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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.

O God of grace, awaken the Members of this body to the opportunities of this day. Help them to hear Your call to move forward and accomplish great things for Your glory. Lord, enable them to discover unused resources among themselves that they can mobilize dreams that have yet to be dreamt, talents that have yet to be awakened, and commitments that have yet to be made. Kindle a divine light on the altar of their souls that will guide them in the pursuit of Your wisdom and truth. May they confidently face their duties knowing that You are their sufficient shield and defense.

We pray in Your glorious 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 (Mrs. MOODY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the en bloc nominations provided for under the provisions of S. Res. 377.

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL STILLBIRTH PREVENTION AND AWARENESS DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, September 19 is National Stillbirth Prevention and Awareness Day. This day is set aside to recognize the tens of thousands of families in the United States who have endured a stillbirth.

More than 21,000 pregnancies in the United States end in stillbirth each year. Sadly, this exceeds the top five leading causes of death among children under 15 years of age. It is critical that we raise awareness and take action to improve this grave statistic.

I am proud to have been a cosponsor of the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act that was signed into law last year. The law clarifies that resources like Count the Kicks can be deployed for stillbirth prevention. Count the Kicks is a simple and free tool that helps pregnant moms count their babies' movements during the third trimester. The results speak for themselves. In the first 10 years of the Count the Kicks campaign in Iowa, the State's stillbirth rate went down 32 percent while rates in the rest of the country remained static.

My work to improve maternal and child health doesn't stop there. I have introduced the bipartisan Healthy Moms and Babies Act. This bill is a comprehensive approach to addressing our maternal mortality crisis. Through community-based efforts, improved support for rural labor and delivery units, and increasing the use of technology like telehealth, we can prevent maternal and child mortality regardless of the ZIP Code.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last night, we found the answer to the question of how serious Democrats are about funding the government, and the answer is not at all.

For years, the Democrat leader talked about the importance of passing clean continuing resolutions. In fact, we did 13 of them while the Democrats had the majority the past 4 years with a Democrat in the White House.

The Democrats' CR proposal this time is the exact opposite. It is not clean; it is filthy. It is packed full of partisan policies and measures designed to appeal to Democrats' leftist base: funding healthcare for able-bodied adults who refuse to work; ensuring that noncitizens go back on the Medicaid rolls; removing Republican-passed measures to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicaid and free up resources for the people who need Medicaid the most.

Even while Democrats are ensuring that noncitizens and able-bodied adults who refuse to work are getting government-funded healthcare, they are attempting to eliminate a historic investment in home- and community-based services for Americans with disabilities. Where exactly do their priorities lie?

They are also trying to ax Republicans' transformational, once-in-a-generation investment in rural healthcare designed to improve the way that we deliver care to those who need it.

Republicans have advanced a clean, nonpartisan CR to keep the government funded while we continue bipartisan work on regular annual appropriations funding bills.

Democrats—well, Democrats are threatening to shut down the government if Republicans don't agree to last night's laundry list of partisan demands. I think that tells you all you need to know.

I expect the House to advance a clean CR tomorrow, and I hope—I really hope—that Democrats will come to their senses and join us in passing it. The ball is in their court.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on its slate of 48 lower level nominees to the executive branch of our government—the first package of nominees we will consider this year.

Normally, confirming a slate of noncontroversial, lower level nominees like the ones in this package wouldn't merit a lot of discussion on the floor of the Senate. They would normally be confirmed in a few moments by unanimous consent or voice vote.

In fact, previous Presidents have had most of their nominees confirmed this way. George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton in their first terms each had 98 percent of their civilian nominees confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote. George W. Bush and Barack Obama had 90 percent in their first terms in office. Then came President Trump's first term. Democrats injected a healthy dose of partisanship into the process, and all of a sudden positions that used to go by voice vote or unanimous consent were now requiring rollcall votes.

Still, both President Biden and President Trump in their first terms had more than half of their nominees confirmed by voice or unanimous consent.

Then there is this year. This year, Democrats fully broke the confirmation process here in the Senate. For almost 8 months now, Democrats have dragged out the confirmation of every one of President Trump's nominees. He is the first President on record not to have a single civilian nominee confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote—not one.

Democrats have said that they are doing this because these are ''historically bad'' nominees. Historically bad? Many of the President's nominees are getting Democrat support when they come out of the relevant committee of jurisdiction. Democrats are even voting to confirm them. But despite this, Democrats have still slowed down the process literally to a halt. It is delay for delay's sake, I suppose, so they look like they are fighting.

Last week, Republicans put a stop to this and restored the Senate's longstanding practice of confirming nominees expeditiously in batches, the way it was always done prior. That is what we are going to be doing here today.

This slate of nominees, as I said, consists of noncontroversial, lower level positions in the executive branch. Many of these positions have been filled by unanimous consent or voice vote in each of the last three incoming administrations. Almost all of them have been filled that way at least once since President Obama. So the positions themselves aren't controversial. Well, interestingly enough, neither are the nominees.

Every one of these 48 nominees was reported out of committee with bipartisan support—every single one. A significant number of them were supported by a majority of Democrats on their representative committees.

Under any other President, these would be exactly the type of nominees that we would confirm in a batch by unanimous consent or voice vote.

Democrats' obstruction is not about the quality of the nominees. Let's just put that to rest, pure and simple. It is about Democrats' utter inability to accept the fact that the American people elected President Trump.

President Trump came into office with a mandate. And like every President before him, he needs his team in place to enact his agenda. But Democrats' obstruction would have denied him that team. It would have denied the American people the change that they voted for last November, and it would have prevented the Senate from doing important work.

So far this year, we have cast more than 500 votes here in this Chamber. That is more than any Senate in recent history at this point in a Congress. But just to finish the nominees in the pipeline today would require another 600 votes if we considered them all individually, which is what Democrats have been forcing us to do since this President took office—600 more votes.

We have cast more than 500 up until now. We would have had to cast another 600 in the 3½ months before the end of the year just to get through the current pipeline. That doesn't even consider the hundreds of additional nominees who will be added to that pipeline in the coming weeks and months.

If the Senate had continued at the pace that we have been proceeding at through the month of July, there would still have been hundreds of empty desks in the executive branch on President Trump's last day in office in 2029. Think about that.

Republicans have fixed a broken process and restored the Senate's precedent that applied to previous Presidents, and that is allowing a majority of a President's nominees to be confirmed expeditiously.

I have talked a lot about allowing a President to assemble his team, but of course restoring Senate precedent isn't just about ensuring that a President can get his team in place; it is also about making sure that the Senate is able to spend sufficient time on legislative work.

First and foremost, the Senate is a legislative body, and Democrats' historic obstruction has made it substantially more difficult for the Senate to spend adequate time on legislation. By restoring Senate precedent on confirmations, we have helped ensure that the Senate is able to fulfill all of its responsibilities.

Today is the first slate of nominees. There will be more to come. And we will ensure that President Trump's administration is filled at a pace that looks more like those of his predecessors and that this government can deliver for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President yesterday, Democrats released our bill to extend government funding and meet the needs of the American people. The contrast between the Republican bill and the Democratic bill is glaring.

The Republican bill is more of the same failed status quo of Donald Trump's failed policies: more high costs, healthcare cuts, and premiums up.

Democrats have a different option. We address the crises Americans face in healthcare, in Medicaid, in inflation, and in higher costs.

The House is expected to vote on their partisan, status quo bill either later today or tomorrow. If the bill passes the House, the Senate should take up the issue immediately afterward. We could do it quickly so we don't interfere with anyone's travel plans to Arizona.

We would ask for limited debate and just two votes: the House status quo bill, which delays any sort of healthcare relief; and the Democratic alternative, which would lower healthcare costs for millions of Americans.

I urge Republican leaders to speed up these votes.

One of the oldest sayings in politics is from the great Abraham Lincoln. He said that ''public sentiment is everything.'' That is certainly true in this debate. The American people will look at what Republicans are doing and what Democrats are doing, and it will be clear that public sentiment is on our side.

Public sentiment will be on our side for at least three reasons:

First, the American people want both sides to work together. We have made

it clear we want a bipartisan negotiation, but Republicans don't. The American people detest seeing Republicans being so intransigent. Republicans are governing like their view is the only view. That is, of course, not true. We are a split country, half and half. And to cut one half out entirely—no talk, no negotiation—is unacceptable for the American people. That won't win public sentiment in any way.

The second reason public sentiment is on our side: Americans are tired of the failed, chaotic, high-cost status quo, which decimates their healthcare, which raises their costs, and which Republicans are defending in their bill.

Tens of millions of people are going to lose coverage. Starting in October, millions will receive notices that their healthcare insurance premiums are going to go up $400, $500, $600—not a year; a month. The average working family can't afford that. Premiums are skyrocketing. Hospitals from Virginia to Nebraska, from Maine to California are shutting down now—not later. People won't be able to see a doctor or access affordable medication.

I met a woman whose daughter had cancer. She said to me that they depend on Medicaid for her recovery. What is she going to do? Wait? Delay? See what the Republicans want to do, if anything, when they haven't said they would do anything at all and they decimated healthcare themselves?

Now nursing homes are going to close down, and many, many American families are not going to know what to do about taking care of their elderly parents. They may not have room at home to have them move in, and even if they did, they can't give them the kind of healthcare their parents got in nursing homes. But nursing homes, one after the other, are going to close. They depend on Medicaid.

This is all chaos. This is suffering.

Medical research, which can cure cancer or Alzheimer's—millions are alive because we invested in medical research—cut it off? stifle it? don't send the money out for it? This is chaos. This is suffering.

These are the results of Donald Trump's policies, which the status quo, partisan Republican bill maintains, and Americans are tired of this status quo. All the data shows it. Even Leader THUNE called the Republican bill status quo—the status quo option—on the floor yesterday.

America, do you want the status quo on healthcare? Leader THUNE says his bill is status quo.

Today, I was amazed to hear that Leader THUNE called our bill filthy. Is it filthy to provide healthcare for sick Americans? Is it filthy to prevent premiums from going up $400 or $500 a month? Is it filthy to prevent rural hospitals from closing? That is why Republicans are so out of touch. That is why.

The American people desperately want change. They don't think our country is headed in the right direction, and they need help in bringing healthcare costs down, providing better healthcare. They need help maintaining coverage. They need help for the essentials. The Republican status quo bill doesn't do any of this, but the Democratic bill does—the second reason that public sentiment is on our side, not theirs.

Finally and just as importantly, it is unacceptable that Donald Trump has told Republicans not to negotiate with Democrats, and Donald Trump is heading America toward a shutdown by not negotiating.

Look. Here is what he said. These are Trump's words, not mine. I will remind everybody of his words last week: ''Don't even bother'' to deal with Democrats. When Donald Trump says ''don't even bother'' to deal with Democrats, he says he wants a shutdown, plain and simple. And again, that is the last thing the American people want—a President who says: My way or the highway, and shut the government down if I don't get my way. That is what he said.

The public is on our side. The public is on our side. Public sentiment is everything. They don't like Republican partisanship, they don't like the status quo bill, and they certainly don't like Donald Trump refusing to even have Democrats be part of the decision.

He says he doesn't need us? Well, Donald Trump either doesn't know how to count or doesn't understand a modicum of Senate procedure, which most Americans do.

You need 60 votes, Mr. President, Donald Trump. You have 53. You need our votes. To say not to bother with us is saying you want a shutdown, plain and simple. The American people see that.

Finally, Leader THUNE has spent a lot of time talking about the past. He has quoted me. I want to remind Leader THUNE—I want to remind my Republican colleagues—when Democrats were in the majority and I was majority leader, every year, we did not see a shutdown. I was majority leader for 4 years—no shutdowns. Why? Because we sat down with the other side and negotiated. We knew that the majority had to work with the minority. Like now, we knew then we had to get 60 votes. And bipartisanship ruled the day. It had to if you wanted to avoid a shutdown.

Why is that not happening now? Well, frankly, Leader JEFFRIES and I were befuddled for about a month because in late July, we asked THUNE and JOHNSON to sit down with us—late July. We heard nothing from them, crickets. We asked again in early September; nothing, crickets.

But now it has become clear why they wouldn't sit down with us. Here is the reason: Donald Trump. Donald Trump made it clear: ''Don't even bother'' dealing with the Democrats. THUNE and JOHNSON listen to Trump. They are not independent actors. They don't represent an independent Congress, an independent House, or an independent Senate. And when Donald Trump says don't negotiate with Democrats, they don't and come up with 20 excuses why.

The single biggest reason that we are on the brink of a shutdown is Donald Trump's refusal to let Republicans even negotiate.

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.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, keeping the government open is a fundamental responsibility of elected officials. It always needs to be bipartisan, and today, that requires cooperation by the Democrats.

Right now, the Democrats are threatening once again to shut down the Government of the United States. We are trending toward another Schumer government shutdown. Democrats are in the minority in the Senate; they are in the minority in the House. Yet they have come up with what looks to me like a half-hearted bait-and-switch plan. It is a plan that is designed and is an attempt to deceive the American people. Democrats are trying to avoid being blamed for their reckless obstruction. The American people are not going to be deceived.

Let's be clear. The Schumer plan is a shutdown plan. It is far from a clean extension of current funding. In fact, it is a Trojan horse—a Trojan horse packed with reckless and radical liberal fantasies.

It is not serious, and the Democrats know it. The Democrats want a ransom payment—a ransom payment of over $1 trillion to keep the government open for just 4 weeks.

So let's take a look at it. There is more than a trillion dollars in more spending in what the Democrats are proposing. At the same very time, they are proposing eliminating the $50 billion rural hospital stabilization fund.

That is a lifeblood for rural hospitals in my communities and in your communities. The Schumer shutdown plan reads like a draft of the future platform for the 2028 Democrat National Convention. There are COVID bonus payments—this is in spite of the fact that the COVID crisis ended years ago. Liberal States are being rewarded for giving taxpayer-funded healthcare to illegal immigrants.

They want able-bodied, working-age individuals who refuse to work to continue getting Medicaid. Remember, these work requirements are overwhelmingly supported by hard-working Americans of all political persuasions.

They want to send taxpayer dollars overseas to pay for climate projects. This is fantasyland. They want taxpayer dollars to keep going towards $40

million for low emissions development in West Africa. They want taxpayer dollars to keep going towards $25 million for climate resilience in Honduras. They want the taxpayer dollars to keep going towards $13.4 million for civic engagement in Zimbabwe.

The Democrats have a long and spirited history of wasting American taxpayer dollars. This plan is no different. The Schumer shutdown plan seems designed to score political points on the far, far left.

This is a clarifying moment for the American people. Democrats know they can't have any hope of passing this fantasy plan. They know it, and they know it because they want government to close.

Republicans are proposing a clean short-term extension of funding designed to keep the government opened and functioning. A clean short-term continuing resolution would easily pass the Senate in normal times. A clean CR keeps the government open. A clean CR gives appropriators from both parties the time to complete their work in regular order.

Let me point out that the Appropriations Committee is already producing bipartisan bills. Let me also point out that under Joe Biden, Democrats supported 13 short-term continuing resolutions to keep the government open, and 96 percent of them voted for them.

So times really are different under this Democrat leadership in their efforts to obstruct this President. Democrats once again are putting politics ahead of the essential work of governing. Senator SCHUMER is clearly making unreasonable demands knowing that his proposal can never pass the Senate. All Republicans are proposing is to continue to fund the government for the next 7 weeks. This is going to allow us to continue the appropriations process and keep the government open during that time.

Senator SCHUMER himself said last year that passing a clean CR ''will avert a harmful and unnecessary shutdown.'' Now he wants to cause a harmful and unnecessary shutdown. At that time, he said passing a clean CR gives appropriators ''time to finish drafting all 12 bills.'' Let me point out that those bills were then stuck in Senator SCHUMER's drawer, and he kept them there and never brought them to the floor of the U.S. Senate.

He even said, back then, if both sides work together, if we reject poison pills—of which his bill now is completely loaded with—if we reject poison pills, he said, that can never become law, then the task before us becomes much, much easier.

They want to shut down the government. That is what they are proposing. Senator SCHUMER needs to listen to his own advice from a year ago. But then he was majority leader; now they are in the minority. The proposal that he came out with last night is loaded with poison pills, and he knows it.

Let me repeat: 13 short-term continuing resolutions under President Biden. SCHUMER was the majority leader at the time; 96 percent of Democrats voted for them.

Voting yes for a short-term continuing resolution was not considered controversial for the Democrats a year ago.

Now, I recognize that the minority leader today has a political problem. His radical base is demanding a government shutdown. They expect it, they insist on it, they command Senator SCHUMER to deliver that. His political problem may soon turn into a major problem for American families, for our soldiers, for our Border Patrol agents, for seniors living on a fixed income.

As Senators, our job is to keep the government open, and Senate Republicans are ready to keep the government open. Democrats can either join us or drag the Nation into another Schumer shutdown. That is their choice.

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD PROGRAM

Mr. President, the Renewable Fuel Standard Program is broken. It is a failed approach to ethanol. It has raised prices for consumers; it has threatened the jobs of American energy workers; and there is cause for concern about its harm to small engines.

The Senate is now debating whether to force even higher amounts of ethanol into our fuels. For the sake of American families, for the sake of American workers, we should reject this failed approach, not double down on it. It would only worsen the harm on the current system and lead to more market distortions.

We need to fix our broken system instead of favoring special interest groups and forcing consumers to pay higher prices.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Paul Harvey was a radio commentator. He used to say ''And now for the rest of the story.''

I would like to respond to my friend from Wyoming's comments he just made on the floor of the Senate. One of the proposals Democrats stand by is to reestablish the tax credit for Americans who are buying their health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. It could be up to 15 million Americans stand to lose their health insurance coverage because of changes in the law on the big beautiful Trump budget bill. Among those who stand to feel hardship, at least, or maybe lose their insurance, are some 60,000 residents of the State of Wyoming.

Last night, Senators came to the floor to discuss this issue of the cost of health insurance, which is going to go up dramatically for many Americans as of the 1st of October. The example was given by Senator WELCH of Vermont of an individual making $80,000 a year in the State of Wyoming, which he would see his ACA health insurance premiums go up $3,000, $3,000 a month—$3,000. I doubt that many of us could put that sum on the table without some sacrifice. Many people would end up giving up their health insurance entirely.

This was referred to as a liberal radical idea to protect that tax credit which was taken away by the Republicans in their big beautiful Trump budget bill. I don't think it is radical. If you have ever lived without health insurance and had a sick child in your family, you will never forget it. I have been through that experience. So this notion that this is a radical idea is wrong.

The Senator from Wyoming goes on to say that we are cutting out $50 billion in a special program for hospitals across America. What he doesn't tell you is that that $50 billion was a small lifesaver put in the Big Beautiful Bill because the Republicans voted to eliminate $1 trillion in Medicaid spending, an essential program for small town and rural hospitals. So we restore—in addition to the ACA tax credit, we restored the $1 trillion which was in the Medicaid Program, which will spare many of these hospitals from closing.

So when you look at the specifics of the situation when it comes to healthcare, this really makes a difference. I also want to tell you that the policy, healthcare policy that we currently see with this administration is frightening. Let me tell you a story.

When I was growing up as a little boy in East St. Louis, IL, we were afraid of polio. One of our classmates would go to school healthy in the morning and would be paralyzed before dinner. When I was in the first grade, my friend disappeared for weeks. When I asked where she went, they just shook their heads and said ''Polio.'' When she finally returned, she couldn't walk without leg braces. I will never forget the agony I saw on her face.

For decades, polio ravaged America, killing and paralyzing thousands of people a year and then—and then—a vaccine was discovered. The Salk vaccine was a miracle. By 1979, polio was eradicated in the United States. A disease that struck fear in the heart of everyone soon became—thank God—a distant memory. We repeated that success early this century with diseases like measles and rubella.

Unfortunately, those vaccine victories are now under attack by the Health and Human Services Secretary Robert Kennedy, Jr. His actions threaten to reverse 50 years of progress in infectious disease treatment and prevention.

Let me tell you about the chaos that has occurred at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since Secretary Kennedy was confirmed.

In February, Secretary Kennedy moved to fire—dismiss—more than 1,000 CDC staff members. That is 10 percent of the workforce. This included key members of the Agency's pandemic prevention and laboratory safety staff.

In August, he fired Dr. Susan Monarez from her position as Director of the CDC, despite the fact that she had been nominated by President Trump and confirmed by every Senate Republican just weeks before. Yesterday Dr. Monarez testified before the Senate HELP Committee about the circumstances surrounding her firing, and the revelations in her testimony were deeply, deeply troubling.

Dr. Monarez told the committee that Secretary Kennedy plans to upend our Nation's vaccine recommendation schedules this month. You see, the CDC's vaccine advisory committee meets regularly to make recommendations based on science on what vaccines Americans should receive at various points in their life.

States use these recommendations, professional medical recommendations, to develop guidelines for what vaccines our children should receive. Health insurance companies are required to cover the full cost of the recommended vaccines from this panel. Unfortunately, Secretary Kennedy unilaterally fired all of the members of the CDC Vaccine Advisory Committee, many of whom were infectious disease and vaccine experts. He fired them all. He replaced them with people who have espoused anti-vaccine views and aligned with extreme health-related conspiracy theories.

This new panel is set to meet today, and I fear they are about to upend decades of progress in preventing unnecessary illness by wiping out recommendations and access to childhood vaccines.

Dr. Monarez testified yesterday that she was fired from not preemptively agreeing to rubberstamp these new vaccine formulas absent scientific evidence that changes would warrant.

Think about that. Secretary Kennedy fired President Trump's pick to head the CDC because she insisted that the Agency's vaccine recommendations be actually backed by science.

Many States who see this anti-vaccine movement at the highest levels of our government are taking things to an even further extreme. Florida announced it would end most of its vaccine requirements, and other Republican States are likely to follow suit. The rising vaccine skepticism promoted by Secretary Kennedy and the Trump administration will cause a resurgence in preventable disease across America.

In Texas, two unvaccinated children died from measles earlier this year, the first such deaths in America in 10 years. Louisiana is experiencing its worse whooping cough outbreak in 35 years. More than 30 infants have been hospitalized, and many were not vaccinated with the DTaP vaccine that could have protected them. Tragically, two of these infants have already died.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., will be the first Secretary of HHS with a body count. He is a danger to the children of America. Kennedy's onslaught has targeted more than just vaccines; he and President Trump have spearheaded a historic level of dysfunction at the National Institutes of Health. They have frozen medical research funding and fired scientists and researchers. Think about that. This is going to make America great again—firing medical researchers?

