.  
H.R. 4704: Ms. LEE of Nevada and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 4768: Mr. TURNER of Ohio.  
H.R. 4776: Mr. EVANS of Colorado and Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 4782: Mr. BISHOP.  
H.R. 4788: Mr. RULLI, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. STUTZMAN.  
H.R. 4849: Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 4935: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 4936: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 4966: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.  
H.R. 4972: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
H.R. 4995: Mr. HUIZENGA.  
H.R. 4996: Mr. SORENSEN.  
H.R. 4998: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
H.R. 5004: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 5052: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 5081: Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 5106: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 5135: Mr. COLLINS.  
H.R. 5140: Ms. STEFANIK.  
H.R. 5142: Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BACON, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 5150: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.  
H.R. 5195: Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. RYAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 5200: Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 5201: Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 5206: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 5221: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. BICE, Mr. VINDMAN, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 5237: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
H.R. 5238: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
H.R. 5271: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 5282: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 5284: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 5316: Mr. OWENS.  
H.R. 5334: Mr. SORENSEN.  
H.R. 5343: Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
H.R. 5346: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
H.R. 5361: Mr. CASAR.  
H.R. 5369: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 5392: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.  
H.R. 5393: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.  
H.R. 5401: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.  
H.R. 5411: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. OWENS.  
H.J. Res. 54: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
H.J. Res. 80: Mr. SOTO and Mr. CLYBURN.  
H.J. Res. 108: Mr. WALKINSHAW.  
H.J. Res. 111: Mr. CARSON.  
H. Con. Res. 27: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H. Con. Res. 48: Mr. GOSAR.  
H. Res. 64: Mr. RASKIN.  
H. Res. 317: Mrs. HAYES.  
H. Res. 501: Ms. PEREZ and Ms. KING-HINDS.  
H. Res. 694: Ms. KAPTUR.  
H. Res. 697: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM and Mr. FIGURES.  
H. Res. 704: Ms. DELBENE.  
H. Res. 715: Mr. ESPAILLAT.  
H. Res. 716: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H. Res. 719: Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. LEE of Florida, and Mr. KILEY of California.  
H. Res. 720: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
H. Res. 723: Mr. TRAN.

#### 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. ARRINGTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 5371, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

No. 152

## Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, September 16, 2025)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are holy. We rejoice because we are sustained by Your strength. We receive honor because of the victories You bring to our lives.

Bless our lawmakers. Increase their faith in You. May they receive joy as they strive to follow Your guidance. Renew their lives with Your goodness. Empower them to make our Nation and world better as they receive inspiration by practicing Your precepts. Continue to be their mighty fortress in times of trouble.

Lord, we praise You for Your glorious power. We celebrate Your mighty acts.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The senior assistant legislative 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### ACCELERATING KIDS' ACCESS TO CARE ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

In the United States this year, over 9,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed among children from birth to age 14. While cancer rates and their deaths for children have declined by 70 percent from 1970 through 2020, cancer remains the leading cause of death from disease among children.

Access to timely pediatric care is critical to reducing cancer deaths. Children's hospitals specialize in certain types of cancer care. Unfortunately, gaining access to a children's

hospital across the country or in the State next-door can be a real challenge.

That is why I am the sponsor of the bipartisan Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act.

Moms and dads seeking lifesaving cancer care for their kids should be able to access care quickly and wherever it is available. Now, sadly, sometimes it takes months for a child to get access to treatment if it is out of State. There is no excuse for that. In fact, it is pure bureaucratic redtape. Families shouldn't have to navigate redtape to get lifesaving care for their child with complex medical needs.

My bill simplifies this process so parents can ensure kids with cancer diagnoses get timely medical care. Our bill is the most cosponsored, bipartisan bill—I want to emphasize “bipartisan bill”—of all the Medicaid bills before the Senate Finance Committee. I look forward to making this bill become law.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans released a partisan CR that failed to meet the needs of the American people.

Republicans have been calling their bill a clean CR, but “clean” is the wrong word. It is a partisan bill; it has had no input from Democrats; and, most importantly, because it has had

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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no input from Democrats, it is a status quo bill. It is a status quo bill.

Americans don't want the status quo. With tens of millions being kicked off of health insurance, with healthcare premiums set to skyrocket next year, with people paying more for groceries, for energy costs, for rent and struggling because of Donald Trump's tariffs, people need help.

That is what they are telling us from one end of the country to the other. They are not happy with the direction America is going. American people want their leaders to address their needs, and that is just what Democrats are fighting for. The last thing the American people want is a status quo bill that continues the chaos and high costs of the last 9 months.

But the Republican bill, not only is it partisan, but it is a status quo bill. It changes nothing. It continues the chaos and high costs of the last 9 months.

Democrats say: No way. We need to answer people's needs. When they tell us prices are going through the roof, when they tell us their healthcare is at risk, they want us to be there. So we need to sit at the table and talk to our Republican colleagues so the American people's needs can be taken into account in a bipartisan negotiation.

But the Republican CR is certainly not the right answer. Republicans are causing a shutdown, creating it by not negotiating and by not being willing to answer the country's needs.

The American people deserve better than the Republicans' failed agenda. They deserve better than keeping the status quo because there has been such, such damage done in the last months.

Soon, Senate and House Democrats will release our own proposal to keep the government open with a short-term extension that properly meets the needs of the American people. Our bill will represent the right path to avoid a shutdown crisis by addressing healthcare costs and cuts, by preventing premiums from going up, by restoring and extending congressional funds for things like NIH that Donald Trump and Russell Vought are illegally halting.

Once both sides put forth proposals—and ours will be coming shortly—Republicans will face a choice: to keep following Donald Trump into a reckless shutdown that he seems to want or to finally come to the table and work with us.

Remember, it takes 60 votes to get anything passed in the Senate. That means Democratic input is a necessity to improve the lives and lower costs for the American people because Republicans are not doing a thing to make things better.

This is not optional; it is necessary. Republicans know that. Yet Donald Trump has told Republicans: Don't even bother. He said "Don't even bother negotiating with Democrats." And they have, unfortunately, dutifully, obeyed.

By not even bothering to talk to Democrats, Republicans are paving the road that leads to a shutdown. That is deeply troubling for the American people. They expect Donald Trump and Republicans to do their jobs and to address their needs and to keep the government open by working like adults with the other side, not just saying: It is my way or the highway, particularly when their way represents a status quo that the American people abhor. Mark my words, the American people will blame Donald Trump if a shutdown happens.

Finally, I will say it again because it is important: Democrats don't want a shutdown, but Republicans cannot shut Democrats out of the process and pretend like the last 9 months have been business as usual.

There is nothing business as usual about kicking 16 million people off healthcare. There is nothing business as usual about Donald Trump illegally stealing and canceling Federal investments approved by Congress, even for NIH research, which may save the lives of children with cancer. There is nothing business as usual about Donald Trump tearing up budgets, ignoring the law, picking winners and losers for things as vital as disaster relief.

Republicans know that these abuses can't just continue as if everything is just fine. Everyone knows that Americans are frustrated with the status quo, frustrated with costs going up and up and up, frustrated with Donald Trump injecting so much chaos into their lives. And Republicans think that that is OK, no questions asked, no negotiation or discussion? Give me a break.

In the Senate, it takes 60 votes. So that means Republicans will need to work with us. If they can't even bother to have a conversation with Democrats, it is Republicans, then, the American people will know, are causing the shutdown in 2 weeks. We still have some time. I pray it doesn't happen.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Republicans continue to move forward on funding the government through a short-term CR, something that is routinely done around here in order to allow for more time for the Appropriations Committee to report bills out and for us to consider them on the floor and to fund the government in the way it should be funded.

And Democrats—well, Democrats seem intent on shutting it down. For

what reason I cannot imagine do they actually think that hard-working Americans are going to thank them for shutting down the government.

I understand that Democrats' far-left base is desperate to pick a fight with President Trump, but really, I don't think Democrats are going to win the next election by shutting down the government over a short-term, clean nonpartisan funding measure.

It is particularly hard to understand Democrats' determination to shut down the government when we are simply asking for a few more weeks to complete bipartisan—bipartisan—appropriations work.

I made it very clear from the moment that I became the leader that I wanted to fund the government through regular order, a process that gives voice to Members of both parties. That means taking appropriations bills through the committee process, where they have a chance to be discussed, debated, and amended, and then bringing them to the Senate floor for more debate and amendments.

We made a very good start on this before the August State work period, passing three appropriations bills by robust, bipartisan margins—something that hadn't been done here since 2018.

The reason we are considering a short-term, clean continuing resolution is to allow this process to continue so that we can fund the government the way it should be funded, under regular order. Regular order is good for Members of both parties, and it is good for the American people. I think a lot of Democrats, as well as Republicans, know that.

I could stand here on the floor for a long time and read quotes from the Democrat leader and other Democrat Senators on the many problems with shutdowns and what they cost Americans. I won't do that today, as I think the costs to the American people are pretty well established.

But it is incredible to me that Democrats are ignoring these very real costs and continuing to push ahead with shutdown threats over this clean continuing resolution.

As I said on Monday, I do not think it is likely that mainstream voters—the same voters that Democrats lost in the last election—are going to be thanking Democrats for shutting down the government over a short-term, clean nonpartisan CR—a short-term, clean nonpartisan CR with, I would remind my Democratic colleagues, much needed funding for Member security.

Democrats, of course, have decided to try and deflect blame by complaining that we are looking at a partisan CR—a partisan CR. Give me a break.

Republicans have deliberately chosen to keep the CR clean to ensure that there can be no possible reason for Democrats to object to funding the government. We are not looking at a vehicle for new Republican policies; we are looking at nothing more than a continuation of the status quo when it comes to funding the government.

Do the Democrats think that by calling this a partisan CR that they can somehow make it so? We all know Democrats have a sometimes Orwellian relationship with language, but really I don't think Democrats are going to get very far with this one because there really is no possible way to call this a partisan CR with a straight face. Everyone here on Capitol Hill and well beyond is abundantly aware that we are not looking at a partisan funding measure.

So Democrats have a choice to make. They can work with Republicans to pass this clean, short-term, non-partisan measure to fund the government while we continue work on the 2026 appropriations bills or they can shut down the government, with all that will mean for the American people.

And just to be clear—I heard the Democratic leader get up again today and talk about how there are no bipartisan discussions—there have been bipartisan discussions for months. The appropriations committees have been meeting, passing reported bills out to the floor. We picked up three of those bills in the month of July and passed them on the floor, something that hadn't been done since 2018. And the Republicans and the Democrats on the Appropriations Committee continue to work together on bipartisan appropriations bills that they can report to the floor so that we can consider more of them and fund the government in regular order, which is the way it is supposed to be funded. That is what this debate is really about.

Now, the Democratic leader is accustomed to a different business model. That is where they go in his office behind closed doors and make all these decisions there instead of putting bills on the floor.

We passed appropriations bills at this point in the year for the first time since 2018. We are consulting in a bipartisan way with Democrats through this entire process. So that is just flat wrong. It is just not telling the truth. Those discussions have been going on for months. And this is, for the first time in a long time, a normal appropriations process where Democrats and Republicans sit down at the committees, where it should happen, work together on bills that they report to the floor—most of them by big bipartisan margins—and then we pick them up. We have done that with three already, and there are a bunch more we ought to do.

This is the way it is supposed to work, but it takes consent. It takes cooperation. Obviously, it takes 60 votes to pass anything here in the Senate, which means that Democrats are going to have to help fund the government on a clean, bipartisan funding resolution to give the Appropriations Committee and all of us as Senators, on both sides of the aisle, an opportunity to consider more appropriations bills on the floor and fund the government the way it

should be funded, and that is the old-fashioned way: through the appropriations process.

And I would remind my colleagues that under the Biden administration and Democratic majorities here in the Senate, there were no fewer than 13—13—continuing resolutions, short-term funding measures to fund the government, and 96 percent of the Democrats in the Senate voted for all 13—13 continuing resolutions. When they had the majority and a Democrat in the White House, 13 continuing resolutions to fund the government for a short term, and 96 percent of the Democrats voted for all 13 of those funding resolutions.

So I don't know what has changed. At that time, they made all the quotes. I said I could quote them, and I can quote them. There are lists that go on infinitely of all the things that they said about funding the government and what a terrible thing it would be to have a government shutdown. And here we are offering them a short-term funding resolution that is bipartisan, that funds the government through November 21, in order to allow us to continue the work of funding the government through the appropriations process, which is the way this place ought to work in the first place. That is all this is about—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. It is whether or not they want to work with us to fund the government in a bipartisan way and help keep the government open or block that funding resolution, not help get us the 60 votes that are necessary to pass it out of here and, therefore, shut the government down. That is the choice.

This isn't President Trump. This isn't about President Trump. There is nothing in here about President Trump. This is a clean funding resolution, bipartisan funding resolution, short term, to allow the Appropriations Committee to do its work. There is nothing partisan about it. There is nothing in here that they haven't—things that we agree on, both sides agree on. This is a short-term funding resolution, and it should be a very straightforward vote. Both sides should do what they did 13 times when they had the majority, and that is vote to keep the government open and to allow us, for the first time in years, to actually have a normal appropriations process.

And I will tell the Presiding Officer because you have probably heard this, too, from Members on their side of the aisle, they would like to have that too. They would actually like to have an appropriations process that works, where they get an opportunity—not only in the Appropriations Committee but here on the floor of the Senate—to have some input into and have an opportunity to vote on amendments that reflect the wishes of the people they represent in their States.

We should do that. We can do that. And it is going to be entirely up to the Senate Democrats as to whether or not we do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the en bloc nominations provided for under the provisions of S. Res. 377.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today is Constitution Day, September 17. So I think it is a perfect day, today, to restore the Senate's constitutional duty of advice and consent because when a President is elected, he needs to put a team in place, a team in place to run the government. When a President wins, he gets to pick the team. Modern Presidents have over 1,000 positions to fill.

There is a role in the Senate for advice and consent, but Senate Democrats have done everything you can think of to prevent President Trump from putting his team in place. He needs to get these people on the job.

And let me be clear. Democrat obstruction ends today. This week, Republicans in the Senate will break the blockade and move America forward. Now, we are going to begin to confirm this backlog of President Trump's qualified nominees.

Historically, the Senate, acting as a body of the whole, has considered nominees pretty quickly after they have come out of the vetting in the committees. Most are confirmed right here on the Senate floor by voice vote or unanimous consent. In President Obama's first term, 856 nominees were confirmed that way; in President Trump's first term, 553. In Joe Biden's only term as President, the number was 530. Here we are in President Trump's second term—September of that second term—and that number confirmed that way is zero.

Well, why? Why has not a single nominee been confirmed by voice vote or by unanimous consent? Look, we know why, and it is the Democrat obstruction. Our country has never seen anything like this. Senate Democrats are freezing the Senate floor, freezing the Federal Government, and freezing our Nation's progress, and they are doing it intentionally. This harms our Nation's safety. It hamstringing the President and the voting people's agenda.

This is what people voted for. They elected President Trump. He won all seven battleground States. Yet the Democrats have done everything they can to stop him from making progress. Democrats are currently holding up

more than 150 qualified nominees who have already been successfully approved through Senate committees. These nominees are critical to our Nation's future, our Nation's success, our Nation's progress, as well as our safety and security.

So let's take a look at some of the important roles that the Democrats have said: Nope, we are going to filibuster all of them. One is the Principal Deputy Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration. Another is the inspector general for the Central Intelligence Agency. Many are Ambassadors to our NATO allies. Then there is the Deputy Trade Representative. Even the Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center is being frozen out by Democrat obstruction. Every one of them is qualified because every one of those individuals has received bipartisan committee support, Republicans and Democrats voting for them after their hearings in the committee. Yet CHUCK SCHUMER, the Senate minority leader, is blocking critical nominees because he opposes President Trump, and he has done it at every step along the way.

Democrats failed to defeat President Trump in November at the ballot box, so instead they are trying to sabotage his team right here on the Senate floor. When Democrats filibuster nominees, they don't even bother to debate their qualifications—simply delay for the sake of delay and obstruction.

Our Senate committees have done their jobs on all of these nominees. Every one of these nominees that is being held up here on the Senate floor, every one of them has appeared at hearings in committee; they have answered a barrage of questions from Senators; they passed FBI background checks; they cleared Senate ethics investigations; and they have passed out of committee; many and every one that we are going to be voting on in this group this week had bipartisan support.

Let's be clear what that means. Democrats here on the floor, CHUCK SCHUMER, are blocking nominees whom Members of their own party already said: Yes, these are qualified; let's get them on the job.

This is unprecedented, and it is wrong.

Now, Democrats are free to vote no on nominees. That is OK. But an all-out obstruction weakens our country and wastes the Senate's time.

Don't take my word for it. Let's listen to what one of the Senators on the other side of the aisle said in 2013 when Barack Obama was President. That was Senator ELIZABETH WARREN from Massachusetts. She came to this very floor, stood over there at that very desk, and said:

Without a government that was staffed, justice would not be established, our common defense would be threatened, and the blessings of liberty [that] we hoped to secure through our laws would go unfulfilled.

That was 2013 and a different President. Well, what changed? Well, what

changed is that in November, Americans voted to get America back on track, and they elected Donald Trump as President to do it. Democrats' response was to shut down the Senate nomination process and to stop Senators from doing the people's business.

Today, Republicans are taking decisive action, and we are going to start voting on that in a few minutes. We are going to break the Senate's procedural logjam. We are returning to the long-established traditions and principles of the Senate.

Tomorrow, the Senate will vote on 48 nominees together in a single group. Each and every one of them has received bipartisan support in Senate committees. We are not going to stop there, though. Over 100 more nominees will be ready for confirmation by the end of this week—get that process moving.

It is time for the Senate to clear the nominations backlog and clear it quickly, and so we will. That way, the Senate can get back to the work of legislating, of working on behalf of the American people. We have important legislation to consider. We have appropriations bills. We have the National Defense Authorization Act, the farm bill, legislation to make our cities safe from violent criminals.

Senate Republicans are going to continue the work of the American people. We are going to continue to work to get America back on track.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MULLIN. 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.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and the provisions of S. Res. 377 (119th Congress), do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar Nos. 89, 105, 107, 121, 122, 123, 124, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 139, 141, 142, 152, 153, 154, 156, 157, 161, 177, 180, 185, 251, 276, 277, 278, 279, 283, 285, 289, 290, 297, 298, 303, 305, 324, 344, 346, 352, 356, 362, 365, 149, 286, 302, 350, en bloc. John Thune, Bernie Moreno, John Kennedy, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, Shelley Moore Capito, Jim Banks, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Tim Sheehy, Kevin Cramer, Eric Schmitt, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory

quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the en bloc nominations provided for under the provisions of S. Res. 377 shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO: The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The yeas and the nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 522 Leg.]

#### YEAS—51

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Paul
Budd	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Collins	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Sheehy
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young

#### NAYS—48

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	Thune
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gallago	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—1

Lee

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 48.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."



The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 523 Leg.]

## YEAS—51

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Paul
Budd	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	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	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young

## NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallo	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

## NOT VOTING—2

Lee Tillis

The motion was agreed to.

(Mr. LANKFORD assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The majority leader.

## POINT OF ORDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I make a point of order that, consistent with the precedents of the Senate established on November 21, 2013, and September 11, 2025, the threshold for cloture on the en bloc consideration of nominations pursuant to an executive resolution with a calendar number on the Executive Calendar, other than those on level 1 of the executive schedule under 5 U.S.C. 5312 or article III judges, is a simple majority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The precedents set on November 21, 2013, and September 11, 2025, do not apply to the consideration of en bloc nominations. The point of order is not well taken.

## APPEALING THE RULING OF THE CHAIR

Mr. THUNE. I appeal the ruling of the Chair and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Senate?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 524 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
Gallo	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

## NAYS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

## NOT VOTING—1

Lee

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 52.

The decision of the chair is not sustained.

## VOTE ON CLOTURE MOTION UPON RECONSIDERATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the motion to invoke cloture on the nominations en bloc provided under the provisions of S. Res. 377 upon reconsideration.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 525 Leg.]

## YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

## NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Booker	Durbin
Baldwin	Cantwell	Fetterman
Bennet	Coons	Gallo
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Gillibrand
Blunt Rochester	Duckworth	Hassan

Heinrich	Murphy	Shaheen
Hickenlooper	Murray	Slotkin
Hirono	Ossoff	Smith
Kaine	Padilla	Van Hollen
Kelly	Peters	Warner
Kim	Reed	Warnock
King	Rosen	Warren
Klobuchar	Sanders	Welch
Lujan	Schatz	Whitehouse
Markey	Schiff	Wyden
Merkley	Schumer	

## NOT VOTING—1

Lee

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 52; the nays are 47. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 377, the nominations listed therein are pending en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 224

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 224; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, allow me to say some things.

As chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, I oppose this measure.

Like everyone on this floor, we want—we all want the conflict in Gaza to end as quickly as possible. The reality is, Hamas has the ability to do so right now by releasing all the hostages and immediately laying down their weapons.

Let me say that again. We can have a cease-fire immediately, but it takes Hamas to do it. Hamas refuses to do so.

Hamas has the duty to do this. They started this. The entity that started this needs to end it, and they can end it by simply stopping the fighting and releasing the hostages. They refuse to do that and continue constant attacks. They have the duty to start this cease-fire.

One of the things that this measure does that I object to vehemently is the fact that it does not underscore the fact that all of this is the fault of Hamas. Every starvation, every injury, every death, every single thing that happens in this conflict is the fault of Hamas.

On October 7, when this invasion by Hamas started, Israel was doing nothing to deserve this. Instead, Hamas invaded the country. They killed 1,200 people. They took 251 hostages.

If that wasn't enough, the torture that they committed on that day was horrific. For those of you who haven't seen the film of what they did, I

strongly recommend you don't look at it because you won't sleep. It is inhuman, what Hamas did to the Israeli people.

The Israeli people believe they have to defend themselves and they have to eliminate Hamas.

Worse, Hamas has used previous pauses in humanitarian aid convoys to resupply their attacks at the expense of the Palestinian people, to include looting at gunpoint the majority of the trucks that crossed into Gaza.

This is pure evil. They show pictures of women and children starving. Those women and children are starving. They are not being starved by Israel; they are being starved by Hamas. The Hamas fighters you will see in the photography are well fed, well taken care of. They steal the food that is supposed to go in there and go to the women and children, who are not fighting.

This resolution fails to even mention this threat from Hamas, much less recognize the terrorism as the root cause of this conflict.

Additionally, we should be very cautious against getting ahead of the negotiations of both our President and our democratic ally Israel, who are working diligently to resolve this conflict. In fact, the administration has worked with Israel to establish a new system of aid distribution that prevents diversions by terrorists.

More aid was delivered into Gaza last month than in almost any other month of the past year. There is no blockade. Food is getting in. Hamas is stealing it, and what they steal, they either eat or they sell.

This resolution is incomplete, it is misleading, and unfortunately it is partisan. For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I thank the gentleman from Idaho, the chair of our Foreign Relations Committee.

I join him. I join him enthusiastically in condemning the actions of Hamas—the invasion on October 7 of Israel, the slaughter of 1,200 innocent people, the taking of hostages, and the infliction of suffering that Hamas has inflicted on Palestinians within Gaza. But the situation is much different today than it was a few months ago.

Four months ago, I stood here, and I asked for unanimous consent in support of the Senate resolution on the humanitarian disaster in Gaza. The resolution called for an end to the siege, an end to the war, and the return of the hostages.

Since then, more than 400 people have died of starvation, including more than 100 children, and that is ongoing and accelerating. Thousands more have died under bombs and bullets at aid sites themselves.

At the time, I held up this picture of Jinan Iskafi. She died in her parents' arms, the victim of a military blockade on infant formula.

Here joining Jinan are children suffering from famine conditions that

exist right now, this month—Amer, Maryam, and Shamm.

There is an ongoing famine in Gaza, and the Netanyahu government has made a self-conscious decision to deny people the food and medicine they need to survive. Women waiting for C-sections are trapped in the middle of a bombing campaign. Children are forced to watch their mothers die slowly of cancer, with no access to medicine. The hospitals they need are being destroyed.

At the same time, the Netanyahu government has begun a new military operation to take complete control of Gaza City. In Gaza City, hundreds of civilians are living under nonstop bombardment. It is about destroying buildings that are left standing, and it is a bombing campaign that has as part of its objective to force them to leave.

The Netanyahu officials in his government acknowledge that they want people to move out. They acknowledge that their campaign is in significant part about displacing people who live in Gaza City and forcing them to move elsewhere. That is at a time when those folks are living in tents; the kids aren't going to school; where they have already moved six or seven times.

The decision a family has to make is horrific: Do they move to another place where there is no place to go and they have no guarantee of any kind of safety, or is it better for them and their family to stay where they are and risk that they will be in the path of the bombing campaign?

The definition of international terrorism in our law—title 18 section 2331—includes violent actions that are intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population. And what is coercion and intimidation more than bombing where people live?

Mr. President, 46 Senators cosponsored this simple resolution months ago, and it is about trying to bring about an end to this relentless and needless suffering.

We must act. We must act so that an innocent son or daughter risking starvation does not starve. We must act to save someone's mother or father from a bomb dropped in Gaza into a place that is already unlivable. And we have to act as a body to do everything we can to end this war.

Now, the objection that my colleague made is about Hamas stealing food, and there is no doubt Hamas is stealing food. They care nothing about the Palestinians living under their oppression. But there is also no doubt that the Israeli Government, self-consciously, has restricted the aid that is necessary to get in, has interfered with organizations that were delivering aid, and it is resulting in an extension of the suffering.

Wars are terrible, not always avoidable. But after the horrors of World War II, we had, as part of the international community, the Geneva Conventions. It stated that collective pun-

ishment is a war crime; militaries would not be any longer allowed to use food as a weapon in order to press a battlefield advantage. And war may not be avoidable, but those waging war have limits on what they can do in waging even a just war.

So this is not just about Gaza. If we relinquish our commitment to the Geneva Conventions, we reopen society's acceptance of "anything goes" in causing the suffering of innocents to achieve some military advantage. We do not want to go there.

My colleagues have also objected to the declarations of famine, even though that is the declaration that experts—and I say "experts." It is people who have as their goal and life's work to try to feed people who are desperately in need of nutrition.

In order to hold that the children are not suffering, we would have to completely discount the consensus of every humanitarian expert and agency in the world, the organizations that in many cases were founded with the significant help of bipartisan efforts here in this U.S. Congress. I am talking about the World Food Programme, about UNICEF, about the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, about Mercy Corps, about Doctors Without Borders. All of these organizations have documented the devastating starvation. So this is not a question of whether there is starvation or there isn't.

And yes, there can be fault, as the chairman indicated, with Hamas and the role they play, and I condemn that. But there is a significant actor here, and that is the Netanyahu government. When they bar aid trucks from going in, that leads to hunger, starvation, malnutrition, and lack of medicine for people who desperately need it.

I do want to thank folks who are continuing their efforts to do anything they can to help feed these starving kids in Gaza—the Catholic Relief Services, Refugees International, Friends Committee, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Amnesty International, MedGlobal, Human Rights Watch, Norwegian Refugee Council, HIAS, CARE, and the dozens of faith-based organizations—for being here and always being available to brief Members of Congress but, more importantly, to get food to folks who desperately need it.

This resolution is going to be rejected today with the objection presented by the chairman, but from my perspective, we can't reject the facts because the facts won't be rejected in history books. Kids and innocent Palestinians are starving. We have seen enough to know that, right now, Prime Minister Netanyahu is leading a policy of mass, forced displacement. People are going from one place to another with whatever it is they can carry on their backs or in their arms. When they go to one place, they are displaced yet again, and there is active discussion about having all of the Palestinians out of Gaza itself. They are being

pushed by starvation, by bombing, and by shelling. That, in addition to the restriction on aid that has been imposed by the Netanyahu government, is shocking.

We know that the Netanyahu government's rules of engagement—and, by the way, using American bombs that are used in ways that have grossly disproportionate civilian casualties—over 64,000 people in Gaza already killed, many women and children. Nearly 20,000 children are dead. Some experts define these actions as ethnic cleansing. Others suggest it is genocide. And that includes, by the way, many Israeli experts, former intelligence and military officials and organizations: B'Tselem, Physicians for Human Rights—Israel, Combatants for Peace. They have said that what they see is genocide.

There are many labels that could apply to what is happening in Gaza today. Whatever label is used—a war crime or crimes against humanity or ethnic cleansing or genocide—one thing is clear: This must end. It is not about just giving a name or a label; it is about saving lives. The United States has a unique role because of the close relationship our country has had to Israel and the close relationship that our President has to Prime Minister Netanyahu.

And what matters the most are the actions we all take to make this suffering end. And that can end with a secure and democratic State of Israel, but it also must acknowledge that what is occurring has to stop because so many innocent people are victims of these bombs, of this starvation, of this forced displacement.

The Senate today can demand an end. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Michigan.

#### FEDERAL DEFICIT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, before we broke for the August recess, I came to the Senate floor to sound the alarm on our rising national debt and unsustainable fiscal trajectory. Today, I am here to continue this discussion and remind this body of the dangers we face if we do not change course.

In fact, just last week, the Congressional Budget Office announced that our Federal deficit this year alone has already surpassed \$2 trillion. If that holds, it will be the third largest deficit accrued in a single fiscal year in U.S. history, behind only the first 2 years of the COVID pandemic. To further put it into perspective, this debt has grown by \$700 billion in just the 6 weeks since I spoke about this issue on the floor. That trajectory is incredibly alarming.

So, in this case, time is money, and time is running out. And as we approach our next government funding deadline, it is important that we look back on how we got to this point and what we can do about it. Let's look

back. On September 30, 1996, Congress did something that no Congress had done in 30 years: It passed all 12 appropriations bills before the start of the next fiscal year. One year later, Congress built on that success by working with then-President Clinton to enact the Balanced Budget Act and set enforceable budget caps.

And what occurred after this series of bipartisan, commonsense cooperation: a 4-year period of budget surpluses. During that time, our economy grew, unemployment and inflation rates reached their lowest levels since the 1960s. Unfortunately, that was the first time since 1969 that our country had experienced a budget surplus, and unfortunately we have not achieved it since.

But the moral of the story is that progress is possible when we set politics aside, work in a bipartisan way, and enact commonsense solutions that benefit all of us.

Unfortunately, we did not stay on that bipartisan, fiscally responsible path for very long. So let's take a look at what happened next. In 2001, Congress and President George W. Bush enacted a series of tax bills. I certainly believe that a good tax bill is one that provides relief to middle-class families, which are the backbone of our economy, and ensures that everyone pays their fair share.

But the tax cuts passed during the Bush era did just the opposite, largely benefitting the highest income earners in our country, and in the process increased the Federal debt by trillions—trillions—of dollars. In fact, in just 3 years, these tax laws caused our country to double the amount of debt that it had accumulated since our Nation was founded, putting us on a worse financial footing when we later faced two major wars and a global financial crisis.

After the 2008 financial crisis, many, including myself, knew that we had to take action to restore fiscal stability, and in the following years, Congress pursued well-intentioned efforts to put us on a better financial path, from attempts to limit deficit spending to identifying fraud, waste, and abuse. But unfortunately, once again, politics got in the way.

Republicans threatened to default on our debt rather than come to the table, and this reckless approach led to a permanent extension of the Bush tax cuts and the first of what would be three downgrades—three downgrades—to our country's Federal credit rating.

Fast-forward to 2017 when, instead of working with Democrats to enact responsible tax reform, Republicans followed the same old, tired script. They pushed through a partisan law that benefitted the wealthiest Americans and—you guessed it—added \$2 trillion to the national debt. And like the Bush tax cuts, it left us unprepared as a country when we faced a generational public health crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic left our country in shambles,

with millions of people losing their jobs and shuttering hundreds of thousands of businesses all across our country.

Congress appropriately stepped up, passed several pieces of legislation to support American small businesses and workers, and helped the country to get back on track.

But instead of having the means to pay for this essential support, we had to incur additional debt. So fast forward now to 2023. Democrats tried to right the ship by passing the Inflation Reduction Act, which made a nearly \$250 billion downpayment on our national debt while improving energy security, lowering prescription drug costs, and creating a more equitable tax code.

This was the first legitimate effort to reduce the deficit since the Budget Control Act passed 11 years earlier. But, unfortunately, my Republican colleagues reversed course again by passing the "Big Beautiful Mess" earlier this summer.

Not only did this bill that was passed here this past summer kick millions of people off their healthcare and make it harder for families to put food on the table by cutting food assistance, it also added—let's hear this—it also added \$3.5 trillion to the Federal deficit.

For those doing the math at home, after our 4-year run of surpluses in 2001, the national debt stood at \$5.8 trillion. Today, we stand at more than \$37 trillion, all because my Republican colleagues are seemingly convinced that giving tax cuts to the ultrawealthy will, somehow, magically help the Nation.

But time and time again, we have seen the same script yield the same results. This approach simply does not work. Since 2001, \$31.6 trillion has been added to our total debt, and thanks to the "Big Bad Bill," that total is about to get supercharged.

It won't stop there.

Later this month, this body will once again be faced with an impending fiscal challenge funding the Federal Government. In doing so, it used to be the bare minimum requirement of Congress. The expectation of most Americans is we just pass the bare minimum and do that and fund the government. It has now become an annual struggle.

I stand ready to work with Republicans to pass a true bipartisan—true bipartisan government funding bill, one that ensures vital programs remain funded and that our government remains open. Failure to do so will mean economic catastrophe and a continuation of the trends of the past 30 years that we have just walked through.

We can't let that happen, and we must work to end these harmful patterns before it is too late. Working together on the upcoming fiscal package can be that start.

If the past three decades have shown us anything, it is that there is precedent for how to put our country on a more sustainable financial path. We

did it in the late 90s, and we even did it in the early 2010s when we came to several bipartisan compromises. But if we are going to solve this, it is going to take real political courage.

The roadmap is certainly there. Now it is just up to each and every one of us to follow that map.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UKRAINE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with me today is one of my colleagues from my Senate office, Ms. Erin Jarnagin.

I hate having to put this picture up. Let me tell you why I am putting it up. Washington, I think we can all agree, is a unique place. Some might call it unusual. Some might even argue and make an argument persuasively that normal in Washington, DC, is just a setting on the clothes dryer.

We have a deep-seated propensity in Washington, in the Federal Government, to look reality in the eye and to deny it. Sometimes that is dangerous. That is what is happening in Ukraine. We are looking reality in the eye, and we are denying it, and it is dangerous. And it is not fair to Ukraine. It is not fair to America, and it is not fair to anybody on God's green Earth that cares about freedom.

This is a picture of people in Ukraine burying their dead. And it is not pretty, but it is real. Now, for 8 months, President Trump has tried to talk to President Putin in Russia—8 months. And for 8 months, President Putin has made all kinds of promises—a lot of pretty words, a lot of play-acting—and he has done none of what he said he would do.

He has played—“he” meaning President Putin. He has played America like a banjo—like a banjo. President Putin says he wants peace, but he doesn't, and we know that now. That is what I mean when I say we have got to just look reality in the eye and accept that.

President Putin is not going to want peace until the costs of war are greater than peace. It is just that simple. For someone who has blood under his fingernails, for someone who has Stalin's taste for death—and I am, of course, referring to Putin—it is simply a cost-benefit analysis.

Does the benefit of continuing the war outweigh the cost? That is just a fact.

We are going to have to do something if we all want peace—and we all say we do, including the people of Ukraine. They don't want peace at any price—neither do I—but we all want peace. I know President Trump wants peace.

But in order to get peace and to get Putin to negotiate seriously, we are going to have to increase the costs and make the cost on him of prosecuting the war greater than the benefits of him being able to continue to do it.

Now, how do we do that? One option is sanctions. Putin has completely transformed Russia. Russia had—before the war, had some tendencies toward—

I don't want to overstate this, but I want to be fair—toward a democracy. At least, they got to vote, and not every vote was rigged. But that has all been changed.

Putin has turned Russia into a total authoritarian state. He controls the media. If you disagree with him, you go to jail. That is why you don't see much dissent. That is why you see virtually no dissent.

If you are his enemy and he thinks you have become too problematic, he just kills you—just poisons you. Russia today is as autocratic as China, and their security—their surveillance of their people—is just about as pervasive.

So Russia has changed. Putin has converted Russia into a war economy. That means that most of the GDP—not all of it but most of it, because people have to still live—but most of the GDP in Russia, much of it, is devoted to war, manufacturing weapons, paying money to people to go fight.

It is very expensive, and Putin affords it by selling oil. In fact, 40 percent of Putin's cash flow—the only way he has been able to prosecute this war is by selling oil. And one way to get him to the table is to cut off his cash flow. The only way to cut off his cash flow is to cut off his oil sales.

One way of doing that would be sanctions. Just say to people throughout the world, if you buy Russian oil, then you are no longer going to be able to do business with the United States of America and you are no longer going to be able to use the U.S. dollar. That is what President Trump has talked about doing.

But as you know, President Trump has also said—and I certainly see his point of view—if I am going to do it on behalf of America, by God, Europe's got to do it because they are the ones most at risk. And he said: I am not going to do sanctions and pass the bill that over 80 of us have joined here in the Senate—the President said, I am not going to do sanctions until all the Europeans do sanctions and stop buying Russian oil.

I understand where he is coming from, as I said.

The problem with it is you have some European countries—one is Hungary, another is Slovakia—they tend to be more aligned with Russia than anybody else in the European Union, and they buy oil, and it is going—from Russia, and it is going to take a while to convince them to stop it. It is going to take months.

Meantime, Putin is launching 800—not 80—800 drones and 800 missiles a night at the Ukrainian people, and he is not just aiming that weaponry at the Ukrainian soldiers. He is destroying the civilian population, the infrastructure. He is killing people.

In fact, it is escalating. The President met with Putin in Alaska, as we all know, and made a bunch of promises and completely reneged. And all we have gotten from that meeting is 800 missiles and drones a night.

So if sanctions are not going to work for now, it is going to take several months for us to work that out, what can we do? Well here is what I think we ought to do—and I am introducing legislation to do this. Joining with me will be Senator GRAHAM. It will be bipartisan legislation—Senator GRAHAM, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator WHITEHOUSE. There will be others who will join in the legislation. And we are going to move this legislation. We are going to move it.

We are going to seize Russian assets if our legislation passes, and we are going to give those assets to Ukraine to prosecute the war. Here is what I am talking about. Just about every country in the world has assets in other countries. They don't just keep all their money in their own country.

Oftentimes, those assets are liquid assets, and many times they are called foreign exchange reserves. You have probably heard that term, “foreign reserves.” They are used in trade to convert from one currency to another.

When the war—when Putin attacked Ukraine, Russia had \$300-plus billion—some say it is as high as \$320 billion—of assets in Europe and the United States; most of them are in Europe. About 90 percent of those assets are in Belgium, in Brussels. Some are in France; the rest are in the United States.

We are talking cash here. They originally were in debt securities, but we are talking cash now. There is over \$300 billion of cash that the United States and our European allies froze that belongs to Russia.

It has been sitting there, and it has been invested basically in money markets, and we have been sending the interest to Ukraine to help them fight the war. But we have left the principal, the \$300 billion a month. We haven't seized it; we just froze it.

The time has come to seize it. And I understand the arguments against it. Some in Europe will argue: Well, it will break international law. I get it. Russia has already broken international law. Russia has already seized European companies. Russia seized over \$400 million cash from JPMorganChase accounts they had in Russia. So Russia isn't bothered by international law. It is a violation of international law for them to have invaded Ukraine and to be massacring these people.

But I get it. We want to follow the rules even if Russia doesn't. But the time has come to look reality in the eye and no longer deny it, to admit it.

If our legislation passes, here is what we will do. We will seize that \$300 billion—no longer freeze it; we will seize it. We will give it in tranches, in smaller amounts as they need it, to Ukraine. Not all \$300 billion—we are still working on language but not all \$300 billion at once. We will give it to Ukraine in tranches.

Ukraine can use that money to buy their own drones and to buy their own missiles. Ukraine can use that money

not to kill Russian civilians, but Ukraine can use that money to buy missiles to take out every single refinery in Russia, cut off their cash flow, take out every single oil refinery in Russia. Ukraine can use that money to buy missiles to take out every single weapons production plant in Russia—every single one—and make President Putin understand that there is going to be a cost for him prosecuting this war.

We need to do that while we are working out what I think will be equally as effective—maybe more effective—this issue of sanctions, but we need to do it now because we can't wait months and months and months until we get the sanctions issue worked out.

So if our legislation passes—we will have to get the permission of our friends in Europe, but we have talked with many of them, and I think they will agree—we will give Ukraine an influx of \$300 billion—no taxpayer money from an American will be spent on this. This will all be Russian money. We are going to level the playing field. We are going to see what Mr. Putin is made of.

Now, I want to be clear—and I hope the White House is listening to this. I want to emphasize it: We are not spending any American money. This is Mr. Putin's money.

I know some people are worried about upsetting him, but he is not like the rest of us. He is not. He purely looks at this from cost and effect. Human life doesn't matter to him. We are going to make it very, very costly—if we do this—for him to prosecute that war.

I want to end on this note: Look, the American people I know are tired of overseas wars. I am tired of them. I know how people feel. I don't want the United States of America to be the world's policeman. I don't. But do you know what? I don't want Putin to be the world's policeman either. I don't want President Xi in China to be the world's policeman either. I don't want the Ayatollah in Iran to be the world's policeman.

Let me tell you what is going on here. The Presiding Officer knows this. We see it in classified information and nonclassified—unclassified information. And you can surmise it if you follow the news. Xi in China, Putin in Russia, and the Ayatollah in Iran are working together. Putin couldn't prosecute this war without China.

China sends infrastructure materials and technology every single day to Russia that can be used for civilian uses but also for military uses. China buys Russian oil to give them the money to run their weapons plants in Russia.

Putin and Xi and the Ayatollah are working together. The quarterback, in my opinion, is Xi; it is not Putin. And here is their goal: Their goal is to have Putin dominate Central and Eastern Europe, to have the Ayatollah dominate the Middle East, and Iran control the Middle East. Thank God for Israel. Israel has caused them to put that part of their plan on the back burner.

Their other objective is to have China dominate the Indo-Pacific, do whatever they want, and be free to roam, as they are doing as we talk today, in Sub-Saharan Africa and South America. And I am going to tell you, that is not a world that is safe for freedom. That is not a world that is safe for democracy.

This fight in Ukraine is not just about Ukraine. It is not. It is about the Indo-Pacific. It is about Finland. It is about Poland. It is about Sub-Saharan African countries. It is about South America and our hemisphere.

So I hope the Senate will pass our bill. We are going to move it. If you object to it, stand up in front of God and country and say so. But we have got to do something.

I can promise you, with \$300 billion of new capital—none of which will be American taxpayer money—Ukraine can buy some missiles and get Mr. Putin's attention, and he will be inviting us to a summit, and he will be paying for lunch.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CANCER RESEARCH FUNDING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, this week, there are advocates here in Congress with the American Cancer Society to advocate for cancer research and prevention. This is lifesaving work, and no one does it better than our researchers.

In my home State of Washington, we have a lot of incredibly smart people who have been making a lot of incredible breakthroughs for patients, and we have a lot of passionate advocates who have been fighting to support their work. I have lost track of how many times I have visited the Fred Hutch Cancer Center, but every time, I am just blown away by the work they are doing. And they aren't the only ones.

This isn't just about advancing science though. It is about saving lives and finding new treatments and therapies and cures that give hope to help patients fighting for their lives.

Cancer research has a long history of bipartisan support here in Congress. But some of my colleagues across the aisle seem to need a reminder and a wake-up call because under President Trump, we have seen some reckless moves to undermine medical research, including cancer research. Research funding has been pulled without reason, without warning, and without any thought for the consequences.

This administration has tossed clinical trials into chaos, promising cures into limbo, and threatened to abandon our historic global research and leadership in medical research. Just this

week, a new report in the New York Times detailed how research into a rare pediatric brain cancer was totally upended because Trump yanked the funding. That research is halted and that researcher is forced to move on to topics that don't rely on NIH funding.

It is worth remembering, for many of our rare, deadly diseases, cures are not viewed as a payday for private investors, which makes NIH not just the best hope for finding a cure but the only hope for desperate patients, at least before Trump came along and stopped funding.

And that new article, which details other research Trump has sidetracked as well, is just scratching the surface of how bad this is. I have heard firsthand from researchers who have seen their work disrupted and students who are considering leaving the United States to continue their studies.

I have also received heartbreaking updates from patients, like a mom in my State fighting colon cancer who had her shot at a critical clinical trial taken away by Trump's chaotic, illegal funding cuts. And now, R.F.K., Jr., has cut off all Federal funding for mRNA research, one of the most promising new technologies for cancer treatments. This is so damaging.

In addition to supporting the research that finds new cures, we also need to make sure patients can actually access and afford those cures. That means we have to protect health coverage that helps cancer patients get care. That is why I am fighting to undo damaging Medicaid cuts Republicans passed and to extend the healthcare tax credits that are helping millions of families afford coverage right now.

We have to make a strong case for cancer research and prevention with facts, science, patient stories, and our voices. And I believe speaking out can have a real impact here because when I talk to colleagues on both sides, it is clear there is consensus we should not let years of leadership fall to the wayside. In fact, in our Senate funding bill, the bipartisan bill that we passed through the Appropriations Committee, we were able to reject some of these damaging cuts and make serious investments in cancer research.

But we do have more work ahead to get these bipartisan medical research investments signed into law. I will not stop pushing for that.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, what is the status of the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a quorum call.

Mr. HEINRICH. I would ask unanimous consent to offer remarks as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a quorum call.

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ROADLESS RULE

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, when I draw a hunting tag, especially for elk, one of the first things that I do is to look at a map of the unit where I drew. I do that for a couple of reasons. I look to see where the public land is, and I also look to see where the roads are because the vast majority of time, that is where the elk aren't.

Elk need habitat security. If there is food and water and a place to securely bed on national forest land in New Mexico, and that spot is a couple of miles or more from an open road, the odds that elk live there are really, really high. So it is almost like the roadless rule was written for elk country because, in fact, it was.

And if you like to catch wild trout that have never seen the inside of a hatchery, you are probably familiar with some of the roadless refuges where these fish still thrive. In fact, 70 percent of the roadless areas in the Nation provide crucial habitat for native trout. So it is almost like the roadless rule was written by fishermen—because it was.

In fact, it was written by many hunters and fisherman, actually. One of them is, today, the President and CEO of Trout Unlimited, who served as the senior policy and communication advisor to the chief of the Forest Service when this rule was crafted back in 2001.

When my friends draw a coveted Coues deer tag in the Bootheel of New Mexico in what is a famous unit, Unit 27, where are they hunting? Chances are, they are hiking deep into inventoried roadless areas to glass for these deer that Jack O'Connor made famous when he referred to them in his writings as "the gray ghost."

So when the Trump administration advocates for eliminating the roadless rule, they are talking about endangering some of the last great wild game habitat on our national forests. These are the back-country places where we sit around a campfire under a sea of stars and pass our traditions down to the next generation of sports men and women.

Finalized in 2001, the roadless rule protects nearly 45 million acres of national forest land that belongs to each and every American. From the hazy blue peaks of the Appalachian Mountains to the imposing spires of the Rockies, from the saltwater estuaries of the Croatan National Forest in North Carolina to the towering Ponderosa Pines of the Santa Fe National Forest in my home State, across the country, many people's favorite hunting spots, their favorite hiking trails and biking routes, ATV trails, and fishing streams are in these protected roadless areas.

When the Nation debated the merits of the roadless rule 24 years ago, the Forest Service held 600 public meetings around the country. These were attended by tens of thousands of Ameri-

cans. I should know, I attended one of them. The Forest Service received more than 1.6 million comments, and over 95 percent of those were in favor of these roadless protections. You could ask a group of Americans about apple pie, and you wouldn't get a number that high. At the time, this was the largest response to a public comment request ever—ever—that any Agency had ever seen.

Fast-forward 2½ decades to today, and the Trump administration is threatening to throw the roadless rule into the dustbin of history, except this time, the process looks very different.

The administration opened the public comment period on August 19 and will close it Friday. Now, I know how slow and deliberate government can sometimes be, but there should be no shortcut to public engagement and to the democratic process. Yet a shortcut—or maybe more accurately a short circuit—is exactly what this administration has chosen.

With an underresourced and understaffed Forest Service, I know for a fact that the resource professionals and the scientists at the Forest Service do not support eliminating the roadless rule. This is being imposed upon them by people in the White House who, frankly, have never harvested a bull elk or released a native trout or otherwise experienced the wonder of God's creation in the very lands that represent the anvil on which our Nation's character was forged.

The truth is that the roadless rule protects us from wildfires; it ensures clean drinking water for communities; and it sustains wildlife habitat for wildlife and for sportsmen.

Wildfire prevention is at the heart of why the roadless rule is so important. Eighty-eight percent of wildfires are started by human activity, and 95 percent of human-caused fires begin within a half mile of a road. You can imagine why. It is not complicated. Cars backfire. Cigarette butts get thrown out a window. Trailer chains can spark on a rock. Sometimes campfires get mismanaged. These things happen where we can get with a car or a truck, so roads vastly increase the probability of wildfires rather than reducing them.

The roadless rule specifically allows for the removal of fuels that promote unnaturally intense wildfire. This helps to create a healthier forest and reduce wildfire risk.

The bottom line is that when we build new roads in protected areas, we risk more fires, not fewer.

In States like Idaho and Utah, more than 35 percent of roadless lands have had work done to help reduce fire in those roadless areas. In Montana, almost 30 percent of roadless areas have had similar treatments.

The idea that the roadless rule somehow prevents us from taking steps to lessen wildfire risk and from affecting human communities is patently wrong and inaccurate. The reality is that the Federal Government should be spend-

ing its scarce resources to focus on protecting communities closer to roads because that is where the people, homes, and towns are.

Can I talk for just a minute about the economics of building roads in roadless areas? The Forest Service maintains a more than \$8.6 billion—with a "b"—backlog on maintenance of its existing infrastructure and roads. Why would we countenance building new roads in back-country areas with low timber values and extremely high costs when we can't even take care of the existing roads that we already have?

Beyond wildfire prevention, the roadless rule protects the water sources that sustain our communities. Many people don't know that large cities like Atlanta and Denver and Los Angeles rely on water supplies from our national forests. In fact, some 180 million people—over 68,000 communities, large and small—rely on forested lands to capture and filter drinking water. That means that the Forest Service lands are the largest source of municipal water supply in the Nation, serving over 60 million people across 33 different States.

Roadless areas actually protect the headwaters of many municipal watersheds, and that includes places like the water supply for the city of Santa Fe, in my home State. When they rescind the roadless rule, it threatens access to clean water for millions of Americans.

Now, finally, the roadless rule preserves the fish and wildlife habitat and sustains the hunting, fishing, and recreation economy. Every year, I and millions of other hunters rely on public lands to feed our souls and to feed our families. The Sportsmen's Alliance estimates that in 2022, recreational hunters alone generated \$133 billion in economic output, created 1.3 million jobs, and supported more than \$80 billion in wages alone. And this is part of a larger pattern. The Bureau of Economic Analysis calculated that the economic output of outdoor recreation in 2023 was over \$1 trillion.

If the administration builds roads in these places, we not only lose these experiences, but our economies lose their customers. It is not just me saying this; constituents across my State are saying it to me too. Michael writes from Albuquerque. He says:

[T]his seems to be rushed without full considerations of the ramifications. I do not want the health and solitude of our forests compromised by opening the door to unwanted development.

Diane from Taos writes:

Please vote to stop the plan to rescind the Roadless Rule. I lead herb identification walks in the Taos area . . . so many people come to this state to enjoy the beauty of untrammelled forest. We need to . . . stop Trump and his abuse of our public lands.

Hannah writes from Santa Fe:

Our forests need our help now more than ever. It's hard to feel so hopeless to help them these days, and I hope you will defend our forests.

So I stand here today, supported by my own experiences and supported by



the voices of constituents, to defend these forests. But I am not only defending our forests. In fighting for the roadless rule, we are fighting for protections for our roadless areas and against putting special interests first. We are fighting for stronger local economies for all and against industrial development for a wealthy few.

Gifford Pinchot was the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and he once said:

The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only when we make ourselves responsible for that future.

We are responsible for that future, and the actions that we take today will reverberate for generations to come. I am fighting for the roadless rule, and I urge you to join me.

To my colleagues in the Forest Service, I ask that you extend the public comment period for the public so that we can hear their voices.

To the American people and my constituents in New Mexico, I urge you to engage in the public commenting process and make sure that your voices are heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The Senator from Tennessee.

MEMPHIS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I want to say right off the top, it was truly an honor to join President Trump at the White House on Monday. He assembled Senator HAGERTY and I and some of the Federal Agencies in the Oval Office to sign an Executive order and to announce the deployment of the National Guard to Memphis.

It is going to be several Federal Agencies that are going into Memphis. Now, the reason for this is that Memphis has had the highest crime rate in the country. And for years, we have seen Democrats that have enacted soft-on-crime policies, and this has taken, truly, a tragic toll on Memphis. In many parts of the city, Memphians cannot walk outside without fear of being mugged, robbed, carjacked, murdered.

And what we know is this: Memphis, TN, is a historic city. It has a very rich cultural history. And it is also the logistics hub of our Nation. We have the Port of Memphis; we have FedEx; we have I-40 that goes from the east coast to the west coast that runs right through Memphis; and we are also home to all five class A railroads.

Now, Memphis also has a lot of major corporations. FedEx is located in Memphis. It was started in Memphis and has remained there. You also have St. Jude, which is so vital to medical research in our Nation; International Paper; so many other companies are located there.

But the crime crisis in Memphis has been driven by gang violence, and it has held that city and that West Tennessee region back for about 4 or 5 years now. There are actually about 100 gangs that are there in Memphis.

So President Trump is doing his best to help work to make Memphis safe again.

Now, we have had an FBI operation that has taken place in Memphis, and this marks the next phase of what is a multipronged, multi-Agency strategy to fight this crime.

This summer, the FBI, under Director Patel, conducted Operation Viper in Memphis, and the FBI worked with the Memphis Police Department and Chief Davis. And what they did was to surge Federal resources from the FBI into Memphis and Shelby County in order to actually arrest and get indicted and try these gang leaders.

So as we go into this next phase, you are going to see additional resources come to bear. You are going to see the ATF, the DEA, Homeland Security, continued sources from the FBI, Tennessee Highway Patrol, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Marshals Service. They are all going to be there to support the Memphis Police Department.

This is going to be important to do to make certain that this crackdown on crime—making Memphis safe—is going to continue.

Now, the National Guard is a part of this, as I said, and these National Guards men and women are going to help maintain order so that the Memphis police officers can be on the street and be tracking down and arresting these criminals, getting them off the street.

We saw this strategy succeed in Washington, DC, where in just over a month, the President's crime crackdown here in our Nation's Capital brought car thefts down 36 percent; robberies were down 62 percent; homicides were down 57 percent.

Tennesseans have been applauding this success that we have seen. Memphians are applauding this. I have talked to Memphians who have been here this week, and they are so pleased to see the President's commitment so that they know this is going to be a long-term effort to make certain that we address crime.

Now, in the Senate, we have several bills that are supporting this effort. My Ending Cashless Bail in our Nation's Capital Act, which would require Washington, DC, to use the highest level of cash bail necessary for dangerous offenders as a condition of pretrial release; my Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act, which would ban the award of certain Federal funds to States and localities across the country that limit the use of cash bail; my Federal Carjacking Enforcement Act would empower Federal prosecutors to hold carjackers accountable; my Restoring Armed Career Criminal Act would reinstate an important tool for prosecutors to seek enhanced penalties against violent, repeat offenders; Restoring Law and Order Act would increase funding for law enforcement and help keep violent criminals behind bars.

We should get all of these bills across the finish line and ensure that President Trump has the tools he needs to

restore law and order in this country. We should pass these bills so that our law enforcement, our judges, our DAs have every tool they need to get these career criminals, these gang leaders off the streets in Memphis, TN.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EVERGREEN HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, last Wednesday, the uniquely American tragedy of gun violence struck Colorado yet again. At Evergreen High School in Jefferson County, a 16-year-old shot and injured two students and an administrator. Tonight, these three victims are still recovering, and their classmates and teachers and families are still reeling. Every elementary and middle school in the State is wondering whether they might be next.

It has been 26 years since the Columbine tragedy; 26 years since 2 gunmen murdered 13 students and a teacher and left many others physically and mentally wounded for life. Since that day, Jefferson County, CO, has done what no community should ever have to do: They have built some of the strongest systems in the Nation to prepare for and respond to mass shootings at their schools.

At Evergreen, teachers acted so quickly that when the shooter tried door after door, looking for students and teachers, he couldn't reach a single classroom. Law enforcement arrived on the scene in under 2 minutes and located the shooter in fewer than 5. Every single one of us should be grateful to every teacher, administrator, first responder, and student who acted with courage at Evergreen High School. Their bravery saved countless lives, and they now stand as a national example of how to respond to one of these terrible situations.

Mr. President, it should never have to be this way. I remember Columbine as if it were yesterday. I was in the Houston Airport coming home from a work trip when I saw our Colorado high school flashing on the screens of every single television set in the terminal. It filled me, as it did all Americans, with horror. How could something like this happen in America?

My wife Susan was 6 months pregnant with our oldest daughter Caroline, and all I could think about was getting home to my family. But Caroline and her two sisters, Halina and Anne, like millions of other American kids, have grown up in the shadow of Columbine. They have borne witness to an endless onslaught of mass shootings. Each tragedy is piled on top of the last one during their young lives.

In the summer of 2012, a gunman walked into a crowded theater in Aurora, CO, and killed 12 innocent people and wounded 58 more. We lost sons and daughters and friends and neighbors, all full of life and full of aspiration, loved by family and loved by friends.

A few months later, Sandy Hook shook the entire Nation to its knees. Twenty first graders—twenty first graders—and six teachers were killed in mere moments.

We hoped then that Congress would finally act. I can remember that balcony in the Chamber being filled with parents and children of people who had been massacred in their elementary school, hoping against all hope that this body would do something to respond; that Congress would finally pass background checks—something that 90 percent of the American people support. As everybody knows, to our everlasting shame, we didn't. We failed to act.

And somewhere along the Nation, we became numb to these tragedies. I will never forget in 2017, after a gunman slaughtered 58 people in Las Vegas who were across the street from his hotel, I sat through 5 or 6 meetings the next day before anybody mentioned that 58 people had been killed in that mass shooting. Ultimately, 60 lives were stolen as we carried on with business as usual here in Washington. We have become numb.

But, Mr. President, for the sake of our children, we cannot be numb. We need to understand that our children never can become numb. They won't become numb. They can't move on because this is their one chance to be an elementary school student; this is their one chance to be a middle school student; this is their one chance to be a high school student. When they witness, even at a distance, even from another town or another State, children being destroyed or wounded by something like the Aurora movie theater shooting or like Columbine or like the Evergreen shooting, the fear that enters their young lives is whether they might be next. That is what they carry to school day after day after day throughout their young lives.

The result of that and the result of our inaction is that America's children carry a burden unlike any generation before them or any other country in the industrialized world. They are the generation of school metal detectors, active shooter drills, and bulletproof backpacks. They live with the constant terror that they could be next.

Colorado's children have grown up in the shadow of Columbine, and 25 years later, we are still losing this fight. And they have the right to be terrified. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for America's kids. Think about that, Mr. President. Think about that. Gun violence is the leading cause of death of America's kids. Twenty-five years ago when Columbine happened, it was car accidents. Now it is gun violence.

When I heard that statistic, I assumed that most of those gun deaths must be accidents, but only 5 percent were—only 5 percent were. The rest were homicides and suicides and mass shootings. In other words, the leading cause of death in America, in the richest country in the world, in the greatest country in the world, is violent shootings of our own children. There is no other country in the industrialized world where that is even close.

The indifference in this body is staggering. The claim that this is somehow the price of freedom is staggering or that this is what the Constitution of the United States requires for us, to fully embrace the rights enunciated by the Founders of this country. That is incomprehensible—the price of freedom.

What about the freedom of our children, the right of our children to be able to go to school with the freedom that they are not going to be gunned down, the freedom of the knowledge to know that their classmates are not going to be gunned down or that they could go there and be next on the list? What about that freedom? That seems as fundamental as any other freedom that is articulated in the Constitution of the United States, which, after all, guarantees us our rights as citizens in this Nation, including our children.

We may have become numb, Mr. President, but our children never will because they are as evergreen as Evergreen High School. This is the first time and the last time that they will be elementary school students and middle school students and high school students. I think we need to find a way to channel their raw emotion, their confusion, their anger, their fear, and their terror and summon the will to overcome our failures—this generation's failures.

My home State of Colorado has tried to do that, and we have made progress. After the massacre at Columbine, we closed the gun show loophole, which 90 percent of the American people support. After the tragedy in Aurora, we strengthened background checks in my State. In the wake of the shooting at Club Q, we raised the age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21. This year, Governor Polis signed three commonsense gun violence prevention laws restricting the sale of certain semiautomatic firearms, requiring retailers to keep ammunition locked, and setting age limits for gun shows.

Colorado is making progress, but States can't do it alone. We can't do it alone in Colorado—a Western State that has a majority of unaffiliated voters in our purple State; that takes pride in our hunters and our anglers and our ranchers. If we can find the will to act, so can the U.S. Congress, and for the sake of our children, we must.

With deep, deep regret, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO CLYDE MILLIGAN

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President:

I would do anything for my country.

If an epitaph were ever written to the "greatest generation," that would be it:

I would do anything for my country.

These words were spoken by one of the remaining heroes from that selfless age. He celebrates his 100th birthday this week, and on this momentous occasion, we owe him thanks for his service.

There he is. His story is powerful. His example is certainly worth following.

At the end of 1941, a teenage attendant was knocked down when an air compressor knocked him off his feet. He was working at Hoosier Pete filling station in Indianapolis. That blast broke windows, it tore off the roof of a room, and it cracked a wall, but it could not keep Clyde Milligan down.

Shortly after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the minor explosion at that station was forgotten, but Clyde was on his feet at a military recruiting station. What was under his feet demonstrated his devotion to this country and his belief in it at a ripe age. You see, Clyde was 16 years old, and he was a sophomore at Ben Davis High School outside Indianapolis. The legal enlistment age at the time was 18, but Clyde could not tell a lie. Nothing was going to stop him from fighting for America, though, so before Clyde walked into that recruiting office, he wrote the No. 18 on the sole of his shoe, and when the recruiting officer asked him if he were over 18, Clyde, of course, said yes.

As a staff sergeant, Clyde guarded the beaches in Virginia and Maryland. That was a dangerous duty, as those beaches were vulnerable to U-boats. This assignment was made sufferable, he said, by the dances that were held at the camp, but those evenings and any other comforts were soon just faded memories by the time Clyde deployed to the South Pacific.

He was a soldier for the 111th Infantry Regiment. He crossed the Marshall Islands, leading a squadron during the allied invasion of Kwajalein. Clyde and his men helped secure American control of that island and destroyed a link in the Japanese defensive perimeter.

For his valor, Clyde was awarded numerous honors. The one he was the most proud of was the Combat Infantryman Badge. That was a few years into a young man's life, a long time ago, like so many of the boys who were asked to and did the impossible: storming the beaches of Normandy, liberating concentration camps, and island-hopping across the Pacific.

When the war ended, Clyde returned back home. This Hoosier boy married. He was wed for many years to his late wife Marie. He worked for and then owned a small business. He dedicated himself to his community and his church. He is still spending his energy to this day on behalf of New Hope Christian Church in Whitestown, IN.

Although the war had interrupted his education, in the 1990s, Clyde—representing his fellow World War II veterans who had left school to join the fight—Clyde was awarded an honorary high school diploma.

Clyde, you can see, has lived the American dream.

Like so many soldiers, he seldom speaks about his service during the war; he seldom references the sacrifices. He has said in the past that he witnessed things while serving in the South Pacific that no teenager should ever see. What he shared about his service, I am told, was his sense of duty, his commitment to the men he led, and his respect for those he fought under.

Whether he will admit it or not—I suspect the answer is no—Clyde Milligan is one of our best. You might even call him a hero—a hero for the way he answered his country's call in a time of peril and for the way he has lived his life since the war ended—a life guided by faith, full of achievements and friendships, and, as the Bible says, years.

There have been many great generations of Americans dating back to our founding, and I trust there will be many more. The patriotism and humility of one inspires the next. So let's continue to cherish and honor our "greatest generation" and the greatest of our generation. Let's inspire this generation and the generations that follow by recognizing these standout citizens—some of them citizen warriors who helped us win World War II—so that when future Americans are called to greatness, they, too, in Clyde Milligan's words, will do anything for their country.

On this monumental birthday, we all—from the U.S. Senate back to his church in Whitestown—send him our best wishes and enduring thanks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The minority whip.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration held a hearing entitled "Another Biden Blunder: Missing Unaccompanied Alien Children and Criminal Sponsors." I attended this hearing. It certainly begs the question, Why, now that they are in control, are Senate Republicans continuing to focus on the Biden administration instead of examining the policies of this administration?

When I was chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, we held not one but two full committee hearings on the Biden administration's handling of unaccompanied children. It is a legitimate issue. We must do everything in our power to protect these kids, and that requires oversight of policies that are in place now, not stories of history.

Just look at yesterday's oversight hearing with FBI Director Kash Patel. Director Patel deflected my questions relating to his gutting of the unit in

the FBI that was investigating something known as the 764 group—an organization the FBI itself described as a "nihilistic violent extremist" group that seeks to blackmail children to perform vile acts on camera.

News reports released yesterday noted that nearly every agent on Baltimore's domestic terrorism squad was reassigned this year to work full time on immigration enforcement, forcing them to walk away from investigations of the 764 group.