I have been a supporter of the NIH in all the time I have served in Congress. The research gives people hope when they are faced with devastating diagnoses.

For 10 years, I have been part of a bipartisan task force to raise the NIH research budget. In those 10 years, we increased the budget by more than 60 percent, raising it from $30 billion to $48 billion today. But Trump and Kennedy's proposed budgets for next year eliminates this $18 billion increase in medical research. Every penny of the increase I fought for for the last 10 years is gone with this Trump budget. It will mean fewer novel cures and treatments for patients who need them. It will dramatically reduce research into Alzheimer's, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. They have been suspended because of the Trump-Kennedy cuts.

Does anybody believe that America is greater as a nation with less cancer research? I don't. Patients desperate for cures for horrible conditions like glioblastoma are in agony today because President Trump and Secretary Kennedy canceled the research funding they depend on.

Secretary Kennedy's cuts will stifle a generation of researchers and jeopardize our medical research infrastructure. We will feel the effects of this rash decision for decades to come.

I call on my Republican colleagues to stand up to this public health massacre. Some of the Members are doctors or parents themselves who have vaccinated their kids or spent their careers trying to improve our healthcare system.

My colleagues know that Secretary Kennedy is unqualified, unhinged, and dangerous, and I hope they will find the courage to join me and speak out against the terrible decisions he has fostered. If they don't, I fear there will be dire consequences if we allow Secretary Kennedy to continue to serve in a role where lives are on the line, and he is clearly unqualified.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Nebraska.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE KIRK

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, 13 years ago, an inspired and patriotic 18-year-old by the name of Charlie Kirk launched a political organization. He wanted to identify, train, and organize students to engage in American politics. His dynamism, his tenacity, and his convictions helped inspire a generation.

Charlie Kirk was participating in the very American act of political dialogue when he was assassinated. He was a husband, a son, a father—had two little children—and he was murdered in broad daylight. It is horrifying. It is very disheartening not only for me but I know many young people.

Tragically, it is all too common. Charlie Kirk isn't the only political figure to be impacted by violence. In recent years, he has just been added to the list of people like Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, Congressman STEVE SCALISE, Minnesota House speaker Melissa Hortman, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and, of course, President Donald Trump.

No matter our political beliefs, all of us should be able to affirm a simple truth: that violence against political figures is unacceptable. It is actually anti-American, period. It is an attack upon our very values. It is an attack upon our Republic.

Our level of sympathy should not depend on the political views of the person who violence has been perpetrated against. Our level of outrage should not depend on the political views of the victim or the perpetrator.

In our great country, we settle disagreements with ballots, not bullets. The way to combat speech you don't like is with more speech, not less speech. This makes us better, sharper, and more American. That is what Charlie Kirk was doing when he was assassinated.

It might seem unnecessary to say these things in the wake of an assassination, but the tragic reality is that not every American believes what I just said; not everybody believes these statements are true. A recent YouGov poll found that only 72 percent of Americans said that political violence is always wrong, and 11 percent said that political violence can sometimes be justified. Eleven percent of people think that it is justifiable to commit political violence. That number shocks the conscience. Let that sink in. The people who believe that are siding with the bad guys.

We must reverse this trend. We must make sure that political violence isn't normal, that it is not accepted. Each of us has a role to play in that. Each of us can be a part of restoring American civic virtue.

We need to focus on what we know to be good and true. Let's spend more time in prayer. Let's spend more time outdoors rather than on our phones or our devices. Let's spend more time getting to know our neighbors and investing in our community. Let's relearn civil discourse. Civil discourse sharpens our arguments and makes us better, and it is better for our communities. It is what makes us human and what makes us American. The civil discourse in our great Republic is what makes us great.

There is no time to waste, and we all have a role.

God bless Charlie Kirk, his wife Erika, and their children. May Charlie rest in peace.

Now, Mr. President, I would like to say a prayer not just for Charlie but for our entire country.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY A. VASSILIADIS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today, I want to take some time to recognize a Nevadan and recognize specifically the legacy that Rosemary A. Vassiliadis has contributed to this country but to Nevada specifically.

On September 12, 2025, after 40 years delivering for Southern Nevada, including more than 28 years as an airport leader at Clark County's Department of Aviation, Director Vassiliadis will retire from her career in public service.

Rosemary started her career as budget chief for the city of Las Vegas in 1984 and has been working for her community ever since. I know; I have watched firsthand. I got to work side by side with her. She spent the last 12 years as the top executive of Harry Reid International Airport, leading one of the Nation's more dynamic airport systems.

Rosemary was appointed as the first woman director of Clark County's Department of Aviation in 2013 after nearly 16 years as deputy director.

I can't say enough about what she has contributed to Nevada, and I want to talk a little bit about it because, thanks in large part to her stewardship, Southern Nevada's aviation system has grown to a $35 billion economic engine, employing more than 18,000 workers and serving as the gateway to the world's premiere tourism and convention destination. The system is anchored by LAS and includes four additional general aviation airports.

Rosemary's vision as head of LAS emphasized the importance of the airport as the first and last experience visitors had of Las Vegas, and she prioritized efforts to enhance that customer experience for all travelers. She worked to expand LAS to include the D gates and terminal 3, and her emphasis on strategic coordination helped move millions of travelers to the region during some of the country's largest sporting events, including the Super Bowl and the Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix.

Under her leadership, the airport reached unprecedented milestones, including handling a record 58.4 million passengers in 2024. In the last 12 years, the Harry Reid International Airport has welcomed visitors from new international destinations and solidified its spot as one of North America's top 10 commercial airports.

Rosemary has spent her career supporting the safety and security of all passengers and workers. During her tenure at the Clark County Department of Aviation, Rosemary led the airport system through extraordinary times, including navigating the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks and providing continued service during the COVID–19 pandemic.

Under her direction, LAS has also become a leader in the fight against human trafficking. I know this firsthand. As AG, I got to partner with her. As attorney general of Nevada, I got to partner with her and watch her focus on how we address this horrific human trafficking that is happening in this country. Rosemary was one of the first in her field to work with law enforcement and human trafficking experts to create the industry's most comprehensive initiative to train and educate airport employees, provide safe exit strategies for victims of human trafficking, and install multilingual signage in all the restrooms to help address this horrific, modern-day slavery that we are seeing.

Additionally, LAS remains an industry leader in security programs. Most people don't even know this. Rosemary established a partnership with the Transportation Security Administration and created a unique testing ground for new and emerging screening technologies in a live checkpoint environment.

Now, I have to stress this: This is the first and only innovation checkpoint, and Harry Reid Airport is designated as the Nation's only innovation airport. It is because of Rosemary and her team.

Rosemary has established the foundation for the Clark County airport system to continue to adapt as it serves the growing Southern Nevada population and the visitors the community welcomes each year.

As a lifelong Nevadan, I am so honored to have worked with Rosemary over so many years and greatly appreciate her tireless efforts to grow LAS and the Clark County airport system. Her leadership was revolutionary, and she will be missed.

But I want to stress even more. It is not just the work that she did as a civil servant, because I think that is a noble service, and that is what she believed in—always giving back to her community—but Rosemary is also an incredible, incredible mother, friend, neighbor, lifelong Nevadan who truly believed in her State and her community, and raised a great family.

Now I hope she has the opportunity, after all of the years she has given to so many people in Nevada and so many tourists—I am going to say to the staff I am looking at right now, if you have come to Las Vegas, you have come through Rosemary's airport, and this is what it is about: making sure that people feel loved, support. She has not only done it for so many tourists, international and domestic, but she has done it for Nevadans and her family. I am so proud of her and got a chance to watch firsthand her commitment to her State, her country, and her family.

Rosemary, I wish you all the best. Wherever you go next, whatever the next chapter, know that you will always have my support and my friendship and I look forward to seeing what you do next.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

HEALTHCARE

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, we are in the middle of a full-blown healthcare crisis. Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress are ripping away healthcare from 15 million Americans. And now, thanks to Donald Trump, one in four nursing homes could close, community health clinics are on the brink of shutting their doors, hospitals, already filled to the brim with patients, are bracing for the biggest cuts in decades. Kids with cancer are watching as promising research, their only chance at treatment, is shut down and health insurance premiums are skyrocketing.

Talk to anyone in the country, and they will tell you that the cost of going to the doctor is already way too high because the reality is that healthcare in America was already failing families even before Trump and Republicans took a chain saw to it.

Massachusetts lost two hospitals last year in the biggest healthcare bankruptcy in decades. Our community health centers were already down to counting their nickels to keep the door open. And now, the Republicans have come in and said they want to take away money that helps cover mamas giving birth and neighbors who need wheelchairs and home health aides so that they can hand that money over to billionaire CEOs. Trump's one-two punch of chaotic tariffs and his Big Beautiful Bill is going to push middle-class families in America over a financial cliff.

Before working moms go broke from a cancer diagnosis, Congress must act. Before community hospitals are forced to shut down, Congress must act. Before your neighbor with the home health aide loses his care, Congress must act.

That is why Democrats are saying, if Republicans want our votes, they need to restore healthcare for Americans. We made it about as clear as we humanly can. The American people need affordable healthcare. No one should go bankrupt because they got sick and needed to see a doctor.

And if the Republicans want to shut down government so that they can keep increasing costs and cutting healthcare, then they need to explain that and not just to us; they need to

explain it to the American people. Every Senator here is here to work for the American people, and part of that job is coming to the negotiating table and making a plan to fund government. But Donald Trump flat-out said he doesn't want to negotiate with Democrats. He said:

Don't even bother dealing with them.

OK, then, Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the White House. You own the healthcare crisis. Democrats believe that not a single newborn baby in America should lose healthcare, not a single senior should be tossed out of their nursing home and onto the curb, and not a single person should have to drive hours and hours to get to the nearest hospital.

If we are going to pass a budget for the U.S. Government, then we need to save healthcare for millions of Americans, period.

And make no mistake, every penny of funding needs to be protected from a Trump power grab. Since the week he took office, Donald Trump has been trying to illegally rip away money from programs that Congress has already agreed to fund. His latest ploy: an attempt to zero out funding without even asking for Congress's approval. It is a dirty trick, and it is illegal. We can't have Democrats and Republicans in Congress agree to a budget that helps people get to the doctor and pay for lifesaving cancer research and then turn around and have Donald Trump just halt that money. We need proper safeguards.

So this is our moment. This is our chance to restore healthcare for millions of people in this country. Right now is our small window of opportunity. The Democrats are ready to go. We want to seize this opportunity. It is only the Republicans who stand in the way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE HELENE

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of the 1-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene, a disaster of unprecedented magnitude that devastated North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains.

On the evening of September 26, 2024, this historic storm struck the Blue Ridge Mountains, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake, putting the livelihoods of thousands of North Carolinians on hold, and shattering many communities.

As we approach this solemn anniversary, I want to reflect on the lives that Hurricane Helene took with her. One hundred eight lives were tragically lost in this disaster, leaving their families grieving. To this day, five individuals remain unaccounted for, leaving their loved ones without answers.

In their loss, we are reminded of the comfort and hope found in the 23rd Psalm:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

God has been with us in grief, and he is now with us in recovery.

But when I look back on this past year, what is most visible is not destruction; it is resilience: neighbors helping neighbors, communities coming together, and the people of the Appalachian Mountains leaning on faith and hope and determination to carry us through the aftermath of the storm.

A year ago, when Helene first hit, there was no way in or out of the mountains. When I was able to get through, I was in contact with numerous local leaders who tried to describe what was happening on the ground. I saw the impact firsthand thanks to North Carolina agriculture commissioner Steve Troxler when we surveyed the devastation together in a forestry helicopter. Shortly thereafter, I made the first of many on-the-ground visits to the affected towns.

What I quickly saw was the tremendous work being done by Samaritan's Purse and Baptists on Mission, along with many other faith- and community-based organizations and nonprofits that stepped up to help. Companies like Lowe's, Walmart, AT&T, Verizon, and many more stepped up significantly in contributing funds and resources to support rebuilding efforts.

I spoke to local heroes—our first responders—some of whom had not been home in days and were left unsure of the status of their own homes and families. In Fairview, two landslides claimed the lives of 11 members of the Craig family, and they had lived on that land for over a century. I embraced residents as they wept—shaken by their unimaginable loss—as they were left to navigate the uncertainty of just how to move forward. But what struck me the most was the willingness of ordinary people to step up with extraordinary courage and put themselves at risk to save a life.

In Spruce Pine, Eddie Hunnell jumped into rushing waters to save a stranger whose home was being washed away.

Junior Singleton—75 years old from Avery County—woke up to water in his basement that was rising quickly. As neighbors gathered at his home on high ground, he recognized someone was missing. He waded through the floodwaters to get his neighbors out of their home and safely to higher ground.

Medics in Mitchell County, during the shelter-in-place order, responded to a teen boy experiencing a seizure. They had to cut their way through downed trees to reach the boy's home and deliver lifesaving care.

In Yancey County, Mountain Heritage High School students are partnering with Rebuilding Hollers to build tiny homes for Hurricane Helene survivors. Their work restores not just shelter but the hope that people can begin to rebuild their lives.

In Madison County, the catastrophic flooding in Hot Springs—home to just 520 people—gave rise to the Rebuild Hot Springs Area organization. Together, this small town and its neighbors have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help families return home and businesses to reopen. Though challenges remain, on May 2, the town officially reopened its doors to welcome visitors once again.

In Henderson County, chief Steve Freeman led Bat Cave's volunteer fire department through Helene by urging evacuations, coordinating rescues, and conducting welfare checks for weeks without any power. He expanded his crew, patrolled the rivers daily, and built a spirit of unity, helping neighbors endure and rebuild together.

In Chimney Rock, which was one of the hardest hit towns, manager Stephen Duncan and mayor Peter O'Leary are charting a path forward. With nonprofits like Spokes of Hope, the Great Needs Trust, and Amish partners from Pennsylvania, the community is rebuilding Main Street with reclaimed wood and donated supplies, restoring not only buildings but a sense of hope.

Large sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway are now back open. The parkway serves as a lifeline to the travel and tourism industry in Western North Carolina, and it is the foundation of the small business economy. Work is ongoing on the most damaged sections of the parkway, and those stretches are slated to reopen next year.

Now, while we have seen some successes as folks work to return to normal, there is still a lot of work to do to make sure Western North Carolina is stronger than it was before those fateful days. As we shifted from response to recovery, communities spent millions of dollars of their own to clean up and rebuild with the promise of Federal reimbursement. They have been met with unnecessary bureaucratic gridlock as the Federal Government reviews grant applications and slow-pay funds.

I have talked to local officials about how the slow pace of reimbursements was putting a strain on their general budgets that are still reeling from the economic impacts of lost tourism and businesses that never reopened. I have continued to fight to make sure our communities have the support that they need from their Federal Government to get these critical reimbursement checks signed and out the door for the people of Western North Carolina.

As we approach the 1-year anniversary of the most expensive and deadly natural disaster in North Carolina's history, we have much work still to do. The backlog is too long. There are still tarps on homes. Roads and bridges remain unbuilt. Needs are great, and help is just too slow. But we are finally starting to reduce the backlog of projects awaiting Federal reimbursement. President Trump and I know that the needs are still urgent, and we are working together to get Western North Carolinians the help that they need.

We couldn't have come this far without the local leaders who have shouldered the weight of the crisis and guided their communities toward recovery. I want to thank all of the county commissioners and mayors, county and town managers, and local emergency management directors in all of the impacted counties who have stood on the frontlines of this disaster, never once faltering in their commitment to serve.

To the firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, churches, and volunteers who answered the call in our darkest hours, thank you. Your courage saved lives, and your sacrifice gave us strength.

To the people of Western North Carolina—those who have borne the brunt of this disaster—it is because of your resilience that homes are being rebuilt for families to continue making memories; that students are returning to classrooms and are determined to keep learning; and that small business owners are reopening their doors against all odds.

It is your unyielding spirit that has inspired all of us throughout North Carolina and across the Nation. I will continue to speak up for you in the U.S. Senate and know that your loss will never be forgotten.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). The Senator from New Hampshire.

SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pass into law a lifesaving bipartisan legislation that will enable us to keep fighting the opioid and fentanyl epidemic, an epidemic that has destroyed families and devastated communities all across our country.

Our country faces many challenges, and I am sure we will continue to debate in the coming weeks how to address those, but today we will advance, on a bipartisan basis, lifesaving legislation that we know is working to combat fentanyl.

New data from earlier this summer found that drug overdose deaths dropped 27 percent last year, compared to the prior year. Since the advent of the opioid crisis, we now have a much better sense of what works to prevent and treat addiction, the resources we need to do so, and the light that exists on the other end of this terrible tunnel. But we can only get there if we keep up the fight.

The SUPPORT Act of 2018, signed into law by President Trump during his first term, established vital addiction treatment infrastructure. Reauthorizing this bipartisan law is essential to our addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. For example, the act includes funding for addiction treatment for pregnant women and funds for training and equipment to help first responders in this fight.

The original SUPPORT Act passed the Senate with 98 votes, and this bipartisan reauthorization passed the House with 366 votes.

Now the Senate will send it to the President's desk.

While we have made progress in this fight, we cannot be complacent. While there are still too many families and communities ravaged by addiction, we cannot despair. Nothing less than people's lives depend on us acting.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2483 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2483) to reauthorize certain programs that provide for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HASSAN. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2483) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, the Senate just passed a major bipartisan package to reauthorize the SUPPORT Act, and it is headed to President Trump's desk. Today is proof that despite our differences, bipartisan progress is possible.

I am particularly pleased to be here with my colleague and chair of the HELP Committee Senator CASSIDY, who has been instrumental in this fight and who will speak in just a moment.

To our first responders, know that training and equipment are coming to help make your job easier.

To our healthcare providers, know that resources are coming to help people get and stay in recovery.

To those battling addiction, know that support is on the way.

I am deeply grateful to a number of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I am looking forward to Senator CASSIDY's comments just now. I am also grateful to Senator SANDERS for working with me on getting this done as well as the advocates who knew we could not give up in this fight.

This package will save lives, and I look forward to continuing to make available every tool we have to stop fentanyl.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking Senator HASSAN so much and Representative BRETT GUTHRIE and other colleagues for their work to pass the SUPPORT Act. It is part of, as a doctor, I would say, a pro-patient—we would say pro-family—agenda that we wish to deliver for the American people.

About a month and a half ago, President Trump had a signing ceremony for the HALT Fentanyl Act at the White House. That was my bill, so I was privileged to be there. Behind him were families holding the pictures of their children who had died from fentanyl overdose. Incredibly moving.

I had a similar ceremony in Baton Rouge where, across Louisiana, people came and held a picture of their child who had died. In one case, the young man had a hard time sleeping, and somebody at his church gave him a pill to take. He took the pill. It was laced with fentanyl, and he died of an overdose.

This is an incredibly powerful addictant, an incredibly powerful, ability-to-kill drug.

The HALT Fentanyl Act is one part of it. It gives support to law enforcement as they attempt to combat this scourge.

The SUPPORT Act is supporting those who are delivering that primary care, that first responder care, that care of a family for a loved one who might be addicted, that care to the patient herself or himself.

Just this morning, I was on a radio program with Ted Dumas out of Louisiana. We were talking—as we talked about the HALT Fentanyl Act—that there is somebody listening to this program who is addicted to fentanyl and is looking for a way out; there is some family member listening who knows they have a family member with a fentanyl addiction or some other addiction who needs a way out. The SUPPORT Act is giving them the tools they need to either come out of addiction or to help someone come out of addiction.

Let me just give a shout-out to President Trump. Since he has taken office, we have seen a control of the southern border, we have seen the Mexican Army going after cartels who have been manufacturing and bringing in the fentanyl, and we have seen the chemical companies in China—which Senator HASSAN and I, when we went to China last year, specifically asked the leadership of China to control. President Trump is going after those chemical companies and after the Government of China in order to control those chemical companies.

This is a full-court press our government is making. Giving credit to President Trump where credit is due but also to the Congress for passing the HALT Fentanyl Act and now the SUPPORT Act. We are working to control this scourge.

I look forward to this being signed into law. I look forward to continuing to work with congressional colleagues and the President to enact a pro-family, pro-patient agenda that addresses

this. I look forward to people coming out of addiction. One death from overdose is one death too many.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TUBERVILLE). The Senator from Florida.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 14, 2025, AS THE ''NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR CHARLIE KIRK''

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 403, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 403) expressing support for the designation of October 14, 2025, as the ''National Day of Remembrance for Charlie Kirk''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 403) was agreed to.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, like most Americans, my wife Ann and I are completely heartbroken by the tragic loss of our friend and fellow patriot Charlie Kirk in a despicable, targeted assassination.

This is a devastating loss for his wife Erika and their two precious kids and the millions, including myself, who felt the impact of Charlie's work and were inspired by his devotion to God and his beliefs.

Charlie was a good man, a devout husband, father, and friend. His life was shaped by his faith and idea that in America, debate and discussion are crucial to the betterment of our country. He believed in God, the American dream, the value of family, and the principles of our great Nation.

I talked to Charlie pretty much every week. I did his shows often. I did his show 2 days before the assassination. We talked about that he was going to be going to another college to visit. I have gone to colleges to visit, and it is uplifting. But Charlie would go, and he would take anybody's question and have a conversation with them. He just was the most wonderful person to talk to, and so many people in this country looked up to him.

Charlie dedicated his life to the idea that the power of our ideas cannot only win the day but start a movement. And that is exactly what he did. As the founder and executive director of the nonprofit Turning Point USA, he and his team worked to build thousands of chapters across the Nation dedicated to educating students about the principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government.

Charlie inspired millions of young Americans to be involved in the future of their country and make their voices heard. He traveled to college campuses around the Nation to share ideas and talk about them.

Charlie was never afraid to have a conversation. He didn't care if you agreed or disagreed with his ideas. He welcomed the opportunity to respectfully and peacefully debate ideas in the court of public opinion.

Unfortunately, Charlie was taken from us in a disgusting act of political violence on September 10, 2025, but his legacy lives on. Charlie will long be remembered for his love of God, his family and this great Nation and the impact he had on each and every one of us.

We have the opportunity to carry on his memory by believing in the power of ideas, discussion, and the value of our Nation. As we mourn this massive loss, let us gather together in our communities and pray for his family and our Nation. And let us honor Charlie by believing in the power of our ideas to win the day and leave this Nation a better place.