This change at the FBI is dramatic in counterterrorism, in counterinsurgency—all of these areas where the FBI has expertise—and developed professionals are being told they have a new assignment: Go out and find undocumented people in the United States. There are 11 million of them. In fact, roughly 20 percent of all FBI agents reportedly have been diverted from their critical national security and public safety roles, including protecting children from extremists and traffickers, to work on President Trump's mass deportation effort.

Even worse, the data show that this administration is not focusing its immigration enforcement on the "worst of the worst," as the President says. Instead, they are picking up innocent, law-abiding people.

Just consider the recent raid of the Hyundai Metaplant in Georgia. Hundreds of agents from across the country raided this factory. The agents—many of whom work on priority counterterrorism and drug enforcement cases—did not have experience in low-priority immigration enforcement operations. They ended up arresting hundreds of South Korean nationals who were in the country to install equipment at the plant so that eventually American workers could go to work at that factory.

Now the South Korean Government is investigating human rights abuses during that raid, and construction on the facility is paused at least for another year, maybe two. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau was reportedly forced to express "deep regret" over the incident in a meeting with his South Korean counterpart.

I have read some of the news accounts. The South Koreans are livid. Here is our government, begging them to put businesses and factories in the United States, and we raid this and take away 300 South Koreans who were there for the transition on that factory. Some of them were in shackles and handcuffs.

Americans want the immigrants who have committed serious crimes to be deported, but raiding factories, like the Hyundai factory, isn't going after criminal gangs or murderers.

The Georgia raid demonstrated that the Trump administration's priority is not really public safety but, rather, meeting White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller's arrest quotas. Mr. Miller needs a body count to slake

his insatiable thirst to punish immigrants.

Miller has ordered ICE agents to focus on arresting individuals at Home Depots and 7-Elevens. Remember the categories we were looking for, rapists, murderers, terrorists, and the criminally insane? Go to that Home Depot parking lot, right? It doesn't make sense. His targets are not in those of President Trump's infamous litany. Brown skin and a Spanish surname is good enough.

In order to meet Miller's quotas, ICE is arresting first and asking questions later. DACA holders, immigrants with lawful status, and even U.S. citizens have been caught up in this disastrous effort. Even worse, a recent U.S. Supreme Court order has paved the way for ICE raids on any employer who hires someone with an accent for a low-wage job.

I have seen the devastating impacts of these policies in my State of Illinois. People are fearful of masked men in unmarked vans who could grab them at any time because of how they look or their accent. Parents are terrified to take their kids to school, and businesses are suffering as people are scared to go to work.

Just last weekend, I was in a section of Chicago known as Little Village. The chamber of commerce appealed to me: Senator, would you come out to dinner in our neighborhood next time you are on the road and have a place to pick? We need the business.

The President is ramping up his immigration raids in Chicago in the so-called Operation Midway Blitz. This operation is not going to make Illinois or America safer. In fact, 70 percent of the immigrants detained by Trump so far have no criminal convictions. Instead, this effort will deepen the fear in our communities, making hard-working immigrant families frightened to send their kids to school, go to the hospital, or report suspicious activity to the police.

The majority of Americans do not support these anti-immigrant actions. If it is a dangerous person, they have got to be gone. But these are people who are paying their taxes and going to work and sending their kids to school and sitting right behind you in church. They are not dangerous by any means.

Immigrants have been a key part of the American success story at every level. That is why, in Illinois, including in the great city of Chicago, we embrace immigrants as members of our community who pay their taxes and help make our economy thrive and our city strong. Our Nation needs immigrants more than ever.

Just last week, I had the major farm groups in Illinois meet with me—three different groups in the same day. After they made their presentations about how tough things are on the farm because of tariffs and their inability to sell on an international basis, I said to them: I want to ask you a favor. Each

and every one of you have told me you need immigrant labor on your farms to continue operating. Will you say it publicly? Will you let America know that immigrants perform a valuable function in dairy farms, livestock operations, orchards—farms of all kinds? They are an important part of the workforce.

Our Nation needs immigrants now more than ever. Look at the numbers. If DACA is struck down, experts predict that our economy will lose an estimated \$11.7 billion each year in wages.

What was DACA? An Executive order of President Obama's based on my bill, the Dream Act, that said if young people are brought here before age 18 and they have grown up in this country with no criminal record or question about their background, they ought to have a chance to stay here without fear of deportation for 2 years at a time.

Even these young people who are complying with that Executive order and carefully making sure they file on time are being subject to deportation by the Trump administration.

Without continued immigration, the U.S. working-age population is going to shrink by 6 million by the year 2040. People like Stephen Miller would cheer that information. I am fearful of it. We need a competent, large-enough workforce—not taking jobs from current Americans but providing for their future.

As Americans retire, this could lead to a 23-percent reduction in monthly Social Security payouts for retirees. When the immigrants are not working, they are not paying their taxes, of course, and they are not paying into Social Security. They are an important part of the future of this country.

So rather than costly operations to deport hard-working immigrants with no criminal convictions, I urge my colleagues to come to the table and work with us on a bipartisan basis to reform our immigration system and secure our border in a sensible, humane way.

It wasn't that long ago that I was part of a Group of 8. Senators John McCain, LINDSEY GRAHAM, Marco Rubio, and others were joining in a bipartisan effort to build a bipartisan immigration bill. It was a good bill. It passed with over 60 votes on the floor of the U.S. Senate. The House refused to take it up, and it is unfortunate because it would have solved many of the problems which have faced all of the Presidents since.

We can do the right thing for this country: make sure that dangerous people are not part of our future but that those who want to make America a greater country, as they have over and over again, have that opportunity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to join a number of my colleagues because time is of the essence. If Congress

doesn't act to extend tax credits for the cost of health insurance, millions of Americans are going to lose their coverage and many more could see their costs go up by as much as 75 percent. And that is on top of the most recent inflation data that shows our economy is headed in the wrong direction.

Despite those numbers, everything that we have seen from this administration—from its tariff policy raising prices on cars to coffee to the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill—or betrayal, as I call it—that ripped Medicaid away from millions of Americans to finance tax breaks for billionaires—all of those actions has made the affordability crisis for average Americans worse. For far too many American families, this growing affordability crisis includes the rising cost of healthcare. We in Congress must not let these concerns go unanswered, especially when we have the ability to act. And we have the solution to prevent healthcare costs from skyrocketing even further overnight.

That is why a number of my colleagues and I have worked in the Senate to introduce bicameral legislation that would permanently extend the enhanced premium tax credits, those benefits that allow so many Americans—our neighbors, our small businesses, our friends—who rely on that help to keep their premium costs low to be able to afford health insurance.

Extending the tax credits has been a priority, and we have been calling attention to the looming expiration of these vital tax credits since last year. In fact, three times during this past year, my Democratic colleagues and I have tried to pass our legislation to offer some real relief to working families grappling with the high cost of living. Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have blocked each and every one of these efforts.

Now, this program to provide that help that families need to cover their cost of health insurance is set to expire at the end of the year, and there is no plan in sight to replace it and to help families afford health insurance. Allowing these tax credits to expire is going to harm the record enrollment in the ACA Marketplace that so many people have worked so hard to achieve, and this past year there has been record enrollment in the ACA.

Now, what does it mean for Americans if we allow these tax credits to expire? It means that 24 million Americans will see their health insurance costs go up. It means that 4 million Americans could lose their coverage entirely. And that is not an exaggeration because that is based on the non-partisan data from the Congressional Budget Office.

Now, according to a report that a number of us commissioned from the Georgetown Center on Health Insurance Reforms, eliminating these tax credits will disproportionately hurt older people, those who live in rural

areas, and small business owners—those people who can least afford to pay additional costs for their health insurance. On average, Marketplace premiums will rise by 75 percent, roughly \$700 a year. That is the biggest increase in over a decade, and this price increase affects the very people who can least afford rising costs right now.

I spoke with one of my constituents last week, Paul from Canaan. Canaan is a small town in the northern part of New Hampshire. He is one of those people who we talk about and who Georgetown University Center talked about when they talked about the impact of those cost increases on Americans. Paul's employer-sponsored insurance would be prohibitively expensive for him and his family. Not only that, it is not accepted by a lot of the providers in his area. His wife also has an autoimmune disease, and his son needs insurance coverage in order to attend the University of New Hampshire.

So that means that those enhanced premium tax credits, the benefits that we provided in Congress to ensure that families like Paul's could afford their health insurance, they have been a lifeline for him. He told me that thanks to the credits, he no longer fears that one single emergency room visit could bankrupt his family. But sadly, without those enhanced premium tax credits, not only Paul but millions of Americans will have to make difficult choices about what they can live without so they can afford health insurance. That should be unacceptable to all of us in the United States of America.

The American people are rightfully concerned about the soaring costs of healthcare coverage, and they are looking to Congress; they are asking us to work together to get this done. I am here to remind all of our colleagues—along with Senator WELCH and those of us who are speaking to this—but mostly our Republican colleagues, some of whom I know are very aware of what an issue this is for their constituents. They are also aware that the clock is ticking. Some Republicans in Congress keep saying: Let's wait. We have time to deal with this later.

Unfortunately, we now know that there is a cost to waiting. Just yesterday, the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, estimated that if we don't act, if we wait until the end of the year to pass an extension, that 1.5 million more people will go uninsured, premiums will still go up, and waiting actually costs the Federal Government an additional \$10 billion.

So for all of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who were so anxious to cut different aspects of our government because they want to fund their tax decrease for the wealthiest in this country, they ought to care about an additional \$10 billion that it is going to cost if we wait to address this issue. Waiting to act is going to leave more Americans uninsured; it is going to cost patients more from their hard-

earned income; and it is going to be more expensive for the Federal Government.

So while I am encouraged by some of the public reporting that several of our Republican colleagues are interested in extending the ACA enhanced premium tax credits, the time for us to act is now. The President's own pollsters have warned that not extending these tax credits would be a political catastrophe for the GOP.

I would hope that we could all agree that addressing the affordability crisis that Americans are facing because of the increasing costs of everything from groceries to rent to electricity shouldn't be partisan issues.

I know there are many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who understand these stakes, who are worried about what is happening with their constituents. So let's come together. Let's address the American people's concerns. Let's put aside the politics and work to keep healthcare premiums affordable. Let's support the small business owners who power local economies all across the country and create two-thirds of the jobs in America. Let's preserve this vital program that keeps Americans healthy and safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, the senior Senator from New Hampshire. I really appreciate her very practical presentation about a common concern that we have—Republicans and Democrats—and that is that we do no harm when it comes to the profound insecurity people are feeling about having access to healthcare for themselves, for their partners, for their kids.

And we have got real differences in this Chamber. Little introductory remarks about the One Big Beautiful Bill—I do think it is a terrible bill. I do think that we have taken money from healthcare and other areas to fund a tax cut for very wealthy people. I think it is bad for the economy and creates a lot of insecurity.

We are also having a big battle about the funding of government, which is the responsibility that we all have. And I want to be candid. I take significant issue with the President when he says: Don't even bother dealing with Democrats.

This always is a budget issue that has to involve Democrats and has to involve Republicans. If we don't talk, we don't resolve differences and we are not even in a position to do our job and find common ground. So we are in a pickle. That creates some hard feelings as we try to work through this. And I don't want to dwell on that because we do have different points of view on that.

But we have a situation here, as the senior Senator from New Hampshire described, where if these healthcare premium supports expire, every American who has come to depend on access

to healthcare through ObamaCare, which is now accepted as an important element in our healthcare system, every person on that is in incredible jeopardy.

And I know that every single Member of this Senate is very concerned about access to healthcare for the people they represent. There is no alternative for folks out there that is even being discussed if we don't continue the premium support for people who are getting their healthcare through the Affordable Care Act.

So I want to focus on this as the Senator did. I don't want to focus on the partisan differences; I want to focus on the concrete reality that a family is going to face if the Affordable Care credits expire.

No. 1, as Senator SHAHEEN said, this can't wait. The date is going to arrive; the tax credits expire; people depending on that healthcare won't have it. Twenty-four million Americans will face higher costs.

Again, I want to emphasize that is not 24 million Democratic families; that is not 24 million Republican families; it is 24 million families. It is in both our States. It is not political. It is about healthcare, which every single citizen, we want them to have it and have it be affordable.

Premiums are going to increase, on average, about 75 percent as the Senator said. One in four people who have a chronic condition are going to lose out on coverage; 3.3 million small businessowners will see their premiums increase.

I just want to stop on that point for a moment because the Senator, my colleague here, has done so much for small business, and that is because she knows, as I do and I know as you do, Mr. President, small businesses are so vital to the well-being of our community.

One of the things I have learned from my visits to small businesses is really pretty inspiring because I see those Vermont small businessowners; their employees are like family to them. The most important thing for them is to make sure their employees are doing well.

One of the things that is really important to our employers is that they can provide healthcare, but with the premiums going up like this, it is a wicked decision and discussion between the businessowner and the employees about a raise versus picking up the high cost of a premium increase. That is going to be aggravated if these tax credits expire; 1.6 million of those folks in small businesses would lose coverage.

Again, I want to make this concrete now. In Vermont, 27,000 people who rely on the tax credits will lose their health insurance. They just won't be able to afford it.

Let me give you a couple of examples of the real world here in Vermont. The annual premium increase for a 60-year-old couple in Vermont that earns

\$82,000 a year—and that is tough to get by if you have a family on that amount of money—but the premium increase is going to be \$23,000. That is a fact. That is a 335-percent increase, but that is like \$2,000 a month.

So what that says to that family is you are on your own, no healthcare.

In Nebraska, 112,000 folks rely on the Affordable Care monthly premium tax credits. The annual premium increase for a Nebraska family, a 60-year-old couple that is earning \$82,000, \$83,000 a year, \$23,000—pretty much the same as Vermont.

In California, there are 1.5 million folks relying on the ACA premium tax credit. That 60-year-old couple making \$82,000, it is going to be an additional \$17,000.

In Connecticut, 112,000 folks are going to lose access to healthcare with these increases. That 60-year-old couple with \$82,000 in income, a \$28,000 premium increase; 541 percent.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Will my colleague yield for a question?

Mr. WELCH. I will.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I think one of the things that people don't understand—and I don't know if you agree with me—is that what is going on here is that as these costs go up and as it becomes harder for people to enroll in the Affordable Care Act marketplace because of other changes that were made in that “Big Betrayal Bill,” that the risk pool—a lot of healthy people don't sign up again.

And so the risk pool includes a lot more people who are sicker, who have illnesses. And as the insurance companies are looking at those projections, they are saying: Well, we got to raise rates because if we don't, we are not going to be able to cover the people that need help. That doesn't just affect those people who have those health insurance costs, but all of the rest of us are going to pay more for our health insurance too.

Would you agree that is part of what is going on? That is what we heard from Georgetown University Center on Health Insurance Reform.

Mr. WELCH. I am so glad that you brought that up because what drives everyone crazy is the so-called cost shift. A lot of our community hospitals, they get underreimbursed, oftentimes on Medicare or Medicaid. And then the employer-sponsored premiums are the only place the providers can go to cover their legitimate costs.

So there is a huge spike in the cost. If you have all these folks without healthcare and they are showing up and getting free care, then somebody has got to pay, and that is going to be the employer-sponsored and private pay.

The Senator from New Hampshire was right in pointing out we have got this broken system that we are making worse with this effort. So thank you so much for that, the Senator from New Hampshire.

I wanted to go back to these numbers too. In Alaska, 23,000 folks, they can

lose their healthcare or they are going to have a premium increase. That family with \$82,800 in income, it is \$44,000. So that is a 554-percent increase.

In Wyoming, 40,000 folks rely on the ACA tax credits. That 60-year-old couple with an \$82,000 income, their premium is going up \$37,000. That is \$3,000 a month.

In West Virginia, 49,000 folks losing. That 60-year-old couple, \$82,000 income, \$39,000 premium increase; \$3,000 a month.

What we know is that can't happen. It cannot happen. You are literally, through passivity in this U.S. Senate, where we have the option to act or we have the option to hide, the second option is sending a direct premium increase to our families, up to \$40,000 in a year for people who make \$80,000. So this happens, this is on us. If this happens, it is on us.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. WELCH. I will yield to the Senator.

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to ask, through the Chair, a basic question of my friend from Vermont.

You have been involved in politics a few years. So have I. I am trying to understand if I were a Republican Senator who voted for this kind of premium increase for people in my State, more than a handful—a lot of people in my State—how I would explain it. Do you know?

Mr. WELCH. Well, if you are a billionaire, it works out. The fact is, it can't be explained. It hasn't happened yet. This is about to go into effect if we don't act as the Senate.

Mr. DURBIN. Excuse me, Senator.

Mr. WELCH. Yes.

Mr. DURBIN. When you say it is just about to happen, is it the announcement of the premium or the actual imposition of the premium increase?

Mr. WELCH. It is the actual imposition of the premium increase. The only way we can spare this heartache—literally, taking away people's healthcare—is by extending the premium tax credits. So that is a decision this body has to make.

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, you used an example of Wyoming.

Mr. WELCH. I did.

Mr. DURBIN. You said 60,000 people in Wyoming.

Mr. WELCH. Let me get that number for you but go ahead.

Mr. DURBIN. Well, I was trying to figure out if someone is making \$82,000 a year, I think that was your reference point.

Mr. WELCH. Right.

Mr. DURBIN. And they qualified for the Affordable Care Act health insurance, they currently can receive a subsidy to help with the payments based on their income.

Mr. WELCH. That is right.

Mr. DURBIN. And you are saying the change in the big beautiful Trump budget by our Republican colleagues is going to result in an increase in

monthly premiums in Wyoming of a person making \$82,000 a year of \$3,000 a month?

Mr. WELCH. That is right; \$37,000 a year, and there are 40,000 as you mentioned.

This is really about the Affordable Care tax credits that expire. This was not in the Big Beautiful Bill. The Big Beautiful Bill took a trillion dollars away from the Medicaid Program, but now we have pending before us the imminent cliff where the premium increases that were passed by this body on a bipartisan basis to help during COVID, those expire.

When that expires, those families in Wyoming are going—who are on the Affordable Care Act and who are 60 years old and they have \$82,000 in income, they are going to see a premium increase of \$37,193.

Mr. DURBIN. This is not a casual increase; this is for real.

Mr. WELCH. That is a loaded gun. It is the heart of the family and their ability to carry on. This just can't happen. It can't happen. We are the body that has the option of ignoring the hardship and the catastrophic consequences of this on the families we represent or sparing them and allowing them to continue having access to healthcare they depend on.

Mr. DURBIN. Let me ask you this question: Since we have the continuing resolution being considered, which would go into effect September 30, if we agree on one, if you took care of this tax credit issue, you could spare that family in Wyoming from a \$3,000-a-month addition to their hospitalization premium; is that correct?

Mr. WELCH. That is exactly right. That is exactly right. That is within the power. This is the wonderful thing of those of us that have this job. We have the power to do something that can help the people we represent. They need healthcare. Republican families need it. Democratic families need it. People who don't care anything about the political process, they need it. And in this country, they should be entitled to it.

We can act. It is not a partisan thing. It is not a victory for one side or the other. It is really a lifesaver for these families—the Wyoming families, the Vermont families, the Illinois families. So I urge this body to come together to do something that the people we represent—every single one of them—need and would benefit by.

Mr. DURBIN. Let me ask the Senator from Vermont his own personal experience. Mine was that last year, I decided to replace my knee—my football knee from high school—and my hip, same year.

I started receiving these projected bills and how much I might, personally, owe if I didn't have any health insurance. We are talking about thousands and thousands of dollars. Now, these were basically elective surgeries but much more than the average person has available on hand to pay a bill.

Imagine if instead of an elective surgery, I had, God forbid, broken my leg, ended up in the emergency room, and needed help with surgery when it was all over. The net result of it is a bill which most families would struggle to pay if they had no health insurance protection.

Mr. WELCH. Right.

Mr. DURBIN. This seems like the reality of the situation. It is your money or your life is the Republican proposal. We are either going to have you pay \$3,000 or more a month in premiums or you are going to have to gut it out and hope you don't get sick or don't have an accident that could cost thousands and thousands of dollars.

Mr. WELCH. Well, you know, you are exactly right because that family making \$82,000 a year, they are struggling to pay the premium as it is. If they have to pay \$3,000 more a month, most of those families are going to say they would like to but can't because they are uninsured.

I will give a story of my own. My first wife died of cancer, Senator. She had cancer for 9 years. We had terrific healthcare. She had a rare form of cancer.

One night, my car broke down, and the wrecker guy picked me up. We had a long ride. We got to talking. It turned out that his wife—and he had two kids, younger kids—had the same form of rare cancer and his wife died and we talked about that.

But there was a difference. We had insurance through the University of Vermont where my wife was a professor. He had no insurance. He was working late nights, long hours, raising these two kids by himself, and he was trying to pay off a \$335,000 medical bill. That is not right.

But that example you just mentioned or this Wyoming family or Vermont family or Illinois family, they are faced with \$3,000 a month. They don't have the money; they go without healthcare. Somebody gets sick. It is a serious illness. They get medical debt.

(Mr. JUSTICE assumed the Chair.)

They get anxiety—anxiety on top of the anxiety that always accompanies a serious illness in a family, where all of your attention, if it is your partner, if it is your child, is about your partner, your child.

On top of that, you have the incredible stress of bill collectors calling up: Where's the money? We don't have to allow this to happen. We don't, and we shouldn't.

And I just want to emphasize, it is not a Republican, Democratic deal; it is a mutual responsibility that this U.S. Senator has to the people of this country in your State and in my State.

So I urge us to get a solution. And I talked about West Virginia, the Presiding Officer's great State, where folks will face enormously high premium increases if these Affordable Care Act subsidies are expired. It will be brutal. I told the Presiding Officer about my visit to West Virginia, my respect for the coal miners, those hard-



working folks there. And I know how highly important it is to the Presiding Officer about healthcare access. So let's act as a body. Let's do it together and make certain that folks do have healthcare, just don't have the anxiety and uncertainty and the bills that are just going to cripple them. I want to thank the Senator from Illinois. I want to thank my colleagues in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Vermont as well as the Senator from New Hampshire for organizing this block. I am going just say that people have contacted me from Illinois and are scared to death about what is going to happen on October 1. This big beautiful budget bill of President Donald Trump, unfortunately, is not going to extend the tax credits available to reduce premium costs. Families are asking me: How in the world, Senator, are we supposed to pay these increased costs of thousands of dollars each month?

I don't have an answer for them, but the Senate has the answer. The Senate can change that. We can restore this tax credit. There are a lot of priorities for a lot of people, but I will tell you, if you have ever lived without health insurance, you understand it is a basic priority.

You never know tomorrow what you are going to end up paying in a medical bill, and if you aren't prepared for it, it can wipe out your savings in no time flat.

I just want to thank my colleagues from Vermont and New Hampshire for organizing this floor block.

Access to healthcare is one of the most important issues facing Americans today, and it is an issue near and dear to my heart—because I know what it is like to live without health insurance.

I will never forget being the father of a new baby, who had a serious medical condition but I didn't have any health insurance. I never felt more helpless than I did in that moment. It is a terrible feeling and something I do not wish on anybody.

Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress are preparing to subject millions of Americans to the stress-filled, sleepless nights, that come from knowing your family does not have health insurance. If Congress fails to renew the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits before the end of this year, the cost of health insurance will spike for almost every American who relies on an ACA Marketplace plan. Increased premiums will create financial hardship for middle-income families across the Nation and cause millions of Americans to lose their health insurance.

There has been a lot of confusion surrounding these tax credits, and I want to make clear who is at risk of being affected by these cuts. More than 90 percent of families with a Marketplace plan receive the ACA's premium tax credits to lower their monthly premiums. That is 22 million Americans

who rely on these tax credits to afford healthcare.

Without these subsidies, 22 million people will see the cost of their insurance premiums rise rapidly. For most families, the cost will skyrocket 75 percent. That means that a family of four making only \$32,150 a year will see a nearly \$400 annual increase in their healthcare costs. A family earning \$64,300 will see their premiums rise to \$905 a year from \$180—more than a 400-percent increase.

The imminent expiration of these tax credits, combined with the devastating Medicaid cuts passed earlier this year by Republicans, will devastate families of limited means and hospitals. The increase in premiums will be too much to bear for many families. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if the ACA credits expire, 4 million people will become uninsured. And that is in addition to the more than 10 million set to lose their healthcare as a result of the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill's" Medicaid cuts.

Last night, on the Senate Floor, I shared two messages my office received from Illinois constituents who are terrified about the upcoming tax credit expiration. The first message was from Kristen, from Rochester. She is a freelance writer, who has recently been diagnosed with a long-term degenerative disease. She said, "I depend on the ACA Marketplace for insurance. Without it, one of my multiple medications could cost \$7,500. Without these subsidies, I would be unable to cover the cost of my care."

The second message was from Zach. He is a small business owner and father of four from Highland. Zach wrote, "The Affordable Care Act has been a lifesaver for my family. 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."

These are real stories, from real people, who will be affected by the callous inaction of my Republican colleagues. But Kristen and Zach are not the only ones who are living in fear because of the upcoming expiration of these tax credits.

Melanie, from Elmhurst, wrote to my office and said, "Without the tax credit my monthly payment is unaffordable, plain and simple."

Vivien, from Evanston, emphasized that "We cannot go back to the years when millions of Americans could not afford to get insurance."

I could not have said it better. The end of the year is approaching, and my colleagues from the other side of the aisle seem uninterested in extending these lifesaving healthcare subsidies for Americans in red, blue, and purple States. I am calling on my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to come together on a bipartisan basis to extend these subsidies and offer families some financial relief.

Senate and House Democrats will soon introduce a bill that would keep

the government open and permanently extend these tax credits. We can do both. And we should do both. I ask my Republican colleagues to join us in these efforts. In doing so, I am reminded of something my former boss, the late Senator Paul Douglas, said after the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. He said, "We will indulge in no comments about those who came at the 11th hour to the support of the measure . . . All can share in the thrill of victory. We merely ask that we all work together to make this measure a success."

I hope my colleagues will heed his words and protect the tax credits that so many Americans rely on to afford their healthcare.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 71

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Democratic leader, no later than Friday, October 10, S.J. Res. 71 be discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and that the Senate proceed to its consideration; further, that there be 6 hours for debate only, with the time equally divided between the leaders or their designees on the joint resolution and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome to America His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's second-largest Christian Church—Orthodox Christianity—which encompasses over 250 million faithful worldwide.

We in Louisiana take particular pride in welcoming His All-Holiness, given that the very first Greek Orthodox Church in America, Holy Trinity Church, was established in 1864 by Greek merchants in New Orleans. This historic church welcomed Orthodox Christians of various nationalities and backgrounds. To this day, Orthodox

Christians throughout Louisiana who worship in churches across our State are held in high regard by their fellow citizens.

We are pleased that during this visit to America, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will, as he has during previous trips, meet with our President at the White House and with the leadership of both Houses of Congress from both parties. We recognize that His All-Holiness is among the very few world leaders who commands such high-level access to the leadership of our Nation.

The U.S. Congress expressed its profound respect and admiration for His All-Holiness in 1997 when it awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest honor. This distinguished award has been bestowed upon such luminaries as George Washington and Winston Churchill. Remarkably, the legislation for His All-Holiness's Gold Medal attracted more of the Members of Congress as cosponsors than any other bill introduced during that entire congressional session. This Gold Medal also recognized the significant international and historical role the Ecumenical Patriarch has played throughout his lifetime. Historic international figures who received the Congressional Gold Medal immediately before and after His All-Holiness were Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

We also acknowledge the extraordinary historic role His All-Holiness has served as the longest tenured Ecumenical Patriarch in history. It is significant that Jesus Christ's first Apostle Andrew and his brother Peter each established distinct spheres of Christian influence. The Apostle Andrew established his ministry in the region that encompasses present-day Turkey, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew stands as the 269th direct successor of the Apostle Andrew. Similarly, the Apostle Andrew's brother the Apostle Peter traveled to what is today the Vatican, and Pope Leo XIV serves as the 267th successor of the Apostle Peter.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise to offer remarks to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States. He is the spiritual head of the second largest Christian Church in the world and the leader of over 1 million Greek Orthodox in the United States, including many of my constituents in the State of Michigan. Michigan is home to a vibrant Greek Orthodox community, whose presence in the State stretches all the way back to the late 1800s with the arrival of the first Greek immigrants to Michigan. Today, the community is represented across the State, with 23 parishes spanning from metro Detroit to the Upper Peninsula.

His All-Holiness is in the United States this month to meet with the President and Members of the House

and Senate leadership. He is also set to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize for his years of dedicated service as Ecumenical Patriarch. Throughout this time, His All-Holiness has sought to bring together people of all faiths to combat religious intolerance and enhance understanding between the faiths.

One of his major efforts during his first years as Patriarch was to convene an interfaith international conference on peace and religious tolerance in Istanbul. The conference brought together faith leaders from around the world to find ways to encourage understanding and peaceful coexistence. Moreover, he has advanced Christian-Muslim relations by advocating for peace-building measures in conflict affected regions like the Balkans.

The Templeton Prize is not the first recognition His-Holiness has received for his years of profound service. The Patriarch has also been honored by the United Nations, the European Union, and dozens of governments, universities, and institutions for his bold efforts to promote peace and understanding, especially between the East and West. In 1997, he was honored in Washington, DC, with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest congressional award.

Once again, I would like to extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. His work to strengthen ties between communities of differing faiths is critical in helping combat religious intolerance.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, DC. He is the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity, the second largest Christian Church in the world, with more than 250 million members worldwide and over 1 million here in the United States.

His All-Holiness is the 269th successor of the Apostle Andrew and the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch in history. He is recognized across the globe for his leadership in promoting peace, advancing religious freedom, and speaking out on environmental stewardship. He has been honored with the Congressional Gold Medal and will receive the Templeton Prize during this visit.

In Arizona, the Greek Orthodox community is an important part of our State's civic and cultural life. Parishes across the State serve as places of worship, education, and service, and they host traditions that strengthen families and connect generations. Their contributions are an important part of Arizona's diversity and character.

I am proud to join Orthodox Christians in Arizona and across the country in welcoming His All-Holiness to the United States and to Congress. His

visit is a point of pride for many Arizonans and a reminder of the shared values of faith, service, and community that strengthen our country.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BOSTON PASSPORT AGENCY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Boston Passport Agency on its 100th anniversary. For a century, the dedicated public servants at the Boston Passport Agency have connected the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—and travelers from across New England—to the wider world. Today, the agency continues to safeguard the integrity of the U.S. passport and ensure families, students, service-members, business leaders, and humanitarian workers can safely travel across the globe.

I celebrate the Boston Passport Agency's centennial milestone on September 17, 2025, which marks Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. On this day, every year, we recognize the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and celebrate those who have become, or are on their path to becoming, U.S. citizens. Every American—whether they were born on U.S. soil or immigrated to our shores—offers their own unique story, traditions, faith, and values to the fabric of our Nation. For the last 100 years, the Boston Passport Agency has taken part in the incredible task of honoring American stories—one passport at a time.

The Boston Passport Agency tirelessly serves the public trust. Day in and day out, agency professionals uphold the highest standards of security, while delivering the responsive, compassionate service Commonwealth residents have come to know and appreciate. Whether it is assisting a college student preparing for a semester abroad, a grandmother traveling to welcome a new grandchild, or a family navigating the urgency of a medical or humanitarian emergency, the agency meets the moment with expertise, diligence, and care.

Over the decades—and especially in recent years—the Boston Passport Agency has displayed remarkable resilience and innovation. During periods of unprecedented demand and global uncertainty, including public health disruptions that strained travel systems worldwide, the agency's personnel adapted operations and devised creative ways to serve the public, all without compromising security. In partnership with local communities, elected officials, and Department of State leadership, the agency's staff helped reduce backlogs, protect against fraud, and strengthen processes essential to both national security and individual liberty.

The economic and cultural impact of the Boston Passport Agency's work reverberates far beyond the walls of its office. By powering international research collaborations, trade and tourism, and educational exchanges, the

Boston Passport Agency enriches our region's institutions, industries, and communities. The agency enables small businesses to reach new markets, assists families in cultivating bonds across borders, and supports Americans in representing our Nation's values abroad.

We also honor the great people who make up this institution; their professionalism and diligence have made possible the extraordinary journeys of so many. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the leadership and staff of the Boston Passport Agency—past and present—for a century of exemplary service and stewardship.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Boston Passport Agency on its 100th anniversary and in wishing its team continued success in the years ahead.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING JAZZ ST. LOUIS

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, today, I rise to recognize and congratulate Jazz St. Louis, a mainstay of the St. Louis music community. Since its founding 30 years ago, the organization has served as a cornerstone of Missouri culture, hosting over 200 jazz performances annually from both renowned and rising musicians. In no small part due to their team's diligent efforts, St. Louis has remained a key player in America's music heritage. Through its daily, unwavering work to renew enthusiasm in this uniquely American art form, Jazz St. Louis has not only kept the spirit and rich tradition of jazz alive but has continually provided inspiration and exceptional education to individuals passionate about jazz.

I appreciate Jazz St. Louis's committed work to honoring and carrying forward the creative tradition of the jazz style and wish their entire team the very best as they begin the Miles Davis Centennial celebration to commemorate the St. Louis region's very own jazz legend.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:49 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2721. An act 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.

H.R. 4922. An act 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.

H.R. 5140. An act 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.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2721. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### 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-1829. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wyoming; R-35 Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations Rule Package" (FRL No. 12942-02-R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1830. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maryland: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 12797-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1831. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minnesota: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 12762-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1832. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New Jersey; Memorandum of Agreement to address NOx SIP Call Requirements" (FRL No. 12760-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1833. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "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" (FRL No. 12752-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1834. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions: California" (FRL No. 12239-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1835. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Arizona Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Class I-VI Primacy" (FRL No. 11786-02-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1836. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trichloroethylene; Regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Compliance Date Extension" (FRL No. 8317.2-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1837. A communication from the Assistant for Legislative Affairs, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule" (RIN0710-AB57) received in the office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1838. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary of State's intent to designate Barrio 18 as a Foreign Terrorist Organization received in the office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1839. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Laguna Madre, South Padre Island, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0462)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1840. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Beltway 8 Bridge Construction, Houston Ship Channel, Houston, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0678)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1841. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Francis Scott Key Bridge, Patapsco River, Baltimore, MD" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0680)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1842. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Intracoastal Waterway, Palm Beach, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0690)) received in the Office of

the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1843. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River, Chesapeake, Virginia” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0182)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1844. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Lake Michigan, Sheboygan, WI” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0654)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1845. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Port Huron Float Down; St. Clair River, Port Huron, MI” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0672)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1846. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone; Electric Boat Shipyard, Narragansett Bay, Quonset Point, North Kingstown, RI” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0994)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1847. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulated Navigation Area; Ludington Harbor Channel and Pere Marquette Lake, Ludington, MI” ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2024-1102)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1848. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Gulf of America; Sand Key Beach, Clearwater, FL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0274)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1849. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Maumee River, Toledo, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0735)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1850. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; West of Cyril E. King Airport, St. Thomas, VI” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0578)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1851. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard,

Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fixed and Moving Safety Zone, Vicinity of the M/V ZHEN HUA 29; Freeport Ship Channel, Freeport TX” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0667)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1852. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Cuyahoga River, Cleveland, Ohio” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0646)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1853. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone; Intracoastal Waterway, Palm Beach, FL” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0319)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1854. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Ohio River, Owensboro, KY” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0784)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1855. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Bay St. Louis, MS” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2024-1001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1856. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and E Airspace Over Hickory and Morgantown, NC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0946)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1857. A communication from the Acting Division Chief, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Review of the Commission’s Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2025. Assessment and Collection of Space and Earth Station Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2025” ((RIN3060-AK64) (MD Docket Nos. 25-190, 24-85)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1858. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Resilient Networks; Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission’s Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications; New Part 4 of the Commission’s Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications; DIRS Modernization NPRM and Order on Reconsideration” ((PS Docket Nos. 21-346 and 15-80) (FCC25-45)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1859. A communication from the Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s 2024 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1860. A communication from the Assistant Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of the National Suicide Hotline Act of 2018” ((FCC 25-42) (WC Docket No. 18-336)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1861. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23115” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0213)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1862. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23117” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0748)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1863. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23116” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0925)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1864. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier Inc. and de Havilland, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-23118” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1107)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1865. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters; Amendment 39-23120” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-2264)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1866. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0210)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1867. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23114” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0200)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1868. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.); Airplanes; Amendment 39-23111” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0911)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1869. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Elkhart and Goshen, IN” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1275)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1870. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revocation of Class D and Class E4 Airspace; Establishment of Class E2 Airspace; Amendment of Class E5 Airspace, Aberdeen, MD” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0400)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1871. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39-23112” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0615)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1872. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39-23113” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1737)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1873. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes; Amendment 39-23125” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-2267)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1874. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23110” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1733)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on Sep-

tember 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1875. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments” ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31621)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1876. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments” ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31620)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1877. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Siam Hiller Holdings, Inc.; Amendment 39-23089” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2555)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1878. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Various Airplanes; Amendment 39-23107” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0230)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1879. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23109” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1731)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1880. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23103” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0342)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1881. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23108” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0755)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1882. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23104” ((RIN2120-AA64)

(Docket No. FAA-2025-0907)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

\* Somers Farkas, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

Nominee: Somers White Farkas.

Post: United States Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Malta.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Somers Farkas donor: \$1,000.00, 8/29/2024, Team McCormick; \$1,000.00, 8/29/2024, Friends of Dave McCormick; \$10,000.00, 7/28/2024, Log Cabin Republicans; \$5,000.00, 4/10/2024, Save America; \$123,900.00, 4/10/2024, Republican National Committee; \$41,300.00, 4/10/2024, Republican National Committee; \$53,200.00, 4/10/2024, Republican National Committee; \$10,000.00, 4/10/2024, Michigan Republican Party; \$3,300.00, 4/10/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$3,300.00, 4/10/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$230,000.00, 4/10/2024, Trump 47 Committee, Inc.; \$10,000.00, 4/10/2024, Republican Party of Arkansas; \$10,000.00, 4/10/2024, Alabama Republican Party; \$3,200.00, 4/10/2024, Oklahoma Leadership Council; \$10,000.00, 4/10/2024, Maine Republican Party; \$10,000.00, 4/10/2024, Massachusetts Republican Party; (\$53,200.00), 4/10/2024, Republican National Committee; \$1,000.00, 3/31/2024, Emmer for Congress; \$1,000.00, 3/27/2024, Emmer Majority Builders; \$90,000.00, 3/4/2024, Make America Great Again Inc.; \$500.00, 12/20/2023, Arch Capito (Winred R); \$500.00, 9/24/2023, Nicole for New York; \$250.00, 6/30/2022, Ted Budd for Senate; \$250.00, 6/30/2022, Budd NC Victory Fund; \$500.00, 5/31/2022, John Kennedy for US; \$1,500.00, 5/18/2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$500.00, 5/1/2022, Nicole for New York; (\$100.00), 2/23/2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$100.00, 2/1/2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$2,900.00, 2/1/2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$1,000.00, 5/12/2021, Thw G Team; \$1,000.00, 5/12/2021, Greitens for US Senate.

Jonathan Farkas donor: \$104.10, 10/29/2024, WinRed; \$10.41, 10/29/2024, Republican National Committee; \$93.69, 10/29/2024, Never Surrender Inc.; \$104.10, 10/29/2024, Trump National Committee JFC, Inc.; \$104.10, 10/13/2024, WinRed; \$10.41, 10/13/2024, Republican National Committee; \$93.69, 10/13/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$10,000.00, 9/27/2024, Trump Committee, Inc.; \$93.69, 9/24/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$104.10, 9/24/2024, WinRed; \$104.10, 9/24/2024, Trump National Committee JFC, Inc.; \$10.41, 9/24/2024, Republican National Committee; \$93.69, 9/7/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$104.10, 9/7/2024, WinRed; \$104.10, 9/7/2024, Trump National Committee JFC, Inc.; \$10.41, 9/7/2024, Republican National Committee; \$500.00, 7/29/2024, John Kennedy for US; \$93.69, 7/11/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$104.10, 7/11/2024, WinRed; \$104.10, 7/11/2024, Trump National Committee JFC, Inc.; \$93.69, 7/5/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$104.10, 7/5/2024, WinRed; \$104.10, 7/5/2024, Trump National Committee JFC, Inc.; \$93.69, 6/21/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$104.10, 6/21/2024, WinRed; \$104.10, 6/21/2024, Trump National Committee

JFC, Inc.; \$234.23, 6/15/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$260.25, 6/15/2024, Trump National Committee JFC, Inc.; \$234.23, 5/31/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$260.25, 5/31/2024, Trump National Committee JFC, Inc.; \$2,000.00, 5/16/2024, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$5,000.00, 4/10/2024, Save America; \$20,000.00, 4/10/2024, Trump 47 Committee, Inc.; \$3,300.00, 4/10/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$3,300.00, 4/10/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$8,400.00, 4/10/2024, Republican National Committee; \$10,000.00, 3/4/2024, Make America Great Again, Inc.; \$1,000.00, 10/17/2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$2,900.00, 8/18/2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$100.00, 2/23/2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$2,800.00, 2/1/2022, Doctor Oz for Senate.

\*Nicole McGraw, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

Nominee: Nicole McGraw.  
Post: Republic of Croatia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Committee Name, date of contribution, amount, and contribution type:

Self: GOP Winning Women—Florida, 10/11/2022, \$2,000.00, Contribution; Amanda Adkins for Congress, 10/11/2022, \$250.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Committee to Elect Jennifer-Ruth Green, 10/11/2022, \$250.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Lori Chavez-Deremer for Congress, 10/11/2022, \$250.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Scheller for Congress, Inc., 10/11/2022, \$250.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Salazar for Congress, 10/11/2022, \$250.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Cassidy for Congress, 10/19/2022, \$250.00, Contribution; Monica for Congress, 10/19/2022, \$250.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Kiggans for Congress, 10/19/2022, \$250.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 5/29/2024, \$200,000.00, Contribution; Republican National Committee, 5/29/2024, \$23,200.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Republican National Committee, 5/29/2024, \$123,900.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Save America, 5/29/2024, \$5,000.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Republican National Committee, 5/29/2024, \$41,300.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Never Surrender, Inc., 5/29/2024, \$3,300.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Never Surrender, Inc., 5/29/2024, \$3,300.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 5/30/2024, \$100,000.00, Contribution; Republican National Committee, 5/30/2024, \$100,000.00, Transfer from authorized committee; WinRed, 8/8/2024, 100.00, Contribution; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 8/19/2024, \$53,000.00, Contribution; Republican National Committee, 8/19/2024, \$49,835.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Never Surrender, Inc., 8/19/2024, \$3,165.00, Other Receipts; WinRed, 9/16/2024, \$104.10, Contribution; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 9/27/2024, \$125,000.00, Contribution; Republican National Committee, 9/27/2024, \$73,930.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Republican Party of Guam, 9/27/2024, \$800.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Connecticut Republican State Central Committee, 9/27/2024, \$10,000.00, Transfer from authorized committee; DC Republican Party Federal Account, 9/27/2024, \$10,000.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Georgia Republican Party, Inc., 9/27/2024, \$10,000.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Alaska Republican Party, 9/27/2024, \$10,000.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Republican Party of Guam, 9/27/2024, \$135.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Mississippi Re-

publican Party, 9/27/2024, \$10,000.00, Transfer from authorized committee; WinRed, 9/30/2024, \$100.00, Contribution; WinRed, 10/3/2024, \$96.00, Contribution; WinRed, 10/31/2024, \$96.00, Contribution; Oklahoma Leadership Council, 10/31/2024, \$4,533.70, Transfer from authorized committee; Republican Party of Guam, 10/31/2024, \$9,065.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Republican Party of Louisiana, 10/31/2024, \$10,000.00, Transfer from authorized committee; Republican Party of Kentucky, 11/8/2024, \$10,000.00, Transfer from authorized committee.

Spouse: Wesley Hunt Victory Fund, 2/3/2025, \$25,000.00, Contribution; Bernie Moreno for Senate, 10/29/2024, \$100.00, Contribution; Bernie Moreno for Senate, 6/20/2024, \$500.00, Transfers from authorized committee; Team Moreno, 6/14/2024, \$500.00, Contribution; Steve Chabot for Congress, 9/20/2022, \$250.00, Contribution; Steve Chabot for Congress, 4/7/2022, \$500.00, Contribution; Jane Timken for Ohio, 1/24/2022, \$1,000.00, Contribution.

\*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.

Nominee: Leandro Rizzuto.

Post: Ambassador to OAS.

Nominated: March 10, 2025.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contribution made by them. To the best of my knowledge the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Self, \$2,700.00, 2016-05-31, Donald J Trump for President Inc; \$2,700.00, 2016-05-31, Donald J Trump for President Inc; \$2,700.00, 2018-09-18, Rand Paul for Senate; \$2,500.00, 2018-10-09, Mike Braun for Indiana; \$2,700.00, 2018-09-13, Maria Elvira Salazar for Congress; \$12,500.00, 2018-10-09, Growing our Senate Majority; \$2,500.00, 2018-10-09, Morrissey for Senate Inc; \$1,000.00, 2017-06-28, Citizens for Monetti; \$2,700.00, 2018-08-30, Rick Scott for Florida; \$2,500.00, 2018-10-09, Josh Hawley for Senate; \$2,500.00, 2018-10-09, Mcsally for Senate Inc; \$2,500.00, 2018-10-09, Cramer for Senate; \$2,700.00, 2018-08-06, Marino for Congress; \$2,700.00, 2018-07-27, Jim Jordan for Congress; \$2,700.00, 2018-05-12, Ted Cruz for Senate; \$2,700.00, 2018-05-12, Ted Cruz for Senate; \$2,700.00, 2018-05-12, Rand Paul for US Senate; \$1,000.00, 2019-01-29, Devin Nunes Campaign Committee; \$1,000.00, 2019-01-29, Kevin McCarthy for Congress; \$1,000.00, 2019-01-28, Ted Cruz for Senate; \$1,000.00, 2019-01-29, Scalise for Congress; \$1,000.00, 2019-01-19, America First Action Inc; \$500.00, 2020-10-12, Mast for Congress; \$2,800.00, 2020-10-05, Biggs for Congress; \$2,800.00, 2020-10-05, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$2,800.00, 2020-10-05, Salazar for Congress; \$2,800.00, 2020-10-05, Kevin McCarthy for Congress; \$2,800.00, 2020-10-05, Scalise for Congress; \$500.00, 2020-10-09, Nancy Mace for Congress; \$2,800.00, 2020-10-12, Nancy Mace for Congress; \$2,800.00, 2020-10-05, Patriots for Perry; \$2,800.00, 2020-10-05, Jim Jordan for Congress; \$2,800.00, 2020-10-05, Devin Nunes Campaign Committee; \$500.00, 2020-11-19, Georgians for Kelly Loeffler; \$500.00, 2020-11-19, Perdue for Senate; \$1,000.00, 2021-12-10, Greitens for US Senate; \$1,500.00, 2022-10-20, Amanda Adkins for Congress; \$1,500.00, 2022-11-04, Monica for Congress; \$10,000.00 2022-09-15, Liberty Champions; \$50,000.00 2022-09-23, Liberty Champions; \$10,000.00 2022-08-26, Liberty Champions; \$2,900.00, 2022-10-06, Marco Rubio for Senate; \$2,900.00, 2022-05-20, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$5.00, 2022-05-14, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$5.00, 2022-05-11, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$1,500.00, 2022-10-20, Committee to Elect Jennifer Ruth Green; \$2,900.00, 2022-01-08, Rand Paul for U.S. Senate; \$2,900.00, 2022-10-21, Leora Levy for U.S. Senate Inc.; \$2,900.00,

2022-01-08, Rand Paul for U.S. Senate; \$5,600.00, 2021-01-11, Rand Paul for U.S. Senate; \$2,800.00, 2021-01-04, Rand Paul for Senate; \$1,500.00, 2022-10-20, Scheller for Congress Inc; \$2,895.00, 2022-10-05, Doctor Oz for Senate; \$1,500.00, 2022-10-20, Salazar for Congress; \$2,900.00, 2022-05-11, John Kennedy for US; \$2,900.00, 2022-05-06, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$1,000.00, 2022-10-30, Bolduc 2022, Inc; \$2,900.00, 2022-04-01, Friends of Mike Lee Inc; \$850.00, 2022-04-01, Friends of Mike Lee Inc; \$2,900.00, 2022-09-13, Rand Paul for Senate; \$2,900.00, 2022-10-21, Red Senate; \$50,000.00 2022-05-07, Make America Great Again, Again Inc; \$1,000.00, 2022-09-14, Laxalt for Senate; \$10,000.00 2022-10-20, House Freedom Action; \$1,500.00, 2022-11-04, Kiggans for Congress; \$13,200.00 2023-11-25, Kari Lake for Senate; \$400.00, 2023-09-26, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$2,900.00, 2023-01-15, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$6,600.00, 2024-05-01, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$1,000.00, 2023-12-26, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$1,000.00, 2023-10-26, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$6,600.00, 2024-05-10, Greene for Congress; \$3,300.00, 2023-09-15, Ted Cruz for Senate; \$2,300.00, 2023-09-15, Ted Cruz for Senate; \$600.00, 2023-09-26, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$5,000.00, 2023-01-15, Rick Scott for Florida; \$3,300.00, 2024-05-10, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$500,000.00 2024-03-25, Right for America; \$3,300.00, 2024-04-23, Elise for Congress; \$2,950.00, 2024-04-23, Elise for Congress; \$3,300.00, 2023-10-06, Matt Rosendale for Montana; \$1,700.00, 2023-10-06, Matt Rosendale for Montana; \$495.00, 2024-02-04, Mazi for Congress; \$1,700.00, 2024-04-29, Brian Jack for Congress; \$3,300.00, 2024-04-29, Brian Jack for Congress; \$25,000.00 2024-06-18, Constitutional Conservatives Fund; \$500,000.00 2024-05-31, Right for America; \$3,300.00, 2024-06-14, Patriots for Perry; \$3,300.00, 2024-06-16, Colby Jenkins for Congress; \$1,000.00, 2023-09-27, Bernie Moreno for Senate; \$1,000.00, 2023-11-26, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$5,208.65, 2024-05-01, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$3,300.00, 2024-05-10, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$1,000.00, 2024-01-26, Friends of Matt Gaetz; \$3,300.00 2023-11-25, Kari Lake for Senate; \$50,000.00 2024-07-01, House Freedom Action; \$1,000.00, 2024-10-21, Tim Sheehy for Montana; \$1,000.00, 2024-10-21, Hovde for Wisconsin.

\*Herschel Walker, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Nominee: Herschel Junior Walker.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Nominated: March 24, 2025.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Immediate family:

Herschel Junior Walker: No contributions made.

Julie Walker (spouse): amount, date, donee:

\$100.00, 4/3/23, Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee; \$99.00, 12/4/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$99.00, 12/4/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$2.00, 12/4/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$1.00, 12/4/22, John Kennedy for US; \$1.00, 12/4/22, Tim Scott for Senate; \$100.00, 11/29/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$34.00, 11/28/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$35.00, 11/28/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$49.50, 11/24/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$0.50, 11/24/22, Ted Cruz for Senate; \$12.50, 11/23/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$35.00, 11/23/22, 2022 Georgia Victory Committee; \$35.00, 11/23/22, 2022 Georgia Victory Committee; \$34.00, 11/20/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$12.50, 11/20/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$10.00, 11/20/22, Team Herschel,



Inc.; \$34.00, 11/20/22, Team Herschel's People's Champion Committee; \$12.50, 11/20/22, 2022 Georgia Victory Committee; \$12.50, 11/20/22, Georgia Republican Party; \$12.50, 11/20/22, NRSC; \$34.00, 11/16/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$5.00, 8/22/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$20.00, 8/22/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$5.00, 8/15/22, Team Herschel's People's Champion Committee; \$20.00, 8/15/22, Team Herschel's People's Champion Committee.

\$5.00, 7/25/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$50.00, 7/25/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$5.00, 7/25/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$100.00, 7/25/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$90.00, 7/25/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$90.00, 7/18/22, Team Herschel's People's Champion Committee; \$50.00, 7/18/22, Team Herschel's People's Champion Committee; \$5.00, 7/18/22, Team Herschel's People's Champion Committee; \$100.00, 7/18/22, Team Herschel's People's Champion Committee; \$5.00, 7/18/22, Team Herschel's People's Champion Committee; \$25.00, 7/8/22, RNC; \$25.00, 7/8/22, RNC; \$250.00, 6/1/22, Cicely Davis for Congress; \$10.00, 3/12/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$50.00, 3/12/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$100.00, 2/14/22, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$34.00, 12/26/21, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$34.00, 9/9/21, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$50.00, 8/31/21, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$50.00, 8/25/21, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$50.00, 8/24/21, Team Herschel, Inc.; \$50.00, 8/21/21, Team Graham; \$25.00, 7/28/21, Cicely Davis for Congress; \$50.00, 6/24/21, Team Graham; \$45.00, 1/11/21, Trump Make America Great Again Committee.

\*Stacey Feinberg, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Nominee: Stacey Woolf Feinberg.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Nominated: March 24, 2025.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, donee, amount, date:

Self, 1. Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$50,000.00, 07/30/2024; 2. Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$75,000.00, 07/30/2024; 3. Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$100,000.00, 05/30/2024; 4. Byron Donalds for Congress, \$3,300.00, 04/23/2024; 5. Byron Donalds for Congress, \$3,300.00, 04/17/2024; 6. Chief James Craig for Governor, \$100.00, 07/22/2021; 7. Burgess 4 Utah, \$2,900.00, 03/31/2021; 8. Take Back the House 2022, \$25,000.00, 03/30/2021.

\*Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Denmark.

Nominee: Kenneth Alan Howery.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Denmark.

Nominated: March 24, 2025.

(The following table covers my federal campaign contributions, followed by those by members of my immediate family. I have asked each of my immediate family members to inform me of the pertinent contributions they made. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributor, amount, date, and recipient:

1. Kenneth Alan Howery, \$2,900, March 27, 2022, Blake Masters for Senate; \$2,900, March 27, 2022, Blake Masters for Senate; \$36,500, September 22, 2022, Republican National Committee; \$13,500, September 22, 2022, Republican National Committee (Headquarters Account); \$41,300, October 13, 2023, Republican National Committee (Operating Account); \$58,700, October 13, 2023, Republican National Committee (Headquarters Account).

\$100,000, October 13, 2023, Daines Senate Majority Fund; distributed to: \$3,300, October 13, 2023, Steve Daines for Montana; \$3,300, October 13, 2023, Steve Daines for Montana; \$41,300, October 13, 2023, NRSC; \$47,100, October 13, 2023, NRSC; \$5,000, October 13, 2023, Big Sky Opportunity PAC; \$41,300, February 23, 2024, Republican National Committee (Operating Account); \$123,900, February 23, 2024, Republican National Committee (Headquarters Account); \$123,900, February 23, 2024, Republican National Committee (Legal Proceedings Account); \$123,900, February 23, 2024, Republican National Committee (Convention Account).

\$11,600, February 23, 2024, Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee; distributed to: \$5,000, February 23, 2024, Save America; \$3,300, February 23, 2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$3,300, October 20, 2024, Never Surrender, Inc.

\$100,000, May 14, 2024, Cornyn Victory Committee; distributed to: \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Texans for Sen. John Cornyn Inc; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Texans for Sen. John Cornyn Inc; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Rick Scott for Florida; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Rick Scott for Florida; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Wicker for Senate; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Deb Fischer for Senate; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Deb Fischer for Senate; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Cramer for Senate; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Cramer for Senate; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Ted Cruz for Senate; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Nella for Senate; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Nella for Senate; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Hogan for Maryland, Inc.; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Friends of Dave McCormick; \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Bernie Moreno for Senate; \$20,000, May 14, 2024, NRSC (Operating Account); \$3,300, May 14, 2024, Jim Justice for Senate; \$5,000, May 14, 2024, Alamo PAC; \$22,200, May 14, 2024, NRSC (Legal Fund Account).

\$3,300, May 14, 2024, JD Vance for Senate Inc.

\$5,000, May 14, 2024, Team Rick Scott; distributed to: \$5,000, May 14, 2024, Lets Get to Work PAC.

\$5,000, May 14, 2024, Working for Ohio.

\$100,000, May 28, 2024, 2024 Thune Republican Senate Victory; distributed to: \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Pete Ricketts for Senate; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Marsha for Senate; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Marsha for Senate; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Friends of John Barrasso; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Friends of John Barrasso; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Banks for Senate; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Tim Sheehy for Montana; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Tim Sheehy for Montana; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Hovde for Wisconsin; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Hovde for Wisconsin; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Rogers for Senate; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Sam Brown for Nevada; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Sam Brown for Nevada; \$3,300, May 28, 2024, Curtis for UT Senate Republican Nominee Fund 2024; \$40,600, May 30, 2024, NRSC (Legal Fund); \$3,300, May 30, 2024, NRSC (Legal Fund); \$3,300, June 28, 2024, Friends of John Thune; \$3,300, June 28, 2024, Friends of John Thune.

\$10,000, May 28, 2024, Republican Party of Arizona, LLC; \$10,000, May 28, 2024, Georgia Republican Party Inc.; \$10,000, May 28, 2024, Washington State Republican Party; \$10,000, May 28, 2024, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania; \$10,000, May 28, 2024, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee; \$6,600, May 28, 2024, Oregon Republican Party; \$6,600, May 28, 2024, West Virginia Republican Party, Inc.; \$10,000, May 28, 2024, Michigan Republican Party; \$10,000, May 28, 2024, Nevada Republican Central Committee.

\$10,000, May 29, 2024, Illinois Republican Party-Federal; \$10,000, May 29, 2024, Indiana Republican State Committee, Inc.; \$10,000, May 29, 2024, Maine Republican Party; \$10,000, May 29, 2024, Missouri Republican State Committee-Federal; \$10,000, May 29,

2024, New Hampshire Republican State Committee; \$10,000, May 29, 2024, North Carolina Republican Party; \$6,600, May 29, 2024, Republican Party of Iowa; \$5,000, May 29, 2024, Republican Party of Louisiana; \$10,000, May 29, 2024, Republican Party of Minnesota-Federal; \$3,400, May 30, 2024, Connecticut Republican State Central Committee, Inc.; \$3,800, May 30, 2024, Connecticut Republican State Central Committee, Inc.; \$6,600, May 30, 2024, California Republican Party; \$10,000, May 30, 2024, Oklahoma Leadership Council; \$6,600, May 30, 2024, Republican State Committee of Delaware; \$5,000, May 30, 2024, DC Republican Party Federal Account; \$10,000, May 30, 2024, Rhode Island Republican State Central Committee; \$10,000, May 31, 2024, New Jersey Republican State Committee; \$10,000, May 31, 2024, Alaska Republican Party; \$10,000, May 31, 2024, Republican Party of Wisconsin; \$10,000, May 31, 2024, Montana Republican State Central Committee; \$6,600, May 31, 2024, Republican Party of Florida.

\$10,000, June 01, 2024, Mississippi Republican Party; \$6,600, June 01, 2024, Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account; \$10,000, June 01, 2024, South Carolina Republican Party; \$10,000, June 03, 2024, Republican Party of Kentucky; \$10,000, June 03, 2024, Republican Party of Virginia, Inc.; \$3,300, June 13, 2024, Jim Risch for U.S. Senate Committee; \$3,300, June 13, 2024, Jim Risch for U.S. Senate Committee.

\$100,000, June 14, 2024, Hudson Victory Fund; distributed to: \$5,000, June 14, 2024, First in Freedom PAC; \$3,300, June 14, 2024, Hudson for Congress; \$41,300, June 14, 2024, NRCC; \$50,400, June 14, 2024, NRCC (Headquarters Account).

\$250,000, June 20, 2024, America PAC; \$250,000, June 21, 2024, America PAC; \$5,000, June 21, 2024, PAC for America; \$250,000, June 24, 2024, America PAC; \$250,000, June 25, 2024, America PAC; \$75,000, October 07, 2024, MAHA Alliance; \$3,300, October 11, 2024, Rubio Victory Committee; \$3,300, October 11, 2024, Team Rand; \$3,300, October 11, 2024, Tim Scott Victory Fund; \$3,300, October 11, 2024, Team Todd; \$25,000, October 17, 2024, MAHA Alliance.

\$50,000, October 17, 2024, Trump 47 Committee, Inc.; \$50,000, October 17, 2024, Trump 47 Committee, Inc.².

\$50,000, October 17, 2024, Trump 47 Committee, Inc.; distributed to: \$3,300, October 17, 2024, Never Surrender, Inc. (Recount Account); \$2,800, March 5, 2025, Connecticut Republican State Central Committee, Inc.; \$5,000, Distribution pending, DC Republican Party Federal Account; \$10,000, October 17, 2024, Republican Party of Guam; \$3,400, March 5, 2025, Republican State Committee of Delaware; \$3,400, March 5, 2025, Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account; \$10,000, November 14, 2024, South Dakota Republican Party; \$3,400, March 5, 2024, Utah Republican Party; \$3,400, March 5, 2025, Republican Party of Iowa; \$3,400, March 5, 2025, Oregon Republican Party; \$10,000, March 5, 2025, Ohio Republican Party State Central & Executive Committee; \$3,400, March 6, 2025, California Republican Party; \$3,400, March 5, 2025, Republican Party of Florida; \$3,400, March 5, 2025, West Virginia Republican Party, Inc.; \$10,000, March 5, 2025, Alabama Republican Party; \$10,000, March 5, 2025, Republican Party of Arkansas; \$10,000, March 5, 2025, Colorado Republican Committee; \$10,000, Distribution pending, Idaho Republican Party; \$1,700, Distribution pending, Refund from Trump 47 Committee, Inc.; \$10,000, March 5, 2025, Nebraska Republican Party; \$10,000, March 5, 2025, North Dakota Republican Party; \$10,000, March 5, 2025, Republican Party of Texas; \$10,000, March 5, 2025, Wyoming Republican Party, Inc.

\$1,000,000, December 9, 2024, Trump Vance Inaugural Committee, Inc.

\$3,000,

September

27, 2024, Trump 47 Committee Inc.; distributed to: \$3,000, September 27, 2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$250, October 14, 2024, Ted Cruz for Senate: Janet Howery (father's wife): None; Karen Elaine Howery: None.

2. Spouse: N/A.

3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

4. Parents: Charles Kenneth Howery: N/A.

5. Grandparents (all deceased).

6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.

7. Sister and Spouses: Christian Ann Howery: None; John Philip McLellan: None.

#### END NOTES

1. Note: we are currently working with this Committee to resolve certain allocation issues. The disclosures set out above reflect distributions made to date, as well as our understanding of the Committee's current plans to distribute funds, including certain distributions that are still pending. Where a previously made distribution is being reallocated, we identify the new distribution only to avoid confusion.

2. Note: we are currently working with this Committee to resolve certain allocation issues. The disclosures set out above reflect distributions made to date, as well as our understanding of the Committee's current plans to distribute funds, including certain distributions that are still pending. Where a previously made distribution is being reallocated, we identify the new distribution only to avoid confusion.

3. Note: we are currently working with this Committee to resolve certain allocation issues. The disclosures set out above reflect distributions made to date, as well as our understanding of the Committee's current plans to distribute funds, including certain distributions that are still pending. Where a previously made distribution is being reallocated, we identify the new distribution only to avoid confusion.

4. Note: the distributions provided are for the aggregate \$150,000 contributed to the Joint Fundraising Committee on October 17, 2024.

\*Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Nominee: Richard Buchan III.

Post: Morocco.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$230,400, 8/9/2024, Trump 47 Committee, Inc.; \$5,000, 6/18/2024, Team Rick Scott; \$15,000, 2/27/2024, Whatley for RNC; \$100,000, 2/12/2024, RNC Victory; \$413,000, 1/29/2024, RNC; \$50,000, 3/31/2023, RNC; \$100,000, 2/1/2022, RNC; \$5,000, 11/5/2021, True North PAC; \$1,000, 11/3/2021, Team Rick Scott; \$36,500, 8/20/2021, RNC; \$1,000, 8/4/2021, Republican Governors Association; \$2,500, 8/3/2021, National Republican Congressional Committee; \$2,500, 8/3/2021, NRSC; \$5,800, 5/21/2021, Take Back the House (Team McCarthy).

2. Spouse: \$118,400, 8/9/2024, Trump 47 Committee, Inc.; \$125,000, 6/18/2024, Trump 47 Committee, Inc.; \$50,000, 3/31/2023, RNC; \$5,000, 3/10/2023, Team Rick Scott; \$5,800, 3/31/2022, Leora Levy for Senate; \$1,000, 2/25/2022, Ron Johnson Victory; \$100,000, 2/1/2022, RNC; \$36,500, 11/24/2021, RNC; \$1,000, 8/4/2021, Republican Governors Association; \$2,500, 8/3/2021, National Republican Congressional Committee; \$2,500, 8/3/2021, NRSC.

3. Joint w/Spouse: \$13,200, 9/23/2024, Trump for President 2024; \$10,000, 2/6/2024, NCGOP; \$5,800, 5/21/2021, Ambassador Carla Sands (PA) Penn Patriots Committee.

4. HGI DB Fund I LLC: \$25,000, 4/24/2024, Project Rescue; \$50,000, 1/24/2024, Log Cabin Republicans; \$75,000, 12/21/2021, Friends of Ron DeSantis;

5. PPRE LLC: \$100,000, 11/7/2022, Mamas on a Mission, Friends of Ron DeSantis; \$25,000, 12/2/2022, Rona for Chair.

6. Children: Catherine Swift Buchan (Daughter), None; Richard Duke Buchan IV (Son), None; John Francis Buchan (Son), None.