I am proud to have the support of more than 20 of my colleagues to honor Charlie by dedicating his birthday—October 14, 2025—as ''National Day of Remembrance for Charlie Kirk.''

I want to thank my Senate colleagues for uniting together to honor a great American patriot, a leader and friend.

Charlie will be remembered for the profound impact he had on our lives and our Nation. On October 14, we will gather together as a nation and pay tribute to his great life.

Now I will yield the floor to my colleague from Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Florida for bringing this resolution forward and for taking the time to honor a true American patriot Charlie Kirk.

He was a champion for freedom, and he was a role model for millions of young people across our country.

As my colleague had mentioned, he was a devoted husband to Erika and an amazing father to his two children. We offer our condolences to his family.

By adopting my colleague's resolution, this Chamber has an opportunity to honor the legacy that Charlie is leaving. He believed in robust, respectful, bipartisan debate. He encouraged you to challenge your own thoughts and actions; he encouraged you to enter into that debate, to commit to leaving this country in better shape than you found it; and, of course, always giving back more than you took.

We are going to miss him desperately. I join many across the country who are mourning with his family and praying that justice will be served.

I am grateful to have known him personally, spending hours speaking with him at Turning Point USA events and watching how Turning Point has grown, not only into a nationwide but a global movement. He started it when he was 18 years old.

One of the things that always impressed me was how he managed to stay in contact, to offer to help to push issues forward, and to lend a hand no matter how big or small the cause.

Recently, I appreciated hearing from him as I had put some information forward, and he responded immediately on what a good idea this was.

I do want to share just one example of his generosity. One of my grandsons was such a fan of Charlie, and he wanted to start a Turning Point chapter at his school. The school didn't want to have that chapter, so my grandson had to find another way, which he did. I texted Charlie to read him in on the situation, to make him aware. He jumped in to support my grandson and to thank him for the effort.

My grandson said he really felt like Charlie was rooting for him in this situation, and I think that is the way every young person felt when they met him. They felt Charlie was on their side. He wanted the best for them. He wanted to encourage them, to help them think critically through issues that matter to our country.

To any young person mourning his loss, I encourage you to honor Charlie's memory by continuing to support his movement to realize a conservative, prosperous United States of America.

He believed in hard work and smart work, so honor him by working hard, by working smart, by looking for those opportunities to be a leader, to dream those big dreams like Charlie did, and then find a way to make those dreams come true. That is how you honor his life and legacy.

We will not allow his life or legacy to be forgotten, and we will not stop fighting to eradicate the rot of political violence in our Nation that claimed his life.

I yield to my colleague from Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor my friend and true American patriot Charlie Kirk.

Charlie was one of the most influential people in America. He was an extremely effective teacher—I repeat, a

teacher—of young people. He helped educate millions of young Americans about patriotism and conservative moral values.

His organization, Turning Point USA, is largely credited with President Trump's unprecedented success with young voters in this past election.

But he didn't just reach out to conservative students. He was a champion of free speech for everybody.

Over the past week, I have enjoyed seeing many, many, many videos of Charlie's debates with college students all over our great country.

The first thing you notice when you watch these videos is how brilliant Charlie was. He could beat anyone in a debate and, clearly, had a great career in front of him.

But the second thing you notice about these debates is how kind Charlie was. He never raised his voice. He never said anything hateful. If you looked up the words ''positive attitude'' in the dictionary, Charlie Kirk's name would come up.

I don't know if I could stay as calm as he did while he was talking with some of these confused young students, to be honest with you. But Charlie always rose above it and extended grace, even to the people he disagreed with the most. That was clearly because of his Christian faith, which influenced everything that Charlie did. He was extremely outspoken about Christianity, and I truly believe this is one of the main reasons that he lost his life.

He was also an incredible, devoted father and husband. He talked often about how the most meaningful thing you can do in life is to get married and have kids. What a powerful and much needed message for our young people to hear.

There is so much more I could say about Charlie, but I think the outpouring of love and support after his death speaks for itself. If you notice, there haven't been riots this past week. Businesses have not been forced to board up their windows. Instead, prayer vigils have been held for Charlie not only across the country but around the world. Pews and parking lots were overflowing in churches this past Sunday. I have seen countless social media posts of people saying they purchased their Bibles for the first time this week because of Charlie.

When Charlie was asked how he wanted to be remembered in an interview earlier this year, he said he wanted to be remembered for having courage for his faith. And that is exactly how Charlie is being remembered.

Charlie may have gone home to be with the Lord, but his work here on Earth won't stop.

I am glad to see that Turning Point has had more than 54,000 requests for new chapters at colleges and high schools across the country.

I have a granddaughter Rosie Gracie, and I will absolutely encourage her to get involved in Turning Point when she is just a little bit older.

To Charlie's grieving wife Erika and his two beautiful children, we are praying for you. Just know how grateful we are for Charlie's life and legacy. I will continue fighting every day for the values that Charlie believed in: faith, family, and freedom.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

(The remarks of Mr. LANKFORD pertaining to the introduction of S. 2859 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. LANKFORD. 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. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I don't normally come to the floor to give somewhat lengthy remarks, but today I am doing so because of a deep and, frankly, rising concern for the future of our intelligence community and, in turn, the security of the United States.

For months now, we have watched President Trump's administration, led in this arena by his handpicked Director of National Intelligence Ms. Gabbard, systemically undermine the men and women whose mission is to keep this country safe. These are professionals who serve under Republican and Democratic administrations alike. They are career officials who put duty before politics, who swear an oath not to any President but to the Constitution of the United States.

Yet as this administration fires and denigrates these very men and women, as expertise that takes literally decades to build is being thrown away as it conflicts with political talking points, as assessments grounded in fact are being shelved in favor of conspiracy theories, our adversaries are conspiring, sharing intelligence and military capabilities and strategizing over how to weaken the United States while advancing a very different authoritarian vision for the world.

At the same time, I fear the integrity of our intelligence is being sacrificed on the altar of partisan convenience.

This is not some kind of inside-the-beltway turf battle, and it is not another partisan disagreement. I believe at stake is something much more fundamental: whether America will continue to have an intelligence community free to speak truth to power or whether political pressure will blind us to the very real threats our Nation faces.

(Mr. BUDD assumed the Chair.)

History shows us what happens when intelligence is ignored, manipulated, or kept from those who need it most. In 1941, the U.S. Navy intercepted communications showing that Japan was planning to attack Pearl Harbor. That knowledge ended up being of little use because it was not communicated to the people who could have taken action to protect the fleet. The result was the devastating surprise that cost thousands of American lives.

In the aftermath, Congress resolved that we could never again afford to be blindsided. So in 1947, in a bipartisan way, Congress created the Central Intelligence Agency, the modern Department of Defense, and other institutions to ensure that unfiltered, unbiased intelligence is provided to the President, to Congress, and to our military. These institutions are meant to protect us from surprises and to give policymakers the truth, even when it is inconvenient or uncomfortable.

Now, for the most part, this system has worked, and all of us who work up here know it has never been perfect. The abuses revealed by the Church Committee in the 1970s made clear why strong congressional oversight is essential. That is why the Senate Intelligence Committee was established in 1976 and our House counterpart the following year.

Today, while not flawless, these committees—of which I know the Presiding Officer is a member—remain the best check we have to ensure that intelligence Agencies uphold American values and laws and avoid repeating past mistakes—and hopefully learning from them when they do occur. Even with our modern system of congressional oversight, we have seen tragic failures. Intelligence failed to predict the collapse of the Soviet Union. We failed to connect the dots before 9/11. And perhaps most foreboding, in the runup to the Iraq war, intelligence was distorted to fit policy preferences. Intelligence about weapons of mass destruction and Saddam Hussein's ties to al-Qaida were inflated and cherry-picked. Analysts who even at that time raised doubts were ignored.

The result was a devastating war in Iraq, fought under false pretenses, that cost literally thousands of American servicemembers their lives and limbs. But we learned from those failures.

After the September 11 attacks, Congress placed additional safeguards and created a new position: the Director of National Intelligence. The objective was to better coordinate our intelligence Agencies, to avoid the so-called

groupthink, to remove silos amongst our now 18, 19 intelligence Agencies, and to ensure that analysts could provide thorough, candid assessments—again, even when the truth was uncomfortable or unwelcome.

That was the commitment I asked President Trump's nominee and the current Director of National Intelligence, Ms. Gabbard, to make during her confirmation hearing, and she assured our committee and the American people that she would protect the independence of the intelligence community to ensure that the IC is never politicized. She even pointed to the runup to the war in Iraq as the clearest example of what happens when intelligence is bent to fit policy and the President is told only what he wants to hear. She pledged that she would never allow those mistakes to be repeated on her watch.

Mr. President, but in only 6 months, we have seen the opposite from this administration. We have seen career FBI agents, people who have risked their lives for this country, forced out of their positions simply for investigating crimes committed in the January 6 insurrection. These were professionals following the law, performing their sworn duties, and yet their service was treated as disloyalty. Careers were ended and decades of expertise were discarded just for doing the job they were entrusted to do.

We have seen the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the National Intelligence Council dismissed because their well-documented, evidence-based assessment of the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua criminal network did not align with the administration's preferred narrative. These analysts presented carefully sourced intelligence showing that the gang of bad guys acted, actually, independent of the Venezuelan Government, not at the behest of foreign officials. Yet their findings were rejected and their leadership positions removed simply because the truth didn't fit a politically convenient story.

And again, to be clear, there is no question that Maduro's regime in Venezuela and the TDA are ruthless actors who pose real threats, but punishing officials—punishing intelligence officials in particular—for telling the truth only weakens our ability to confront them.

We have seen the three-star general leading the Defense Intelligence Agency pushed out after analysts produced a straightforward, evidence-based assessment showing that Iran's nuclear program had not been obliterated, as President Trump so loudly claimed. Rather than face those facts, the administration decided to punish the messenger, and he was let go from DIA.

We have seen, more recently, analysts, literally with decades of experience on Russia, stripped of their security clearances or reassigned at the very moment that their years of expertise is needed most.

More recently, DNI Gabbard has personally revoked the clearances of at least 37 individuals in a transparently political act of vengeance in a single stroke of a pen and, at least in one case, exposing an official working undercover. That alone—putting someone who has worked undercover and identifying that identity—in past administrations would have been grounds for firing.

We have seen statutory requirements to keep Congress fully and currently informed ignored, oversight stymied and obstructed, and inspectors general who are supposed to keep their eyes on these Agencies—inspectors general and their personnel silenced, forced out, or removed.

And I remind my colleagues, in terms of oversight for the intelligence community, that is not a right that all 100 Senators have. There are literally 17 of us. As chair or vice chair over the last few years, I am part of the so-called Gang of 8. If we don't do our jobs, nobody is watching all of these intelligence Agencies.

Even more damaging, we have seen highly sensitive intelligence declassified and released, clearly for political purposes, without proper coordination with the Agencies responsible for protecting sources and methods—that is how we do our work and who are the people involved. The disclosures actually risked revealing the identities of assets—and those are human beings—and the techniques we rely on—those are the technology and skills we have—and the credibility of ongoing operations, all for the sake of advancing a political narrative. The very tools that protect lives and maintain America's strategic advantage are being treated as leverage in a partisan game.

Let's remember, the so-called Russia hoax and that assessment, which this administration continues to disparage, was a coordinated, unanimous finding by the entire intelligence community. Our committee—on a bipartisan, unanimous basis—reviewed it and validated it extensively. Not a single one of my Republican colleagues objected to its findings, including the current Secretary of State, then-committee chairman Senator Rubio.

And what did that assessment actually conclude? I think every one of us understood that Russia conducted a sweeping, systematic campaign to interfere in our 2016 election; that Moscow's goal was to sow chaos, to undermine faith in American democracy, and specifically to boost Mr. Trump's candidacy. These findings were not partisan talking points; they were sober judgments of career professionals, backed by evidence, and affirmed by both parties in Congress.

And during the first Trump administration, they responded to that report appropriately and put resources to make sure the 2020 election was the safest election on record. Kudos to the first Trump administration in doing that.

But with all of this happening, as troubling as all of this is, what may be most astonishing is who seems to be calling the shots now: not seasoned national security leaders, not career intelligence professionals, but conspiracy theorist Laura Loomer, a figure who has called the 9/11 terrorist attacks an inside job, who described herself as a ''pro-White nationalist'' and a ''proud Islamophobe,'' and who has made openly racist and anti-Muslim statements. This is not someone with even a shred of credibility, let alone the experience or judgment we should demand from those influencing U.S. national security decisions.

Yet, time and again, we have seen senior officials pushed out of their posts because Ms. Loomer decided they were not sufficiently loyal to the President. National Security Council staffers, people well-known and respected on both sides of the aisle, including staffers who worked for my Republican colleagues in the Senate, were shown the door at her demand; the two top officials at the National Security Agency, including a well-respected four-star general, Timothy Haugh, forced out, along with the Agency's general counsel, again at Loomer's behest.

These are critical posts in one of our most important intelligence organizations, vacated not because of misconduct or failure but because of the whims of a political provocateur whose public record is filled with hate and conspiracies. And don't take my word on these actions. Ms. Loomer's own social media feed claims all of these firings and dismissals almost as trophies.

And just a few weeks ago we saw something that I believe should trouble every Member of this body, regardless of which party you belong to. My staff and I had arranged a visit to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency located in my State of Virginia so that I could go ahead and do my constitutional duty of oversight and, in that meeting, meet with intelligence professionals who also happened to be my constituents. Yet, at the last minute, that visit was blocked—again—and apparently, as she claimed, by Laura Loomer.

What does it say about the state of our national security when a self-proclaimed White nationalist and Islamophobe with a personal vendetta against U.S. Government officials—and, by the way, no security clearance, no sworn duty to defend the Constitution—can dictate who serves in critical intelligence positions and even prevent Members of this Chamber from conducting basic oversight?

I have to ask again: Why is this administration going to war against the very professionals sworn to keep our country safe? Why are decades of service and sacrifice being tossed aside?

Why? Because they think they are still obliged to provide the truth and speak truth to power. But, instead, it appears that sometimes those truths

are inconvenient because sometimes their assessments are not what the DNI and the President want to hear.

These safeguards we put in place and the oversight this body provides—again, only 17 of us have seen these classified programs—these safeguards only work if intelligence officers know that they can tell the truth without losing their jobs. If analysts who analyze the facts and try to come up with conclusions believe their careers will be destroyed for offering inconvenient assessments, then we will only get intelligence the White House wants.

Imagine the consequences if our intelligence community is forced to spend its time chasing down conspiracy theories instead of monitoring terrorist networks, cyber threats, or foreign adversaries. Imagine if analysts stop flagging real dangers because they fear political retaliation. Imagine if experienced officers walk away from service altogether because they know their expertise will be diminished or punished. That kind of environment doesn't just weaken our intelligence community, it puts every American family at risk.

Again, this is not some kind of partisan point. Democrats and Republicans alike have relied on the intelligence community to keep the country safe. Every President, whether they liked what they were hearing or not, has depended on accurate, independent analysis to make decisions that affect millions of lives.

That is what makes this current moment so alarming. We are dismantling trust in institutions that literally took generations to build. We are eroding morale among some of the most dedicated professionals in public service. And I fear that we are sending a clear message to young officers, whether they are at the CIA or any of the other intelligence Agencies: Don't bother building a career in intelligence if you plan on telling the truth.

Meanwhile, these aren't actions in a vacuum. Our adversaries aren't slowing down. Cyber attacks, disinformation campaigns, nuclear proliferation, terrorist attacks, transnational criminal organizations—these threats are real, and they are not going to wait for us to get our house in order.

If we continue to allow politics to dictate what intelligence is acceptable, we are effectively flying blind. That is why, again, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Please, for God's sake, take this seriously. We can disagree about policy, but we cannot allow the facts themselves to be corrupted.

The intelligence community must remain independent, professional, and committed to the Constitution above all else.

I have had the opportunity in my tenure on this committee to work with a lot of these men and women. I didn't know many of them before I was on the Intelligence Committee. They are dedicated professionals. I never asked a single one what their party affiliation was. They oftentimes put their lives in harm's way and, candidly, never get the attention that our military does. They work in secret.

The truth is, these professionals and the work they do deserve to be respected, honored, and listened to because if you corrupt the intelligence and bend it to political wills, we have seen constant examples of what happens.

The truth is, the American people deserve nothing less.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as many Americans know, the current budget is going to expire at the end of September, and if an agreement is not reached, the government will shut down, which is, frankly, not anything that anyone wants. The question that we now have to address is how we keep the government open and serve the needs of the American people.

As Americans know, Republicans have a majority in the House and in the Senate, and they also control the White House. They run the government. Republicans have the responsibility, therefore, to keep the government open.

My understanding is that there will be a vote tomorrow on a continuing resolution to fund the government until November 20. In the House, a simple majority wins, and I would imagine that, by a very slim vote, Republicans will have the votes they need in order to pass their resolution.

In the Senate, however, the rules are different—historically different. In order to pass a continuing resolution, it will take a 60-vote majority to pass. That means that at a time when there are 53 Members of the Republican caucus and 47 Members of the Democratic caucus, it will require bipartisan support. That is what Senate rules are about.

In other words, Republicans will need Democratic and/or Independent votes—I am an Independent—in order to keep the government open.

Bottom line: Republicans will need to negotiate. That is how the Senate works, and that is how democracy works.

Speaking for myself and I believe many millions of Americans, here is some of what it will take to get my vote:

No. 1. Republican leadership, don't take away healthcare from 15 million Americans by making the largest cut to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act in history.

No. 2. Republican leadership, don't increase health insurance premiums by 75 percent on average for over 20 million Americans who get their healthcare through the Affordable Care Act.

No. 3. Republican leadership, do not undermine modern medicine and the health and well-being of our children by rejecting the scientific evidence regarding vaccines.

No. 4. Republican leadership, do not allow our great country to be moved toward authoritarianism by putting Federal troops on city streets without a request from a Governor or a mayor. Do not have ICE agents snatch people off our streets without due process. Do not undermine the Constitution of the United States and the rule of law by allowing an administration to refuse to spend money appropriated by Congress.

Let me be more specific. As I think almost every American understands, our current healthcare system is dysfunctional, it is broken, and it is cruel. At a time when we spend almost twice as much per capita on healthcare as any other major country—over $14,000 per person—85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured—85 million Americans.

The Republican continuing resolution in the House does nothing—nothing—to prevent 15 million Americans from being thrown off the healthcare they currently have, as a result of Trump's so-called Big Beautiful Bill. In other words, instead of lowering the number of uninsured and underinsured, if we do not act, 15 million more Americans will be uninsured. We cannot allow that to happen.

This is a life-and-death issue. Studies have shown that up to 50,000—50,000—Americans every year will die unnecessarily if we do not reverse these cuts.

So we are talking about here, if we do not act, going from 85 million uninsured and underinsured to 100 million uninsured and underinsured. Those cuts must be rescinded.

But it is not just preventing 15 million Americans from losing their health insurance; everybody in this country—every businessperson, every union worker—knows that the cost of healthcare in this country today is astronomically high and unaffordable. I don't care what State you are in—people cannot afford healthcare today. Yet, if we do not act right now, in this continuing resolution, the Affordable Care Act tax credits will expire and premiums will skyrocket by 75 percent on average for more than 20 million Americans.

Let me repeat: Healthcare premiums for 20 million working-class and middle-class Americans will go up by 75 percent on average if we do not extend those tax credits in this coming legislation.

Let me say that I wish very good luck to my colleagues, whether they are Democrats or Republicans, who want to go home to their constituents and explain why healthcare premiums are going up by 75 percent in order to pay for $1 trillion in tax breaks for the 1 percent. I do wish you the best of luck in trying to explain that one. I do not intend to.

Further, let me be clear: Vaccines work—not exactly a controversial statement. It is a statement supported

by every major medical organization in the United States and around the world. Vaccines are safe, they are effective, and they have saved millions of lives in our country and tens of millions of lives worldwide. In fact, vaccines are one of the greatest public health achievements in modern history.

At a time when the Secretary of Health and Human Services has dismantled the vaccine review process, narrowed access to lifesaving COVID vaccines, fired leading public health experts, and filled scientific advisory boards with conspiracy theorists and ideologues, we must stand with the scientific and medical communities and rescind Secretary Kennedy's dangerous policies.

This is not about politics. It doesn't matter whether you are Republican, Democrat, or Independent. We are talking about protecting our children from polio, measles, whooping cough, and other preventable diseases.

The American people, slowly but surely, are catching on. No matter what their political view may be—Democrat, Republican, Independent—they understand that our current economic system is rigged. They understand that the very richest people in this country are becoming much richer, while 60 percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and millions of people are trying to survive on starvation wages.

The American people understand that while billionaires are getting huge tax breaks, they are finding it harder and harder to afford healthcare, to pay the rent or their mortgages, to afford childcare, to be able to send their kids to college, to pay for the prescription drugs their doctors prescribe, or to buy decent quality food for their kids.

The American people understand—painfully and depressingly—that unless we change the way the economy functions, their kids will likely have a lower standard of living than they do. In the richest country in the history of the world, it is likely that the younger generation will have a lower standard of living than their parents, while almost all new incoming wealth goes to the people on the top.

Today, we have more income and wealth inequality than we have ever had in the history of the United States. Today, we have one man, Mr. Musk, who owns more wealth—if you can believe it—than the bottom 52 percent of American households—one man, more wealth than the bottom 52 percent of American households. And, by the way, he is on his way, it appears, to become a trillionaire—even richer and richer.

Today, the top 1 percent owns more wealth than the bottom 93 percent—top 1 percent, more wealth than the bottom 93 percent. And the CEOs of major corporations now earn over 350 times what their average employees make.

While the billionaire class becomes richer and richer, real inflation accounted for weekly wages that are lower today than they were 52 years ago—huge expansion of worker productivity, and yet the average worker, in many cases, is worse off than he or she was 52 years ago.

Enough is enough. At a time of massive income and wealth inequality, it is insane to be giving a trillion dollars in tax breaks to the top 1 percent. If President Trump and the Republican leadership want my vote, they will have to rescind that tax break for their oligarchic friends.

Our country today faces not only major economic crises, we are looking at extraordinarily threatening—a threatening moment to our democratic form of government. Frankly, we now have a President of the United States who does not believe in our Constitution and the separation of powers; who does not believe in freedom of speech and the right to dissent; who is moving us, every day, toward an authoritarian form of government with more and more power into his own hands.

Too many Americans from my State of Vermont and every other State in this country have put their lives on the line and sometimes died in order to defend democracy and our way of life: the right of people to live without fear, the right of people to express their point of view—no matter what it may be. You disagree with me, that is great. That is called American democracy—the right of people to vote without intimidation.

Today, in an unprecedented way, we have Federal troops in cities in America who have not been requested by a governor or a mayor. Today in America, we have people who are being snatched off the streets—taken right off the streets or out of their workplaces—by masked Federal agents, thrown into vans, and dispatched to detention centers without due process. Does anybody think that that is what America is supposed to be about—somebody walking down the street, getting picked up by masked men, thrown into a van, and taken God knows where? Today, we have a President sending some of these people to South Sudan, Uganda, El Salvador—we don't know where. People have no relationship to the country they are being sent. Imagine being plucked off the street, sent to South Sudan, country in the middle of a civil war, virtually no government. That is not acceptable. That is not what our great country is supposed to be about.

These undemocratic, unconstitutional policies must be rescinded. The movement toward authoritarianism in this country must be ended.

In this very difficult moment in American history, let us stand with the American people and listen to their needs. Let us not throw 15 million working-class people off of the healthcare that they have so that 50,000 people a year die unnecessarily. We cannot allow that to happen.

Let us not raise healthcare premiums by 75 percent for 20 million Americans. People can't afford healthcare today. What happens when your premiums go up by 75 percent? Let us not endanger the children of this country by undermining modern medicine and making it more difficult for people to get the vaccines they require.

And at a time of massive income and wealth inequality, let us not give a trillion dollars in tax breaks to the top 1 percent.

And, lastly, as we observe growing authoritarianism every single day, as we see more and more disrespect for the great Constitution of our country—which has made us an example to the entire world—let us—Republican, Democrat, Independent—let us stand together and save American democracy.

If the Republican leadership does those things, you have got my vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 404

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, in the Republican ''Beautiful For Billionaires'' bill that Senator SANDERS was just referring to, there were a great many dirty tricks tucked in there to hurt people and make billionaires wealthier and happier and more free to pollute.

Of all the dirty tricks in that bill, perhaps the trickiest was the one that was so hidden that it wasn't even mentioned in the bill, and that is, about a half-trillion dollars in cuts to Medicare.

We have heard a lot about the trillion dollars in cuts to Medicaid. But without ever mentioning it, the Republican ''Beautiful For Billionaires'' bill will cut Medicare by half a trillion dollars, give or take.

How does it do that? It does that by adding $4.1 trillion to the deficit—one bill, one act of Congress, $4.1 trillion piled on our national debt.

There is another law that exists on the statute books of the United States of America, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act. What does that do? It requires a look at bills that create enormous additions to our national debt. And to protect our fisc, it requires mandatory cuts to other accounts.

That is supposed to discourage running up the debt by trillions in the first place, and it is supposed to remedy that defect with automatic cuts.

Guess what is lined up for automatic cuts under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act? Yep, Medicare. The same Medicare that we saw that huge demonstration from Republicans about during President Biden's State of the Union speech when he said Republicans want to cut Medicare, and they rose in ire and anger to say: No, that is not possibly true. And he said: Oh, I think we have unanimity here. I think we have agreement: no cuts to Medicare.

Well, that didn't last long. The cuts to Medicare just had to be well hidden, and that is what this bill does.

We have asked the Congressional Budget Office what it means. How big will the cuts be? When will they take place?

Well, here is the outcome: Given the magnitude of this massive increase, it will create a $45 billion cut to Medicare in 2026—next year. Next year, $45 billion cut to Medicare.

Unfortunately, it is not a one-time thing. It is going to keep going. In the following year, it goes up and up. By 2034, the end of the 10-year budget window that we work in, the annual cut to Medicare will be $76 billion.

If you stack up all those cuts year after year to Medicare, starting in 2026 and going through 2034, the total cut to Medicare from the ''Beautiful For Billionaires'' bill is $491 billion. That is where I get half a trillion from. I am rounding the $491 billion number CBO gave us for the total hit to Medicare done by Republicans in their ''Beautiful For Billionaires'' bill.

To head this off, we are going to have to pass legislation that exempts Medicare from those coming PAYGO cuts that are going to happen automatically by operation of law unless we take that step.

Now, Republicans could have, at the time, put a simple provision in their ''Beautiful For Billionaires'' bill saying: For purposes of this bill, Medicare is exempted from the PAYGO Program.

It could have protected, with very simple language, against a looming half-trillion-dollar cut to Medicare. They chose not to. They chose not to.

The question is, Was that an oversight or is this a trick to try to tee up cuts to Medicare that they don't have to own? Well, here is a clue as to whether that was a trick or an oversight: On the other side of this building, over at the House of Representatives, the Republican-controlled House is sending over a continuing resolution to fund the government. They could have put this correction in that bill. They could have added a simple line saying that when it comes to Medicare and the huge addition to the debt from our ''Beautiful for Billionaire's'' bill, pay-go sequestration will be lifted. Again, they chose not to do that.

The American public might not be familiar with sequestration and automatic cuts and how all that works, but I will tell you what—people around here are. Lots of people around here know very well that when you dump $4 trillion-plus onto the national debt, it is going to cascade into cuts to these other accounts, and those other accounts include Medicare.

So to plead innocence about this not being the intention all along is completely unsupportable. To say that it was just an innocent oversight in the ''Beautiful for Billionaire's'' bill is unsupportable. And now, with the continuing resolution coming over from the House, we have more proof that this is a deliberate cut targeted at Medicare done exclusively by House and Senate Republicans.

I want to focus on protecting Medicare. I have a Medicare and Social Security Fair Share Act that would require people with incomes over $400,000 to pony up equivalent to what regular workers pay on the higher part of their salary. That would protect benefits and Medicare as far as the eye can see—as far as the actuarial eye can see—for Medicare and Social Security.

I want to put everybody here on record that we need to undo the looming half-trillion-dollar cut to Social Security before it starts to hit families in Rhode Island and elsewhere around the country.

To that end, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of my resolution, S. Res. 404, submitted earlier today; that the resolution be agreed to; that its preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. On behalf of the chairman of the Budget Committee, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, there we are.

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. MARKEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 407

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, the First Amendment is the beating heart of our democracy. It protects the right of Americans to speak freely, to criticize their leaders, and to entertain and inform without fear of government reprisal. The Framers did not write an exception for late-night comedians or for political satire. They did not carve out an exemption for monologues that offend those in power. The principle is clear: In America, the government does not get to decide which jokes are permissible and which criticisms are punished.

Yet, yesterday, we saw a shocking breach of this constitutional order. Brendan Carr, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, went on a partisan podcast and threatened ABC, the American Broadcasting Company, and its parent company, Disney, over a joke told by comedian Jimmy Kimmel. Carr called Kimmel's comments the ''sickest conduct possible'' and suggested revoking the broadcast licenses of ABC affiliates.

He then delivered a line toward ABC and Disney. It sounded like something out of ''The Godfather.'' He said:

> We can do this the easy way or [we can do it] the hard way.

Let me say that line again:

> We can do this the easy way or [we can do it] the hard way.

That is not oversight; that is intimidation. That is not regulation; that is retaliation. That is ''The Godfather'' giving Disney an offer they can't refuse from the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. That is the language that mobsters use to shake people down, and it came from the mouth of the FCC Chairman of the Federal Government, with vast legal authority to punish Disney and ABC and their affiliates.

The chilling effect was immediate. Within hours, Disney and ABC indefinitely suspended Jimmy Kimmel from the air. A comedian was silenced because a government regulator, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, flexed his authority.

This is not an isolated slip of the tongue; it is part of a broader pattern by the Federal Communications Commission under Brendan Carr's leadership. Over and over again, he has used his office to attack and undermine journalists and broadcasters and news organizations that dare to speak in ways which he personally dislikes. He has threatened media companies with investigations for their editorial choices. He has amplified partisan attacks on reporters who cover him critically. He has turned the FCC into the ''Federal Censorship Commission,'' with his being the censor in chief.

These are not the actions of an independent regulator; they are the actions of a partisan censor. And make no mistake, if left unchecked, this campaign will not stop with ABC or with Disney. Every newsroom, every broadcaster, every local affiliate will hear the message loud and clear: Criticize the people in power, and you risk your license, your livelihood, your very ability to operate.

That conversation is taking place in newsrooms all across our country today. Look what happened to Disney. Look what happened to ABC. Be afraid. Don't think that the First Amendment protects you anymore. Don't think that you have a right to speak what your opinion is.

The FCC was created to ensure that the public airwaves—our shared national resource—are used in the public interest. It was not created to dictate what late-night hosts may joke about. It was not created to punish networks for broadcasting opinions that government officials dislike. It was not created to be the speech police for the United States of America.

The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, sitting in his office, watching TV, saying ''I don't like that. I am taking away their license,'' is not what the Federal Communications Commission was established to do in our country. Yet Chairman Brendan Carr has pretended otherwise. He has distorted the FCC's mandate to serve his own partisan ends. Instead of acting in the public interest,

he is trying to force broadcasters to act in Donald Trump's interest. If you say something that Donald Trump doesn't like, we will take away your license. We won't allow you to be a broadcaster anymore. We will fine you.

He should know better. It was not too long ago, before he was Chairman, when Brendan Carr was singing a completely different tune. He actually condemned perceived attempts by ''government officials to silence political speech that they don't like.'' That is the old Brendan Carr. He defended talk show hosts, saying:

> From internet memes to late-night comedians, from cartoons to the plays and poems as old as organized government itself, Political Satire circumvents traditional gatekeepers and helps hold those in power accountable. Not surprising that it's long been targeted for censorship.

Did I say that? No. Brendan Carr said that—Brendan Carr. But this is a different guy now. He just got a job in the Trump administration, so he is bending the knee to Donald Trump on all of these issues, because, then, he rightfully defended the First Amendment. He said:

> Free speech is not a threat to democracy—censorship is [a threat to democracy].

Chairman Carr has betrayed those principles, and he should resign. He is not fit to be the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission. He is using it now to intimidate people whom he considers to be political enemies of Donald Trump. That is not his job.

But that is not enough. The Senate must speak with one voice in rejecting his unconstitutional actions.

The resolution I bring before this Chamber today condemns Brendan Carr for weaponizing government power against Disney and ABC. It affirms that the Federal Communications Commission does not and must not have the authority to punish broadcasters for the content of their programming. It declares that no American—whether a comedian, a journalist, an ordinary citizen—should ever have to fear government retaliation for speaking their mind. And it doesn't make any difference whether you are a Democrat or Republican, whether a Democrat doesn't like what a Republican said, whether a Republican doesn't like what a Democrat said.

We have to stand for the Constitution, not for censorship, to stand for freedom and not intimidation, to stand for a free press, not a government-controlled press.

Chairman Carr has shown himself unwilling and unable to uphold the responsibilities of his office, but the Senate can still uphold our responsibilities to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution—the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the one they put up first because they knew that free speech and freedom of the press was what ultimately would protect the democracy against dictators and Kings and those who would subvert our Constitution to their own individual whims.

By passing this resolution, we can make clear that the First Amendment is not negotiable; it is not partisan; it is not subject to the whims of a single regulator.

From my perspective, again, the First Amendment is the beating heart of our democracy. It protects the right of Americans to speak freely, to criticize their leaders of both parties, and to entertain and inform without fear of government reprisal.

So, Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 407, submitted earlier today; and, 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 with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. MULLIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON S. RES. 377

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations provided under the provisions of S. Res. 377?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 526 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Barrasso	Cruz	Johnson
Blackburn	Curtis	Justice
Boozman	Daines	Kennedy
Britt	Ernst	Lankford
Budd	Fischer	Lummis
Capito	Graham	Marshall
Cassidy	Grassley	McConnell
Collins	Hagerty	McCormick
Cornyn	Hawley	Moody
Cotton	Hoeven	Moran
Cramer	Husted	Moreno
Crapo	Hyde-Smith	Mullin
Murkowski	Schmitt	Thune
Paul	Scott (FL)	Tillis
Ricketts	Scott (SC)	Tuberville
Risch	Sheehy	Wicker
Rounds	Sullivan	Young

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Banks	Lee

The en bloc nominations provided under the provisions of S. Res. 377 were confirmed, as follows:

Executive Calendar No. 89, Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Executive Calendar No. 105, Dario Gil, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy

Executive Calendar No. 107, Brandon Williams, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security

Executive Calendar No. 121, Tristan Abbey, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration

Executive Calendar No. 122, Leslie Beyer, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Executive Calendar No. 123, Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy)

Executive Calendar No. 124, Andrea Travnicek, of North Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Executive Calendar No. 132, Justin Overbaugh, of Florida, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Executive Calendar No. 133, Scott Pappano, of Pennsylvania, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration

Executive Calendar No. 135, Michael Cadenazzi, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Executive Calendar No. 136, Sean O'Keefe, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Executive Calendar No. 137, Michael Obadal, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army

Executive Calendar No. 139, Katherine Sutton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Executive Calendar No. 141, William L. Doffermyre, of Texas, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior

Executive Calendar No. 142, Kyle Haustveit, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy)

Executive Calendar No. 152, Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration

Executive Calendar No. 153, Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force

Executive Calendar No. 154, Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, Department of Energy

Executive Calendar No. 156, Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy

Executive Calendar No. 157, Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy

Executive Calendar No. 161, Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of 5 years

Executive Calendar No. 177, Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration

Executive Calendar No. 180, Donald Bergin III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs)

Executive Calendar No. 185, John Squires, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Executive Calendar No. 251, Daniel Aronowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor

Executive Calendar No. 276, Michael Dodd, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position)

Executive Calendar No. 277, William Gillis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army

Executive Calendar No. 278, Jules Hurst III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army

Executive Calendar No. 279, Brent Ingraham, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army

Executive Calendar No. 283, George Wesley Street, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center

Executive Calendar No. 285, Peter Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency

Executive Calendar No. 289, 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

Executive Calendar No. 290, 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

Executive Calendar No. 297, Dudley Hoskins, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Executive Calendar No. 298, Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics

Executive Calendar No. 303, Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Executive Calendar No. 305, Jovan Jovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2029

Executive Calendar No. 324, Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation

Executive Calendar No. 344, Paul Roberti, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation

Executive Calendar No. 346, Jonathan Morrison, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Executive Calendar No. 352, Jason Evans, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management)

Executive Calendar No. 356, 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

Executive Calendar No. 362, Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality

Executive Calendar No. 365, Bryan Switzer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Textiles, Investment, Services, and Intellectual Property), with the rank of Ambassador

Executive Calendar No. 149, 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

Executive Calendar No. 286, Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece

Executive Calendar No. 302, Christine Toretti, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden

Executive Calendar No. 350, Peter Lamelas, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Texas.

RECESS

Mr. CRUZ. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 5:45 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:03 p.m., recessed until 5:45 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HUSTED).

AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, on behalf of leadership, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. 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. 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.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO SENATORS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I will shortly ask for unanimous consent to authorize Senators to use their office accounts for security purposes. Every Senator will now have additional flexibility to address the security concerns they face as public officials. Along with the additional investment in security in the continuing resolution that Republicans have put forward, there is ongoing bipartisan work to address Member security in the legislative branch appropriations bill, which I hope House and Senate will complete work on in the very near future.

We are also actively working with the Sergeant at Arms to identify additional authorities for security options for Senators. I am grateful to the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police for their work on this and for the collaborative efforts of many Senators from both parties.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 413, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 413) authorizing the use of funds from the Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account for security enhancements and services provided to Senators.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his comments and commitments regarding improving Member security. I know that he, Leader SCHUMER, Chairman MCCONNELL, and I all share the same goal. I think all 100 Senators share that goal.

We continue to see an unprecedented rise in threats targeting Members of Congress, with the Capitol Police on track to investigate over 14,000 threat cases in 2025. That represents a 50-percent increase over the nearly 9,500 threats Capitol Police reported in 2024.

We are witnessing disturbing incidents of politically motivated violence across the Nation, targeting elected officials and high-profile individuals associated with both political parties.

Whether it is the horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk at a college campus in Utah or the tragic assassination of former speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives Melissa Hortman and her husband in their home, it is tragic; it is unacceptable. And we would be foolish not to take notice.

The House acted on a bipartisan basis to provide new funding for enhanced Member security this past July. Even before the June shooting of Minnesota State officials, the Senate Sergeant at Arms proposed a program for enhanced security options for Senators. Bipartisan Senate Appropriations leaders have expressed support to fund that effort.

Unfortunately, progress has been slow despite strong interest from Senators of both parties. So today's resolution is a step in the right direction.

And the majority leader's statements about the further progress we need to make soon were very important—because, on its own, today's action is not nearly enough.

First, unlike the bipartisan House plan, there is no new funding provided by today's resolution. On the other side of the Capitol, bipartisan House leaders announced that Members will receive an additional $10,000 per month to help with security. This resolution—without further action—requires Senators to choose between either paying for office staff and operations or paying for their own personal security.

The Senate has two great security agencies: the Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police. They do a great job with their existing programs, and they are ready and able to do more if we give them direction and funding.

So while I am ready to support adoption of this resolution today, I do so based on the commitments from the majority leader and Democratic leader, namely: First, we will work on new security options from the Sergeant-at-Arms, in coordination with the Capitol Police; and second, we will see real funding to support enhanced Senate security; and finally, that we will see more progress in the coming weeks.

I look forward to continuing to work on a bipartisan basis to get that done.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and that the motion 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. 413) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. RES. 412

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send an executive resolution to the desk for the consideration of certain nominations en bloc and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the resolution for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. 412) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the executive resolution on the calendar, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the executive resolution will lie over 1 calendar day.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 425.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 425, 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.

John Thune, John Boozman, Tim Sheehy, John Hoeven, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, James E. Risch, Bernie Moreno, Tom Cotton, Ted Budd, David McCormick, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 410.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 410, 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.

John Thune, John Boozman, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, James E. Risch, Bernie Moreno, Tom Cotton, Ted Budd, David McCormick, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, Jon A. Husted.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2882

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2882) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 5371 AND S. 2882

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, should the Senate receive H.R. 5371 from the House, the Senate proceed to

the immediate consideration of S. 2882, that the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of S. 2882, and that if S. 2882 is not passed, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5371, that the bill be considered read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of H.R. 5371 with 60 affirmative votes required for passage of both bills and with no amendments or motions in order to the bills prior to the votes on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville as it celebrates 75 years of dedicated service to the people of northwest Arkansas. Since its founding in 1950, this institution has grown from a small county hospital into the region's largest health system, anchored by a state-of-the-art medical center, as well as a robust network of clinics, specialty services, and outreach programs.

Washington Regional has long been a trusted care leader, committed to improving the health and well-being of families across the rapidly growing region it serves. From earning national recognition for stroke and spine care to receiving the Lantern Award for outstanding emergency services, it continues to deliver high-quality medical attention close by for our family members, loved ones, and neighbors.

Its dedicated providers and support staff have been strong partners in promoting community health beyond just the hospital walls. Through wellness initiatives, health education, and outreach alongside local organizations, it has advanced preventative care and addressed pressing health challenges, working to ensure that even the most vulnerable Arkansans have access to the support they need.

As WRMC marks this milestone, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the physicians, nurses, staff, and volunteers who work very hard contributing to its mission. For 75 years, this institution has been a cornerstone of care and compassion in northwest Arkansas. I am confident that its legacy of service, innovation, and excellence will continue to strengthen the health and well-being of Arkansans for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF THE GAMMA NU CHAPTER OF KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a century of leadership, service and sisterhood embodied by the bright young women and alumni of the University of Arkansas's Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter, Gamma Nu. This year marks Gamma Nu's 100th anniversary of proudly encouraging and sustaining a culture of excellence and service that has enriched the campus and greater Fayetteville community.

Founded in 1925 by 15 students, Gamma Nu has grown into the largest chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma nationwide, supporting 650 active members and more than 4,000 alumnae. For a century, its members have embodied the values of scholarship, philanthropy, and character development—setting a powerful example of what it means to lead with integrity and purpose.

Collegiate organizations like Gamma Nu play a vital role in shaping the next generation of leaders, offering young women opportunities to build confidence, develop skills, and form lifelong bonds rooted in shared values and experiences. I have seen this impact firsthand as a proud dad of three Gamma Nu alumnae. It is evident that their time in the chapter helped prepare them to pursue service and leadership, and I know that is the case for countless of their peers.

From organizing defense stamp drives during World War II to supporting literacy and mental health initiatives today, the women of Gamma Nu have consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to uplifting and giving back to the community. Their efforts have supported causes ranging from Arkansas Children's Hospital to the National Eating Disorders Association, and their volunteer work continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Gamma Nu women have long been leaders on campus—serving in student government, excelling in academics and athletics, and representing the university with distinction. Their chapter house, a landmark on West Maple Street, stands as a symbol of tradition and transformation, having evolved to meet the needs of a growing and dynamic membership.

The chapter's centennial celebration will bring together hundreds of alumnae and current members to reflect on their shared legacy and look ahead to the future. I am pleased to join them in the celebration of a new Panhellenic scholarship—the Kappa Kappa Gamma Centennial Leadership Award—designed to honor an outstanding Panhellenic leader outside of the Gamma Nu chapter, and the unveiling of a commemorative fountain to encourage thoughtful gathering and reflection.

As Gamma Nu embarks on its second century, I commend its members, past and present, for their contributions to the University of Arkansas, the region and beyond. May their legacy continue to inspire generations of women to lead with courage, serve with compassion, and uphold the values that have defined a remarkable first 100 years.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25–0K. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 23–63 of November 2, 2023.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–0K

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Iraq.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 23–63; Date: November 2, 2023; Military Department: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On November 2, 2023, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 23–63 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of additional services, as indicated below, that were added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at $28 million, included a Bell Contractor Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) contract. This notification was for the combined CLS and FSR maintenance support for the following Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH–58A/C Kiowa, Huey II, and 505. The following was also included: U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was $300 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies the addition of the following non-MDE items: Contractor Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) support for all variations of the Bell 412 aircraft. The estimated total value of the new items is $200 million,

resulting in a non-MDE and total case value increase of $200 million to $500 million. No MDE will be associated with this sale.