7. Parents: Richard Duke Buchan, Jr. (Father), Deceased—None; Betty Joanne Buchan (Mother), Deceased—None.

8. Grandparents: Richard Duke Buchan, Sr. (Grandfather), Deceased—None; Catherine Mangum Buchan (Grandmother), Deceased—None; Charles Gray Stainback, Jr. (Grandfather), Deceased—None; Rose Thompson Stainback (Grandmother), Deceased—None.

9. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.

10. Sisters and Spouses: Jo Dee DiRuzza (Sister), None; Barry Santi DiRuzza (Brother-in-Law), None.

\*Bill Bazzi, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia.

Nominee: Bill Bazzi.

Post: Tunisia.

Nominated: 3/24/2025.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

None.

\*Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador.

Nominee: Lynda C. Blanchard.

Post: United States Representative to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture with rank of Ambassador.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Organization, amount, date, and year:

1. Self and Spouse: Republican National Committee, \$100,000.00, 2/4/2021, 2021; NRSC, \$35,000.00, 2/25/2021, 2021; Trump Graham Majority Fund, \$60,000.00, 5/2/2021, 2021; Tuberville Victory Fund, \$21,600.00, 5/5/2021, 2021; Alabama House Majority PCA, \$10,000.00, 6/24/2021, 2021; Lynda Blanchard for Senate Inc., \$1,159,323.66, 12/3/2021, 2021; Lynda Blanchard for Senate Inc., \$8,700.00, 6/29/2021, 2021; Make America Great Again Action Inc., \$500,000.00, 9/3/2021, 2021; Lynda Blanchard for Alabama Governor, \$5,000,015.67, 2021; Lynda Blanchard for Alabama Governor, \$5,984,838.55, 2022; Make American Great Again, Action Inc., \$100,000.00, 2/17/2022, 2022; Republican National Committee, \$100,000.00, 9/8/2022, 2022; Make American Great Again, Action Inc., \$100,000.00, 9/16/2022, 2022; Make American Great Again Inc., \$1,000,000.00, 10/14/2022, 2022; Winston County Republican Party, \$350.00, 3/3/2022, 2022; Ala GOP, \$5,000.00, 9/27/22, 2022; Stock PAC, \$30,000.00, 10/14/2022, 2022; American 1st, \$250,000.00, 2/24/2023, 2023; MAGA, \$250,000.00, 7/5/2023, 2023; Ala GOP, \$60,000.00, 7/26/2023, 2023; Tuberville for Senate, \$5,000.00, 8/21/2023, 2023; Wheels Up, \$100,000.00, 8/30/2023, 2023; Alabama Federation of Republican Women, \$5,000.00, 8/31/2023, 2023; Ala GOP, \$15,000.00, 9/15/2023, 2023; RNC, \$100,000.00, 10/30/2023, 2023; Republican Party of Florida, \$2,000.00, 11/7/2023, 2023; Republican Party of Florida, \$10,000.00, 11/7/2023, 2023; Ala GOP,

\$14,200.00, 2/14/2024, 2024; Trump National Committee JFC, Inc., \$1,267.38, 9/20/2024, 2024; Winred, \$326.36, 9/20/2024, 2024; Winred, \$104.10, 10/20/2024, 2024; Trump National Committee JFC, Inc., \$1,249.22, 10/20/2024, 2024; Trump National Committee JFC, Inc., \$1,145.12, 11/20/2024, 2024; Trump National Committee JFC, Inc., \$1,145.12, 12/20/2024, 2024; Winred, \$104.10 12/20/2024, 2024; Trump 47, \$430,000.00, 8/13/2024, 2024.

2. Children and Spouses: Christopher John Blanchard—deceased; Benjamin Nicholas Blanchard, \$0; Wongani Mtika-Blanchard, \$0; Haleyann Denise Blanchard, \$0; Keren Cesia Blanchard, \$2,900.00, 3/24/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; \$2,900.00, 6/29/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; Jennifer Ruth Blanchard, \$2,900.00, 3/24/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; \$2,900.00, 6/29/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; Gracie Mae Blanchard, \$2,900.00, 3/24/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; \$2,900.00, 6/29/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; Lizbeth Lucero Blanchard, \$2,900.00, 3/24/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; \$2,900.00, 6/29/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.

3. Parents: Peggy Cleveland Powell, \$2,900.00, 3/30/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; Dwight Merrill Cleveland—deceased; John Miller Powell (step), \$2,900.00, 3/30/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.

4. Grandparents: Oscar Hale—deceased; Stella Hale—deceased; Richard Scales (step)—deceased; Ann Scales—deceased; Mr. ———— Cleveland—deceased when father was a child, did not know him.

5. Brothers and Spouses: Mitchell Tyson Powell (step), \$0; Michelle Brenny Powell, \$0; John M. Powell, III—deceased.

6. Sisters and Spouses: Yvonne Annette Hawkins Schneckenberger, \$0; Donald Michael Schneckenberger, \$0; Cynthia Cleveland Burnside, \$2,900, 3/30/21, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; \$2,900, 3/30/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; \$11,600, 2022, Blanchard for Governor; \$1,650, 9/30/2023, Trump Save America JFC; \$1,650, 9/30/2023, Trump Save America JFC; \$1,250, 7/10/2024, Alabama Republican Party; \$62.81, 2024, AFRW; \$500, 1/22/2025, Alabama Republican Party; \$2,097, 1/22/2025, Alabama Republican Party; Sheldon John Burnside, \$2,900, 3/20/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; \$2,900, 3/28/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; \$2,900, 3/30/2021, Lynda Blanchard for Senate, Inc.; \$1,650, 9/30/2023, Trump Save America JFC; \$1,650, 9/30/2023, Trump Save America JFC.

\*Howard Brodie, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

Nominee: Howard Brodie.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Republic of Finland.

Nominated: March 24, 2025.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Self, Jimena Aparicio Hernandez (wife), Shandel Brodie (child), Michal Brodie (child), Solomon Aparicio Brodie (minor child).

Contributions, date, amount, and donee:

Self, 7/18/2022, \$5,000, Abraham Lincoln PAC; 7/18/2022, \$10,800, Rubio Victory Committee, Marco Rubio for Senate, \$5,800, Republican Party of Florida, \$5,000; 7/18/2022, \$5,000, Team LaHood; 7/22/2022, \$5,000, Heartland Values PAC; 7/25/2022, \$2,500, Big Sky Opportunity PAC; 7/25/2022, \$5,000, Republican Majority Fund: State and Local; 7/25/2022,

\$5,800, Friends of Allan Fung; 7/26/2022, \$2,900, Bennet for Colorado; 7/27/2022, \$2,900, Laxalt for Senate; 8/9/2022, \$2,900, Marc for US Inc.; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, Carlos Gimenez for Congress; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, Ron Johnson for Senate, Inc.; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, Doctor Oz for Senate; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, Scheller for Congress, Inc.; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, Salazar for Congress; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, Friends of Jeremy Shaffer; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, Kean for Congress Inc.; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, Bognet for Congress; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, Van Drew for Congress; 9/16/2022, \$2,900, JD Vance for Senate Inc.; 9/21/2022, \$2,900, Ted Budd for Senate; 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Cotton for Senate, Inc. (transfer from Cotton Victory); 3/29/2023, \$700,000, Protect the House 2024, Transfers from Protect the House 2024; 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Steil for Wisconsin, Inc.; 3/29/2023, \$6,600, John Duane for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Oregon Republican Party, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, North Carolina Republican Party, 3/29/2023, \$11,600, Cotton Victory, 3/29/2023, \$41,300, NRCC, 3/29/2023, \$123,900, NRCC, 3/29/2023, \$123,900, NRCC, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Brandon For Congress NY22, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Nancy Mace for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$5,000, Republican Majority Fund, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Marc for US Inc., 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Ciscomani for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Patriots for Perry, 3/29/2023, \$5,000, Congressional Leadership Fund, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Ashley Hinson for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Zinke for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Kiggans for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Republican Party of Texas, 3/29/2023, \$5,000, Majority Committee—PAC MC PAC, 3/29/2023, \$10,000, New Jersey Republican State Committee, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Lori-Chavez Deremer for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Republican Party of Arizona, LLC, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Nevada Republican Central Committee, 3/29/2023, \$3,300, Lauren Boebert for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Friends of David Schweikert, 3/29/2023, \$10,000, Republican Party of Florida, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Michelle Steel for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Iowans for Zach Nunn, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Miller-Meeks for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Washington State Republican Party, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Colorado Republican Committee, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Republican Party of Virginia Inc., 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Washington State Republican Party, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Ohio Republican Party State Central & Executive Committee, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Illinois Republican Party—Federal, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, Republican Party of Iowa, 3/29/2023, \$10,000, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Ken Calvert for Congress Committee, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Desposito for New York, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Lawler for Congress, Inc., 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Van Orden for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$9,975, New Hampshire Republican State Committee, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Chuck Edwards for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Kevin Kiley for Congress, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, John James Congress, Inc., 3/29/2023, \$10,000, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania, 3/29/2023, \$6,600, Valadao for Congress, 4/1/2023, \$6,600, Mike Garcia for Congress, 6/27/2023, \$6,600, Kean for Congress Inc., 6/30/2023, \$6,600, Don Bacon for Congress, 6/30/2023, \$9,975, Republican Campaign Committee of New Mexico, 6/30/2023, \$9,975, Republican Party of Minnesota-Federal, 6/30/2023, \$6,600, Monica for Congress, 6/30/2023, \$6,600, Anna Paulina Luna for Congress; 11/16/2023, \$3,300, Mario Diaz-Balart for Congress; 7/11/2024, \$844,600, Trump 47 Committee, Transfers from Trump 47 Committee; 7/11/2024, \$5,000, Save America, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Republican Party of Iowa, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Connecticut Republican State Central Committee, Inc., 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Maine Republican Party, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Oklahoma Leadership Council, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, West Virginia Republican Party, Inc., 7/11/2024, \$10,000, California Republican Party

Federal Account, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Republican Party of Louisiana, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Republican Party of Arizona, LLC, 7/11/2024, \$41,300, Republican National Committee, 7/11/2024, \$123,900, Republican National Committee, 7/11/2024, \$123,900, Republican National Committee, 7/11/2024, \$123,900, Republican National Committee, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Georgia Republican Party Inc., 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Illinois Republican Party—Federal, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Kansas Republican Party, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Ohio Republican Party State Central & Executive Committee, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Republican State Committee of Delaware, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Michigan Republican Party, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Indiana Republican State Committee, Inc., 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Mississippi Republican Party, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Oregon Republican Party Inc., 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Nevada Republican Central Committee, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Montana Republican State Central Committee, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Republican Party of Guam, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, New Jersey Republican State Committee, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Massachusetts Republican Party, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, North Carolina Republican Party, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Republican Party of Wisconsin, 7/11/2024, \$6,600, Never Surrender, Inc., 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Republican Party of Florida, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Rhode Island Republican State Central Committee, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, South Carolina Republican Party, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Alaska Republican Party, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Missouri Republican State Committee-Federal, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Washington State Republican Party, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Republican Party of Virginia Inc, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, DC Republican Party Federal Account, 7/11/2024, \$10,000, Maryland Republican State Central Committee, 8/19/2024, \$10,000, New Hampshire Republican State Committee, 8/27/2024, \$10,000, Republican Campaign Committee of New Mexico, 8/27/2024, \$10,000, Republican Party of Kentucky, 8/27/2024, \$10,000, South Dakota Republican Party, 8/27/2024, \$10,000, Utah Republican Party; 8/30/2024, \$3,300, Hern for Congress; 8/30/2024, \$3,300, Hogan for Maryland Inc.; 8/30/2024, \$3,300, Guy for Congress (Earmarked via American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee); 8/30/2024, \$3,300, Lawler for Congress, Inc. (Earmarked via American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee); 8/30/2024, \$3,300, Emmer for Congress (Earmarked via American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee); 8/30/2024, \$3,300, Young Kim Congress (Earmarked via American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee); 8/30/2024, \$3,300, Friends of Dave Joyce; 9/3/2024, \$79,611, United Democracy Project ("UDP"); 9/7/2024, \$3,300, John James for Michigan (Earmarked via American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee); 9/7/2024, \$3,300, Mission First People Always PAC (Transfer from John James for Michigan); 9/9/2024, \$3,300, Mario Diaz-Balart for Congress (Earmarked via American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee); 9/9/2024, \$3,300, Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us (Earmarked via American Israel Public Affairs

Committee Political Action Committee); 9/12/2024, \$3,300, MVL PAC; 9/12/2024, \$3,300, Womack for Congress Committee (Earmarked via American Israel Public Affairs Committee Political Action Committee); 12/4/2024, \$13,200, Cotton Majority Committee, 12/4/2024, \$5,000, Republican Majority Fund (Transfer from Cotton Majority Committee), 12/4/2024, \$8,200, NRSC (Transfer from Cotton Majority Committee).

I did not make any state or local contributions during the covered time period.

Shaindel Brodie, 2/8/24, \$78, Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee (via WinRed).

\*Arthur Fisher, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Austria.

Nominee: Arthur Fisher.

Post: Republic of Austria.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Committee name, report year, report type, date of contribution, contribution receipt amount, and contributor aggregated YTD: Missouri First, 2021, YE, 8/9/2021, 5,000, 5,000; The G Team, 2021, Q3, 8/9/2021, 10,800, 10,800; Bernie Moreno for Ohio, 2021, Q2, 5/7/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Bernie Moreno for Ohio, 2021, Q2, 5/7/2021, -2,900, 5,800; Bernie Moreno for Ohio, 2021, Q2, 5/7/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Nevada Republican Central Committee, 2022, 12G, 9/30/2022, 2,900, 2,900; Team Ronny, 2021, YE, 11/6/2021, 2,900, 2,900; Bo Hines for Congress, 2022, Q2, 5/16/2022, 5,800, 5,800; Bo Hines for Congress, 2022, Q2, 5/16/2022, -2,900, 2,900; Bo Hines for Congress, 2022, Q2, 5/16/2022, -2,900, 2,900; Bo Hines for Congress, 2022, Q2, 5/16/2022, 2,900, 5,800; NRCC, 2021, M4, 3/28/2021, 10,000, 10,000; Jim Banks for Congress, Inc., 2022, Q2, 6/28/2022, 2,900, 2,900; Stand for America PAC, 2021, MY, 2/10/2021, 5,000, 5,000; Young Kim for Congress, 2021, Q3, 7/3/2021, 2,900, 2,900; Tim Scott for Senate, 2021, Q2, 6/13/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Tim Scott for Senate, 2021, Q2, 6/13/2021, -2,900, 5,800; Tim Scott for Senate, 2021, Q2, 6/13/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Texans for Ronny Jackson, 2021, YE, 11/6/2021, 2,900, 2,900; Cawthorn Triumph Committee, 2021, MY, 3/28/2021, 10,000, 10,000; Noem Victory Fund, 2021, YE, 8/13/2021, 4,000, 4,000; Friends of McCormick, 2021, Q1, 2/10/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Friends of McCormick, 2021, Q1, 2/10/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Friends of McCormick, 2021, Q3, 9/7/2021, 2,900, 8,700; Friends of Todd Young, Inc., 2021, Q3, 7/4/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Doctor Oz for Senate, 2022, 30G, 10/28/2022, 2,900, 2,900; Greitens for US Senate, 2021, Q3, 8/9/2021, 2,900, 2,900; Greitens for US Senate, 2021, Q3, 8/9/2021, 2,900, 5,800; The Pat McCrory Committee, 2021, Q3, 8/24/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Sands for Senate, 2021, Q3, 9/27/2021, -2,900, 5,800; Sands for Senate, 2021, Q3, 9/18/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Sands for Senate, 2021, Q3, 9/27/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Salazar for Congress, 2022, 30G, 11/3/2022, 2,900, 2,900; Laxalt Victory Committee, 2022, Q3, 9/30/2022, 5,800, 5,800; The Pat McCrory Committee, 2021, Q3, 8/24/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Missouri First, 2021, YE, 8/9/2021, 5,000, 5,000; The G Team, 2021, Q3, 8/9/2021, 10,800, 10,800; Bernie Moreno for Ohio, 2021, Q2, 5/7/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Bernie Moreno for Ohio, 2021, Q2, 5/7/2021, -2,900, 5,800; Bernie Moreno for Ohio, 2021, Q2, 5/7/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Nevada Republican Central Committee, 2022, 12G, 9/30/2022, 2,900, 2,900; Team Ronny, 2021, YE, 11/6/2021, 2,900, 2,900; Bo Hines for Congress, 2022, Q2, 5/16/2022, 5,800, 5,800; Bo Hines for Congress, 2022, Q2, 5/16/2022, -2,900, 2,900; Bo Hines for Congress, 2022, Q2, 5/16/2022, 2,900, 5,800; NRCC, 2021, M4, 3/28/2021, 10,000, 10,000; Jim Banks for Congress, Inc., 2022, Q2, 6/28/2022, 2,900, 2,900; Stand for America PAC,

2021, MY, 2/10/2021, 5,000, 5,000; Young Kim for Congress, 2021, Q3, 7/3/2021, 2,900, 2,900; Tim Scott for Senate, 2021, Q2, 6/13/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Tim Scott for Senate, 2021, Q2, 6/13/2021, -2,900, 5,800; Tim Scott for Senate, 2021, Q2, 6/13/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Texans for Ronny Jackson, 2021, YE, 11/6/2021, 2,900, 2,900; Cawthorn Triumph Committee, 2021, MY, 3/28/2021, 10,000, 10,000; Noem Victory Fund, 2021, YE, 8/13/2021, 4,000, 4,000; Friends of McCormick, 2021, Q1, 2/10/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Friends of McCormick, 2021, Q1, 2/10/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Friends of McCormick, 2021, Q3, 9/7/2021, 2,900, 8,700; Friends of Todd Young, Inc., 2021, Q3, 7/4/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Doctor Oz for Senate, 2022, 30G, 10/28/2022, 2,900, 2,900; Greitens for US Senate, 2021, Q3, 8/9/2021, 2,900, 2,900; Greitens for US Senate, 2021, Q3, 8/9/2021, 2,900, 5,800; The Pat McCrory Committee, 2021, Q3, 8/24/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Sands for Senate, 2021, Q3, 9/27/2021, -2,900, 5,800; Sands for Senate, 2021, Q3, 9/18/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Sands for Senate, 2021, Q3, 9/27/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Salazar for Congress, 2022, 30G, 11/3/2022, 2,900, 2,900; Laxalt Victory Committee, 2022, Q3, 9/30/2022, 5,800, 5,800; The Pat McCrory Committee, 2021, Q3, 8/24/2021, 5,800, 5,800; The Pat McCrory Committee, 2021, Q3, 8/24/2021, -2,900, 5,800; Team Graham, Inc., 2022, Q3, 9/27/2022, 900, 900; Salazar Victory Committee, 2022, 30G, 11/3/2022, 7,900, 7,900; Team Herschel, Inc, 2021, Q3, 9/30/2021, -2,900, 2,900; Team Herschel, Inc, 2021, Q3, 9/30/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Team Herschel, Inc, 2021, Q3, 9/30/2021, 5,800, 5,800; Making a Difference in Service to our Nation PAC, 2021, Q1, 1/29/2021, -2,700, 5,600; Making a Difference in Service to our Nation PAC, 2021, Q1, 1/29/2021, 2,700, 5,600; Making a Difference in Service to our Nation PAC, 2021, Q3, 8/17/2021, 200, 5,800; Laxalt for Senate, 2022, Q3, 9/30/2022, 2,900, 2,900; The Pat McCrory Committee, 2021, Q3, 8/24/2021, -2,900, 5,800; Team Graham, Inc., 2022, Q3, 9/27/2022, 900, 900; Salazar Victory Committee, 2022, 30G, 11/3/2022, 7,900, 7,900; Team Herschel, Inc, 2021, Q3, 9/30/2021, -2,900, 2,900; Team Herschel, Inc, 2021, Q3, 9/30/2021, 2,900, 5,800; Making a Difference in Service to our Nation PAC, 2021, Q1, 1/29/2021, -2,700, 5,600; Making a Difference in Service to our Nation PAC, 2021, Q1, 1/29/2021, 2,700, 5,600; Making a Difference in Service to our Nation PAC, 2021, Q3, 8/17/2021, 200, 5,800; Laxalt for Senate, 2022, Q3, 9/30/2022, 2,900, 2,900.

\*Melinda Hildebrand, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Nominee: Melinda Hildebrand.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica.

(The following table covers my federal campaign contributions since 2021, as well as those made by my husband, Jeffery Hildebrand. I have asked my husband to inform me of the pertinent contributions he made. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contribution, amount, date, and recipient:  
Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$100,000, 2021, Cornyn Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2021, Country Roads PAC; Melinda Hildebrand, \$10,000, 2021, Dan Crenshaw Victory Committee; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2021, Hunt for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2021, Lauren Boebert for Congress; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2021, Lauren Boebert for Congress; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2021, Manchin for West Virginia; Melinda Hildebrand, \$1,000, 2021, Rand Paul Victory; Melinda Hildebrand, \$180,000, 2021, Republican National Committee; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2021,

Stand for America PAC; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$5,000, 2021, Stand for America PAC; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$250,000, 2021, Take Back the House; Melinda Hildebrand, \$2,900, 2021, Texans for Henry Cuellar; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2021, Tony Gonzales Victory Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$2,500, 2021, Westerman for Congress; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$2,500, 2021, Westerman for Congress; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$75,000, 2022, Alaskans for L.I.S.A.; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$2,900, 2022, Arrington Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$500,000, 2022, Congressional Leadership Fund; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$216,906, 2022, Cornyn Victory Committee; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$25,000, 2022, Cruz 25 for 22 Victory Fund; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2022, Dan Crenshaw Victory Committee; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2022, Dan Crenshaw Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$3,900, 2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2022, Doctor Oz for Senate; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2022, John James for Michigan; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$7,900, 2022, John Thune Victory Committee; Melinda Hildebrand, \$2,900, 2022, Lauren Boebert for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$2,900, 2022, Nicole Hasso for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$250,000, 2022, Republican National Committee; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$50,000, 2022, Senate Leadership Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$125,000, 2022, Senate Leadership Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2022, Sinema for Arizona; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2022, Sinema for Arizona; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2022, Stand for America PAC; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2022, Stand for America PAC; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$250,000, 2022, Take Back the House; Melinda Hildebrand, \$50,000, 2022, Targeted State Victory; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2022, Team Herschel; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$2,900, 2022, Team McCaul Texas Victory; Melinda Hildebrand, \$2,000, 2022, Texans for Morgan Luttrell; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2022, Texas Republican Voter Engagement PAC; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2022, Tony Gonzales Victory Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$25,000, 2023, Cornyn Victory Committee; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$100,000, 2023, Cornyn Victory Committee; Melinda Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2023, Dan Crenshaw Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, (\$2,700), 2023, Dan Crenshaw Victory Committee (REFUND); Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2023, Restore Our Nation PAC (RON PAC); Jeffery Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2023, Doug Burgum for America; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$25,000, 2023, Hispanic Leadership Alliance; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$12,500, 2023, Hispanic Leadership Trust Partnership; Melinda Hildebrand, \$12,500, 2023, Hispanic Leadership Trust Partnership; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2023, Hunt for Congress; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2023, Jim Banks for Senate; Melinda Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2023, Kevin McCarthy for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,400, 2023, Lauren Boebert for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2023, Mike Pence for President; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2023, Mike Pence for President; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2023, Luttrell Victory Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2023, Nikki Haley; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$11,600, 2023, Pfluger Victory Committee; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$250,000, 2023, Protect the House 2024; Melinda Hildebrand, \$191,300, 2023, Republican National Committee; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2023, Rick Allen for Congress; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$250,000, 2023, Senate Leadership Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$1,000, 2023, Stand for America PAC; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$11,600, 2023, Sullivan Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$11,600, 2023, Team Cramer;

Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2023, Ted Cruz Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,800, 2023, Ted Cruz Victory Committee; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$102,600, 2023, Ted Cruz Victory Fund; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2023, Texans for Henry Cuellar; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2023, Texas First PAC; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2023, Tim Scott for America; Melinda Hildebrand, \$23,200, 2023, Tony Gonzales Victory Fund; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$2,900, 2023, Wicker for Senate; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2023, Zinke for Congress; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$20,000, 2024, Arrington Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$6,870.71, 2024, Brian Jack for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$6,330, 2024, Brian Jack for Congress; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2024, Cole Combined Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2024, Common Values PAC; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$150,000, 2024, Congressional Leadership Fund; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$250,000, 2024, Congressional Leadership Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$250,000, 2024, Congressional Leadership Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$100,000, 2024, Cornyn Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2024, Craig Goldman for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2024, Craig Goldman for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2024, Elise Victory Fund; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$1,567.38, 2024, Friends of John Barrasso; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$275,000, 2024, Grow the Majority; Melinda Hildebrand, \$250,000, 2024, Grow the Majority; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2024, Hogan Victory Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2024, Hunt for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$12,075.79, 2024, Jason Smith for Congress; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2024, Jeff Hurd for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2024, Jeff Hurd for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2024, Lauren Boebert for Congress; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2024, Lawler for Congress; Melinda Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2024, Lawler for Congress; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$316,100, 2024, NRSC Victory; Melinda Hildebrand, \$250,700, 2024, National Republican Senatorial Committee; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,300, 2024, Nella Victory Fund; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$5,000, 2024, Pfluger Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$413,000, 2024, Republican National Committee; Melinda Hildebrand, \$50,000, 2024, Scalise Leadership Fund 2024; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$100,000, 2024, Scalise Leadership Fund 2024; Melinda Hildebrand, \$500,000, 2024, Senate Leadership Fund; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$500,000, 2024, Senate Leadership Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$6,000, 2024, Team Rick Scott; Melinda Hildebrand, \$56,300, 2024, Ted Cruz Victory Fund; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$56,300, 2024, Ted Cruz Victory Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2024, Tony Gonzales Victory Fund; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$511,600, 2024, Trump 47 Committee; Melinda Hildebrand, \$210,121, 2024, Trump 47 Committee; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$1,000,000, 2024, Trump Vance Inaugural Committee, Inc.; Melinda Hildebrand, \$125,000, 2024, Truth and Courage PAC; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$125,000, 2024, Truth and Courage PAC; Melinda Hildebrand, \$250,000, 2024, Truth and Courage PAC; Melinda Hildebrand, (\$58,300, 2024, National Republican Senatorial Committee (REFUND); Melinda Hildebrand, \$11,600, 2025, Tony Gonzales Victory Fund; Melinda Hildebrand, \$25,000, 2025, Defend Our Majority; Melinda Hildebrand, \$100,000, 2025, Grow The Majority; Melinda Hildebrand, \$3,500, 2025, Jeff Hurd for Congress; Jeffery & Melinda Hildebrand (Jointly), \$100,000, 2025, Last Frontier PAC; Melinda Hildebrand, \$6,600, 2025, Lawler Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$25,000, 2025, Nick Begich Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$25,000, 2025, Sullivan Victory Committee; Jeffery Hildebrand, \$443,000, 2025, Republican National Committee.

\*Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic.

Nominee: Michel Issa.

Post: Ambassador to Lebanon.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
None.

\*Nicholas Merrick, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic.

Nominee: Nicholas A. Merrick.

Post: Ambassador to Czech Republic.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Lance Gooden For Congress Committee, \$1,000, 10/25/24, Nicholas A. Merrick; Friends of Dave McCormick, \$3,300, 12/20/23, Nicholas A. Merrick; Save America (Trump), \$330, 11/17/23, Nicholas A. Merrick; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, \$3,300, 11/17/23, Nicholas A. Merrick; Never Surrender, Inc. (Trump), \$2,970, 11/17/23, Nicholas A. Merrick; Dave McCormick for U.S. Senate, \$1,000, 2/15/22, Nicholas A. Merrick; Moran Victory Committee, \$500, 8/16/21, Nicholas A. Merrick; Moran for Kansas, \$500, 8/16/21, Nicholas A. Merrick.

Save America (Trump), \$330, 11/17/23, Leslie Merrick—spouse; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, \$3,300, 11/17/23, Leslie Merrick; Never Surrender, Inc. (Trump), \$2,970, 11/17/23, Leslie Merrick; Ron Johnson For Senate, Inc., \$500, 4/26/22, Leslie Merrick; Ron Johnson Victory, \$500, 4/26/22, Leslie Merrick.

\*Roman Pipko, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

Nominee: Roman Pipko.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Trump National Committee JFC: \$1800, 10/30/2024, Roman Pipko; Bolduc 2022 Inc., \$80, 11/7/2022, Roman Pipko; \$180, 11/4/2022, Roman Pipko.

\*Thomas Rose, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Poland.

Nominee: Thomas A. Rose.

Post: Republic of Poland.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Rose, Thomas, \$360.00, 07/23/2024, Trump 47 Committee Inc.; \$330.00, 06/04/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$3,300.00, 06/04/2024, Never Surrender, Inc.; \$5,000.00, 06/04/2024, Save America; \$26,700.00, 06/04/2024, Trump 47 Com-

mittee, Inc.; \$18,070.00, 06/04/2024, Republican National Committee; \$330.00, 05/30/2024, Republican National Committee; \$3,300.00, 05/30/2024, Trump National Committee JFC. Inc.; \$100.00, 01/29/2024, WinRed; \$2,000.00, 10/09/2023, WinRed; \$1,000.00, 08/25/2023, Mike Pence for President; \$100.00, 07/22/2023, Mike Pence For President; \$100.00, 07/22/2023, WinRed; \$100.00, 07/21/2023, WinRed; \$100.00, 07/21/2023, WinRed.

\*William White, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Nominee: William Bryan White.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Belgium.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Never Surrender, Inc., \$3,300, 4/1/2023, Bryan Eure; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, \$11,600, 4/1/2023, Bryan Eure; Save America, \$5,000, 4/1/2023, Bryan Eure; Never Surrender, Inc., \$3,300, 4/1/2023, Bryan Eure; Kari Lake for Senate, \$5,000, 11/2/2023, Bryan Eure; Winred, \$47, 2/25/2024, Bryan Eure; Winred, \$48.93, 2/25/2024, Bryan Eure; Kari Lake for Senate, \$1,600, 10/24/2024, Bryan Eure; Kari Lake Victory Fund, \$10,000, 10/24/2024, Bryan Eure; Make America Great Again Inc., \$50,000, 5/8/2023, Joseph Eure; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$516.53, 6/1/2024, Joseph Eure; Never Surrender, Inc., \$516.53, 6/1/2024, Joseph Eure; Winred, \$60.24, 6/24/2024, Joseph Eure; Never Surrender, Inc., \$3,300, 4/1/2023, Bill White; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, \$11,600, 4/1/2023, Bill White; Save America, \$5,000, 4/1/2023, Bill White; Never Surrender, Inc., \$3,300, 4/1/2023, Bill White; Marsha for Senate, \$1,000, 5/15/2023, Bill White; Abe for Arizona, \$2,000, 3/19/2024, Bill White; Trump 47 Committee Inc., \$6,600, 4/8/2024, Bill White; Trump 47 Committee Inc., \$50,000, 4/29/2024, Bill White; Hardworking Americans Inc., \$1,000, 8/23/2024, Bill White; Hardworking Americans Inc., \$1,000, 9/17/2024, Bill White; Republican National Committee, \$38,400, 7/31/2024, Bill White; Kari Lake for Senate, \$5,000, 11/2/2023, William White; Make America Great Again, Inc., \$25,000, 3/7/2024, William White; Never Surrender, Inc., \$3,300, 7/31/2024, William White; Never Surrender, Inc., \$3,300, 7/31/2024, William White; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$50,000, 7/31/2024, William White; Save America, \$5,000, 7/31/2024, William White; Republican National Committee, \$6,600, 4/8/2024, William White; Republican National Committee, \$3,700, 4/29/2024, William White; Republican National Committee, \$41,300, 4/29/2024, William White; Republican National Committee, \$5,000, 4/29/2024, William White.

\*John Giordano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia.

Nominee: John Giordano.

Post: Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date and donee:

Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$10,000.00, 10/23/2024, Self; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$5,000.00, 10/18/2024, Self; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$5,000.00, 9/24/2024, Self; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$5,000.00, 9/09/2024 Self;

Sapraicone Victory Fund, \$1,000.00, 8/28/2024, Self; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$25,000.00, 7/31/2024, Self; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$76,000.00, 7/16/2024, Self; Republican National Committee, \$5,000.00, 07/02/2024, Self; NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee, \$750.00, 06/17/2024, Self; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., \$24,000.00, 06/14/2024, Self; Republican National Committee, \$12,400.00, 06/14/2024, Self.

\*Anjani Sinha, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore.

Nominee: Anjani Sinha.