(iv) Significance: The proposed services will support the Iraq Army Aviation Command's rotary wing program to meet current and future threats by enhancing the strength of its homeland defense.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 17, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25–72, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands for defense articles and services estimated to cost $570 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely.

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–72

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Netherlands.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* $535 million.
Other $35 million.
Total $570 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to two hundred thirty-two (232) AIM–120C–8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Up to eight (8) AIM–120C–8 AMRAAM guidance sections.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: AMRAAM control section spares, Captive Air Training Missiles and missile containers; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; weapon system support and software; classified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NE–D–YAL).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NE–D–YAE; NE–D–YAG.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 16, 2025.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Netherlands—AIM–120C–8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles

The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy up to two hundred thirty-two (232) AIM–120C–8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) and up to eight (8) AIM–120C–8 AMRAAM guidance sections. The following non-Major Defense Equipment items will be included: AMRAAM control section spares, Captive Air Training Missiles, and missile containers; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; weapon system support and software; classified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $570 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve the Netherlands capability to meet current and future threats by ensuring it has modern, capable air-to-air munitions. The Netherlands already has AMRAAMs in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Netherlands.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–72

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM–120C–8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air- or surface-launched, aerial intercept guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature, solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying and maneuvering targets. This potential sale will include Captive Air Training Missiles, and AMRAAM guidance sections, control sections, and containers.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Netherlands can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the Netherlands.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25–89, corneming the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the

Govemment of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost $162.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–89

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $125.6 million.

Other $36.5 million.

Total $162.1 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to fifty (50) MK 54 MOD 0 lightweight torpedo all up rounds.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: torpedo components; containers; software; training; support equipment; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (NO–P–AIJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NO–P–AIA.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 17, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Norway—MK 54 MOD 0 Lightweight Torpedoes

The Government of Norway has requested to buy up to fifty (50) MK 54 MOD 0 lightweight torpedo all up rounds. The following non-MDE items will also be included: torpedo components; containers; software; training; support equipment; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $162.1 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to meet current and future threats and increase its interoperability with the United States and other NATO members. Norway currently has MK 54 MOD 0 lightweight torpedoes in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require the assignment of U.S. Government and contractor representatives to Norway on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–89

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MK 54 MOD 0 lightweight torpedo is a conventional torpedo that can be launched from surface ships and aircraft. The MK 54 is an upgrade of the MK 46 torpedo. The upgrade to the MK 54 involves replacement of the torpedo's sonar and guidance and control systems with modern technology. The new guidance and control system uses a combination of commercial off-the-shelf and custom-built electronics. The warhead, fuel tank, and propulsion system from the MK 46 torpedo are re-used in the MK 54 configuration with minor modifications.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Norway can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary to further the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Norway.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25–1C. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 23–67 of September 13, 2023.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–1C

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 23–67; Date: September 13, 2023; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On September 13, 2023, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 23–67 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of Electronic Warfare database reprogramming support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; computer program identification numbers; engine Component Improvement Program support; minor modifications; maintenance and maintenance support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was $389 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional non-MDE items: aircraft components, parts, and accessories; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost of the new items is $611 million. The estimated total case value will increase by $611 million to a revised $1 billion. There is no MDE associated with this sale.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional non-MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of these items represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will support Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing the reliability of their F–16 fleet, while expanding its national defense capabilities and supporting the common defense of NATO.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 18, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30

calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25–62, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost $780 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $720 million.

Other $60 million.

Total $780 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two thousand five hundred six (2,506) FGM–148F Javelin missiles.

Two hundred fifty-three (253) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: missile simulation rounds; battery coolant units; tool kits; spares support; training; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; transportation; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (PL–B–UFJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL–B–UDN.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 18, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—Javelin Missile Systems

The Government of Poland has requested to buy two thousand five hundred six (2,506) FGM–148F Javelin missiles and two hundred fifty-three (253) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units. The following non-MDE items will be included: missile simulation rounds; battery coolant units; tool kits; spares support; training; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; transportation; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $780 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by upgrading its existing legacy Command Launch Units and increasing its defense inventory, thereby reinforcing its capability to protect Polish sovereign territory and improving its ability to meet NATO requirements. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA; and Lockheed Martin, located in Tucson, AZ. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Poland.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Javelin is a medium-range, manportable, shoulder-launched, fire-and-forget anti-tank system for infantry, scouts, and combat engineers. It can be mounted on a variety of platforms including vehicles, aircraft, and watercraft. The system weighs 49.5 pounds and has a maximum range in excess of 2,500 meters. The system is highly lethal against tanks and other systems with conventional and reactive armors. The system possesses a secondary capability against bunkers.

2. Javelin's key technical feature is the use of fire-and-forget technology, which allows the gunner to fire and immediately relocate or take cover. Additional features are the top attack and direct fire modes, an advanced tandem warhead and imaging infrared seeker, target lock-on before launch, and soft launch from enclosures or covered fighting positions. The Javelin missile also has a minimum smoke motor thus decreasing the likelihood of detection on the battlefield.

3. The Javelin weapon system is comprised of two major tactical components, which are a reusable Lightweight Command Launch Unit (LwCLU) and a round contained in a disposable launch tube assembly. The LwCLU incorporates an integrated day-night sight that provides a target engagement capability in adverse weather and countermeasure environments. The LwCLU can also be used in a stand-alone mode for battlefield surveillance and target detection. The LwCLU's thermal sight is a second generation forward looking infrared sensor. To facilitate initial loading and subsequent updating of software, all on-board missile software is uploaded via the LwCLU after mating and prior to launch.

4. The missile is autonomously guided to the target using an imaging infrared seeker and adaptive correlation tracking algorithms. This allows the gunner to take cover or reload and engage another target after firing a missile. The missile has an advanced tandem warhead and can be used in either the top attack or direct fire modes. An onboard flight computer guides the missile to the selected target.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that the Government of Poland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Poland.

S. RES. 377

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, while I voted No on S. Res. 377, which calls for an up or down vote on 48 nominations, en bloc, I would have voted yes on the following nominations if I had the opportunity to vote on each nomination separately:

1. Executive Calendar #89—Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

2. Executive Calendar #105—Dario Gil, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

3. Executive Calendar #107—Brandon Williams, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security.

4. Executive Calendar #123—Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

5. Executive Calendar #124—Andrea Travnicek, of North Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

6. Executive Calendar #132—Justin Overbaugh, of Florida, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

7. Executive Calendar #133—Scott Pappano, of Pennsylvania, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

8. Executive Calendar #135—Michael Cadenazzi, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

9. Executive Calendar #136—Sean O'Keefe, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

10. Executive Calendar #137—Michael Obadal, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

11. Executive Calendar #139—Katherine Sutton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

12. Executive Calendar #152—Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration.

13. Executive Calendar #153—Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

14. Executive Calendar #156—Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

15. Executive Calendar #177—Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.
16. Executive Calendar #185—John Squires, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.
17. Executive Calendar #276—Michael Dodd, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. (New Position)
18. Executive Calendar #277—William Gillis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.
19. Executive Calendar #278—Jules Hurst III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.
20. Executive Calendar #279—Brent Ingraham, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.
21. Executive Calendar #285—Peter Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.
22. Executive Calendar #289—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.
23. Executive Calendar #290—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.
24. Executive Calendar #297—Dudley Hoskins, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.
25. Executive Calendar #298—Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.
26. Executive Calendar #305—Jovan Jovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2029.
27. Executive Calendar #324—Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.
28. Executive Calendar #344—Paul Roberti, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation.
29. Executive Calendar #352—Jason Evans, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).
30. Executive Calendar #356—Edward Aloysius O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.
31. Executive Calendar #362—Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.
32. Executive Calendar #149—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.
33. Executive Calendar #286—Kimberly Guilfoyle, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.
34. Executive Calendar #302—Christine Toretti, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.
35. Executive Calendar #350—Peter Lamelas, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3944) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, further, that the House ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

Messrs. COLE, ADERHOLT, CARTER of Texas, HARRIS of Maryland, VALADAO, NEWHOUSE, MOOLENAAR, RUTHERFORD, CLINE, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. LETLOW, Messrs. GUEST, ZINKE, Mrs. BICE, Messrs. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, LALOTA, STRONG, Ms. MALOY, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HOYER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. PINGREE, Messrs. QUIGLEY, ESPAILLAT, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. LEVIN, Mses. ESCOBAR and PEREZ.

At 1:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, 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. 3481. An act 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.

H.R. 3633. An act to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5125. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to terminate the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5143. An act to establish standards for law enforcement officers in the District of Columbia to engage in vehicular pursuits of suspects, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2(b)(4) of Public Law 118–144, the Minority Leader appoints 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3481. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3633. An act to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2882. A bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolution was read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 412. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

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–1883. 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 39–23106'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2024–0765)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1884. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Authorizing Permissive Use of the 'Next Generation' Broadcast Television Standard'' ((DA 25–761)(MB Docket No. 25–135)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1885. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Delete, Delete, Delete'' ((DA 25–736)(GN Docket No. 25–133)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1886. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

''Delete, Delete, Delete; Targeting and Eliminating Unlawful Text Messages; Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991; Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls; Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Waiver Order (2023)(Second Text Blocking Report and Order)'' (DA 25–621) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1887. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Delete, Delete, Delete; Targeting and Eliminating Unlawful Text Messages; Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991; Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls; Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Waiver Order (2023)(Second Text Blocking Report and Order)'' (DA 25–621) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1888. A communication from the Honors Attorney of the Office of Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pipeline Safety: Periodic Standards Update II'' (RIN2137–AF48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1889. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Anchorage Regulations; Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA01)(Docket No. USCG–2023–0868)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1890. 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; Kentucky River, Frankfort, KY'' ((RIN1625–AA00)(Docket No. USCG–2025–0635)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1891. 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 Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4174'' ((RIN2120–AA65)(Docket No. 31614)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1892. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a nomination and discontinuation of service in an acting role for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1893. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2023–2024 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–BM50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1894. A communication from the Federal Register Certifying Officer, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): Clarification of Filing Requirements Regarding In-Transit Shipments and Other FTR Provisions'' (RIN0607–AA62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

*Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

*Amy Henninger, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

*David Denton, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

*Marine Corps nomination of Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney, to be General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Sara A. Stigler and ending with Col. Robert B. Taylor, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 15, 2025. (minus 1 nominee: Col. Brant A. Putnam)

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Joshua D. Armstrong and ending with Col. Sheldon B. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 15, 2025. (minus 3 nominees: Col. Lee R. Bouma; Col. Charles T. Goad; Col. Jonathan D. Mumme)

Air Force nomination of Col. Lynn M. Lee, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Fesler and ending with Brig. Gen. Stephanie S. Samenus, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 29, 2025. (minus 3 nominees: Brig. Gen. Shawn M. Coco; Brig. Gen. Sean F. Conroy; Brig. Gen. Buel J. Dickson)

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Gary R. Charlton II and ending with Brig. Gen. Gregory A. Krane, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 29, 2025. (minus 1 nominee: Brig. Gen. Christopher A. Jarratt)

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Blomquist, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Monie R. Ulis, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Humberto Pabon, Jr., to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Roderick T. Grunwald, to be Brigadier General.

*Army nominations beginning with Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga and ending with Maj. Gen. James M. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 2, 2025. (minus 5 nominees: Maj. Gen. Kenyon K. Bell; Maj. Gen. Robert D. Davis; Maj. Gen. Brandon D. Parker; Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Clearfield; Maj. Gen. William H. Swan)

*Air Force nominations beginning with Maj. Gen. Kenyon K. Bell and ending with Maj. Gen. Brandon D. Parker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 2, 2025. (minus 7 nominees beginning with Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga)

*Marine Corps nominations beginning with Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Clearfield and ending with Maj. Gen. William H. Swan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 2, 2025. (minus 8 nominees beginning with Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga)

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. John M. Dreska, to be Major General.

*Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Bradford J. Gering, to be General.

*Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Richard A. Correll, to be Admiral.

*Navy nomination of Vice Adm. George M. Wikoff, to be Admiral.

*Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Heidi K. Berg, to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Ian S. Anderson and ending with Somvang Xayarath, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 28, 2025.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jared L. Bishop and ending with Anthony V. Santino, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 9, 2025.

Air Force nominations beginning with Amy C. Brown and ending with Sarah M. Wheeler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Air Force nominations beginning with Marc G. Carns and ending with David L. Walker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Air Force nominations beginning with Donella D. Beaulieu and ending with Sarah M. Whitson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Air Force nominations beginning with Alexandra E. Ables and ending with Alec J. Ziemann, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Air Force nominations beginning with Sean T. Adams and ending with Carlos X. Zambrano, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Air Force nominations beginning with Ansel V. Aiken and ending with Taylor E. Zurlinden, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Air Force nominations beginning with Christopher S. Morgan and ending with Dayle P. Percle, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 2, 2025.

Air Force nomination of Harrison E. Payne, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Benjamin A. Bonner, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Michael R. Barton and ending with Kirk V.

Thorsteinson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 23, 2025.

Army nominations beginning with Steven J. Ackerson and ending with 0003789078, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Army nominations beginning with Charles M. Abeyawardena and ending with 0003951181, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Army nominations beginning with James Acevedo and ending with Shadrika Y. Witherspoon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Army nominations beginning with James D. Browne, Jr. and ending with John C. Tolin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2025.

Army nominations beginning with Peter G. Juetten and ending with Robert E. Murdough, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 2, 2025.

Army nomination of Richard A. Benson, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with William R. Cary and ending with Kyle S. Jaschen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Army nominations beginning with Eric E. Abrahamsen and ending with Jeffrey W. Wiesner, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Army nominations beginning with Jonathan W. Anderson and ending with 0002254443, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Army nominations beginning with Natascha R. Anderson and ending with Nathan P. Zwintscher, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Army nomination of Adam C. Eccleston, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Carsell Walker, Jr., to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Stephen A. Noorlag, to be Major.

Army nomination of Brian M. Gallavan, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Sharif I. Faruque, to be Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Keaton H. Harrell, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Matthew S. Allen and ending with Adam Yang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nomination of Bryan J. Laroche, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Phuong T. Pham, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Sara R. De Groot and ending with Brian Korn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 2, 2025. (minus 1 nominee: Keaton H. Harrell)

Navy nominations beginning with Joel Almanzanunez and ending with David A. Wakeman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Brandon L. Barker and ending with Graham D. Ziemba, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Eric J. Blomberg and ending with Thomas A. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Vivek M. Abraham and ending with Artemisa A. Zuazo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Riaz M. Ali and ending with Won H. Yu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Leonard E. Abadam and ending with Kellylynn Zuni, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Hannah J. Addom-Tetteh and ending with William E. Omalley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Brandy D. Bennett and ending with Cheol Yi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Caleb D. Aaberg and ending with Dmitriy Yakubov, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with William J. Dean and ending with Brenton W. Heisserer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Jessica L. Abbey and ending with William Z. Xu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Christina M. Acosta and ending with Anya L. Zapf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Abraham D. Agus and ending with David Zhu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 3, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Adam E. Bayer and ending with Zachary B. Zumwalt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Damian R. Allen and ending with Michael S. Yeary, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Teddy G. Ajero, Jr. and ending with Kenneth E. Zitnik, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Amy T. Alfaro and ending with Jeremy P. Wade, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Alexander Alba and ending with Sobondo J. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Zachary P. Branch and ending with Sharlena Y. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Kara L. Ballas and ending with Justin K. Wooley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Navy nominations beginning with Adam M. Alleman and ending with Rosanne M. Witt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Navy nomination of Scott A. Metcalf, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Johan Baik and ending with Brett K. Cartwright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 4, 2025.

Space Force nominations beginning with Michael D. Albert and ending with Rick H. Yuan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 21, 2025.

Space Force nominations beginning with Rosalinda M. Alfaro and ending with Willie A. Youngblood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 21, 2025.

Space Force nominations beginning with Brian G. Allen and ending with David C. Zesinger, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 21, 2025.

Space Force nominations beginning with Daniel N. Banakos and ending with Julius A. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 21, 2025.

Space Force nominations beginning with John M. Aguirre and ending with Derek B. Worth, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 21, 2025.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2854. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to terminate the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 2855. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to carry out a competitive grant program to support community colleges and area career and technical education centers in developing immersive technology education and training services programs for workforce development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2856. A bill to authorize transitional sheltering assistance for individuals who live in areas with unhealthy air quality caused by wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2857. A bill to require coverage of certain immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices under the Medicare program, the Medicaid program, the Children's Health Insurance Program, group health plans, and health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2858. A bill to improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2859. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 2860. A bill to unleash United States offshore critical minerals and resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 2861. A bill to direct the United States Trade Representative to prioritize North American alignment on foreign investment review during the next joint review conducted under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KIM, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2862. A bill to amend the Child Care Access Means Parents In School Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2863. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to eligibility under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2864. A bill to amend the Wagner-Peyser Act to allow States the flexibility to use staffing arrangements that best suit their needs, for employment service offices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2865. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive cost-sharing for advance care planning services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 2866. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program providing for the establishment of Agriculture Cybersecurity Centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2867. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on qualified first-time homebuyer distributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2868. A bill to increase the rate of duty on shrimp originating from India, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2869. A bill to require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to issue an annual report regarding the use of spectrum by the Federal Government in certain bands of frequencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2870. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require regulated persons to identify tableting machines and encapsulating machines by serial number; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2871. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pit River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2872. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 2873. A bill to amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to prohibit requiring an authorization for the installation, continued presence, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber optic cables in a national marine sanctuary if such activities have previously been authorized by a Federal or State agency; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 2874. A bill to provide for the reliquidation of certain entries of golf cart tires; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2875. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of health reimbursement arrangements integrated with individual market coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2876. A bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2877. A bill to ban stock trading for certain senior Government officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. HUSTED):

S. 2878. A bill to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2879. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to apply improved prompt payment requirements to Medicare Advantage organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. HUSTED):

S. 2880. A bill to establish the Great Lakes Mass Marketing Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 2881. A bill to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2882. A bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 2883. A bill to establish an East Coast Bivalve Research Task Force; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 2884. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 to extend and modify requirements for an annual report on military and security developments involving the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. KING, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2885. A bill to require congressional redistricting conducted by a State to be conducted in accordance with a redistricting plan developed and enacted into law by an independent redistricting commission established by the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 2886. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize lawful permanent resident status for certain college graduates who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2887. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER:

S. 2888. 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 Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2889. A bill to promote minimum State requirements for the prevention and treatment of concussions caused by participation in school sports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2890. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require transportation planners to consider projects and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2891. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to ensure that the design of public buildings in the United States adheres to the guiding principles for Federal architecture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2892. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. MOODY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 2893. A bill to require the denial of admission to the United States for individuals subject to sanctions pursuant to Executive Order 13876, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2894. A bill to establish a process for the Board on Geographic Names to review and revise offensive place names, to create an advisory committee to recommend offensive place names to be reviewed by the Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2895. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States and the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on weather-related hazards and gaps in surface transportation safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2896. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate an entrance-fee-free date on September 17, 2026, at units of the National Park System to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2897. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to provide research and extension grants to support the study of insects and pests that impact tropical plants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. KIM, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 2898. A bill to reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2899. A bill to authorize additional appropriations to Amtrak for long-distance routes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2900. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to improve roadway safety through real-time integration of weather hazard alerts and active work zone data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2901. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to improve the integration of real-time wildfire hazard alerts with State and local transportation closure information systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 2902. A bill to require States to measure and publicly report on the separation of children from parents by hidden foster care arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 2903. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2904. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the shadow fleet of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2905. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the establishment of an Office of Public Engagement in the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 2906. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to address entities that are not considered to be investment companies for the purposes of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2907. A bill to prohibit health care professionals, hospitals, or clinics from participating in the chemical or surgical mutilation of a child and to provide a private right of action for children and the parents of children whose healthy body parts have been damaged by medical professionals practicing chemical and surgical mutilation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 2908. A bill to ensure equal treatment for religious organizations in the Federal provision of social services programs, grantmaking, and contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2909. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to revise certain regulations with respect to farm-related service industry restricted commercial driver's licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2910. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to allow States to use highway safety funds for work zone safety initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2911. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to revise requirements relating to triennial highway safety plan submissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2912. A bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. 2913. A bill to prohibit the use of appropriated funds to eliminate, consolidate, or otherwise restructure any office within the Department of Education that administers or enforces programs serving individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S.J. Res. 80. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to ''National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. KING):

S.J. Res. 81. A joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose duties on articles imported from Brazil; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S.J. Res. 82. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to ''Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S.J. Res. 83. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces

from hostilities that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 401. A resolution supporting the designation of September 19, 2025, as ''National Stillbirth Prevention and Awareness Day'', recognizing tens of thousands of families in the United States that have endured a stillbirth, and seizing the opportunity to keep other families from experiencing the same tragedy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 402. A resolution recognizing Lloyd Ashburn Williams's unparalleled dedication to fostering economic empowerment, cultural pride, and social equity in Harlem; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MORENO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. MOODY, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 403. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 14, 2025, as the ''National Day of Remembrance for Charlie Kirk''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. Res. 404. A resolution urging the protection of Medicare from the devastating cuts caused by H.R. 1; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 405. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of September 22, 2025, to September 28, 2025, as ''Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. THUNE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 406. A resolution designating September 30, 2025, as ''Impact Aid Recognition Day'' to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Impact Aid program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 407. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the comments made by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, threatening to penalize ABC and Disney for the political commentary of ABC late night host Jimmy Kimmel were dangerous and unconstitutional; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 408. A resolution recognizing September 20, 2025, as ''National LGBTQ+ Servicemembers and Veterans Day''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 409. A resolution recognizing the 74th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines and the strong bilateral security alliance between our two nations in the wake of escalating aggression and political lawfare by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 410. A resolution calling on the President to recognize a demilitarized State of Palestine, as consistent with international law and the principles of a two-state solution, alongside a secure State of Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. Res. 411. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 22 through September 26, 2025, as ''National Hazing Awareness Week''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 412. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; placed on the executive calendar.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 413. A resolution authorizing the use of funds from the Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account for security enhancements and services provided to Senators; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 138

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 138, a bill to require each enterprise to include on the Uniform Residential Loan Application a disclaimer to increase awareness of the direct and guaranteed home loan programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to improve the provision of care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 742

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 742, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, and for other purposes.

S. 761

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 761, a bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 844

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 844, a bill to accelerate workplace time-to-contract under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1816

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) were added as cosponsors 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. 1829

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry.

S. 1985

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1985, a bill to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

S. 2035

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2035, a bill to establish statutory rights to choose to receive, provide, and cover fertility treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to require United

States foreign assistance commodities to be made available for their intended purposes before they expire.

S. 2376

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2376, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to include rioting in the definition of racketeering activity.

S. 2452

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2452, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2621

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for State-based maternal mortality review committees, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to disseminate best practices on maternal mortality prevention to hospitals, State-based professional societies, and perinatal quality collaboratives, and for other purposes.

S. 2663

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2663, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 to generally permit holding merchant banking investments of up to 15 years.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2721

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2721, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, to establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 2722

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2722, a bill to promote the energy security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 2731

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2731, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Social Security Act to provide that an individual engaged in a labor dispute may receive unemployment benefits.

S. 2813

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2813, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit capacity-based restrictions on firearm magazines, and for other purposes.

S. 2840

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S.J. RES. 38

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution establishing the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

S.J. RES. 71

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 71, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy.

S.J. RES. 78

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2968

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2968 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3592

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3592 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3756

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3756 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. 3873

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3873 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. 3892

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3892 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2859. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, this week, I filed a bill, as I do multiple different weeks. I don't come every week

to be able to talk about the bills that I file, but I want to be able to talk about this a little bit and some context that comes into it.

I also don't come to this floor very often and read an entire bill to this body, but I want to do that today. It is not long. It is literally just half a page. But it reaffirms something that I think should be pretty simple for all of us but for some reason has become controversial in the past few decades.

Here is the whole bill. It says:

None of the funds made available under this Act may be provided to any public institution of higher education that denies to a religious student organization any right, benefit, or privilege that is otherwise afforded to other student organizations at the institution (including full access to the facilities of the institution and official recognition of the organization by the institution) because of the religious beliefs, practices, speech, leadership standards, or standards of conduct of the religious student organization.

Now, this should be pretty simple for us as Americans. We should treat religious organizations on a college campus the same as every other organization. The university shouldn't be able to reach into some organizations and say ''Because you are religious, we need to tone you down'' or ''Because you are religious, we need to pick your leadership for you because we want to pick your leadership.''

I will tell you, most Americans would say ''No one does that anyway''—except they did. Under the Biden administration, this became an issue, where multiple different colleges and universities would reach into different religious organizations on campus and would deny them access to be able to be on campus and use campus facilities at all or they would say: We don't like the way you pick your leadership. You need to have a broader perspective of leadership from multiple different perspectives of the campus. It can't just be your particular faith in your religious organization.

It became the most bizarre set of ideas that came out of the Department of Education to say a Jewish organization had to pick non-Jewish leaders to be the leadership of their organization or non-Christians had to also be selected as leaders of their Christian organization on campus.

We are like, what in the world? What happened to the basic right of association and affiliation that is a constitutionally protected right?

That never happened to nonreligious organizations; it seemed to only happen to religious organizations.

So while we have common agreement on this as Americans and while that rule is now not being applied under the Trump administration, I raise a very simple bill to say: Why can't we, as all Americans, agree that religious organizations on college campuses should be treated exactly the same as every other organization on any college campus? That should be basic.

So I bring a very simple bill to be able to resolve that one big issue and to say let's make this once and for all just a policy that we have as Americans.

Now, I bring this up because it needs to be addressed, but I also bring this up because next week, there is a significant event that is going to happen all around the country—quite frankly, all around the world—that some people won't even notice but, quite frankly, is Earth-shattering.

Thirty-five years ago, a group of students gathered around a flagpole early in the morning to be able to pray for their school. It was in 1990. It ended up being about 46,000 total students in 4 different States, including my State of Oklahoma, that just kind of gathered. The word kind of spread organically that one Wednesday morning in September, students—high school and middle school students—would just go and do one day publicly what they do privately other days; that is, pray for their teachers, pray for their faculty at school, pray for each other, pray for their parents, and pray for the Nation.

So in September of 1990, around 46,000—we don't know the exact number—students in 4 different States just quietly gathered to pray. Now, that may not seem like a big deal, but in 1990, there was a great debate that was still spinning on this issue. In fact, that year, that September day, at at least one of those gatherings, the sheriff's department came out and arrested the students for praying—praying—on their school campus before class started.

The result of that was that the next September, a million students showed up to pray—a million, documented. From almost every State in America, teenagers showed up at their high school or their middle school campus just to be able to pray. They didn't have teachers with them; they didn't have youth pastors with them—just students. They gathered at their pole. It was a simple thing called See You at the Pole—just that simple. They would encourage each other just to be able to show up that one day in September to be able to pray publicly for their parents, for their Nation, for their campus, and for what was going on in their community.

It became the largest student prayer movement that we know of in the history of the Nation. Year after year in September, one Wednesday, students from around the Nation would gather. It was about 3 years later that it started spreading globally, to where literally students from around the world were just going to their flagpole, and they would just gather to be able to pray.

Now, people have said over the years: Why a flagpole? Well, it is because every school has a flagpole, and so it became just a common cry. It kind of seems like ''See you at the principal's office'' doesn't ring as true. But it was just like, what does every single campus have? Every single campus has a flagpole. So that simple statement, ''See you at the pole,'' became really a challenge to say ''See you at a spot where we can pray.''

There is a lot going on in the country right now—a lot. There is a lot of anger, there is a lot of frustration, and there are a lot of questions about what happens next.

For 35 years, students have gone to their flagpole and have prayed for the Nation. My simple request of them again this year is to do it again. This Nation could use some prayer. This Nation could use a generation rising up to be able to say: No one is going to stop us from praying.

It is the most simple request that we have—to not go to government but to go to God and say: We need your help. We need your intervention.

I am always proud of a group of students at a high school football game that finish the game or that start the game just taking a knee to be able to pray for each other, pray for safety, and then go out and hit each other as hard as they possibly can on the football field. But it is always fun for me to be able to watch the sportsmanship that begins with two teams that gather together to pray, and it is almost always just one player on each of the teams that drops that idea and says: We should do this. Our team should do this.

It is not led by the coaches. It is not led by the teachers. It is led by students that just say: Let's ask God to help us in this.

I am always impressed when I am on high school and junior high campuses as I walk around the campus during lunch, and I see everyone kind of gathering for lunch and all the conversation happening, and I will see a couple students over in the corner, as they sit down at their lunch, to be able to just bow their heads for just a simple moment to be able to thank God for their food.

I am always impressed when I hear about groups of students that get together on a regular basis just to be able to have Bible study together, just to be able to pray for each other. They face a lot of pressure. They face a lot of challenges in this day and age. It is resetting and centering when they actually stop to say: Let's pray about that.

I am tremendously impressed that for 35 years—now a second generation of students are gathering at their flagpoles the fourth Wednesday of September to be able to just pray for each other, pray for their teachers, pray for their school, and this time, an earnest plea to God to help our Nation.

I am proud of students of faith and how they gather to be able to say: These days are dark, but we believe in a God who gives light, and we will choose to be a light on our own campus and do what we can to be able to serve each other and to be able to serve our schools.

Those are the role models that we need in a new generation. Those are the folks that we look forward to seeing what they do in the days ahead.

As fun as it is to me, students that are gathering this year are the children of the first generation that gathered 35 years ago to start a movement to be able to pray. Thirty-five years ago, I was a youth minister. I was a part of that first See You at the Pole in 1990. I was in leadership, helping organize students in getting the word out, to be able to say ''What can we do''—what can we do—''to serve each other and the Nation?'' The obvious answer began with ''Let's pray.''

See You at the Pole was born. It wasn't my idea. It was a group of students' idea. I just got to help fan the flame.

Students of this Nation need the encouragement of this body to be able to say ''well done'' and set a fresh new example; be the next generation of leaders; be the people who will rise up and do what is right; be the role models that are desperately needed; be individuals who will actually not only have a faith but live your faith—all the principles of the faith.

We can certainly use individuals in our Nation right now who are living the most basic principles of loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving your neighbor as yourself.

To the students of this Nation, I would encourage them to ''see you at the pole'' next Wednesday morning.

This coming Wednesday morning, September 24, you can be assured I am going to be parked across the street from a campus watching a group of students pray for a Nation that needs help. I will join them and say, ''God help us. We need your help.'' I will see you at the pole.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2871. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pit River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Pit River Land Transfer Act of 2025. This bill would transfer 584 acres of Federal land, administered by the Forest Service, to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust for the Pit River Tribe, California.

The Pit River Tribe consists of 11 autonomous bands traditionally inhabiting the area surrounding the Pit River and its tributaries. They are known for their deep spiritual connection to the land, with a rich cultural heritage centered around fishing, hunting, and seasonal gatherings. Today, they continue to preserve their traditions while engaging in efforts to reclaim ancestral lands and promote tribal sovereignty.

The proposed land to be transferred is known as the Four Corners Property, located in Shasta County. Today, the Four Corners Federal land is located in the ancestral territory of the Tribe, which the Tribe has historically used and has an ongoing relationship with.

This legislation is a commonsense step forward that will empower the Tribe to better serve their communities and empower Tribal self-growth. I want to thank Senator SCHIFF for cosponsoring this bill, and I also want to thank Republican Congressman DOUG LAMALFA for introducing companion legislation in the House.

BY MR. PADILLA:

S. 2881. A bill to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Ackerson Meadow Land Exchange Act. This legislation will facilitate a simple land exchange between the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service in the Sierra Nevada.

This bill would transfer 160 acres of Stanislaus National Forest land to the National Park Service to be managed as part of Yosemite National Park and transfer 170 acres of National Park land to the Forest Service to manage as part of Stanislaus National Forest. The land in the exchange is known as Ackerson Meadow.

Ackerson Meadow is one of the largest midelevation meadows in the Sierra Nevada. It is an ecologically and regionally critical wildlife corridor, and the scenic meadow is an important habitat for the State endangered great grey owl and little willow flycatcher, as well as a suite of additional at-risk wildlife species. In 2016, a coalition of conservation groups donated Ackerson Meadow to Yosemite National Park; however, it is almost completely surrounded by Stanislaus National Forest and only partially contiguous to the rest of Yosemite National Park.

The current configuration of land management presents logistical challenges to both NPS and Forest Service; therefore, both Agencies, as well as local stakeholders, support this land exchange.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this straightforward legislation to better manage the land in and around Ackerson Meadow.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2889. A bill to promote minimum State requirements for the prevention and treatment of concussions caused by participation in school sports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2889

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. MINIMUM STATE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—Each State that receives funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and does not meet the requirements described in this section, as of the date of enactment of this Act, shall, not later than the last day of the fifth full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act (referred to in this Act as the ''compliance deadline''), enact legislation or issue regulations establishing the following minimum requirements:

(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY CONCUSSION SAFETY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Each local educational agency in the State, in consultation with members of the community in which such agency is located, shall develop and implement a standard plan for concussion safety and management that—

(A) educates students, parents, and school personnel about concussions, through activities such as—

(i) training school personnel, including coaches, teachers, athletic trainers, related services personnel, and school nurses, on concussion safety and management, including training on the prevention, recognition, and academic consequences of concussions and response to concussions; and

(ii) using, maintaining, and disseminating to students and parents—

(I) release forms and other appropriate forms for reporting and record keeping;

(II) treatment plans; and

(III) prevention and post-injury observation and monitoring fact sheets about concussion;

(B) encourages supports, where feasible, for a student recovering from a concussion (regardless of whether or not the concussion occurred during school-sponsored activities, during school hours, on school property, or during an athletic activity), such as—

(i) guiding the student in resuming participation in athletic activity and academic activities with the help of a multi-disciplinary concussion management team, which may include—

(I) a health care professional, the parents of such student, a school nurse, relevant related services personnel, and other relevant school personnel; and

(II) an individual who is assigned by a public school to oversee and manage the recovery of such student;

(ii) providing appropriate academic accommodations aimed at progressively reintroducing cognitive demands on the student; and

(iii) if the student's symptoms of concussion persist for a substantial period of time—

(I) evaluating the student in accordance with section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414) to determine whether the student is eligible for services under part B of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or

(II) evaluating whether the student is eligible for services under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

(C) encourages the use of best practices designed to ensure, with respect to concussions, the uniformity of safety standards, treatment, and management, such as—

(i) disseminating information on concussion safety and management to the public; and

(ii) applying uniform best practice standards for concussion safety and management to all students enrolled in public schools.

(2) POSTING OF INFORMATION ON CONCUSSIONS.—Each public elementary school and

each public secondary school shall post on school grounds, in a manner that is visible to students and school personnel, and make publicly available on the school website, information on concussions that—

(A) is based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence (such as information made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

(B) shall include information on—

(i) the risks posed by sustaining a concussion;

(ii) the actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of school personnel; and

(iii) the signs and symptoms of a concussion; and

(C) may include information on—

(i) the definition of a concussion;

(ii) the means available to the student to reduce the incidence or recurrence of a concussion; and

(iii) the effects of a concussion on academic learning and performance.

(3) RESPONSE TO CONCUSSION.—If an individual designated from among school personnel for purposes of this Act, one of whom must be in attendance at every school-sponsored activity, suspects that a student has sustained a concussion (regardless of whether or not the concussion occurred during school-sponsored activities, during school hours, on school property, or during an athletic activity)—

(A) the student shall be—

(i) immediately removed from participation in a school-sponsored athletic activity; and

(ii) prohibited from resuming participation in school-sponsored athletic activities—

(I) on the day the student sustained the concussion; and

(II) until the day the student is capable of resuming such participation, according to the student's written release, as described in paragraph (4); and

(B) the designated individual shall report to the parent or guardian of such student—

(i) any information that the designated school employee is aware of regarding the date, time, and type of the injury suffered by such student (regardless of where, when, or how a concussion may have occurred); and

(ii) any actions taken to treat such student.

(4) RETURN TO ATHLETICS.—If a student has sustained a concussion (regardless of whether or not the concussion occurred during school-sponsored activities, during school hours, on school property, or during an athletic activity), before such student resumes participation in school-sponsored athletic activities, the school shall receive a written release from a health care professional, that—

(A) states that the student is capable of resuming participation in such activities; and

(B) may require the student to follow a plan designed to aid the student in recovering and resuming participation in such activities in a manner that—

(i) is coordinated, as appropriate, with periods of cognitive and physical rest while symptoms of a concussion persist; and

(ii) reintroduces cognitive and physical demands on such student on a progressive basis only as such increases in exertion do not cause the reemergence or worsening of symptoms of a concussion.

(5) RETURN TO ACADEMICS.—If a student enrolled in a public school in the State has sustained a concussion, the concussion management team (as described under paragraph (1)(B)(i)) of the school shall consult with and make recommendations to relevant school personnel and the student to ensure that the student is receiving the appropriate academic supports, including—

(A) providing for periods of cognitive rest over the course of the school day;

(B) providing modified academic assignments;

(C) allowing for gradual reintroduction to cognitive demands; and

(D) other appropriate academic accommodations or adjustments.

(b) NONCOMPLIANCE.—

(1) FIRST YEAR.—If a State described in subsection (a) fails to comply with subsection (a) by the compliance deadline, the Secretary of Education shall reduce by 5 percent the amount of funds the State receives under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) for the first fiscal year following the compliance deadline.

(2) SUCCEEDING YEARS.—If the State fails to so comply by the last day of any fiscal year following the compliance deadline, the Secretary of Education shall reduce by 10 percent the amount of funds the State receives under that Act for the following fiscal year.

(3) NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—Prior to reducing any funds that a State receives under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in accordance with this subsection, the Secretary of Education shall provide a written notification of the intended reduction of funds to the State and to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect civil or criminal liability under Federal or State law.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONCUSSION.—The term ''concussion'' means a type of mild traumatic brain injury that—

(A) is caused by a blow, jolt, or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly in the skull;

(B) disrupts normal brain functioning and alters the mental state of the individual, causing the individual to experience—

(i) any period of observed or self-reported—

(I) transient confusion, disorientation, or impaired consciousness;

(II) dysfunction of memory around the time of injury; or

(III) loss of consciousness lasting less than 30 minutes; or

(ii) any 1 of 4 types of symptoms, including—

(I) physical symptoms, such as headache, fatigue, or dizziness;

(II) cognitive symptoms, such as memory disturbance or slowed thinking;

(III) emotional symptoms, such as irritability or sadness; or

(IV) difficulty sleeping; and

(C) can occur—

(i) with or without the loss of consciousness; and

(ii) during participation in any organized sport or recreational activity.

(2) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.—The term ''health care professional'' means an individual—

(A) who has been trained in diagnosis and management of concussion in a pediatric population;

(B) who is registered, licensed, certified, or otherwise statutorily recognized by the State to provide such diagnosis and management; and

(C) whose scope of practice and experience includes the diagnosis and management of traumatic brain injury among a pediatric population.

(3) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; STATE.—The terms ''local educational agency'' and ''State'' have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(4) RELATED SERVICES PERSONNEL.—The term ''related services personnel'' means individuals who provide related services, as defined under section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

(5) SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.—The term ''school-sponsored athletic activity'' means—

(A) any physical education class or program of a school;

(B) any athletic activity authorized during the school day on school grounds that is not an instructional activity;

(C) any extra-curricular sports team, club, or league organized by a school on or off school grounds; and

(D) any recess activity.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 401—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2025, AS ''NATIONAL STILLBIRTH PREVENTION AND AWARENESS DAY'', RECOGNIZING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES THAT HAVE ENDURED A STILLBIRTH, AND SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP OTHER FAMILIES FROM EXPERIENCING THE SAME TRAGEDY

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 401

Whereas more than 21,000 pregnancies in the United States end in stillbirth each year, and the lack of access to maternal health care services has exacerbated the crisis;

Whereas racial disparities persist in birth outcomes, with Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Hispanic families at the greatest risk of losing a baby to stillbirth;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the annual number of stillbirths far exceeds the number of deaths from the top 5 leading causes of death among children under 15 years of age combined, including unintentional injuries, congenital anomalies, preterm birth, homicide, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome;

Whereas stillbirths are devastating and have a profound and lifelong impact on the families who endure them;

Whereas losing a baby to stillbirth is linked to an increased risk of maternal morbidity and mortality;

Whereas, with increased awareness and better data collection, the United States will be able to better understand why stillbirths in the United States are happening at an alarming rate and identify what can be done to combat this crisis;

Whereas proven stillbirth prevention efforts have the power to save thousands of babies every year, and innovations in stillbirth prevention could save thousands of additional families nationwide every year from the heartache of losing a baby;

Whereas recognizing ''National Stillbirth Prevention and Awareness Day'' is an opportunity to increase awareness, support evidence-based prevention efforts, promote research, encourage improved data collection

and greater understanding, and provide support to those who have experienced a stillbirth; and

Whereas ''National Stillbirth Prevention and Awareness Day''—

(1) celebrates the passage of the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act of 2024 (Public Law 118–69; 138 Stat. 1485), which opens up more Federal resources for stillbirth prevention activities and research; and

(2) calls on the President and all other Federal officials to use their authority to take action to help reduce stillbirths and to ensure every expectant family is educated on how to reduce the risk of losing a baby to stillbirth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of ''National Stillbirth Prevention and Awareness Day'';

(2) understands the importance of advancing evidence-based prevention efforts; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe ''National Stillbirth Prevention and Awareness Day'' with appropriate prevention and awareness programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 402—RECOGNIZING LLOYD ASHBURN WILLIAMS'S UNPARALLELED DEDICATION TO FOSTERING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, CULTURAL PRIDE, AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN HARLEM

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 402

Whereas Lloyd Ashburn Williams was born on January 16, 1945, in Jamaica and immigrated to New York City at the age of 2, where he was raised in Harlem and committed his life to the advancement and empowerment of the Harlem community;

Whereas Mr. Williams attended Syracuse University and developed a lifelong passion for civic engagement, economic development, and cultural preservation;

Whereas, in 1988, Mr. Williams was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, becoming one of the longest-serving leaders of the organization, guiding the Chamber through periods of economic challenges and revitalization over more than 4 decades;

Whereas, under his visionary leadership, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce expanded its mission to promote minority-owned businesses, attract investments, foster entrepreneurship, and support workforce development initiatives that improved economic opportunities for Harlem residents;

Whereas, in 1974, Mr. Williams, along with Manhattan Borough President Percy E. Sutton, Voza Rivers, and others, co-founded HARLEM WEEK, which was initially designed as a 1-day event to restore community pride and combat negative stereotypes and grew into a multi-week cultural festival celebrating Harlem's history, art, music, business, and contributions to society and attracting millions of attendees annually;

Whereas he 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 needs of its diverse population;

Whereas Mr. Williams served as Vice Chairman of the Harlem Arts Alliance, an Executive Committee Member of NYC & Company, Chairman of the President's Executive Advisory Board at The City College of New York, Founding Board Member of the Apollo Theater, and Executive Board Member of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, strengthening Harlem's cultural institutions and heritage;

Whereas he was also a dedicated mentor, advisor, and educator, serving as a guest lecturer at prestigious institutions such as Columbia University, Rutgers University, and Fordham University, sharing his expertise in urban economics, tourism, business development, and public policy;

Whereas Mr. Williams received numerous awards and honors recognizing his significant contributions, including an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of the West Indies, designation as one of the ''Top 100 Most Influential New Yorkers'' by the city and State of New York, acknowledgment as one of the ''Top 25 Most Influential Black New Yorkers'' by the New York Amsterdam News, and recognition as one of the ''Most Influential Black Professionals'' by the New York Christian Times;

Whereas he was a lifelong member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Action Network, demonstrating his enduring commitment to civil rights, social justice, and community advocacy;

Whereas Lloyd Ashburn Williams passed away on August 6, 2025, and is survived by his wife, Valorie Roberson-Williams, his son and grandson, and two brothers and a sister; and

Whereas he leaves behind a profound legacy that transformed Harlem's economic landscape, cultural identity, and community spirit: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes Lloyd Ashburn Williams's unparalleled dedication to fostering economic empowerment, cultural pride, and social equity in Harlem.