Post: Singapore.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

End Citizens United, 1,000, 7-29-2021, Filer; Maggie for NH, 1,000, 7-29-2021, Filer; Maggie for NH, 1,950, 1-31-2022, Filer; Friends of Reema Rasool, 500, 8-18-2022, Filer; Maggie Hassan Victory, 5,800, 9-13-2022, Filer; NH Dem Party, 2,900, 9-13-2022, Filer; Maggie for NH, 2,900, 9-13-2022, Filer; Never Surrender Inc, 3,300, 4-9-2024, Filer; Never Surrender Inc, 3,300, 4-9-2024, Filer; Krystle Kaul for VA, 3,300, 4-9-2024, Filer; Save America, 5,000, 4-9-2024, Filer; Trump Save America, 23,200, 4-9-2024, Filer; NDTC, 3,300, 4-30-2024, Filer; Ro for Congress, 3,300, 9-9-2024, Filer; SMP, 2,500, 9-12-2024, Filer.

\*Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Nominee: Michael Waltz.

Post: U.S. Representative to the United Nations.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Spouse, Julia Nesheiwat.

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Julia Nesheiwat, Inc. PAC, \$242.30, 11/30/2023, Transcanada USA Services; \$242.30, 12/31/2023, Transcanada USA Services; \$242.30, 1/31/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$242.30, 2/29/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$374.37, 3/31/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$249.58, 4/30/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$249.58, 5/31/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$249.58, 6/30/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$249.58, 7/31/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$374.37, 8/31/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$249.58, 9/30/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$124.79, 10/16/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$374.37, 11/25/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$249.58, 12/31/2024, Transcanada USA Services; \$374.37, 1/31/2025, Transcanada USA Services; \$249.58, 2/28/2025, Transcanada USA Services; \$258.94, 3/31/2025, Transcanada USA Services.

\*Sean O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Nominee: Sean Kotaro O'Neill.

Post: Thailand.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)



Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
Sean O'Neill: None.  
Sachiyo Kubo (Spouse): None.

\*Julie Stuftt, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Nominee: Julie M. Stuftt.  
Post: Kazakhstan.

Nominated: July 9, 2025.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date and donee:  
None, Julie Stuftt.  
None, Timothy Stuftt.

\*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.

Nominee: Dan Negrea.

Post: 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.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Contributor name, Recipient, State, Employer, Receipt date, Amount:

Negrea, Dan Mr., Republican National Committee, CT, Retired, 04/02/2025, \$5,700.00; Republican National Committee, CT, Retired, 04/02/2025, \$19,300.00; Republican National Committee, CT, Retired, 02/14/2025, \$25,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, Utah Republican Party, CT, Retired, 11/14/2024, \$10,000.00; Mississippi Republican Party, CT, Retired, 11/14/2024, \$10,000.00; South Dakota Republican Party, CT, Retired, 11/14/2024, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Kentucky, CT, N/A, 11/08/2024, \$10,000.00; Republican Campaign Committee of New Mexico, CT, Retired, 11/08/2024, \$7,600.00; Republican Campaign Committee of New Mexico, CT, Retired, 11/08/2024, \$2,400.00; Republican Party of Minnesota—Federal, CT, Retired, 10/30/2024, \$2,400.00.

Negrea, Dan Mr., Trump 47 Committee, Inc., CT, Retired, 10/30/2025, \$10,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, Nevada Republican Central Committee, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Washington State Republican Party, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Florida, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$7,600.00; Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; South Carolina Republican Party, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; New Hampshire Republican State Committee, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; New Jersey Republican State Committee, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Missouri Republican State Committee—Federal, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Louisiana, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Guam, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Alaska Republican Party, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Republican State Committee of Delaware, CT, Retired, 10/23/

2024, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Iowa, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; North Carolina Republican Party, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Minnesota—Federal, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$7,600.00; Republican Party of Wisconsin, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Georgia Republican Party Inc., CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Republican Party of Florida, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$2,400.00; Rhode Island Republican State Central Committee, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00.

Negrea, Dan Mr., Republican National Committee, CT, retired, 10/23/2024, \$13,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, Indiana Republican State Committee, Inc., CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Tennessee Republican Party Federal Election Account, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00.

Negrea, Dan Mr., Trump 47 Committee, Inc., CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$300,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, Ohio Republican Party State Central & Executive Committee, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Illinois Republican Party—Federal, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Maryland Republican State Central Committee, CT, Retired, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee, CT, American Geostrategy, 08/15/2024, \$10,000.00; McGuire for Virginia, CT, Foreign Policy Analyst, 06/05/2024, \$300.00; McGuire Victory Fund, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/30/2024, \$300.00.

Negrea, Dan Mr., Republican National Committee, CT, Freedom and Prosperity Center Atlantic, 05/22/2024, \$100,000.00; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 05/22/2024, \$100,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, Republican Party of Arizona, LLC, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00; Oregon Republican Party, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00; Wyoming Republican Party, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00; Connecticut Republican State Central, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00; Oklahoma Leadership Council, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00; California Republican Party Federal Acct., CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00.

Negrea, Dan Mr., Republican Party of Arkansas, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, Maine Republican Party, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00; Alabama Republican Party, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00.

Negrea, Dan Mr., Republican National Committee, CT, Freedom and Prosperity Center Atlantic, 05/16/2024, \$123,900.00; Republican National Committee, CT, Freedom and Prosperity Center Atlantic, 05/16/2024, \$73,601.08; Republican National Committee, CT, Freedom and Prosperity Center Atlantic, 05/16/2024, \$2,498.92; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$200,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, DC Republican Party Federal Account, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$3,900.00.

Negrea, Dan Mr., Republican National Committee, CT, Retired, 05/16/2024, —\$123,900.00.

Negrea, Dan, Colorado Republican Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, Michigan Republican Party, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, Massachusetts Republican Party, CT, Atlantic Council, 05/16/2024, \$10,000.00.

Negrea Dan Mr., Republican National Committee, CT, Freedom and Prosperity Center Atlantic, 04/29/2024, \$8,401.08; Republican National Committee, CT, Freedom and Prosperity Center Atlantic, 04/29/2024, \$50,298.92; Republican National Committee, CT, Freedom and Prosperity Center Atlantic, 04/29/2024, \$41,300.00; Trump 47 Committee, Inc.,

CT, Atlantic Council, 04/29/2024, \$100,000.00; Save America, CT, Atlantic Council, 02/21/2024, \$5,000.00.

Negrea, Dan, Never Surrender Inc., CT, Retired, 02/21/2024, \$3,300.00; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 02/21/2024, \$23,200.00; Make America Great Again Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 02/09/2024, \$75,000.00; Save America, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$343.54; Save America, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$10.00; Save America, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$1.00; Save America, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$0.50; Save America, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$0.10; Save America, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$0.10; Save America, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$0.10; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$3,435.35; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$100.00; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$10.00; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$5.00; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$1.00; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$1.00; Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$1.00; Never Surrender, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$3,091.82; Never Surrender, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$90.00; Never Surrender, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$9.00; Never Surrender, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$4.50; Never Surrender, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$0.90; Never Surrender, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$0.90; Never Surrender, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$0.90; Winred, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$1.00; Winred, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$110.00; Winred, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$1.00; Winred, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$100.00; Winred, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$5.00; Winred, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$10.00; Winred, CT, Atlantic Council, 12/29/2023, \$1.00; Parkinson for Senate, CT, Atlantic Council, 08/08/2023, \$1,000.00; Lawler for Congress, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 06/28/2023, \$500.00; Leora Levy for U.S. Senate, Inc., CT, Retired, 10/23/2022, \$250.00; Leora Levy for U.S. Senate, Inc., CT, Retired, 10/23/2022, \$2.50; Winred, CT, Atlantic Council, 10/23/2022, \$2.50; John Gibbs Great Lakes Committee, CT, Atlantic Council, 10/09/2022, \$500.00; John Gibbs for Congress, Inc., CT, Atlantic Council, 10/09/2022, \$500.00; Marter for Congress, CT, Atlantic Council, 06/22/2022, \$250.00; John Gibbs for Congress, Inc., CT, American Geostrategy, 03/12/2022, \$250.00; Leora Levy for U.S. Senate, Inc., CT, Retired, 02/27/2022, \$5.00; Leora Levy for U.S. Senate, Inc., CT, Retired, 02/27/2022, \$1,000.00; Winred, CT, Retired, 02/27/2022, \$5.00; Patrick Witt for Congress, CT, American Geostrategy, 11/30/2021, \$500.00; Claudia Tenney for Congress, CT, MTN Capital, 09/30/2021, \$1,000.00; Tim Scott for Senate, CT, American Geostrategy, 08/20/2021, \$250.00.

Negrea, Nicole, Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 10/25/2024, \$1,800.00; Trump 47 Committee Inc., CT, GGD, 10/25/2024, \$25,000.00; Never Surrender Inc., CT, GGD, 10/23/2024, \$3,300.00; Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Trump 47 Committee, Inc., CT, GGD, 10/23/2024, \$10,000.00; Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 10/18/2024, \$30,000.00; Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 10/18/2024, \$35,000.00; Trump 47 Committee Inc., CT,



GGD, 10/18/2024, \$30,000.00; Trump 47 Committee Inc., CT, GGD, 10/18/2024, \$35,000.00; Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 09/24/2024, \$10,000.00; Trump 47 Committee Inc., CT, Greenwich Garden Design, 09/19/2024, \$30,000.00; Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 09/19/2024, \$30,000.00; Republican National Committee, CT, Greenwich Garden Design, 09/13/2024, \$22,900.00; Trump 47 Committee Inc., CT, Greenwich Garden Design, 09/13/2024, \$30,000.00; Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 09/13/2024, \$7,100.00; Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 09/13/2024, \$22,900.00; Republican National Committee, CT, Greenwich Garden Design, 09/10/2024, \$18,400.00; Trump 47 Committee Inc., CT, Greenwich Garden Design, 09/10/2024, \$30,000.00; Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 09/10/2024, \$18,400.00; Republican National Committee, CT, GGD, 09/10/2024, -\$18,400.00.

\*Sergio Gor, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of India.

Nominee: Sergio Gor.  
Post: New Delhi, India.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Self: \$500, 5/21/2020, TRUMP VICTORY; \$500, 5/21/2020, DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC.; \$500, 10/12/2022, FRIENDS OF MIKE LEE INC.; \$1,000, 12/6/2023, KARI LAKE FOR SENATE; \$1,025, 5/22/2024, REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA; \$1,000, 6/27/2024, BRIAN JACK FOR CONGRESS.

\*Stephanie Hallett, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Nominee: Stephanie L. Hallett.  
Post: Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Nominated: September 2, 2025.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date and donee:

Self: None.

Spouse: 2022 Congressional Primary (MD), \$250, 07/07/22, Matthew Foldi for Congress.

\*James Holtsnider, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Nominee: James Holtsnider.

Post: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date and donee:

James Holtsnider, None.

Nana Holtsnider, None.

\*Jacob Helberg, of Florida, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment).

\*Benjamin Black, of New York, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

\*Thomas DiNanno, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

\*Paul Kapur, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

\*Caleb Orr, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Economic and Business Affairs).

\*Chris Pratt, of Utah, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

\*Sarah Rogers, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

\*Michael DeSombre, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

\*Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, 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.

\*Riley Barnes, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

\*Todd Wilcox, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Diplomatic Security).

By Mr. CRUZ for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PAUL, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 854. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, and for other purposes.

By Mr. PAUL, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 855. A bill to require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, and for other purposes.

## 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 Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2826. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to dedicate sufficient resources for the support of LGBTQ+ youth seeking help from the 9-8-8 suicide prevention hotline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2827. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on source of income, veteran status, or military

status; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 2828. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to reauthorize and update the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KING:

S. 2829. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of preventive home visits under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING:

S. 2830. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the annual wellness visit under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING:

S. 2831. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for certain fall prevention items under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 2832. A bill to establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2833. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to improve falls prevention research and activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2834. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Program to test a payment and service delivery model under part A of Medicare to improve clinical health outcomes and reduce the rate of readmissions of certain individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 2835. A bill to support communities that host transmission lines and to promote conservation and recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2836. A bill to prohibit health insurance issuers and certain health care providers under Medicare from being under common ownership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. VAN

HOLLEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2837. A bill to nullify certain Executive orders relating to exclusions from Federal labor-management relations programs, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KIM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2838. A bill to protect our democracy by preventing abuses of Presidential power, restoring checks and balances and accountability and transparency in government, and defending elections against foreign interference, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 2839. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Critical Minerals Security Alliance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mr. GALLEG0):

S. 2840. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2841. A bill to amend the American History and Civics Education program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require hands-on civic engagement activities for teachers and students and programs that educate students about the history and principles of the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2842. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for congenital Cytomegalovirus screening of newborns; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 2843. A bill to require congressional approval for all capital expenditures requested by the Federal Reserve, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for Mr. LEE) (by request):

S. 2844. A bill to clarify United States policy with respect to limitations on the domestic dissemination of program material about the United States that was prepared or disseminated by the United States Agency for Global Media or its component networks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2845. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax loopholes that allow billionaires to defer tax indefinitely through planning strategies such as “buy, borrow, die”, to modify over 30 tax provisions so that billionaires are required to pay taxes annually, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2846. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to modify treatment activities for assistance to combat HIV/AIDS; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 2847. A bill to clarify coverage of occupational therapy under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2848. A bill to require amounts used to pay the costs of the renaming the Department of Defense to be derived from the travel budget of the Secretary of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2849. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit certain foreign nationals from serving on the board of directors of tax-exempt organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2850. A bill to improve the safety and security of Members of Congress, immediate family members of Members of Congress, and congressional staff; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2851. A bill to improve the safety and security of Members of Congress, immediate family members of Members of Congress, and congressional staff, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KIM:

S. 2852. A bill to prohibit Federal officials from owning covered investments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2853. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain authorities and requirements relating to health care and benefits furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KIM, and Mr. BOOKER):

S.J. Res. 78. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the authority of Congress and the States to regulate contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections and to enact public financing systems for political campaigns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. SCHMITT):

S.J. Res. 79. A joint resolution honoring the sacrifice of Marine Corps Lance Corporal David L. Espinoza, Marine Corps Sergeant Nicole L. Gee, Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Darin Taylor Hoover, Army Staff Sergeant Ryan Christian Knauss, Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Rylee J. McCollum, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Dylan R. Merola, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kareem M. Nikoui, Marine Corps Corporal Daegan W. Page, Marine Corps Sergeant Johanny Rosario, Marine Corps Corporal Humberto A. Sanchez, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jared M. Schmitz, and Navy Petty Officer Third Class Maxton W. Soviak; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 397. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September as “Dystonia Awareness Month” to promote public awareness and understanding of dystonia; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 398. A resolution condemning the treatment of Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu by the Government of Azerbaijan and urging his immediate release; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. Res. 399. A resolution congratulating the people of North Macedonia on the 34th anniversary of their independence and celebrating the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between North Macedonia and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 400. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 14 through 20, 2025, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week”; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 163

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 163, a bill to require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including a link to the webpage of the Office for Civil Rights where an individual can submit a complaint regarding discrimination in violation of such title, and for other purposes.

S. 419

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 419, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize grants to support law enforcement officers and families, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions

evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1816

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1816, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 2269

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2269, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the criminal penalties for assaulting, resisting, or impeding an officer or employee of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2426, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2561

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform the payment rules regarding skin substitute products.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to establish protections for warehouse workers, and for other purposes.

S. 2687

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2687, a bill to repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 en-

acted by the District of Columbia Council.

S. 2720

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2720, a bill to provide technical assistance and grants for faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and local governments to increase the supply of affordable rental housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2817

At the request of Mr. GALLEGO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S.J. RES. 71

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 71, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy.

S. RES. 389

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. RES. 393

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 393, a resolution designating September 25, 2025, as "National Lobster Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 3210

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3210 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. 3288

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor 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.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 397—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER AS "DYSTONIA AWARENESS MONTH" TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF DYSTONIA

Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 397

Whereas dystonia is a neurological movement disorder that causes excessive, involuntary muscle contractions, resulting in abnormal muscle movements and body postures;

Whereas dystonia affects an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 individuals in the United States, though the true number may be higher due to underdiagnosis and misdiagnosis;

Whereas dystonia can affect people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds, and may appear as a standalone condition or as a symptom of other neurological disorders;

Whereas there are multiple forms of dystonia, including focal, segmental, and generalized dystonias, that may impact a person's ability to walk, speak, see, or perform daily tasks;

Whereas dystonia can cause significant physical disability, social isolation, emotional distress, and financial hardship for individuals and families;

Whereas, although there is no cure for dystonia, treatments such as botulinum toxin injections, oral medications, deep brain stimulation, and supportive therapies can help manage symptoms and improve quality of life;

Whereas greater awareness and understanding of dystonia will lead to earlier diagnosis, expanded research, improved treatments, and better support for individuals and families living with this condition;

Whereas medical researchers and clinicians are working diligently to increase awareness and advance knowledge of dystonia through outreach, education, and scientific study;

Whereas servicemembers and veterans may experience dystonia as a result of traumatic brain injury, exposure to certain medications, or other service-related conditions, underscoring the importance of research, treatment access, and care within the health systems of the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense has awarded competitive research grants supporting studies on dystonia, reflecting the recognition of its impact on the health of servicemembers, veterans, and the general population: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of September as "Dystonia Awareness Month";

(2) recognizes the need for further research to discover new treatments and a cure for dystonia;

(3) commends the efforts of medical professionals and researchers who work to improve the lives of individuals with dystonia; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe Dystonia Awareness Month

with appropriate programs and activities to raise public awareness and understanding of dystonia.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 398—CON-  
DEMNING THE TREATMENT OF  
DR. GUBAD IBADOGLU BY THE  
GOVERNMENT OF AZERBAIJAN  
AND URGING HIS IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 398

Whereas recent diplomatic progress in peace accords between Armenia and Azerbaijan has raised hopes for a more stable and prosperous future in the South Caucasus;

Whereas that progress presents an important opportunity for Azerbaijan to strengthen its global partnerships and demonstrate its commitment to international norms;

Whereas that progress cannot be fully realized while wrongful detentions and human rights violations persist in Azerbaijan;

Whereas Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu, a respected academic and economist, and his wife, Irada Bayramova, were arrested by Azerbaijani authorities on July 23, 2023, and severely beaten while in police custody;

Whereas Dr. Ibadoghlu was dubiously accused of multiple criminal acts without evidence, imprisoned in extremely poor conditions, and denied adequate medical care, resulting in significant health deterioration;

Whereas, although transferred to house arrest on April 22, 2024, Dr. Ibadoghlu has been denied a trial date, left in legal limbo, and subjected to repeated violations of due process and access to counsel;

Whereas the Department of State, the United States Embassy in Baku, leading academic institutions, Members of Congress, and respected international organizations have all expressed deep concern and called for the immediate release of Dr. Ibadoghlu;

Whereas the Government of Azerbaijan's continued practice of wrongful detention, including cases such as those of Bakhtiyar Hajiyev, Avaz Zeynalli, Ulviyya Guliyeva, Farid Mehralizada, and Elchin Sadigov, undermines the credibility of its commitments to peace and partnership with the community of democracies; and

Whereas Azerbaijan has sought to highlight its international engagement and prestige through events such as the Formula 1 Grand Prix and other global forums, but those efforts are fundamentally at odds with the continued detention of political prisoners and the denial of basic humanitarian standards: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the progress made in peace negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and expresses hope that such progress will lead to lasting peace and greater international engagement;

(2) condemns—

(A) the treatment of Dr. Ibadoghlu and other political prisoners by the Government of Azerbaijan;

(B) the Government of Azerbaijan's practice of wrongful detention; and

(C) the suppression of academic freedom and peaceful expression;

(3) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners in Azerbaijan, including Dr. Ibadoghlu, and specifically urges his release in advance of Azerbaijan's hosting of international events such as the Formula 1 Grand Prix, further under-

scoring that until such release occurs, the United States cannot treat those events as positive opportunities for partnership and will instead continue to highlight in such forums the persistence of wrongful detentions and human rights concerns; and

(4) urges all responsible officials and agencies of the United States Government, including the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, and other relevant entities, to make Dr. Ibadoghlu's well-being and release a priority in all engagements with the Government of Azerbaijan, reinforcing that genuine peace must be accompanied by respect for human rights and academic freedom.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 399—CON-  
GRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF  
NORTH MACEDONIA ON THE 34TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDE-  
PENDENCE AND CELEBRATING  
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIP-  
LOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN  
NORTH MACEDONIA AND THE  
UNITED STATES**

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RICKETTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 399

Whereas the Republic of North Macedonia peacefully asserted and achieved independent statehood on September 8, 1991, and has since become a secure, democratic, and prosperous country and a key United States ally and strategic partner in the Western Balkans;

Whereas North Macedonia affirmed its commitment to joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1993, adopted major defense reforms, built a modern, professional defense force, and became the 30th NATO alliance member on March 27, 2020;

Whereas, in 1993, the State of Vermont and North Macedonia established a partnership under the National Guard State Partnership Program;

Whereas, in 1995, the United States and North Macedonia established full diplomatic relations;

Whereas, in 2008, the United States signed a Declaration of Strategic Partnership and Cooperation with North Macedonia;

Whereas, in June 2022, North Macedonia held a strategic dialogue with the United States, marking a significant bilateral milestone and step toward implementation of the Declaration of Strategic Partnership and Cooperation;

Whereas, on May 29, 2025, United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with North Macedonia Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Timco Mucunski, commended the strong relationship between the two countries, and highlighted mutual interests in regional stability, economic cooperation, and NATO;

Whereas North Macedonia has demonstrated its importance to the European Union and the United States as a security partner and NATO ally, providing Ukraine with humanitarian aid and considerable military equipment, voting in favor of United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions against Russian aggression, and adopting all European Union sanctions on the Russian Federation;

Whereas the resolution of the naming dispute between Greece and North Macedonia paved the way for North Macedonia's NATO membership and candidacy for membership in the European Union;

Whereas the Government of North Macedonia has demonstrated its commitment to Euro-Atlantic integration through alignment with the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union; and

Whereas September 8, 2025, marks the 34th anniversary of the independence of North Macedonia, a moment to reflect on the country's achievements in establishing and maintaining a resilient democracy in the service of the freedom and prosperity of the people of North Macedonia: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) extends congratulations and best wishes to the people of North Macedonia as they celebrate the 34th anniversary of their independence;

(2) honors the bond of friendship between the United States and North Macedonia and the shared values of freedom, democracy, and good governance;

(3) recognizes the cooperation between the State of Vermont and North Macedonia and the partnership between the Vermont National Guard and the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia;

(4) appreciates North Macedonia's continued commitment to the Prespa Agreement;

(5) honors five years of shared security, collective defense, and joint military alliance with North Macedonia as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(6) appreciates North Macedonia's active role in fostering peace and stability in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans and advancing democratic reforms and Euro-Atlantic integration, and its alignment with positions of the European Union and the United States on security and foreign policy; and

(7) looks toward many more decades of shared prosperity, peace, cooperation, and friendship.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 400—EX-  
PRESSING SUPPORT FOR DES-  
IGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEP-  
TEMBER 14 THROUGH 20, 2025, AS  
“NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION  
AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK”**

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 400

Whereas new data released in December 2024 by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies reported that nearly 59,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy, numeracy, and digital skills necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas data from the 2023 American Community Survey indicated that nearly 21,000,000 adults in the United States lack a high school credential and another 20,000,000 adults in the United States lack adequate English-language skills;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being and the national security of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy, numeracy, and digital skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the economy and position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is essential for economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of the parents of a child and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

Whereas parental involvement in the education of a child is a key predictor of the success of a child, and the level of parental involvement in the education of a child increases as the educational level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents who participate in family literacy programs become more involved in the education of their children and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas, as a result of family literacy programs, the lives of children become more stable and the success of children in the classroom and in future endeavors becomes more likely;

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the educational challenges faced by the people of the United States;

Whereas many older individuals in the United States lack the reading, numeracy, or English-language skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, which endangers the lives of older individuals and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills necessary to obtain and retain employment, to continue their education, or to participate in job training and career development programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills necessary to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or obtain work that provides a living wage;

Whereas a large portion of individuals in prison have low educational skills, and individuals without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure that each individual in the United States has the literacy, numeracy, and digital skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 14 through 20, 2025, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week”, to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs that assist individuals in need of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs;

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs; and

(4) calls on public, private, and nonprofit entities to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a fully literate society.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3899. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military ac-

tivities 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 3900. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) 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 3899. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 6211 of division E, insert the following:

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for the following 4 years, the President or his designee shall submit to Congress an unclassified report, with a classified annex if necessary, that certifies whether the Government of Syria—

(1) has committed itself to the goal of eliminating the threat posed by ISIS and other terrorist groups and has worked in partnership with the United States to join as a member of the Global Coalition To Defeat ISIS;

(2) is making progress in providing security for religious and ethnic minorities in Syria and includes representation from religious and ethnic minorities in the government;

(3) is not taking unilateral, unprovoked military action against its neighbors, including the State of Israel, and continues to make progress towards international security agreements, as appropriate;

(4) is not knowingly financing, assisting (monetarily or through weapons transfers), or harboring individuals or groups (including foreign terrorist organizations and specially designated global terrorists) that are harmful to the national security of the United States or allies and partners of the United States in the region;

(5) has removed, or has taken steps to remove, foreign fighters from senior roles in the Government of Syria, including those in the state and security institutions of Syria; and

(6) is in the process of investigating and has committed to prosecuting those that have committed serious abuses of internationally recognized human rights since December 8, 2024, including those responsible for the massacre of religious minorities.

(c) NOTIFICATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA.—The President or his designee shall inform the Government of Syria of the findings of the report required under subsection (b).

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—If the President or his designee is unable to make an affirmative certification under subsection (b) for two consecutive reporting periods, it is the sense of Congress that sanctions under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of division F of Public Law 116-92; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note) should be reimposed and remain in

effect until the President or his designee makes an affirmative certification under subsection (b).

SA 3900. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 330. DEPOT-LEVEL MAINTENANCE COORDINATION IN MULTINATIONAL EXERCISES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Secretary of the Air Force shall incorporate in at least one multinational exercise conducted in the area of operations of the United States Indo-Pacific Command—

(1) depot-level maintenance, repair, and sustainment considerations, including binational or multinational planning sessions with covered nations on—

(A) identifying opportunities to cooperate on depot-level maintenance and repair in ways that minimize transportation requirements in such area of operations and determining the authorities necessary to deliver necessary joint capabilities;

(B) facilitating real-time coordination between the United States and covered nations to maintain munitions stock levels and resupply routes in such area of operations;

(C) mutual recognition of airworthiness and maintenance certification between the United States and covered nations; and

(D) emergency tabletop exercises, such as when an aircraft of a covered nation breaks down in United States territory, and vice versa, in a contested logistics environment.

(2) coordination with the Air Force Sustainment Center, including the participation of representatives of—

(A) the United States Indo-Pacific Command;

(B) the United States Pacific Air Forces;

(C) the United States Air Mobility Command; and

(D) the Air Force Sustainment Center.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to Congress a report summarizing the lessons learned from carrying out an exercise in accordance with subsection (a) with respect to the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A list of candidate systems for co-sustainment with the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia.

(B) A list of depot-level repair workload opportunities to undertake with the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia, including testing equipment or line replaceable units.

(C) Opportunities to incorporate Korean and Australian industry partners in depot-level maintenance repair activities, including through public-private partnerships.

(D) An identification of any potential logistical challenges that could arise with the host country, including with respect to workforce, housing, and location of workload.

(E) An identification of any potential impediments involving intellectual property or

data rights between original equipment manufacturers and the Department of the Air Force or between the Department of the Air Force and the Republic of Korea or the Commonwealth of Australia.

(F) An identification of any potential impediments related to International Traffic in Arms Regulations and related statutes.

(G) Any additional recommendations to Congress that would ease the facilitation of depot-level maintenance repair partnerships with the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia, including changes to existing status of forces agreements.

(H) An analysis of current maintenance and repair capabilities and gaps in the organic industrial base of the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia.

(I) An assessment of the types of maintenance and repair activities (including depot-level, preventative, and corrective) that may be most appropriate for a partnership with the Republic of Korea or the Commonwealth of Australia.

(J) An assessment of how any such partnership may contribute to allied contingency operations, interoperability, and regional posture resilience in the Indo-Pacific region.

(K) A consideration of planning factors related to the evolving force generation models of the Air Force, future-generation aircraft programs, deployment schedules, statutory maintenance thresholds, and other relevant operational requirements.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED NATION DEFINED.—The term “covered nation” means any of the following:

(A) The Commonwealth of Australia.

(B) Canada.

(C) Japan.

(D) New Zealand.

(E) The Republic of Korea.

(F) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(G) Any other nation as designated as a covered nation for the purposes of this section by the Secretary of the Air Force.

(2) INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS.—The term “International Traffic in Arms Regulations” means subchapter M of chapter I of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

#### NOTICES OF INTENT TO NOT OBJECT

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, do not object to the consideration of Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, dated September 17, 2025.

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, do not object to the consideration of Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, dated September 17, 2025.

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, do not object to the consideration of Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, dated September 17, 2025.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I have 12 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 Sen-

ate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10 a.m.

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10:10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 9:50 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH 20, 2025, AS NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 400, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 400) expressing support for designation of the week of September 14 through 20, 2025, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MORENO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 400) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 18; 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; further, following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nominations en bloc pursuant to S. Res. 377; finally, that all time during recess and leader remarks count postcloture on the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order, following the remarks of my Democratic colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

#### HEALTHCARE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, folks in this Chamber may know this, but



the fight for affordable healthcare is deeply personal to me.

When I was just 9 years old, I had a very serious childhood illness. It was a diagnosis similar to spinal meningitis—that wasn't the exact diagnosis—but I was actually in the hospital for 3 months. And even though I made a full recovery, my family was not able to find health insurance for me at any price, and that is because I had been labeled as a child with a preexisting health condition.

At that time, insurance companies were allowed to refuse coverage for people because they had preexisting health conditions, but because of the Affordable Care Act, we changed that and gave Americans with preexisting conditions some serious protections.

We gave families like mine hope. We gave young people hope allowing them to stay on their parents' health insurance until age 26—a provision I crafted in the House of Representatives. And we gave small business owners hope, ensuring that their employees could get affordable care.

And since then, I am proud to say that we have actually built on the success of the Affordable Care Act. One of those wins has been giving families a tax break when they buy their insurance through the marketplace to help make their healthcare more affordable.

For small businesses, like our restaurants, manufacturers, and childcare providers, the small group health insurance market isn't just a huge administrative burden, it is also expensive. The open marketplace is the difference between being able to hire and retain and keep doors open and losing staff to jobs at companies that have the wherewithal to provide health insurance.

But this tax break is all on the line right now. If Republicans don't act with us, this tax break will end at the end of this year, jacking up premium costs for 24 million people in America, including pricing about 4 million Americans out of the market altogether.

Yes, you heard me right, 4 or more million people will see their healthcare terminated. These numbers have very real people behind each of them, with very real stories.

Take Amanda. Amanda is a broker's assistant in a real estate office in Wisconsin who relies on the enhanced premium tax credits on the Affordable Care Act. Amanda, who has lupus, needs weekly shots to manage the autoimmune disease.

Or take Madison chef and restaurant owner Evan Dannels who has about a dozen employees who all get their care from the Affordable Care Act.

He said that if that weren't an affordable option, his employees would be looking at corporate employers that can afford big insurance packages.

The stories go on and on of Wisconsinites who rely on the Affordable Care Act to get just that: affordable healthcare.

But these are the people who will have their premiums skyrocketing, forcing some like Amanda to lose care altogether and forcing others like Evan to lose employees.

The upside is that there is a very simple way to fix this, and it is right in front of us: pass the bill that Senator SHAHEEN and I lead to make these tax breaks permanent.

Time is of the essence. Families and businesses are going to get those dreaded letters in the mail any day now saying their premiums are going up 75 percent. Families will have to make really tough choices. Small businesses will be left holding the bag as employees leave for corporations that are able to afford insurance plans.

So we are left with one question: Will Republicans refuse to act and increase healthcare costs for tens of millions of Americans? So far, their answer has been yes. They have had opportunity after opportunity—in fact, three different times on the Senate floor this year—but again they chose not to do anything.

When Republicans were putting together their huge sweeping tax bill, you would think that including tax breaks for tens of millions of families to afford healthcare would be their centerpiece, right? Wrong.

As families are slated to get notices of how much their premiums are going to go up any day now, Republicans had yet another chance this week to help address this pressing issue. House Republicans unveiled a bill just yesterday to fund the government, but it does absolutely nothing to lower healthcare costs or prevent millions from being kicked off of their insurance.

This agenda to strip healthcare for millions and raise healthcare costs for tens of millions is not what the American people are clamoring for, I can assure you.

Wisconsinites have been crystal clear that they need lower costs. The last thing they need is their healthcare premiums to be jacked up or, worse, not even being able to afford them. If Republicans fail to act, Wisconsinites know who to thank when their premiums go up next year and millions are priced out of healthcare.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### HEALTHCARE

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague from Wisconsin talking about her own healthcare experience and why those in Wisconsin want to see us take action to help keep insurance affordable.

I rise today because Americans are facing a massive wave of healthcare costs. Those increases are swamping the family budget, and they are hurting our healthcare system by increasing uncompensated care.

But before I did that, I wanted to make a comment on today's HELP

Committee hearing with the former CDC Director, Director Susan Monarez, who was fired by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy because she refused to rubberstamp what he wanted to have happen.

Dr. Monarez basically confirmed what we already knew today, and that was that instead of basing vaccines on hundreds of years of science, instead the Secretary of Health is trying to replace that with a pseudoscience. He is basically trying to say, instead of 100 years of evidence about vaccines for measles and other childhood diseases, that now a new group is going to come up with recommendations and, thereby, I think, confusing people.

So I am glad that the West Coast Alliance of scientists today put out a statement talking about, what is the science that has been the basis for the United States for several years. Those are important things to understand, but this is an assault on our healthcare system if we don't continue to follow science in the most specific way.

So I appreciate Dr. Monarez basically coming before the Senate today, making sure that people understand that she was fired because she didn't want to go along with this, and I think that she made some important statements today about saying that we need to base science on evidence and not ideology. I agree with that, and I think people in the Northwest want to see this alliance in our State and, in California and Oregon, continue to advocate for good science when it comes to vaccines.

But I wanted to also talk tonight about our healthcare system and the assault on it. Last week, the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner approved a 21-percent increase in the 2026 ACA marketplace insurance premium.

So what does that mean? It means that our State said that insurance rates could go up. Why are they saying they could go up? Because this is the largest single increase since 2018, nearly double last year's increase. And why are they saying this? Well, they are saying this—insurers in Washington are saying this because they are pointing to a couple of things: the Trump tariffs, the rising cost of the delivery system, and most importantly, the failure of our colleagues to extend the tax credits that would make health insurance more affordable for about 22 million Americans.

In our State, 80,000 Washingtonians are expected to drop their health insurance coverage because they will no longer be able to afford it. That is a tragedy because we don't want to see people losing health insurance because, when they do, it means there is just a lot more uncompensated care and it means the cost of health insurance goes up for everybody. For everyone else, they will pay an average of \$129 more per month, or \$1,548 per year, just to keep the same health insurance plan.

So how did we get here? Why are Americans facing this looming threat? When the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010, the health insurance through Medicaid, the marketplace exchange was now available to millions of Americans. By making coverage affordable year after year, we saw more and more people covered by insurance.

The rate of those uninsured in the United States dropped from 15 percent before the ACA to an alltime low of over 7 percent in 2023. So we basically cut that in half. We cut the number of uninsured in half. We could have done more, in my opinion; there were a couple of things we left on the table that would have lowered that uninsured rate even more significantly.

But today, 44 million Americans get their health insurance through the ACA. That is about one in six people under the age of 65. In our State, it provides coverage for an additional 626,000 Medicaid recipients and nearly 300,000 beneficiaries on the exchange. In 2023, the uninsured rate in our State was just 4.8 percent. So that means people are covered. You don't have uncompensated care, you don't have emergency room visits, you don't have the problems that we are seeing.

So what happens now, though, is that millions of Americans, as I said, are now facing these skyrocketing costs of healthcare. And that is because data shows, when more people have health insurance and our providers spend less on compensated care, the system is more affordable. But according to a Kaiser Foundation study, aggregated uncompensated care dropped by \$20 billion in the 7 years after the Affordable Care Act passed. But the tax credits that help make coverage affordable for those who need it the most are essential to driving down the cost for everyone.

So if you don't keep the tax credits, we are now going to face skyrocketing healthcare costs, unless we extend those subsidies. That is the point. We did a good job—we lowered uncompensated care, we lowered the cost of insurance, and instead, now we are facing basically the end of subsidies that we are now going to make that go up and cost all of us.

As I mentioned, I have spoken to many of my constituents. One I just spoke to—Leslie, who has a connection to Three Rivers Hospital in Brewster, WA—she told me that her husband relies on the ACA premium credits to afford his marketplace insurance. Without the subsidy, his monthly premium would increase from \$200 to \$700 a month, and he will no longer be able to afford his insurance next year. He also needs to have surgery soon, so they are trying to figure out how to get that done fast. And Leslie and her husband run a small business. They don't have the luxury of waiting and paying more just to get basic healthcare in a very rural part of our State. She understands the healthcare system, and she knows that we need to fix this, so she

is calling on all of us to step up and get a certainty to the ACA tax credit.

I am worried about the additional 80,000 Washingtonians who are expected to lose access to checkups and preventive care. We know that people without healthcare insurance wait to get care until their condition worsens to a point where they end up in the emergency room. That costs them and everyone else more. And more people will also end up in the emergency department just because they can't afford preventive care or regular services. Treating a patient in the ER can be 10 times more expensive than treating a patient in a normal doctor's office, and these are costs that are being passed along in the form of higher healthcare premiums for all Washingtonians, no matter what type of health insurance they get.

So these Republican policies making it harder for us to hold down healthcare costs should stop. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of the healthcare system has already risen 4.2 percent in the last 6 months, much higher than the rate of inflation. So we see these costs compared to other costs in our system. Obviously, energy costs are rising, but in addition to the cost of food and household essentials, Americans are facing these higher bills in general. I think the Trump administration is ignoring these real life impacts on families.

Congress should be working together to make healthcare less expensive, and we know that we, the Congress, in the Republican-passed bill also created a lot of uncertainty as to the Medicaid marketplace and what is happening, and we already met with hospitals today from rural parts of Washington, that are saying they are seeing the impacts already of that bill—on individuals not having certainty or, in one instance, basically a hospital needed to have some construction work done, and the person who was supposed to provide the construction and the financing of that said, "Are you really going to have the money to even do this?" So it is sending a ripple through the entire system.

So we can't afford to go back to a situation we had before the Affordable Care Act, when one of every seven Americans didn't have health insurance. We can't afford the wave of uncompensated care costs that will hit hospitals and, eventually, all of us; and we can't afford the loss of lives and the medical bills that people are seeing every day.

And we need Americans to understand that we should be listening to what they are saying. Seventy-two percent of Americans say they want an enhanced premium tax credit extension. That is those who are strongly in favor and somewhat in favor. That is what the American people are telling us. They want this healthcare to continue just like they want their Medicaid coverage to continue.

So let's do our jobs. Let's quickly act to extend the ACA tax credits. Let's do

everything we can to make health insurance more affordable. Let's make a bipartisan effort to show the American people that we hear them, that a very big percentage of them want more affordable healthcare—now, for all Americans, let's get it done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

## HEALTHCARE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a very simple idea: that in the most powerful country in the world, every American should have access to healthcare they can afford.

Protecting Michiganders' healthcare is why I ran for the House originally. It is why I am here in the Senate.

I, frankly, never thought I would run for political office. But, in 2017, I watched on CNN as my then-Representative smiled and cheered in the Rose Garden as President Trump repealed the Affordable Care Act in the U.S. House. I looked at my TV screen, and I said: No, you don't get to do that. You don't get to ignore your constituents, vote against their interest, and keep your job.

I am a former CIA officer. I served alongside the military. In the military, they have a term for this. It is "dereliction of duty." It is a fireable offense. I ran that year to fire him, and, in 2018, we did just that.

This issue has particular salience for me because of my mom. My mom passed away in 2011 from ovarian cancer, and she had survived breast cancer many, many years ago, when I was a little girl. So she had that preexisting condition for the rest of her life.

She lost her job. She had financial issues. She couldn't afford the insurance that was on offer to her and walked into an emergency room and was diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer.

It was like a grenade went off in our lives. It is something I would not wish upon my worst enemy.

I took a leave of absence. I came home to Michigan. And at the same time that she was fighting for her life to get tests and emergency surgery, it was the same moment that we were fighting the insurance company so that she could get care.

She fought hard for 18 months, but she passed away in 2011. And that experience drives the work that I did in the House and, certainly, why I am here on this floor today.

Sadly, we are nearly a decade after that original attempt by President Trump to repeal the ACA, and we are in a similar place. President Trump and my Republican colleagues are doing everything in their power to cut healthcare for average Americans. They are just doing it in different and creative ways because they know it is politically unpopular to tell you to your face.

We are coming up on a big deadline here. We all know that. On September

30, the government runs out of money. I don't know a single person who wants a government shutdown. After almost 16 years in the Federal Government, where I was on the receiving end of those shutdowns, I do not want our government to run out of money. But if my Republican colleagues want my vote on that bill, they are going to need to act like adults and come talk to me about it.

And what I will say to the State that I am representing, as well as to my colleagues, is that if you want that vote, you are going to have to talk to me about healthcare. That is the place to start.

If we would roll the tape back to just a couple of months ago, the President and my colleagues voted on the Big Beautiful Bill. The Big Beautiful Bill did important things to change the face of healthcare in the United States, and we are only now just starting to feel the effects.

So if you want my vote next week or in the next couple of weeks, we are going to have to talk about the significant Medicaid cuts that you made, the ending of a bunch of subsidies for the marketplace, or Obamacare, and talk to me about putting money back into things like cancer research that you slashed, because there are few things as fundamental as providing healthcare to your family, and yet there are few systems in America that are as broken as healthcare in America.

I don't know of a single person who thinks that our healthcare system is working well. Do you know a single person who thinks they are paying too little for healthcare?

And then, on top of that, we don't even get the health outcomes they get in other countries.

And, now, President Trump has made these cuts even worse. As I mentioned, in the Big Beautiful Bill, they did two really important things: They cut Medicaid, and they cut the subsidies for Obamacare.

Why did they do that? That was the math that they needed in order to pay for permanent tax cuts for the very wealthy. Right? They didn't want to say that out loud: that in order to pay for those tax cuts for the very wealthy—those permanent tax cuts—they had to cut healthcare in America. They had to, in order to make the math work.

But we know that those kinds of cuts could potentially shutter hospitals, particularly in the rural parts of my State. Community health centers could close. Every hospital I have talked to is talking about which services are they going to have to cut, particularly things like birth and delivery services. You are going to have communities that have to drive 30, 40, 50 miles just to have a baby or to make it to the ER.

And, now, Michiganders on the other side of the ledger—those who have private insurance—are starting to feel the heat, because if you cut those other programs, if you cut Medicaid and

Obamacare—and maybe you say to yourself: Well, I am not on Medicaid. Well, I am not on the marketplace. I don't have Obamacare. The healthcare companies have already started, for their private insurance, increasing the rates, starting January 1.

They are starting to send out letters, like this one I have in front of me. This was sent to a man in Macomb County, in Sterling Heights. I met him this past weekend.

I said: I am really concerned that private, employer-provided healthcare is going to go up starting January 1.

He is like: I have already got my letter.

His letter here says: Last year, the cost of your healthcare program in total was \$36,969—so almost \$37,000. Starting January 1, if you want to continue this program, it is \$43,000.

That is happening across the State of Michigan already. So if you thought that the Big Beautiful Bill was cutting someone else's healthcare, that cost—which is so personal to so many people because it is whether we can provide health to our loved ones—is now going to go up. So every single American is either at risk of losing their health insurance or having the price of their health insurance go up.

Other Michiganders are going to see an even bigger price hike than those who are in private insurance, especially if they are one of the half million Michiganders who get their coverage through the ACA marketplace or ObamaCare. Open season is this November 1. They are going to start to feel that pain immediately. We are hearing stories of people who are going to get a 79-percent increase in their bill starting January 1.

I had the head of a big Michigan private insurance company come in today. She was telling me that other insurers have just decided to get out of the business of providing healthcare plans for people on the marketplace. You are going to have fewer choices. Companies like HAP, Molina, and Meridian have already decided, because of the bill President Trump pushed for in July, they are no longer going to be offering plans through the ObamaCare marketplace. So less choice, higher prices.

Just to put this in perspective, here is an example of what President Trump and my Republican colleagues have brought to working Americans: A family of four making \$129,000 a year, two kids, if they are on the marketplace plan, they are going to see their healthcare plan go up by \$5,000 next year starting January 1. That is how much they will pay just for the increase.

And a 60-year-old couple, two elderly folks—or 60-year-old folks, not elderly—living on about \$85,000 a year, they are empty nesters. Their kids have left home. They will see their premiums go up by over \$10,000 next year. What do you do if you are 60 years old, and there are two of you? Your plan was already expensive. Now you have another \$10,000 on top of that.

You know that those people are thinking to themselves: You know what? I am just going to go without insurance. I can't—he is raising my bills in every single category, and so I am just going to take the risk. I am going to go without health insurance and hope that I don't get into a car crash or into a major accident.

President Trump literally campaigned on lowering your costs. That was what this election was about. He said he was going to put more money in your pocket. Can anyone name a single place, if you are a working American, where your costs have gone down and not up since January of this year?

And many Michiganders are going to end up in the position my mom was in—walking into an ER, getting that diagnosis—your brother, your mother, your child—needing care and having to choose between bankruptcy and getting some sort of care for that terminal illness.

We can't end the fight there. I am willing to negotiate with my colleagues. I know that plenty of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle think that it is absolutely insane to raise the price of healthcare; that they don't want to be associated with that. There are so many people who feel that way. We have people retiring on the other side of the aisle.

But the only way that we move the needle is if we get loud about it. That is exactly what happened in 2017. Why is it that cutting healthcare was President Trump's signature campaign goal in 2016? Why did he talk about it obsessively every day in 2017? While the House of Representatives on the other side of this building did repeal ObamaCare, but we still have it today—why is that? It is because the public said no. The public said: You are not going to take away my healthcare, my protections for preexisting conditions, and get away with it.

And the public turned so hard against the Republicans on that issue that in this body, on this floor, John McCain cast the deciding vote, thumbs down, on repealing ObamaCare. That is why we have it today because of the bravery of that man.

I wish and pray for the bravery of someone like John McCain to be back in this body on the other side of the aisle who has the ability to say: No matter what my party, I am not going to charge Americans more for their healthcare.

President Trump has done the opposite of that. If you want to understand what happens when you get your letter—and they are all coming. October for Michiganders is when we understand the plans are sending out their letters. When you get that letter and gasp how your price has gone up on your private insurance, your employer-provided healthcare, you understand exactly who gave you that price increase, exactly who put you in that position, exactly who told you that he was going to lower your costs, and now

you are going to have to eat that cost starting January 1. That is Donald Trump. That is my Republican colleagues who sit across the aisle. That is everyone who said: I am going to do the political thing instead of what is right for the average American.

Healthcare is something that this country should be providing to its citizens so that everyone can afford it. That is just a basic thing we should do as the most powerful Nation in the world.

All I ask my colleagues across the aisle, especially as we hit this September 30 deadline, is ask yourself: What would John McCain do? What would John McCain have done on the Big Beautiful Bill and what would he do if he had the chance to restore people's healthcare and he had that moment on the Senate floor?

Please, grow some spine and help your constituents. Let's have a conversation about healthcare.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

#### HEALTHCARE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I join my colleague from Michigan as well as Senators WELCH and SHAHEEN and the others that come before this body today to talk about what is really happening out there.

Well, what is really happening out there is that we are in a healthcare crisis, and that is because the big beautiful betrayal of a bill will kick 15 million Americans off their healthcare, force hospitals, health clinics, and nursing homes to close. This is already happening with the premium notices, with what they are already seeing. It is raising costs for everyday Americans.

And now, if Congress doesn't act to extend the Affordable Care Act's health tax credits before they expire, more than 20 million Americans will see their premiums soar, putting their coverage at risk.

I go to all 87 counties in my State every single year, and I visit rural hos-

pitals. I know what is happening out there. I know what is happening to people who are in small businesses, who rely on the Affordable Care Act, who are already seeing increased grocery costs, already seeing increased electricity costs, and are already seeing dried-up markets because of these tariffs. This is all hitting them at once.

At the end of the day, everything from regular checkups and lifesaving prescriptions to hospital visits and long-term care is under threat—not for the wealthiest. They are going to be able to handle it. Maybe not even for people in some of the big cities, but for people out there in rural right now, they are barely holding on as it is.

And this is on top of the funding cuts to public health and medical research that extinguish hope for lifesaving cures and jeopardize America's global leadership and medical innovation. Those people are holding on too.

Just last weekend, I went with the Parkinson's Association on their charity walk. Those people are holding on for hope in their wheelchairs. They are holding on for hope. They are daughters and sons; they are brothers and sisters. We are so close in so many areas because of the mapping of the human genome, because of AI—as this is coming from the home of the Mayo Clinic, MN—that we do not want to go backward when it comes to investment in research.

That is why my Democratic colleagues and I are fighting to restore healthcare in this upcoming budget bill. Right now, healthcare access for more than 20 million Americans who benefited from healthcare tax credits are at risk, as I just noted. As a result, a record number of Americans, 24 million people, have been enrolled in this Affordable Care Act, but all of them are going to see this increase if something isn't done.

This will be a massive hit to working families. It will be especially harmful to middle-class families, small business owners, and entrepreneurs, seniors, and people living in rural communities. It

will force States to reduce coverage and shift resources away from other priorities like education and public safety. In Minnesota, at least nine rural hospitals are at immediate risk of having to shut their doors and stop providing care.

Medicare, Medicaid, and enhanced healthcare tax credits are overwhelmingly supported by Americans. Why? Because this is about their families. This is about the fact that they know that healthcare—over the years, they have seen the prices and what has happened with pharmaceuticals, and they expect us to do better than what is happening now. They expect us to do better than putting forward what is in this bill that just happened that hurts their rural hospitals or throws people off of their coverage or stops lifesaving research on these cures that has always been so bipartisan or the rhetoric around vaccines, which so many of them know their kids need. I just found out this year I had no immunity to measles. I got the shot, but it was at the wrong time. So I got that vaccine. Right now, so many people don't even know. They turn on the TV, and they hear the HHS Secretary question these vaccines against the belief of a number of people on the other side of the aisle, the Senators, Republican Senators, including those who are doctors. This is just creating massive chaos.

Costs are up. Chaos is up. Confusion is up. We must do better. More insured Americans is good for patients, good for families, and good for our country. More research paves the way for cutting-edge treatment and the cures of tomorrow.

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 6:41 p.m., recessed until Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10 a.m.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING THE 2025 INDUCTEES TO THE FLORIDA INVENTORS HALL OF FAME

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the ten inventors who have been selected as the 2025 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. Peers nationwide nominate inventors who then undergo and the scrutiny of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, their innovations have been identified as significantly affecting the quality of life, economic development and welfare of their communities, my Tampa Bay neighbors and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame catalyzes the cycle of discovery and innovation across the state of Florida by recognizing pioneering inventors, empowering future problem-solvers and change-makers and propelling the American legacy of innovation through transformative experiences and meaningful narratives.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors, living or deceased, who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and their invention(s) should be significant to society, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized or led to important innovations.

The 2025 Inductees are the 11th class to be inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. Their achievements underscore the critical role that innovation plays in driving progress and improving the quality of life for people in our state, our Nation and around the world. Their groundbreaking work not only advances scientific discovery but also strengthens the economy and enhances our global competitiveness. The 2025 Inductees collectively hold more than 460 U.S. patents and come from across industry and academia. Since its founding, the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame has inducted 87 inventors, who collectively hold over 5,700 U.S. patents.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor the 2025 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame for this outstanding achievement. Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our Nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. It is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are inspired to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

I include in the RECORD the 2025 Inductees:

Cleopatra “Cleo” Cabuz: Retired Vice President of Technology and Partnerships, in Honeywell’s Safety and Productivity Solutions, who is recognized for significant contributions to the field of Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) and integrated systems for medical and industrial safety applications. Her innovations in miniaturized flow cytometry, including disposable cartridges, laid the foundation for the ImmuneIQ product line, enabling point-of-care diagnostics for immune diseases.

Michael Francis: CEO and founder of Asante Bio and Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine at the University of South Florida, who is recognized for pioneering innovations and clinical translation of transformative medical devices and biologics across the fields of orthopedics and sports medicine via advanced regenerative medicine, biomanufacturing, additive manufacturing, biomaterials, collagen-based tissue engineering and electrospun nanofiber technologies.

Joseph Iannotti: Chief Research and Academic Officer and Lang Family Endowed Chair of Orthopaedic Research at the Cleveland Clinic Florida, and Professor of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, who is recognized for advanced discovery and innovation in shoulder surgery for preoperative planning software and patient specific instrumentation, soft tissue engineering, and implant devices and instrumentation.

Hari Kalva: Chair and Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Florida Atlantic University, who is recognized for pioneering innovations in video compression and multimedia communication, and video analytics that enable efficient digital video delivery across devices worldwide, transforming how the world experiences visual media.

Nasser Kutkut: Founder & CEO of Smart Charging Technologies LLC and Former CTO of Advanced Charging Technologies Inc., who is recognized for pioneering advances in industrial electric vehicle battery charging and the development and commercialization of novel fast charging and battery management technologies for motive power applications delivering substantial energy savings and reductions in carbon emissions.

Richard McCullough: the 16th President of Florida State University and former professor of materials science and engineering at Harvard University who is recognized for pioneering the discovery of regioregular polythiophenes, a revolutionary class of conjugated polymers that is foundational to printable electronic materials and organic semiconductors. He also discovered a new class of reactive metal inks.

Sumita Mitra: Partner and Co-Owner of Mitra Chemical Consulting, Retired Corporate Scientist at 3M Dental Products Division and Professor in the Institute for Advanced Discovery & Innovation at the University of South Florida, who is recognized for inventing the first dental filling material with nanoparticles, and revolutionizing restorative dentistry with stronger, more durable, and aesthetically advanced solutions that have benefited millions worldwide.

Subhra Mohapatra: Professor of Molecular Medicine at the University of South Florida

Morsani College of Medicine, Research Career Scientist at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, and Co-Founder of TransGenex Nanobiotech Inc., who is recognized for distinguished contributions and pioneering developments in cellular and molecular engineering and nanoscale drug delivery technologies, especially advancing detection and treatment of cancers and neurodegenerative diseases.

Edward Rosenthal: CEO and Co-Founder of Florikan ESA, who is recognized for pioneering staged nutrient release (SNR) encapsulated fertilizers that match plant growth cycles to optimize nutrient delivery while enhancing environmental stewardship and sustainable agriculture. Florikan’s SNR technology is now the sole fertilizer used on the International Space Station as part of NASA’s Veggie and Advanced Plant Habitat program.

W. Greg Sawyer: Chief BioEngineering Officer and Chair in the Department of Bio-Engineering at Moffitt Cancer Center, who is recognized for pioneering inventions in biomedical engineering, cancer engineering and tribology that have revolutionized medical devices, prosthetics and implants, contact lenses, cancer research and regenerative medicine while advancing Florida’s innovation ecosystem.

## RECOGNIZING ALISON COHEN AND HER SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Alison Cohen for two and a half years of outstanding service to the constituents of New York’s 12th Congressional District.

A native of Northern Virginia, Alison attended William & Mary University, where she received a bachelor’s degree in Global Governance and Community Engagement. After graduating, she joined the Teach for America program and moved to New Orleans to work as a middle school math teacher in a public school.

For the next three years, she served as a teacher and mentor for hundreds of students. I know she keeps in touch with some of her former pupils who still recognize the impact that she made on their lives. Alison’s skills from her time as a teacher can be seen during the many meetings that she has with student groups, where she is able to capture the attention of students and skillfully answer their questions in a thoughtful and accessible way.

Alison’s experience working in public education in Louisiana inspired her to enter policy work to help address the systemic inequities that she saw impacting her students’ lives. She began working as a legislative assistant for Louisiana State Representative Aimee Freedman. During her time working in the State Legislature, she worked on many issues impacting everyday Louisianans. One of her key accomplishments was helping shepherd

• 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.

Representative Freedman's bill to eliminate the "pink tax" on diapers and menstrual products and other goods, which unfairly disadvantages women and children. This legislation was signed into law in 2021 and is an example of Alison's longstanding commitment to helping support women and families through policy.

After working as a policy analyst for the Louisiana Budget Project, Alison returned to the D.C. area and began working as a Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Elaine Luria (D-VA). In 2023, I was lucky to have her join my Washington, D.C. Office as a Legislative Assistant.

Over her two and a half year career in my office, Alison covered many issues, including Healthcare, Reproductive Rights, Education, and Social Security. During her time in my office, Alison held hundreds of meetings with stakeholder groups from across the district, serving as a representative for my office in many photos with groups. She always brought her knowledge and compassion to these meetings and often showed her unique talent of being able to quickly learn the names of everyone in her meetings.

Supported by her afternoon Diet Cokes, Alison assisted with many of my key legislative priorities over the past few years. She worked diligently to support the implementation of my Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, working to ensure it was protected in the appropriations process, and helping to organize an amicus brief supporting the bill.

She has also been a champion of my bill, the Living Donor Protection Act, which received 225 cosponsors in the 118th Congress due to Alison's hard work. Her steadfast and compassionate work with members of the organ transplant community has been inspiring to see.

Alison has also worked on many other health issues, including supporting my longstanding work to secure funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). She has also worked closely with stakeholders in the district to support my longstanding work on the World Trade Center Health Program.

Alison serves as a key bridge between my office and the many hospitals, health centers, and stakeholders in our district.

While working in my office, Alison completed her master's in Health Law and Strategy from New York University, helping to expand her understanding of the healthcare system, especially in the legal context. Her ability to navigate both school and work demonstrates her flexibility and willingness to take on new challenges.

Alison has also been an active part of our office culture, helping to mentor many staff and interns; she was always available to offer support and feedback. I will miss her positive presence in the office, especially around birthdays and other celebrations.

As Alison moves to her new position in Federal Affairs at Callen-Lorde Health system in New York, I am glad to know she will continue to serve the people of the 12th District. I look forward to seeing where her career will take her and thank her for her excellent service.

## CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, a vibrant and family-friendly event that has become one of our state's most treasured cultural traditions. This year's festival commemorated the Year of the Wood Snake, bringing together people of all backgrounds to highlight Colorado's rich Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community.

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival began in 2001 at Sloan's Lake Park in Denver, the dream of leaders in our AANHPI community who sought to create a space to showcase the culture, diversity, and contributions of Asian American communities. That vision has grown into something extraordinary. From 16 teams and 16,000 attendees in its first year, the festival now welcomes nearly 200,000 visitors annually and has become the largest dragon boat festival in the United States.

The event embodies its mission of building bridges of awareness, knowledge, and understanding between diverse AANHPI communities and the broader public. With nearly 50 racing teams, over 30 food vendors, a bustling Asian Marketplace, Dragonland for children, and more than 60 performances ranging from traditional dances and martial arts to contemporary Asian American music, the festival reflects both the depth and vitality of Colorado's cultural landscape.

Dragon boat racing itself is a tradition rooted in over 2,000 years of history, commemorating the poet and warrior Chu Yuan, whose followers honored his legacy with paddles, drums, and unity on the water. Today, that same spirit of remembrance, resilience, and cultural pride lives on in Sloan's Lake every summer.

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is a testament to the lasting power of cultural celebration and community building. For 25 years, it has been a place where families gather, traditions are shared, and the stories of AANHPI communities are uplifted for all to see. I commend the organizers, volunteers, and community members who have made this milestone possible, and I look forward to many more years of dragon boat racing, cultural exchange, and unity in Colorado.

## RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HISPANIC AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

**HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month and to commend the extraordinary work of the Miami-Dade County Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board.

Each year, our Nation honors the history, culture, and countless contributions of His-

panic Americans. Today, Hispanics and Latinos represent the largest minority in the United States, accounting for more than 19 percent of our population and nearly 70 percent of the residents of Miami-Dade County.

The Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board has long served as a strong advocate for our Hispanic community. It leads countywide efforts to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and to promote cultural unity across our diverse community.

This year, Miami-Dade County's 2025 Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff Celebration will bring together elected officials, more than 30 Consuls General and international diplomats, as well as community leaders from across South Florida. This celebration reflects the multicultural richness that defines both our county and Nation.

I am proud to recognize the Miami-Dade County Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board for its leadership, dedication, and tireless service. Their work not only highlights the invaluable contributions of Hispanic Americans but also reminds us that cultural unity strengthens the very fabric of our communities.

## HONORING CLAIRE'S CORNER COPIA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of New Haven, on the corner of Chapel and College Streets, there is an eclectic, gourmet vegetarian restaurant that is among the most popular and beloved in the city. Today, Claire's Corner Copia marks its 50th Anniversary—an outstanding milestone for this one-of-a-kind culinary treasure. I am proud to rise today to join the many family, friends, patrons, and community leaders who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations to its owner, Claire Criscuolo, and her exceptional team on this very special occasion.

Love and family have always been at the heart of Claire's Corner Copia. Claire and her late husband, Frank, opened the restaurant as a way to spend more time together and focused on bringing the essence of the recipes Claire used for her home-cooked meals to their customers. That sense of family extended not only to those who came to eat but, most importantly, to those who worked for them. Unlike most in the industry, instead of making her employees rely on tips, Claire pays her staff a fair wage, provides health benefits, and paid time off. By investing in her employees, Claire has created a unique work environment, built on mutual respect and trust. It is why so many have stayed with her for more than a decade, weathering even the worst of economic trials with her. They are not just people who work for her, they are family. That is the secret of the success of Claire's Corner Copia.

What is it, you may ask, that makes Claire's Corner Copia so popular? Perhaps it is the mismatched furniture placed throughout the dining area. Maybe it is the menu artfully scrawled in multicolored chalk across a series of blackboards. It could be the charm of the immersive dining experience—waiting in line



to place your order, picking up your cutlery and bussing your own table. Personally, I believe it is the quality and care that is put into everything that is served. Claire is meticulous in designing her all-vegetarian menu, always ensuring the freshest of ingredients are used and taking great pride in how it is prepared. While Claire's Corner Copia is known for its incredible selections, its most popular items are the delicious baked goods that are made in-house every day. If you find yourself in downtown New Haven, I highly recommend stopping into Claire's and trying their signature Lithuanian Coffee Cake—it is not to be missed.

I want to extend a special note of congratulations to Claire Criscuolo. The restaurant business is not easy, and her determination, vision, creativity, and entrepreneurial skill have made Claire's Corner Copia an iconic local landmark. Claire is also a dedicated member of our community, supporting a variety of organizations including New Haven Reads, St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima Schools, and Smilow Cancer Hospital. I cannot remember a time when I did not know her, and I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am honored to rise today to extend my very best wishes to her and her staff on this very special occasion. Happy 50th Anniversary.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF FORMER ILLINOIS GOVERNOR  
JIM EDGAR**

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

Born in Oklahoma but raised in Charleston, Illinois, Governor Edgar was shaped by the values of family, hard work, and service. The youngest of three boys, raised by his mother Betty, he found his calling early. Elected to class office in the second grade, he never let go of his passion for public service.

From those humble beginnings, he went on to a career that changed Illinois for the better. He first entered public service in 1968 as a top aide to leaders in the Illinois House and Senate, then was elected to the Illinois House, later becoming Secretary of State, and eventually the 38th Governor of Illinois. In every role, he worked not for headlines but for results. He strengthened DUI laws, required mandatory auto insurance, reformed child-care standards, improved Chicago's schools, and restored Illinois's fiscal health—leaving office with a balanced budget and a surplus.

But what stood out most about Governor Edgar was not only the policies he championed, but the way he led. He always put people before politics. He earned trust across party lines and across the state, carrying 101 of 102 counties in his reelection, including Cook County. That trust came not from partisanship, but from his integrity, humility, and a level head in moments of challenge. Even after leaving office, Governor Edgar continued to give back. He devoted himself to mentoring young leaders from both parties, believing that democracy is strongest when we work together with respect and compassion. He lived

by those values every day, and in doing so, set an example for all of us.

Governor Edgar is survived by his beloved wife, Brenda, who was his full partner in public and political life. As First Lady, she championed issues to improve the lives of women and children across Illinois. Together they raised two children, Elizabeth and Brad, and delighted in their grandchildren. His family, like his public service, is a testament to his devotion and love.

Mr. Speaker, Illinois has lost one of its finest statesmen. But his legacy endures, reminding us that honesty, decency, and good government are not old-fashioned ideals; they are timeless ones. I am honored to celebrate his life today, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Governor Jim Edgar's remarkable service and the lasting example he leaves behind.

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL APP  
CHALLENGE DAY**

**HON. KIM SCHRIER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate September 17, 2025, as the second annual National App Challenge Day. This day honors the ingenuity, creativity, and technical skill of middle and high school students nationwide who are building tools that improve their communities and strengthen our country's future.

National App Challenge Day highlights the Congressional App Challenge, a bipartisan, House-sponsored initiative that invites students from every congressional district to learn to code, apply their skills to real-world problems, and share their solutions with their Representatives. What began as a simple invitation to experiment with computer science has grown into a movement that now spans all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories. Since the first App Challenge was held in 2015, more than 70,000 students have coded over 12,000 unique apps, supported by tens of thousands of educators, mentors, and volunteer judges each year.

The Congressional App Challenge also enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support. In the 118th Congress, 412 Members, representing 95 percent of the House of Representatives, hosted at least one Challenge in their districts. This remarkable level of participation underscores a shared commitment across party lines to empowering America's youth and strengthening the Nation's leadership in STEM education.