SENATE RESOLUTION 403—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 14, 2025, AS THE ''NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR CHARLIE KIRK''

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MORENO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. MOODY, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 403

Whereas Charlie Kirk was a champion of free speech, civil dialogue, and faith;

Whereas Mr. Kirk consistently promoted the values of individual liberty, open debate, the importance of civic engagement, and the defense of constitutional principles;

Whereas Charlie Kirk was recognized as one of the leading voices among young leaders in the United States, creating opportunities for civic education, fostering youth leadership, and promoting principles of liberty and democracy across the United States;

Whereas Charlie Kirk was the founder and executive director of Turning Point USA, a nonprofit organization of thousands of chapters across the United States dedicated to educating students about the principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government;

Whereas Charlie Kirk authored multiple national best-selling books, that engage readers in critical conversations about civics, culture, and the future of the United States;

Whereas, through Mr. Kirk's writing, public speaking, and media presence, Charlie Kirk reached millions of United States citizens, inspiring the next generation to become active participants in civic life;

Whereas Mr. Kirk's life's work has contributed to strengthening public discourse, defending constitutional principles, and fostering active citizenship; and

Whereas Mr. Kirk's life work, especially his efforts to bring these American ideals to life on college campuses in the United States, cost him his life by means of an assassin's bullet on September 10, 2025: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 14, 2025, as the ''National Day of Remembrance for Charlie Kirk'';

(2) recognizes Charlie Kirk for his contributions to civic education and public service; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, civic organizations, and citizens across the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, activities, prayers, and ceremonies that promote civic engagement and the principles of faith, liberty, and democracy that Charlie Kirk championed.

SENATE RESOLUTION 404—URGING THE PROTECTION OF MEDICARE FROM THE DEVASTATING CUTS CAUSED BY H.R. 1

Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 404

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office (referred to in this preamble as ''CBO'') has estimated that the Act entitled ''An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14'', approved July 4, 2025 (Public Law 119–21; 139 Stat. 72) (commonly known as the ''One Big Beautiful Bill Act'' and referred to in this preamble as ''H.R. 1'') will add $4,100,000,000,000 to the deficit between 2025 and 2034;

Whereas such an increase to the deficit will automatically trigger across-the-board spending cuts, called ''sequestration'', under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 931 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as ''S-PAYGO'');

Whereas sequestration will impose indiscriminate, across-the-board spending cuts to social safety net programs that millions of families in the United States rely on;

Whereas the Medicare program established under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), a critical lifeline for the people of the United States, is not exempt from sequestration under S-PAYGO;

Whereas CBO has estimated that $45,000,000,000 will be cut from Medicare by sequestration in 2026 alone;

Whereas CBO has estimated that a total of $536,000,000,000 will be cut from Medicare by sequestration through 2034;

Whereas these Medicare sequestration cuts compound nearly $1,000,000,000,000 in health care reductions under H.R. 1, stripping coverage from 15,000,000 people of the Untied States and further undermining the financial stability of health care providers;

Whereas more than 67,000,000 people of the United States relied on Medicare for their health care coverage in 2024;

Whereas cuts of this magnitude will jeopardize the financial stability of community health centers, hospitals, providers, and many others who rely on Medicare payments to serve seniors, people with disabilities, and those with end-stage renal disease;

Whereas Republicans' partisan bill expanded the national debt by $4,100,000,000,000, and the Republicans chose not to protect the people of the United States from these cuts; and

Whereas the people of the United States have paid into Medicare throughout their working lives with the expectation that their earned benefits will be protected: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate should protect the Medicare program established under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) from devastating cuts caused by the Act entitled ''An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14'', approved July 4, 2025 (Public Law 119–21; 139 Stat. 72) (commonly known as the ''One Big Beautiful Bill Act'' and referred to in this resolution as ''H.R. 1'');

(2) the Senate should safeguard seniors' Medicare benefits and essential social services that are jeopardized by the cuts triggered by H.R. 1; and

(3) seniors who have paid into Medicare throughout their working lives should be protected from reckless, across-the-board cuts to their health care.

SENATE RESOLUTION 405—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, TO SEPTEMBER 28, 2025, AS ''ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK''

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 405

Whereas the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program was originally authorized on September 27, 2007, by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110–84; 121 Stat. 784);

Whereas 2025 marks the 18th anniversary of the establishment of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions by Congress;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions are degree-granting postsecondary institutions that have an undergraduate enrollment of no less than 10 percent Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students;

Whereas the purpose of the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program is to improve the availability and quality of postsecondary education programs to serve Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students;

Whereas, since 2007, over 280 colleges and universities throughout the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific, have been eligible for funding as Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions;

Whereas, as of 2025, there are 208 funded and eligible Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions operating in the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific;

Whereas, as of the 2024–2025 academic year, 69 Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions are or have been funded in the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions are of critical importance, as they enroll, support, and graduate large proportions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander college students, the majority of whom are from families with low incomes and are first-generation college students;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions comprise only 7.1 percent of all institutions of higher education, yet enroll 46 percent of all Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander undergraduate students in the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions employ many Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander faculty, staff, and administrators;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions award 51 percent of the associate's degrees and 44 percent of the bachelor's degrees attained by all Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander college students in the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific;

Whereas more than one-third of funded Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions maintain an Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander enrollment of over 20 percent;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions play a vital role in preserving the diverse culture, experiences, heritage, and history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions create culturally relevant academic and cocurricular programs, research, and services which increase retention, transfer, and graduation rates, while also enhancing the overall educational experiences of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions in providing quality educational opportunities to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander and other students who attend these institutions;

(2) encourages institutions of higher education that are eligible Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions to obtain funding and establish programs to serve the unique needs of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students, families, and communities;

(3) recognizes the 18th anniversary of the establishment of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions Program and expresses support for the designation of ''Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Week''; and

(4) calls on the people of the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific, and interested groups to observe ''Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Week'' with appropriate activities, ceremonies, and programs to demonstrate support for Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 406—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, AS ''IMPACT AID RECOGNITION DAY'' TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IMPACT AID PROGRAM

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. THUNE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 406

Whereas September 30, 2025, marks the 75th anniversary of the date on which President Harry S. Truman signed the Act of September 30, 1950 (commonly known as the ''Impact Aid Act'') (64 Stat. 1100; chapter 1124), which established the Impact Aid program;

Whereas the community served by the Impact Aid program considers the Impact Aid program to be the ''original'' Federal elementary and secondary education program;

Whereas the Impact Aid program is administered by the Secretary of Education;

Whereas the Impact Aid program reimburses local educational agencies for the loss of revenue and other costs associated with the presence of tax-exempt Federal property within the boundaries of those local educational agencies;

Whereas payments under the Impact Aid program are dispersed directly to local educational agencies, which allocate those payments based on local context and needs to provide a quality education to the students served by those local educational agencies;

Whereas, in 2025, more than 600,000 children, including children of individuals in the uniformed services (as defined in section 101 of title 37, United States Code), children residing on Indian lands, children in low-rent public housing, and children of civilians working or living on Federal land, are ''federally connected children'' who are served by local educational agencies that are eligible for basic support payments under the Impact Aid program;

Whereas, in 2025, there are 4,700,000 acres of federally owned land within the boundaries of local educational agencies for which those local educational agencies are eligible to receive Federal property payments under the Impact Aid program;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2025, $1,625,151,000 will be provided under the Impact Aid program to approximately 1,100 local educational agencies that together enroll more than 8,000,000 students;

Whereas, in 1965, Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), which amended

the Act of September 30, 1950 (commonly known as the ''Impact Aid Act'') (64 Stat. 1100; chapter 1124);

Whereas, in 1994, Congress passed the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 108 Stat. 3518), which repealed the Act of September 30, 1950 (commonly known as the ''Impact Aid Act'') (64 Stat. 1100; chapter 1124), and codified the Impact Aid program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.);

Whereas Congress has continued to demonstrate support for the Impact Aid program by reauthorizing that program 16 times between 1950 and 2020;

Whereas, to formalize and energize the broad, bipartisan support for the Impact Aid program, the Senate Impact Aid Coalition was established in 1996, the House Impact Aid Coalition was established in 1995, and the 2 coalitions were reorganized into the Congressional Impact Aid Caucus in 2025; and

Whereas the Federal obligation on which the Impact Aid program is based is the same in September 2025 as it was when the Impact Aid program was established 75 years before, in September 1950: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 30, 2025, as ''Impact Aid Recognition Day'' to recognize the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Impact Aid program; and

(2) recognizes the importance of—

(A) the Impact Aid program under title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.); and

(B) the objective of that program to ensure that all children educated in Federally impacted school districts receive a high-quality education and have access to the opportunities needed to reach their full potential.

SENATE RESOLUTION 407—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE COMMENTS MADE BY FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, THREATENING TO PENALIZE ABC AND DISNEY FOR THE POLITICAL COMMENTARY OF ABC LATE NIGHT HOST JIMMY KIMMEL WERE DANGEROUS AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 407

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides that ''Congress shall make no law. . .abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press,'' protections that extend to political speech and commentary, even when controversial or offensive;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is charged with overseeing the public airwaves in a manner consistent with the Constitution and does not have authority to censor programming or punish broadcasters for their editorial decisions;

Whereas, on September 17, 2025, Chairman Brendan Carr publicly threatened ABC and its parent company, Disney, and its affiliates, over a monologue delivered by comedian Jimmy Kimmel, stating that ''we can do this the easy way or the hard way,'' in clear reference to the FCC's regulatory power;

Whereas, following these comments, ABC's largest affiliate group announced it would preempt Mr. Kimmel's programming, and shortly thereafter, ABC and Disney suspended Mr. Kimmel, demonstrating the coercive effect of Chairman Carr's unconstitutional threats and the chilling impact on free expression in broadcasting;

Whereas, in Mr. Carr's role as chairman, Carr has repeatedly claimed in public statements and past social media posts to support the First Amendment and defend free speech, including the following statements:

(1) ''This is nothing more than a brazen attempt by government officials to silence political speech they don't like.''.

(2) ''From Internet memes to late-night comedians, from cartoons to the plays and poems as old as organized government itself—Political Satire circumvents traditional gatekeepers and helps hold those in power accountable. Not surprising that it's long been targeted for censorship.''.

(3) ''Free speech is not a threat to democracy—censorship is.''; and

Whereas, by using his official position to pressure private broadcasters over their protected commentary, Chairman Carr has betrayed the trust of his office, abused the power of his position, undermined the independence of the press, and violated the constitutional principles he is sworn to uphold: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Chairman Brendan Carr for abusing his position as a Federal regulator to threaten Disney and ABC over constitutionally protected speech;

(2) affirms the importance of the First Amendment and the independence of broadcasters and journalists from government coercion; and

(3) calls upon Chairman Carr to immediately retract his threats and recommit himself to respecting the constitutional limitations on his office.

SENATE RESOLUTION 408—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, AS ''NATIONAL LGBTQ+ SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS DAY''

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 408

Whereas lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this preamble as ''LGBTQ+'') servicemembers and veterans have honorably served in the Armed Forces in every war to which the United States was a party, beginning with the Revolutionary War;

Whereas LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans have served in the Armed Forces despite discriminatory policies based on who they love or how they identify;

Whereas, on April 27, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Executive Order 10450 (18 Fed. Reg. 2489; relating to security requirements for Government employment), which declared ''sexual perversion'' and ''treatment for serious mental or neurological disorders'' to be security risks and grounds for denying Federal employment;

Whereas Executive Order 10450, eventually repealed by President Barack Obama in 2017, contributed to the ''Lavender Scare'' of the 1950s by banning gay and lesbian people from working in the Government, including in the Armed Forces, and was similarly applied to transgender people as early as 1960;

Whereas, beginning in 1963, Army medical standards disqualified people with ''behavioral disorders'', which was defined to include transgender people, from service in the Army;

Whereas, for 30 years, beginning in the mid-1980s, Department of Defense regulations declared transgender people to be both physically and mentally disordered and abnormal and continued to disqualify transgender people from military service;

Whereas, in 1982, the Department of Defense implemented a policy stating that ''homosexuality is incompatible with military service'', and between 1980 and 1990, an average of 1,500 military servicemembers were discharged every year on the basis of their sexual orientation;

Whereas, in 1993, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (Public Law 103–160; 107 Stat. 1547), Congress enacted the ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy, which declared that the presence of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in the Armed Forces was an ''unacceptable risk'' to morale, good order, discipline, and unit cohesion, and required the Armed Forces to discharge servicemembers who—

(1) engaged in, attempted to engage in, or solicited ''homosexual acts'';

(2) stated that they were homosexual or bisexual; or

(3) married or attempted to marry a same-sex partner;

Whereas the Department of Defense has acknowledged that 13,472 personnel were discharged from the Armed Forces under the ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy, and an additional 19,365 personnel were discharged between 1980 and 1993 under similar policies that targeted servicemembers based on sexual orientation;

Whereas the White House estimates that more than 100,000 servicemembers have been discharged from the Armed Forces for their sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas, on September 20, 2011, the ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy was officially repealed, 60 days after President Barack Obama approved its repeal on July 22, 2011, by signing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 (10 U.S.C. 654 note; Public Law 111–321);

Whereas, on June 30, 2016, the Department of Defense announced an end to the ban on transgender servicemembers across all components of the Department of Defense;

Whereas, on July 26, 2017, President Donald J. Trump announced that transgender people would not be allowed to serve in the military;

Whereas, on January 25, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed Executive Order 14004 (86 Fed. Reg. 7471; relating to enabling all qualified Americans to serve their country in uniform), which repealed the 2017 ban on transgender military servicemembers;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have taken steps to address the harms done to LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans under these discriminatory policies;

Whereas, in March 2021, the Secretary of Defense announced new policies to undo the President Trump-era rules banning transgender people from serving in the military;

Whereas those policies included a statement that the Defense Health Agency would develop clinical practice guidelines to support the medical treatment of servicemembers with gender dysphoria, a step that has not yet been completed;

Whereas, on June 19, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs would remove the exclusion of gender-affirming surgery from the Veterans Affairs Medical Benefits package, but the Department of Veterans Affairs has yet to fulfill that promise;

Whereas, on September 20, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs issued the ''Benefits Eligibility for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Former Service Members (VIEWS 5810856)'' memorandum detailing how certain former servicemembers discharged under the ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy with ''other than honorable'' discharges could begin to access full veterans benefits;

Whereas, on September 20, 2023, the Deputy Secretary of Defense announced that the Department of Defense would proactively review the military records of certain veterans discharged under the ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy to identify those who may be eligible for discharge upgrades;

Whereas, on April 25, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs posted a final rule eliminating the regulatory bar for ''homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affecting the performance of duty'' as an obstacle to benefits, which could help reduce the disparity that LGBTQ+ veterans face in applying for their benefits;

Whereas, on June 26, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden pardoned veterans who had been convicted in military courts for consensual sodomy between 1951 and 2013 under former article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

Whereas, on January 27, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 14183 (90 Fed. Reg. 8757; relating to prioritizing military excellence and readiness), which reinstated the ban on transgender servicemembers and directed the Department of Defense to end its usage of pronouns and prevent transgender people from using facilities that align with their gender identity;

Whereas, on February 7, 2025, the Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum halting all gender-affirming medical procedures for servicemembers;

Whereas, on February 26, 2025, the Department of Defense announced that transgender and nonbinary servicemembers are ''no longer eligible for military service'' and ''will be processed for separation from military service'';

Whereas, on March 17, 2025, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it will no longer offer gender-affirming hormone therapy to veterans who were not already receiving such care; and

Whereas challenges still exist for LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans seeking equitable treatment in service and access to benefits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 20, 2025, as ''National LGBTQ+ Servicemembers and Veterans Day'';

(2) celebrates the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this resolution as ''LGBTQ+'') servicemembers and veterans who have served in the Armed Forces;

(3) regrets the harm done to LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans under the ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy and earlier policies, bans on transgender servicemembers, and other policies that discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity;

(4) recognizes how ''other than honorable'' and ''dishonorable'' discharges given to LGBTQ+ servicemembers on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity—

(A) prematurely terminated the careers of LGBTQ+ servicemembers in the Armed Forces;

(B) subjected LGBTQ+ servicemembers to the trauma of investigations and criminal charges;

(C) unfairly denied LGBTQ+ servicemembers the honor associated with military service;

(D) deprived LGBTQ+ servicemembers of benefits those servicemembers have earned and deserve as veterans; and

(E) continue to cause LGBTQ+ servicemembers dignitary harm;

(5) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense—

(A) to implement policy changes that restore justice and right wrongs caused by past and present government-sponsored discrimination; and

(B) to conduct further outreach to LGBTQ+ service member and veteran communities to ensure that those discharged based on their sexual orientation and gender identity can receive their benefits;

(6) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to ensure that transgender veterans and servicemembers and their families have access to the full range of health care, including gender-affirming care; and

(7) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to remove the exclusion of gender-affirming surgery from the Veterans Affairs Medical Benefits Package.

SENATE RESOLUTION 409—RECOGNIZING THE 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES AND THE STRONG BILATERAL SECURITY ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS IN THE WAKE OF ESCALATING AGGRESSION AND POLITICAL LAWFARE BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 409

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have maintained diplomatic relations for 79 years, founded on the basis of deeply interconnected strategic and economic interests and close bonds between our two populations;

Whereas the United States-Philippines partnership was forged in blood, as more than 20,000 Americans and hundreds of thousands of Filipinos were killed during the Philippines campaigns during World War II;

Whereas, following the Japanese invasion and occupation of the Philippines from 1941 to 1945, the former United States commonwealth secured its official independence on July 4, 1946;

Whereas, in March 1947, the United States and the Philippines signed a Military Bases Agreement;

Whereas, on August 30, 1951, the United States and the Philippines signed a Mutual Defense Treaty;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty makes clear the United States-Philippine collective intent to resolve international disputes peacefully, undertake separate and joint development of the capacity to resist attack, and consult with one another when the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of the United States or the Philippines is under threat of external armed attack in the Pacific;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty is the foundation of our security alliance and all other enabling defense agreements between the United States and the Philippines, including the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement;

Whereas the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement allows for a strengthened United States military presence in the Philippines to increase bilateral cooperation and interoperability and to provide training to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, with increased rotation of United States military personnel and assistance devoted to strengthening the territorial defense and humanitarian and maritime operations of the Philippines;

Whereas, in February 2023, the United States and the Philippines committed to designating four additional locations under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, increasing the total from five to nine;

Whereas those locations have strategic value for the United States and the Philippines, increase confidence in the alliance, and provide real opportunities for operational cooperation to advance shared security priorities;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty serves as a deterrent against the increasing territorial aggression by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea;

Whereas, in 2009, the People's Republic of China began unlawfully extending its territorial and sovereignty claims in the South China Sea under its ''nine-dash line'' construct, violating the territorial rights and internationally recognized exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas, since 2014, the People's Republic of China has substantially expanded its ability to monitor and project power throughout the South China Sea via the construction of militarized artificial islands;

Whereas, on September 25, 2015, at the White House, President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping stated that ''China does not intend to pursue militarization'' of the Spratly Islands and China's outposts would not ''target or impact any country'';

Whereas, on July 12, 2016, the arbitral tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea unanimously decided to invalidate the People's Republic of China's claim to nearly 90 percent of the South China Sea, including areas determined by the tribunal to be part of the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and continental shelf;

Whereas, despite the decision being final and legally binding, the People's Republic of China, which refused to participate in the arbitration, has continued to reject and further violate the decision;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has employed a variety of assertive and aggressive tactics against the Philippines, including through its coast guard, research vessels, and commercial maritime vessels, to coerce and enforce its arbitrary and unlawful territorial claims in the South China Sea, such as by ramming, shadowing, blocking, encircling, firing water cannons at, and using military-grade lasers against Philippine civilian ships and military vessels;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has repeatedly denied the Philippines from lawfully delivering humanitarian supplies to

members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines stationed at the BRP Sierra Madre at Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas, on June 17, 2024, coast guard sailors from the People's Republic of China brandished knives and other weapons in a clash with Philippine naval vessels attempting to resupply marines on Second Thomas Shoal, resulting in a severe injury to a member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;

Whereas, on August 27, 2024, the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel Paparo, said the United States military is open to consultations with the Philippines about escorting Philippine ships delivering food and other supplies to the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the South China Sea;

Whereas, on December 4, 2024, Chinese Coast Guard and PLA Navy vessels conducted dangerous maneuvers near Scarborough Shoal, deploying water cannons against Philippine Coast Guard vessels;

Whereas, on February 18, 2025, a Chinese PLA Navy helicopter flew as close as 3 meters above a Philippine aircraft conducting a routine flight over Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas in March 2025, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth visited the Philippines for his first trip to an Indo-Pacific partner, and committed to deploy additional advanced military capabilities to the Philippines, conduct bilateral training between both nations for high-end operations, prioritize bilateral defense industrial cooperation, and launch a bilateral cyber campaign;

Whereas, in April 2025, the Chinese Coast Guard temporarily deployed on Sandy Cay, an unoccupied reef located two miles from Manila's largest outpost in the South China Sea, and placed a Chinese flag, indicating an intention to annex, expand, and possibly militarize the feature;

Whereas, in May 2025, the United States and the Philippines conducted Exercise Balikatan 2025, the largest-ever iteration in its 40-year history that included participation by more than 14,000 U.S., Filipino, Australian, and Japanese service members as well as the first deployment of the Navy-Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS);

Whereas, on August 11, 2025, a China Coast Guard vessel executed a dangerous maneuver and collided with a Chinese Navy vessel as it was harassing a Philippine Coast Guard vessel conducting a humanitarian mission within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone at Scarborough Shoal; and

Whereas August 30, 2025, marked the 74th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 74th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines and the longstanding alliance between our two nations;

(2) appreciates the trust of the Philippine people in the bilateral alliance and their support for increased defense cooperation and United States military presence in the Philippines;

(3) acknowledges the determination of the people and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to resist coercion by the People's Republic of China;

(4) condemns the People's Republic of China's unprovoked aggression and political lawfare in the South China Sea to enforce its unlawful territorial and sovereignty claims;

(5) rejects the People's Republic of China's coercive and destabilizing plans to establish a so-called ''national nature reserve'' at Scarborough Reef;

(6) reaffirms that Article IV of the Mutual Defense Treaty extends to armed attacks on the Armed Forces, public vessels, or aircraft of the Philippines, including the Philippine Coast Guard, anywhere in the South China Sea;

(7) considers aggression by the People's Republic of China in the Philippines' internationally recognized exclusive economic zone to be a direct assault on its sovereignty and territorial integrity;

(8) urges the President to continue to take appropriate and necessary actions in response to escalatory behavior of the People's Republic of China in order to restore deterrence and help the Philippines defend itself;