Through this Challenge, students gain far more than programming experience. They learn to work in teams, think critically, communicate clearly, and iterate on their ideas. They identify local needs and build apps that address them, from expanding access to educational resources and civic information to supporting public health, safety, and environmental resilience. In classrooms, after-school programs, libraries, youth centers, and homes, the Congressional App Challenge opens doors to opportunity and helps develop the next generation of American innovators.

Today's observance also honors the teachers, mentors, parents, community partners,

and industry volunteers who devote their time and expertise to guiding student creators. Their encouragement ensures that a student's curiosity can become a prototype, that a prototype can become a working product, and that each working product can inspire peers to imagine what is possible with technology.

As we mark National App Challenge Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to hands-on STEM education and to equitable pathways into the innovation economy. Investing in our students' potential strengthens the workforce, supports American competitiveness, and sustains the spirit of problem solving that has long defined our Nation.

I encourage all Members of the House and their constituents to join me in celebrating National App Challenge Day. Let us recognize the remarkable achievements of these young coders and continue supporting initiatives that cultivate creativity, expand opportunity, and empower students to build solutions that serve their neighbors and their Nation.

**CONGRATULATING MS. YURI KIM  
ON HER RETIREMENT**

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and deep admiration that I congratulate Ms. Yuri Kim on her retirement, after 29 incredible years of service as a U.S. diplomat.

Today is a day of celebration, but also one of reflection. As we look back, we honor not just the impressive milestones in her career, but the impact she has made on the lives of so many through her leadership and guidance in the direction of U.S. foreign policy.

Ms. Kim is a proud daughter of Guam. She began her journey at the Academy of Our Lady, then went on to earn her degree at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a master's from Cambridge University. Her roots in Guam remained a strong part of her identity throughout a career that took her around the world.

Over nearly three decades, she wore many hats that shaped her vision of the future of our country. She was a champion for energy, defense, technology, and infrastructure. Early on, she showed herself to be a force of nature, leading critical work in the Political Section of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, heading the DPRK Unit in the Office of Korean Affairs, and serving in key roles across the U.S. embassies in Turkey, Iraq, Japan, and China.

She served as Special Assistant to Secretary Colin Powell and played a central role in the Six-Party Talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Her work continued at the highest levels, becoming Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of State and later Director of the Office of European Security and Political-Military Affairs, where she helped shape U.S. policy toward NATO and the OSCE.

In 2019, she was nominated under President Trump to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Albania, where she continued her service under President Biden. During this time, she deepened our existing partnership by advancing shared interests and encouraging economic growth.

Most recently, she served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, helping navigate some of the most complex challenges in today's global landscape.

Through all of this, what stands out most is not just her accomplishments, but her character. Ms. Kim has led with integrity, courage, and heart. She's been a mentor, a role model, and a steadfast public servant who gave her all, every single day.

Her legacy will not only be seen in policy or diplomacy, but in the people she inspired and the bridges she built. She's helped shape the world we live in, and we are all better for it.

We thank and celebrate Ms. Kim, and we wish her nothing but happiness and fulfillment in this next chapter of her life.

# FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE RESTORATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following letter of support for H.R. 2701 from National Commander Scott P. Stevens, CW04, USA, (R).

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA supports H.R. 2701, the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act. JWV appreciates the leadership of Rep. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D-FL) and Rep. MAX MILLER (R-OH) for their bipartisan introduction, as well as the support of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs and the Full Committee in moving this critical legislation to the House floor. JWV urges swift passage of H.R. 2701 to start the process of properly marking graves and honoring these brave Jewish American servicemembers.

The Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act requires the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to create a program to identify Jewish servicemembers buried with grave markers that do not reflect their faith and to connect with their descendants. This vital effort will correct the historical record and ensure our fallen heroes are remembered as they lived and served.

JWV understands that approximately 900 American-Jewish servicemembers who lost their lives during World War I and World War II and were buried in U.S. military cemeteries overseas (ABMC) were mistakenly interred under markers that do not represent their religion or heritage. JWV recognizes that most of these errors are unintentional; however, these mistakes hide the identity and legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. American-Jewish servicemembers served with honor and bravery, playing a crucial role in winning the Allied victory. They deserve to be remembered with dignity and accuracy.

The United States has a solemn duty to ensure every fallen servicemember is honored correctly. Enacting H.R. 2701 helps ensure that the Star of David marks the Jewish graves of servicemembers, currently marked in error.

RECOGNIZING NAVIN KC, LUNA SHRESTHA, AND NABARAJ KC

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and include in the RECORD, three prominent community members in the Nepali American community who have contributed to cultivating arts, culture, and business around the country.

NAVIN KC

For more than twenty-five years, Navin KC has been a tireless force in the world of dance and choreography, introducing Nepali language, art, and culture to audiences both nationally and internationally. As the Founder and Director of KC Dance Center in Virginia, he has provided countless students, particularly second-generation children, with dance training that emphasizes not only technique but also cultural heritage and language. His choreography has been featured in films, theater productions, and music videos, while his students have performed across the United States in places such as Hollywood, New York, Texas, and Colorado. Since 2017, through his annual production, "Kollywood Night," Navin has created a powerful platform where emerging talent and celebrated artists come together to celebrate the richness of Nepali culture on stage.

LUNA SHRESTHA

With more than two decades of dedication to art, culture, and language, Luna Shrestha has made a profound impact as a performer, choreographer, and instructor. As Co-Founder and Director of KC Dance Center, she has trained students across Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. in dance, yoga, aerobics, and Nepali-inspired fitness programs. Luna's work is driven by her passion for preserving and sharing Nepali traditions in America and giving young performers the opportunity to showcase their skills on stages nationwide. She plays a key role in the production of the annual "Kollywood Night" show for new trainees and established artists.

NABARAJ KC

A community leader, humanitarian, and advocate, Nabaraj KC has earned recognition on local and national levels. As President of the College Point Civic and Taxpayers Association and the Dil Kumari KC Memorial Foundation, he has led initiatives that raised more than \$3 million worth of food, personal protective equipment, and other important resources to communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. His service has earned him several honors, including the REALTOR Spirit Award in 2022, Community Service Award in 2023, and COVID-19 Hero Award. He has also been named among Schneps Media's Queens Power List and Kings of New York. A proud New Yorker and son of Nepali immigrants, Nabaraj KC combines his professional and educational background with a dedication to community service.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome his All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States this week. My colleagues and I are honored to host him here in the House of Representatives and I know my Greek-Orthodox constituents are excited to have him visit our Nation's Capital. His All-Holiness is a champion of religious liberty, engaging in dialogues with leaders of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Moreover, he leads a congregation of 300 million church members worldwide and is the longest-serving Patriarch in the two-millennia history of the Church. We are blessed to have him here in Washington, D.C. this week.

HONORING DENICE HARLAN ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE GIDDINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor one of my dear friends, Denice Harlan, as she retires from her role as President/CEO of the Giddings Chamber of Commerce.

Denice moved to Giddings, Texas, in 1983 with her beloved husband, Wade. She opened Harlan's Restaurant in 1987 to provide delicious homestyle cooking. Her passion for service led her to join the Giddings Chamber of Commerce and serve as Chamber Director. In addition, Denice has also served on the New Horizons Lions' Club, Lee County Fair Association, and Rotary Club. She was most recently recognized with the Giddings Lifetime Achievement Award.

I want to thank Denice for the devotion she has demonstrated and her commitment to serving the constituents of Lee County. I am grateful for her leadership, and I send my best wishes to Denice as she begins this new chapter in life.

As a member of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to join her family and friends in congratulating Denice Harlan on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EMMA WEIR

**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emma Weir for her outstanding service as Communications Director and Senior Advisor for the New Democrat Coalition over the past four years.

As former chairwoman of the New Democrat Coalition, I had the privilege of working closely

with Emma. She brought strategic insight, professionalism, and a deep commitment to public service that strengthened our message, expanded our reach, and supported every member of the Coalition. During some of the most pivotal debates during the Democratic majority, Emma's creativity and instinct were instrumental in advancing New Dem priorities that helped improve the lives of Americans across the country. Her work has left a lasting impact on the New Dems and the values we fight for.

While we will miss her leadership, I am excited to see Emma take on a new role with Chairman PETE AGUILAR and the House Democratic Caucus. I know she will continue to serve with the same skill and dedication that made her so effective with the New Dems.

I thank Emma for her service, and I wish her the very best in this next chapter.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADDISON P. McDOWELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 2025, I regrettably missed a portion of the evening vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 270.

#### HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

#### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on September 17, 2025, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on September 17, 2025, answered our Nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

James B. Ayres, John H. Ball, Richard Banko, James T. Bator, Paul E. Bauer, Dallas Beecher, Jody R. Bennett, Larry G. Bird, Harvester Bond, Eddie. Jr. Brown, Manuel Castillo, Gilbert A. Cipriano, James Cole, Carl Conti, Gregory S. Craig, Thomas M.

Curran, William Davis, Jr., Eddie B. Davis, John E. Debnar, Thomas E. Duffy, Dwight C. Dwomik, John Engeriser, Kevin Fitch, Rodney E. Franklin, Jay R. Fredrikson, Walter L. Fullilove, John Green, Donald M. Gregory, Jr., Gregory Gremba, Frank F. Gudausky, William E. Haines, Micheal Heavrin, William A. Herod, Kevin M. Holly, Leigh Holzwart, Edward R. Howe, Joseph F. Inserro, Donald L. Iwanski, Robert D. Jarman, Robert A. Johnson, David B. Jones, William E. Kaczmariski, George Kartsounes, Robert A. Kosmicki, Melvyn J. Kovacic, Edward R. Koziorowski, Warren J. Kutlik, Francis J. Kwasny, Gordon D. Lauer, Cedric C. Lewis, Michael Liacone, William J. Lopina, John A. Mamak, Archangel Mastrangelo, Ernest R. McGee, James R. Mendenhall, Gerald E. Mertes, Jr., Arthur A. Moeller, Leslie J. Montag, Michael G. Moorehead, Raymond J. Morris, Darrell L. Morrison, Raymond D. Mucciante, Thomas Muth, William Muth, Emery E. Myers, Larry M. Narum, Harold Noftz, Arnold S. Oskin, John G. Pappas, Terrance W. Parr, Michael L. Passman, Dennis M. Perz, Joseph J. Pilch, Domenico Pinto, James T. Pioth, Warren Powell, Richard J. Provost, Robert T. Przybylinski, David E. Quigley, William J. Quinn, Jr., Peter A. Regnier, Scott R. Ripper, John Rohlfing, Robert J. Rucinski, Edward A. Sarnecki, Thomas L. Sbertoli, Michael R. Scott, Robert Shrulek, Leon E. Smith, Robert S. Smith, Robert Spencer, John Z. Stajcic, Michael G. Stalzer, Boykin L. Stewart, Jr., John S. Strama, Matthew J. Strama, Robert Strickland, Howard Strickler, John J. Tengeltisch, Anthony J. Thomas, Terrence J. Thompson, Sr., William A. Trader, Frank C. Trout, Douglass M. Vines, Leonard Vinyard, John A. Weiler, Paul Wiltjer, Robert M. Witt, Walter Yanta, David Yost, John Zaragoza, Thomas Zasadil, and Raymond F. Zipko.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GREATER HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 100th anniversary—a remarkable milestone that reflects a century of steadfast service, economic leadership, and community commitment. Chambers of commerce are foundational institutions within our communities. They promote economic vitality, advocate for local businesses, and offer critical resources such as training, marketing, and networking. The Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce embodies these principles and has served as a vital engine of prosperity for generations.

The Chamber traces its origins to 1925, when local leaders first organized a community chamber under the guidance of Frederick Williamson, its inaugural president. Despite the challenges of the Great Depression, the Chamber persevered and experienced a revival in 1938, led by visionary banker Alfred McKethan—a pivotal figure in Hernando County's economic history. As the county grew rapidly in the latter half of the 20th century, particularly with the development of new communities like Spring Hill, the business landscape became increasingly diverse and fragmented.

In a decisive moment of unity and forward-thinking, leaders Morris Porton, Steve Emerson, and Vince Vanni worked to consolidate the business community. Their efforts culminated in the formal establishment of the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce on December 22, 1992.

Over the past 100 years, the Chamber has evolved and expanded to meet the changing needs of Hernando County's business community. Guided by its Pillars of Success—Advocacy, Marketing, Networking, and Training—the Chamber has become the largest and oldest business organization in Hernando County. Its influence has been recognized across the region, including by the Tampa Bay Business Journal, which named it one of the largest chambers in the Tampa Bay area. The Chamber represents a broad and diverse membership spanning vital sectors such as professional services, construction and trades, real estate, healthcare, finance, education, retail, hospitality, transportation, manufacturing, and nonprofit organizations. It also leads impactful programs, including Leadership Hernando, a premier leadership development initiative that has graduated over 525 community leaders since its inception in 1992. The Chamber's enduring commitment to economic development, collaboration, and community enrichment has played an essential role in shaping Hernando County into the thriving place it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce on its centennial anniversary. May its legacy of service continue to strengthen our communities for generations to come.

#### CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL REDEDICATION OF DENVER EAST HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denver East High School—an institution that has been at the heart of my district for a century and a half—as it celebrates the centennial rededication of its historic building.

East High opened its doors 150 years ago in 1875 as Denver's first high school, setting a foundation of excellence that continues to this day. The current building, designed by George H. Williamson, a proud member of East's Class of 1893, was completed in 1925.

Its iconic 162-foot clock tower, modeled after Independence Hall in Philadelphia, has stood as an iconic beacon. In 1991, the building was recognized as an official Denver Historic Landmark.

Over the past 150 years, East High has shaped leaders, artists, athletes, and innovators. From First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, to Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Philip Bailey and Larry Dunn of Earth, Wind & Fire, to aerospace leader Norman Augustine, to head coach of the Detroit Pistons J. B. Bickerstaff, East alumni have left an indelible mark on our city, our country, and our world.

Equally impressive is East's storied athletic tradition, with the Angels earning 99 state championships, the third most of any high school in Colorado. Generations of students

have worn the red and white with pride, carrying forward the spirit of teamwork and perseverance.

More than its achievements, East High has always been about community. This rededication brings together alumni, students, teachers, and neighbors to honor its history, connect across generations, and create new memories for the future.

As a lifelong Coloradan and graduate of the Denver Public School system, I am proud to recognize East High School for 150 years of excellence in education and for the centennial rededication of its landmark building.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, to Washington, DC. The spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian Church, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew comes to the United States to accept the Templeton Prize, which recognizes an individual who has "made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works."

Born in current day Gökçeada, Turkey, His All-Holiness received his undergraduate degree at the Theological School of Halki and completed graduate studies at three universities in Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. He was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, a Church of 300 million individuals worldwide, including many of my constituents in New Jersey's 8th Congressional District. He has devoted his life to advocating for peace-building measures, organizing interfaith summits, and promoting religious freedom and human rights.

It is a privilege to welcome such a leading figure to the Nation's Capital and recognize his significant contributions to peace, interreligious dialogue, and cultural understanding.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this historic visit.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM-  
ORY OF CHAD ALLAN BLOMGREN

**HON. KEVIN MULLIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chad Allan Blomgren, who passed on July 9, 2025, at the age of 56. Mr. Blomgren was a distinguished U.S. Army veteran, a Senior Director at Gilead Sciences, and a tireless advocate for veterans through his volunteer work with Dream Foundation.

Chad's life was a powerful reflection of his family's legacy of service to his country, his community, and his fellow veterans. Raised in the Hills-Beaver Creek community of Minnesota, he excelled in high school both academically and athletically. These formative

years helped shape the competitive spirit that remained central to who he was. After graduation, Chad enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard. Shortly thereafter, he met the love of his life, Debbie, and they married in 1990. He went on to earn his degree from Mankato State University the following year.

Chad honorably served in the U.S. Army, joining a long family tradition of service that includes his father, three brothers, niece, son, and dozens of relatives. After his military service, he embarked on a successful professional career spanning over a decade at Gilead Sciences as Senior Director of Managed Markets. For the past five years, he co-led the Gilead Veterans Engagement Team (GVET), supporting more than 500 employees aligned around the mantra, "Serving Those Who've Served."

In June 2023, Chad was appointed to the Board of Directors of Dream Foundation, the only national organization dedicated to granting final wishes to terminally ill adults. He served on its Dreams for Veterans Advisory Council since its inception in 2021 and actively participated in fulfilling dreams for veterans, visiting at least four recipients in person to deliver those special moments of hope and closure. As he shared, "Providing a positive impact for those in the final stages of their lives means everything to me." It was a cause he embraced both personally and professionally, bringing compassion, leadership, and a fighter's perspective to the foundation's mission.

Chad's life embodies the highest ideals of leadership and service. Whether in uniform, guiding colleagues in industry, or comforting veterans through Dream Foundation, he lived a life of purpose and generosity. His family and colleagues remember him as fun, smart, full of laughter, and always ready with a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a selfless and honorable man, Chad Blomgren. His dedication to his family, his career, his Nation, and his fellow veterans inspires us all.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRI-  
ARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO AMER-  
ICA

**HON. JEFF CRANK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head of the second largest Christian church in the world who is visiting our Nation's Capital this week. Back home in Colorado's 5th Congressional District, Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church is the home for many of my constituents of the Greek Orthodox faith. I welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, wish him well during his time in America, and thank him for his leadership for the Orthodox Christian faith around the world, numbering 300 million.

HONORING CARL JOHN McMANUS  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-  
TIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to join the many family, friends, and community members who will gather this evening in extending my heartfelt congratulations to New Haven legend, Carl John McManus, as he marks his retirement from Phil's Barber Shop, ending his sixty-year career as a barber.

Carl began his career as a barber in his hometown of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, the path to his calling, and a unique story. While working at a local grocery store, Carl befriended the butcher who liked to play the horses at Suffolk Downs. Carl used to take his choices to the local bookmaker, you guessed it, the town barber. He found himself drawn to the friendly atmosphere and what he has described as the "kibitzing" between the barber and his customers. He soon found himself a student at the Massachusetts School of Barbering in Boston, the first stepping stone of what would become an illustrious career path.

Following his parents and siblings, Carl moved to New Haven and soon found himself a home at Phil's Barber Shop. Over the course of his sixty-year career, he has met a multitude of people, from the Presidents of Yale University to future Presidents of the United States, and famous actors to local theater favorites. But the most important connection he made was that to an older barber in town who worked at the Graduate Club. Carl had noticed a photo of the barber's daughter and when he expressed an interest in meeting her, the barber arranged a date, despite her slight hesitation. In the end, Carl and the barber's daughter, Ethel, were married for nearly fifty years before her passing just two years ago.

Carl did not just give a shave and a haircut; he helped people to find themselves. Today, as he celebrates his retirement, Carl can be proud of the legacy he leaves. When you sat in his chair, you became more than a client, you became a friend. And while he will most certainly be missed by many, I am honored to join his daughter, Rose and granddaughter, Autumn, as well as all of those who will gather this evening in wishing him the very best as he begins this new life chapter. I congratulate him on his retirement.

CONGRATULATING MEXICO ON ITS  
215TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize September 16, 2025, as Mexico's 215th Independence Day.

Mexico has served as an invaluable diplomatic, trade, and cultural partner with the United States for two hundred years, reflecting the close relationship that make this alliance invaluable to both countries.

In 2024, Mexico was the second-largest destination for U.S. exports and the top source of U.S. imports. Total U.S. goods and services trade with Mexico, in 2024, totaled over \$935 billion.

I am particularly grateful of the trade ties between South Carolina and Mexico. In 2024, the Palmetto State exported over three and a one-half billion dollars of rubber and plastic products, electrical equipment and components, iron and steel, and other items to our southern partner, while importing more than five and one half billion dollars in motor vehicle and aerospace parts, and other goods.

This integration highlights the deeply connected partnership between Mexico and South Carolina.

I applaud the deep commitment of President Donald Trump and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum to cooperate and collaborate in stopping illegal aliens crossing our Southern

Border, including the murderous threats posed by drug traffickers with human trafficking. This underscores the promise by President Trump to protect American lives.

This day is also special to me because I have a dedicated member of my staff, Daniel Ramirez, who is first generation Mexican-American.

I am appreciative that the United States and Mexico are partners—and neighbors—and wish the people of Mexico a Happy 215th Independence Day.

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#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

(Legislative Day of Tuesday, September 16, 2025)

*Routine Proceedings, pages S6667–S6704*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-eight bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2826–2853, S.J. Res. 78–79, and S. Res. 397–400.

**Pages S6695–96**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 854, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board.

S. 855, to require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, with amendments.

**Page S6695**

#### Measures Passed:

**National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 400, expressing support for designation of the week of September 14 through 20, 2025, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week”.

**Page S6700**

#### Measures Considered:

**National Defense Authorization Act:** Senate continued 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 S6667–70**

#### Pending:

Wicker/Reed Amendment Modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute.

**Page S6667**

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 S6667**

Thune Amendment No. 3863 (to Amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date.

**Page S6667**

Thune Amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date.

**Page S6667**

Thune Amendment No. 3865 (to Amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date.

**Page S6667**

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune Amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date.

**Page S6667**

Thune Amendment No. 3867 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3866), relating to the enactment date.

**Page S6667**

Thune Amendment No. 3868 (to Amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date.

**Page S6667**

**National Emergency Designation—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, following consultation with the Democratic Leader, no later than Friday, October 10, 2025, S.J. Res. 71, terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy, be discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that there be 6 hours for debate only, with the time equally divided between the Leaders, or their designees, on the joint resolution; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time, and Senate vote on the resolution.

**Page S6683**

**Nominations En Bloc—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the following en bloc nominations:

Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dario Gil, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

Brandon Williams, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security.

Tristan Abbey, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

Leslie Beyer, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.



Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

Andrea Travnicek, of North Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Justin Overbaugh, of Florida, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Scott Pappano, of Pennsylvania, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

Michael Cadenazzi, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Sean O'Keefe, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Michael Obadal, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

Katherine Sutton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

William L. Doffermyre, of Texas, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Kyle Haustveit, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).

Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration.

Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of 5 years.

Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

Donald Bergin III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

John Squires, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Daniel Aronowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Michael Dodd, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position).

William Gillis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Jules Hurst III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Brent Ingraham, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

George Wesley Street, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

Peter Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

Jeffrey Bartos, of Pennsylvania, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the Rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Jennifer Locetta, of Florida, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Dudley Hoskins, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Jovan Jovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2029.

Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

Paul Roberti, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation.

Jonathan Morrison, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Jason Evans, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

Edward Aloysius O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Bryan Switzer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Textiles, Investment, Services, and Intellectual Property), with the rank of Ambassador.

Callista Gingrich, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to

serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Christine Toretta, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Peter Lamelas, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

**Pages S6670–83**

During consideration of these nominations today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 522), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the en bloc consideration of the nominations.

**Page S6670**

Senator Thune entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the en bloc consideration of the nominations.

**Page S6670**

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 523), Senate agreed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the en bloc consideration of the nominations.

**Pages S6670–71**

By 47 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 524), Senate rejected the ruling of the Chair that the precedents set by the Senate on November 21, 2013, and September 11, 2025, do not apply to the consideration of en bloc nominations. Subsequently, Senator Thune motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair was upheld, the threshold for cloture on the en bloc consideration of nominations pursuant to an executive resolution with a calendar number on the Executive Calendar, other than those on Level 1 of the Executive Schedule under 5 USC 5312, or Article 3 judges, is a simple majority.

**Page S6671**

By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 525), Senate upon reconsideration agreed to the motion to close further debate on the en bloc consideration of the nominations provided under the provisions of S. Res. 377, En Bloc Consideration of Certain Nominations.

**Page S6671**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nominations en bloc pursuant to S. Res. 377, En Bloc Consideration of Certain Nominations at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, September 18, 2025; and that all time during recess and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nominations en bloc.

**Page S6700**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S6685**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S6685**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S6685–87**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Pages S6687–95**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S6696–97**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Pages S6697–99**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S6685**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S6699–S6700**

**Notices of Intent:** **Page S6700**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S6700**

**Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total–525) **Pages S6670–6671**

**Recess:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and recessed at 6:41 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6700.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing 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, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, after receiving testimony from Adam Telle, Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, and Lieutenant General William H. Graham, Jr., Chief of Engineers, both of the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, Department of Defense.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee ordered favorably reported 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, William White, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, Sergio Gor, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India, Herschel Walker, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, James Holtsnider, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Stephanie Hallett, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, all of the Department of State.

### CDC AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine reviewing recent events at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and implications for children's health, after receiving testimony from Susan Collier Monarez, former Director, and Debra Houry, former Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director for Program and Science, both of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

### INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act successes and opportunities at the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service, after receiving testimony from Kennis Bellmard, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Benjamin P. Smith, Acting Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma; Victor Joseph, Tanana Tribal Council, Tanana, Alaska; and Jay Spaan, Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Rebecca L. Taibleson, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, who was introduced by Senator Johnson, Lindsey Ann Freeman, and David A. Bragdon, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, and Matthew E. Orso, and Susan Courtwright

Rodriguez, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, who were each introduced by Senator Budd, and Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### MISSING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration concluded a hearing to examine missing unaccompanied alien children and criminal sponsors, after receiving testimony from Chris Clem, retired Chief Patrol Agent, Border Patrol, Department of Homeland Security, Red Rock, Arizona; Mary Giovagnoli, former Ombuds for Unaccompanied Children at the Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.; and Ali Hopper, GUARD Against Trafficking, Venice, Florida.

### 504 PROGRAM

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine using the 504 program to build America's manufacturing future, including S. 2659, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, S. 2662, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and S. 1555, to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers, after receiving testimony from Karl E. Swanson, PCT Ebeam and Integration, Davenport, Iowa; David P. Raccio, CDC New Eng-

land, Wakefield, Massachusetts; Jean Wojtowicz, Indiana Statewide CDC, Indianapolis; and Hilda Kennedy, AmPac Business Capital, Ontario, California.

### VETERANS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY AND DISORDER

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine strengthening services for veterans with spinal cord injury and disorder, after receiving testimony from Erica M. Scavella, Assistant Under Secretary of Health for Clinical Services, and Manosha Wickremasinghe, Executive Director of VA's Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders (SCI/D) System of Care, both of the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Mandi Bailey, ALS Hope Foundation's Veteran ALS Action Committee, Gulf Breeze, Florida; Mary Ward, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Wilmington, North Carolina; Robert Thomas, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Cleveland, Ohio; and Shelly Hoover, Clayton, North Carolina.

### INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

### DRUG SAFETY

*Special Committee on Aging:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine drug safety, supply chains, and the risk to aging Americans, after receiving testimony from Peter E. Baker, Live Oak Quality Assurance, Austin, Texas; George P. Ball, Indiana University Kelley School of Business, Bloomington; and Brandon Daniels, Exiger, and Ronald Piervincenzi, U.S. Pharmacopeia, both of Washington, D.C.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 29 public bills, H.R. 5419–5447; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 122–123; and H. Res. 729–733, were introduced. **Pages H4409–11**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H4411–12**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4273, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user fee program for over-the-counter monograph drugs, and for

other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–300);

H.R. 3157, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to add a standard related to the evaluation of State intermittent energy policies, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–301); and

H.R. 3616, to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review regulations that may affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–302).

**Page H4409**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Wittman to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4367**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:58 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Pages H4373–74**

**Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution—Appointment:** Read a letter from Representative Jeffries, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following individual to the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution: Mr. Philip Darivoff of Short Hills, New Jersey. **Page H4375**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:08 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H4386**

**Suspension—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, September 15th. Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act of 2025: H.R. 3481, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for electronic communication relating to educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary. **Page H4393**

**Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026, Honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk—Rule for Consideration:** The House agreed to 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, by a recorded vote of 213 ayes to 207 noes, Roll No. 273, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 210 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 272. **Pages H4386–93, H4393–94**

**District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act:** The House passed H.R. 5125, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to terminate the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission, by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 274. **Pages H4375–79, H4394–95**

H. Res. 707, the rule 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 yesterday, September 16th.

**District of Columbia Policing Protection Act:** The House passed H.R. 5143, to establish standards for law enforcement officers in the District of Columbia to engage in vehicular pursuits of suspects,

by a yea-and-nay vote of 245 yeas to 182 nays, Roll No. 275. **Pages H4379–86, H4395**

H. Res. 707, the rule 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 yesterday, September 16th.

**Censuring Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and removing her from the Committee on Education and Workforce and the Committee on the Budget—Motion to Table:** The House agreed to the Clark (MA) motion to table the 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, by a yea-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 276. **Pages H4395–96**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Four yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4393, H4394, H4394–95, H4395, and H4396.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1723, the “Tribal Land Sovereignty Act”, H.R. 2958, the “Balance the Scales Act”; H.R. 2844, the “Michael Enzi Voluntary Protection Program Act”; H.R. 2869, the “EBSA Investigations Transparency Act”; H.R. 3495, the “Direct Seller and Real Estate Harmonization Act”; and H.R. 5169, the “Retire through Ownership Act”. H.R. 1723, H.R. 2958, H.R. 2844, H.R. 2869, H.R. 3495, and H.R. 5169 were ordered reported, as amended.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health held a 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. 3302, the “Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of 2025”; and H.R. 979, the “AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2025”. H.R. 2493, H.R. 3419, H.R. 2846, and

H.R. 3302 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. H.R. 1262 and H.R. 979 were forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

#### **THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT OF 2002**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled “The Reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002”. Testimony was heard from Baird Webel, Specialist in Financial Economics, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

#### **TREASURY MARKET RESILIENCE, AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY: LESS MANDATES. MORE INDEPENDENCE**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Task Force on Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled, “Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity: Less Mandates. More Independence”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee began a 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.

#### **OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation”. Testimony was heard from Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4090, to codify certain provisions

of certain Executive Orders relating to domestic mining and hardrock mineral resources, and for other purposes; H.R. 1366, the “Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2025”; H.R. 2306, 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; and H.R. 4256, the “Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025”. H.R. 4090, H.R. 1366, H.R. 2306, H.R. 2815, H.R. 3872 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2916, H.R. 3692, H.R. 4256 were ordered reported, without amendment.

#### **OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY: THE PROMISE OF EXPANDED SCHOOL CHOICE AND ALTERNATIVES TO FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE DEGREES**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled “Opening Doors to Opportunity: The Promise of Expanded School Choice and Alternatives to Four-Year College Degrees”. Testimony was heard from Stephanie Vanos, Member, School Board, District 6, Orange County Public Schools, Florida; and public witnesses.

#### **SHAPING TOMORROW: THE FUTURE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation held a hearing entitled “Shaping Tomorrow: The Future of Artificial Intelligence”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### **STREAMING SUCCESS: SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL INFLUENCE**

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Streaming Success: Small Businesses in the Age of Digital Influence”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a 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”. H.R. 4183, H.R. 3962, and H.R. 5301 were ordered reported, as amended.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a 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 the Views and Estimates Letter to the Committee on the Budget. H.R. 842, H.R. 4313, H.R. 5347, H.R. 5343, H.R. 5349, H.R. 5346, H.R. 5284, H.R. 5345, H.R. 5348, and the Views and Estimates Letter to the Committee on the Budget were ordered reported, as amended.

## Joint Meetings

### ANTISEMITISM

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Committee received a briefing on conspiracy theories, antisemitism, and democratic decline from James Kirkchick; Izabella Tabarovsky, Wilson Center; and Brian Hughes, USC Shoah Foundation.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

### Senate

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer, James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine the state of K-12 education, 10 a.m., SD-430.

### House

*Committee on Agriculture,* Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development, hearing entitled “USDA’s Rural Development: Delivering Vital Programs and Services to Rural America”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Examining Policies to Enhance Seniors’ Access to Breakthrough Medical Technologies”, 9:45 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Examining Solutions to Expedite Broadband Permitting”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Fraud in Focus: Exposing Financial Threats to American Families”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Artificial Intelligence, hearing entitled “Unlocking the Next Generation of AI in the U.S. Financial System for Consumers, Businesses, and Competitiveness”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, hearing entitled “Invasion of the Homeland: How China is Using Marijuana to Build a Criminal Network Across America”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet, hearing entitled “AI at a Crossroads: A Nationwide Strategy or Californication?”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 309, the “National Law Enforcement Officers Remembrance, Support and Community Outreach Act”; H.R. 2196, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs; H.R. 4284, the “Small Cemetery Conveyance Act”; H.R. 4386, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to clarify entrance privileges for vehicles with respect to the America the Beautiful interagency pass; H.R. 4467, the “Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act”; and H.R. 5131, the “Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the District of Columbia”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,* Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Igniting America’s Energy Future: The Promise and Progress of Fusion Power”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Thursday, September 18

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of the en bloc nominations pursuant to S. Res. 377, En Bloc Consideration of Certain Nominations, post-cloture. The roll call vote on confirmation of these nominations en bloc is expected during Thursday's session of the Senate.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Thursday, September 18

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of H.R. 3062—Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act. Consideration of H.R. 3015—National Coal Council Reestablishment Act. Consideration of H.R. 1047—Guaranteeing Reliability through the Interconnection of Dispatchable Power Act. Consideration of H. Res. 719—Honoring the life and legacy of Charles “Charlie” James Kirk.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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