(9) supports the unwavering commitment of the United States to deepening security cooperation with the Philippines, including advancing Philippine defense modernization and enhancing interoperability through military exercises, training, joint patrols, and increased information sharing;

(10) supports other nations growing their political and security partnerships with the Philippines;

(11) commits to advance cooperation among the United States, the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, and Australia; and

(12) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the right to freedom of navigation and overflight, respecting maritime rights under international law, and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

SENATE RESOLUTION 410—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO RECOGNIZE A DEMILITARIZED STATE OF PALESTINE, AS CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE PRINCIPLES OF A TWO-STATE SOLUTION, ALONGSIDE A SECURE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 410

Whereas, in 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 181, calling for the partition of Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, with international recognition;

Whereas, in 1967, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 242, establishing the concept of ''land for peace'';

Whereas, in 1988, the Palestine National Council formally declared the establishment of the State of Palestine, which the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged in subsequent resolutions;

Whereas, in 2012, the United Nations General Assembly voted to grant Palestine nonmember observer state status based on pre-1967 borders;

Whereas over 140 of the 193 United Nations member states currently recognize Palestinian statehood, including major United States allies;

Whereas administrations of both political parties in the United States have long affirmed that a negotiated two-state solution is the only viable path to an enduring peace in the region;

Whereas acts of terrorism and violence by Hamas and other terrorist groups, as well as their rejection of the State of Israel as a national homeland for the Jewish people, obstruct prospects for peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians;

Whereas the holding of free, fair, and inclusive Palestinian elections is essential for renewing legitimacy, national unity, and paving the way for meaningful negotiations toward an enduring two-state solution;

Whereas actions and policies by the Government of Israel rejecting a two-state solution, including the July 2024 vote in the Knesset declaring opposition to Palestinian statehood, intentional expansion of settlements in the West Bank, proposals of annexation, and the deepening of the occupation, further undermine prospects for peace and regional security;

Whereas key Arab countries in the Middle East, most notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have expressed a willingness to normalize diplomatic and economic relations with the State of Israel if there is a clear and irreversible pathway towards Palestinian statehood;

Whereas the July 29, 2025, New York Declaration led by France and Saudi Arabia along with a number of key Arab and European countries condemned the October 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas, insisted that Hamas must not govern Gaza after the war, and reaffirmed their commitment to the recognition of a Palestinian state;

Whereas, in an August 30, 2025 letter, Palestinian Vice President Hussein al-Sheikh wrote to Secretary of State Rubio that the Palestinian Authority (PA) is ''committed to peace, non-violence, and the principle of one authority, one government, one law, and one legitimate security force, and confirmed PA commitment for a demilitarized state''; and

Whereas failure to advance a two-state solution risks entrenching an unacceptable permanent occupation, further destabilizing the region, and undermining United States interests and values: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the President to recognize a demilitarized State of Palestine, as consistent with international law and the principles of a two-state solution, alongside a secure State of Israel;

(2) reaffirms that a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in mutual recognition and dignity, must provide for Israel's security and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination;

(3) urges the Palestinian Authority to follow through on commitments it has made to European partners as part of the recognition process, hold elections in 2026 and continue implementing key reforms to ensure there is democratic legitimacy in securing self-determination for the Palestinian people;

(4) recognizes that the current trajectory of settlement expansion, annexation, rejection of Palestinian statehood, and ongoing violence and acts of terrorism is incompatible with peace and must end;

(5) believes there is a historic opportunity to simultaneously pursue a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a comprehensive regional peace between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors, unlocking the potential for a more secure and prosperous Middle East;

(6) calls on Hamas to end its campaign of terrorism, lay down its arms, and provide for the unconditional release of all hostages, and also calls on Israel to take immediate steps to end the war in Gaza and surge humanitarian aid into the territory; and

(7) calls upon Israeli and Palestinian leaders, together with the Arab world and international community, to begin working on post-conflict security, governance, and reconstruction that leads to a comprehensive peace agreement with Israel at peace with all of its neighbors, including the State of Palestine.

SENATE RESOLUTION 411—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2025, AS ''NATIONAL HAZING AWARENESS WEEK''

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 411

Whereas hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against another person regardless of the willingness of that person to participate, that—

(1) is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization; and

(2) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury;

Whereas 55 percent of college students involved in extracurricular clubs, athletic teams, and organizations reported experiencing hazing;

Whereas a hazing prevention policy is vital to help shape expectations for safe campus communities where healthy group behaviors, ethical leadership, and feelings of positive well-being and belonging are fostered;

Whereas the Stop Campus Hazing Act (Public Law 118–173; 138 Stat. 2597) was signed into law in December 2024 to enhance hazing prevention efforts on college campuses by requiring institutions of higher education to include hazing incidents in their annual security reports, provide hazing prevention education, and report findings of responsibility for campus hazing policy violations in a Campus Hazing Transparency Report, thereby ensuring greater transparency and accountability in addressing hazing nationwide;

Whereas it is recommended that hazing prevention education is broad and includes students, campus staff, administrators, faculty, alumni, and beyond;

Whereas hundreds of students have died as a result of collegiate hazing, including Kristin High on September 9, 2002, Kenitha Saafir on September 9, 2002, Clay Warren on September 21, in 2002, Lynn Gordon ''Gordie'' Bailey, Jr., on September 17, 2004, Matthew Carrington on February 2, 2005, Gary Louis DeVercelly, Jr. on March 30, 2007, Brett Griffin on November 8, 2008, Harrison Kowiak on November 18, 2008, Michael Anthony Smallwood Starks on November 21, 2008, Carson Leonard Starkey on December 2, 2008, George Desdunes on February 25, 2011, Robert Darnell Champion on November 19, 2011, Robert Eugene Tipton Jr. on March 26, 2012, David R. Bogenberger on November 2, 2012, Marvell Edmonson on April 20, 2013, Jauwan M. Holmes on April 20, 2013, Marquise Braham on March 14, 2014, Dalton Debrick on August 24, 2014, Tucker W. Hipps on September 22, 2014, Nolan Michael Burch on November 14, 2014, Timothy J. Piazza on February 4, 2017, Maxwell ''Max'' Raymond Gruver on September 14, 2017, Andrew Coffey on November 3, 2017, Alexander Levi Rainey Beletsis on June 20, 2018, Nicholas ''Nicky'' Antonio Cumberland on October 30, 2018, Collin Wiant on November 12, 2018, Noah Caleb Domingo on January 12, 2019, Bea Castro on March 17, 2019, Justin King on September 14, 2019, Antonio ''Anthony'' Tsialas on October 24, 2019, Samuel ''Sam'' Martinez on November 12, 2019, Adam Jeffrey Oakes on February 27, 2021, Stone Justin Foltz on March 7, 2021, Lofton Hazelwood on October 18, 2021, Phat Anh Nguyen on November 20, 2021, Luke Tyler on January 22, 2023, and Caleb Wilson on February 27, 2025;

Whereas students have suffered severe, life-altering injuries as a result of collegiate hazing, including Danny Santulli on October 19, 2021; and

Whereas hazing has a lasting, harmful, and deadly impact, and preventing hazing must be prioritized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 22 through September 26, 2025, as ''National Hazing Awareness Week'';

(2) acknowledges hazing prevention is not limited to a single week of awareness but is an ongoing commitment; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Hazing Awareness Week through promoting hazing awareness and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 412—AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; which was placed on the executive calendar:

S. RES. 412

Resolved, That it shall be in order to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

(1) Calendar Number 62: Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2031 (Reappointment).

(2) Calendar Number 86: James Baehr, of Louisiana, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) Calendar Number 92: Patrick David Davis, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

(4) Calendar Number 126: Leah Campos, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

(5) Calendar Number 127: Brandon Judd, of Idaho, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

(6) Calendar Number 128: Joseph Popolo, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

(7) Calendar Number 143: Catherine Jereza, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Electricity).

(8) Calendar Number 155: Ned Mamula, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(9) Calendar Number 158: David Fink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

(10) Calendar Number 159: Pierre Gentin, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

(11) Calendar Number 160: David Fogel, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service.

(12) Calendar Number 163: Devon Westhill, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

(13) Calendar Number 164: Kirsten Baesler, of North Dakota, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

(14) Calendar Number 168: Wayne Palmer, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

(15) Calendar Number 169: Julie Hocker, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(16) Calendar Number 170: Marco Rajkovich, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2030 (Reappointment)

(17) Calendar Number 178: John Busterud, of California, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

(18) Calendar Number 181: Stanley Woodward, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Attorney General.

(19) Calendar Number 196: Janet Dhillon, of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of 5 years.

(20) Calendar Number 252: David Keeling, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(21) Calendar Number 253: Kimberly Richey, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

(22) Calendar Number 255: Jonathan Berry, of Maryland, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

(23) Calendar Number 256: Andrew Rogers, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

(24) Calendar Number 265: Marc Andersen, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

(25) Calendar Number 268: James Woodruff II, of Florida, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of 7 years expiring March 1, 2032.

(26) Calendar Number 270: Kevin Rhodes, of Florida, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

(27) Calendar Number 272: Usha-Maria Turner, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(28) Calendar Number 275: Hung Cao, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

(29) Calendar Number 284: John Dever, of Illinois, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(30) Calendar Number 299: Joseph Barloon, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

(31) Calendar Number 300: Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

(32) Calendar Number 304: Craig Trainor, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(33) Calendar Number 306: Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

(34) Calendar Number 307: David Peters, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

(35) Calendar Number 310: Mary Riley, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

(36) Calendar Number 311: Brian Christine, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(37) Calendar Number 312: Jonathan Snare, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2029.

(38) Calendar Number 313: David Brian Castillo, of Washington, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor.

(39) Calendar Number 314: David Barker, of Iowa, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

(40) Calendar Number 315: Brittany Panuccio, of Florida, to be a Member of the

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2029.

(41) Calendar Number 323: Michael Boren, of Idaho, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

(42) Calendar Number 341: Audrey Robertson, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy).

(43) Calendar Number 342: Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

(44) Calendar Number 345: Taylor Jordan, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

(45) Calendar Number 347: Derek Barrs, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

(46) Calendar Number 348: Michael Rutherford, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation (New Position).

(47) Calendar Number 349: Gregory Zerzan, of Texas, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

(48) Calendar Number 355: Christopher Fox, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(49) Calendar Number 357: Alex Adams, of Idaho, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

(50) Calendar Number 358: Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

(51) Calendar Number 359: Macon Hughes, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(52) Calendar Number 360: Philip Weinberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

(53) Calendar Number 361: Timothy John Walsh, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

(54) Calendar Number 363: Gustav Chiarello III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(55) Calendar Number 364: Michael Stuart, of West Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(56) Calendar Number 367: William Kirkland, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

(57) Calendar Number 368: Laura Swett, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2030.

(58) Calendar Number 369: David LaCerte, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026.

(59) Calendar Number 374: Arch Capito, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of 4 years.

(60) Calendar Number 375: David Dunavant, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years.

(61) Calendar Number 376: Matthew Harvey, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of 4 years.

(62) Calendar Number 377: John Heekin, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida for the term of 4 years.

(63) Calendar Number 378: Leif Olson, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years.

(64) Calendar Number 379: Adam Sleeper, of the Virgin Islands, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of 4 years.

(65) Calendar Number 380: David Toepfer, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years.

(66) Calendar Number 381: Kurt Alme, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana, for the term of 4 years.

(67) Calendar Number 382: Nicholas Chase, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of 4 years.

(68) Calendar Number 383: Bart McKay Davis, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of 4 years.

(69) Calendar Number 384: David Metcalf, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years.

(70) Calendar Number 385: Lesley Murphy, of Nebraska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska for the term of 4 years.

(71) Calendar Number 386: Ronald A. Parsons, Jr., of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of 4 years.

(72) Calendar Number 387: Kurt Wall, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years.

(73) Calendar Number 388: David Charles Waterman, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years.

(74) Calendar Number 389: Daniel Rosen, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of 4 years.

(75) Calendar Number 391: Somers Farkas, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

(76) Calendar Number 392: Nicole McGraw, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

(77) Calendar Number 393: 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.

(78) Calendar Number 394: Herschel Walker, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

(79) Calendar Number 395: Stacey Feinberg, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

(80) Calendar Number 396: Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Denmark.

(81) Calendar Number 397: Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Morocco.

(82) Calendar Number 398: Bill Bazzi, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia.

(83) Calendar Number 399: Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador.

(84) Calendar Number 400: Howard Brodie, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

(85) Calendar Number 401: Arthur Fisher, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Austria.

(86) Calendar Number 402: Melinda Hildebrand, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

(87) Calendar Number 403: Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic.

(88) Calendar Number 404: Nicholas Merrick, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic.

(89) Calendar Number 405: Roman Pipko, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

(90) Calendar Number 406: Thomas Rose, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Poland.

(91) Calendar Number 407: William White, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Belgium.

(92) Calendar Number 408: John Giordano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia.

(93) Calendar Number 409: Anjani Sinha, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore.

(94) Calendar Number 411: Sean O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand.

(95) Calendar Number 412: Julie Stufft, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

(96) Calendar Number 413: 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.

(97) Calendar Number 414: Sergio Gor, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of India.

(98) Calendar Number 415: 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.

(99) Calendar Number 416: 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.

(100) Calendar Number 417: Jacob Helberg, of Florida, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment).

(101) Calendar Number 418: Benjamin Black, of New York, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

(102) Calendar Number 419: Thomas DiNanno, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

(103) Calendar Number 420: Paul Kapur, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

(104) Calendar Number 423: Sarah Rogers, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

(105) Calendar Number 424: Michael DeSombre, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

(106) Calendar Number 426: Riley Barnes, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor).

(107) Calendar Number 427: Todd Wilcox, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Diplomatic Security).

(108) Calendar Number 428: Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

SENATE RESOLUTION 413—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO SENATORS

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 413

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PAYMENTS FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AND SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Senate Resolution 294 (96th Congress), agreed to April 29, 1980, is amended—

(1) in the first section, by striking ''section 3'' and inserting ''sections 3 and 4'';

(2) by redesignating section 4 as section 5; and

(3) by inserting after section 3 the following new section:

''SEC. 4. (a) Each Senator may use funds made available to the Senator from the Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account to pay for the cost of necessary security enhancements and services pursuant to the fifth paragraph under the heading of 'Senate' under the heading of 'Under Legislative' of the Act of February 11, 1902 (32 Stat. 26, chapter 17; 2 U.S.C. 6505).

''(b) The Committee on Rules and Administration may promulgate regulations implementing this section.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding section 5 of Senate Resolution 294 (96th Congress), agreed to April 29, 1980, as so redesignated, the amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to expenses incurred on or after the date of adoption of this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3901. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3902. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3903. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3904. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3905. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3906. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3907. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3908. Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3901. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION E—ROAD TO HOUSING ACT

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025'' or the ''ROAD to Housing Act of 2025''.

SEC. 5002. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this division is as follows:

DIVISION E—ROAD TO HOUSING ACT
Sec. 5001. Short title.
Sec. 5002. Table of contents.
TITLE I—IMPROVING FINANCIAL LITERACY
Sec. 5101. Reforms to housing counseling and financial literacy programs.
TITLE II—BUILDING MORE IN AMERICA
Sec. 5201. Rental assistance demonstration program.
Sec. 5202. Increasing housing in opportunity zones.
Sec. 5203. Housing Supply Frameworks Act.
Sec. 5204. Whole-Home Repairs Act.
Sec. 5205. Community Investment and Prosperity Act.
Sec. 5206. Build Now Act.
Sec. 5207. Better Use of Intergovernmental and Local Development (BUILD) Housing Act.
Sec. 5208. Unlocking Housing Supply Through Streamlined and Modernized Reviews Act.
Sec. 5209. Innovation Fund.
Sec. 5210. Accelerating Home Building Act.
Sec. 5211. Build More Housing Near Transit Act.
Sec. 5212. Revitalizing Empty Structures Into Desirable Environments (RESIDE) Act.
Sec. 5213. Housing Affordability Act.
TITLE III—MANUFACTURED HOUSING FOR AMERICA
Sec. 5301. Housing Supply Expansion Act.
Sec. 5302. Modular Housing Production Act.
Sec. 5303. Property Improvement and Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act.
Sec. 5304. Price Act.
TITLE IV—ACCESSING THE AMERICAN DREAM
Sec. 5401. Creating incentives for small dollar loan originators.
Sec. 5402. Small dollar mortgage points and fees.
Sec. 5403. Appraisal Industry Improvement Act.
Sec. 5404. Helping More Families Save Act.
Sec. 5405. Choice in Affordable Housing Act.
TITLE V—PROGRAM REFORM
Sec. 5501. Reforming Disaster Recovery Act.
Sec. 5502. HOME Investment Partnerships Reauthorization and Improvement Act.
Sec. 5503. Rural Housing Service Reform Act.
Sec. 5504. New Moving to Work cohort.
Sec. 5505. Reducing Homelessness Through Program Reform Act.
Sec. 5506. Incentivizing local solutions to homelessness.
TITLE VI—VETERANS AND HOUSING
Sec. 5601. VA Home Loan Awareness Act.
Sec. 5602. Veterans Affairs Loan Informed Disclosure (VALID) Act.
Sec. 5603. Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act.
TITLE VII—OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
Sec. 5701. Requiring annual testimony and oversight from housing regulators.
Sec. 5702. FHA reporting requirements on safety and soundness.
Sec. 5703. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness oversight.
Sec. 5704. NeighborWorks Accountability Act.
Sec. 5705. Appraisal Modernization Act.
TITLE VIII—COORDINATION, STUDIES, AND REPORTING
Sec. 5801. HUD-USDA-VA Interagency Coordination Act.
Sec. 5802. Streamlining Rural Housing Act.
Sec. 5803. Improving self-sufficiency of families in HUD-subsidized housing.

TITLE I—IMPROVING FINANCIAL LITERACY

SEC. 5101. REFORMS TO HOUSING COUNSELING AND FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701x) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4)(C), by striking ''adequate distribution'' and all that follows through ''foreclosure rates'' and inserting ''that the recipients are geographically diverse and include organizations that serve urban or rural areas'';

(2) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following:

''(6) PERFORMANCE REVIEW.—The Secretary—

''(A) may conduct periodic on-site reviews; and

''(B) shall conduct performance reviews of all participating agencies that—

''(i) consists of a review of the participating agency's compliance with all program requirements; and

''(ii) may take into account the agency's aggregate counselor performance under paragraph (7)(B).

''(7) CONSIDERATIONS.—

''(A) COVERED MORTGAGE LOAN DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered mortgage

loan' means any loan which is secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential real property (including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives) designed principally for the occupancy of between 1 and 4 families that is—

''(i) insured by the Federal Housing Administration under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.); or

''(ii) guaranteed under section 184 or 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a, 1715z–13b).

''(B) COMPARISON.—For each counselor employed by an organization receiving assistance under this section for pre-purchase housing counseling, the Secretary may consider the performance of the counselor compared to the default rate of all counseled borrowers of a covered mortgage loan in comparable markets and such other factors as the Secretary determines appropriate to further the purposes of this section.

''(8) CERTIFICATION.—If, based on the comparison required under paragraph (7)(B), the Secretary determines that a counselor lacks competence to provide counseling in the areas described in subsection (e)(2) and such action will not create a significant loss of capacity for housing counseling services in the service area, the Secretary may—

''(A) require continued education coupled with successful completion of a probationary period;

''(B) require retesting if the counselor continues to demonstrate a lack of competence under paragraph (7)(B); and

''(C) permanently suspend an individual certification if a counselor fails to demonstrate competence after not fewer than 2 retesting opportunities under subparagraph (B).'';

(3) in subsection (i)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may deny renewal of covered assistance to an organization or entity receiving covered assistance if the Secretary determines that the organization or entity, or the individual through which the organization or entity provides counseling, is not in compliance with program requirements—

''(i) based on the performance review described in subsection (e)(6); and

''(ii) in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary.

''(B) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall give an organization or entity receiving covered assistance not less than 60 days prior written notice of any denial of renewal under this paragraph, and the determination of renewal shall not be finalized until the end of that notice period.

''(C) INFORMAL CONFERENCE.—If requested in writing by the organization or entity within the notice period described in subparagraph (B), the organization or entity shall be entitled to an informal conference with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Housing Counseling on behalf of the Secretary at which the organization or entity may present for consideration of specific factors that the organization or entity believes were beyond the control of the organization or entity and that caused the failure to comply with program requirements, such as a lack of lender or servicer coordination or communication with housing counseling agencies and individual counselors.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) OFFERING FORECLOSURE MITIGATION COUNSELING.—

''(1) COVERED MORTGAGE LOAN DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered mortgage loan' means any loan which is secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential real property (including individual units of condominiums) or stock or membership in a cooperative ownership housing corporation designed principally for the occupancy of between 1 and 4 families that is—

''(A) insured by the Federal Housing Administration under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.);

''(B) guaranteed under section 184 or 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a, 1715z–13b);

''(C) made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

''(D) made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Agriculture.

''(2) OPPORTUNITY FOR BORROWERS.—A borrower with respect to a covered mortgage loan who is 30 days or more delinquent on payments for the covered mortgage loan shall be given an opportunity to participate in available housing counseling.

''(3) COST.—If the requirements of sections 202(a)(3) and 205(f) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(a)(3), 1711(f)) are met, the fair market rate cost of counseling for delinquent borrowers described in paragraph (2) with respect to a covered mortgage loan described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be paid for by the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, as authorized under section 203(r)(4) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(r)(4)).''.

TITLE II—BUILDING MORE IN AMERICA

SEC. 5201. RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

The language under the heading ''RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION'' in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 673) is amended—

(1) in the second proviso, by striking ''until September 30, 2029'' and inserting ''for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter'';

(2) by striking the fourth proviso;

(3) in the twentieth proviso, as so designated before the date of enactment of this Act, by striking ''or other means:'' and inserting ''or other means, including the adoption of a mandatory tenant lease and management plan addendum for a property with assistance converted, if not otherwise covered by another program, under this demonstration:''

(4) by striking the twenty-second proviso, as so designated before the date of enactment of this Act;

(5) in the twenty-seventh, thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-second, thirty-third, and thirty-forth provisos, as so designated before the date of enactment of this Act, by striking ''Second Component'' each place the term appears and inserting ''First Component''; and

(6) by striking ''vouchers to project-based vouchers.'' and inserting ''vouchers to project-based vouchers: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall annually assess and publish findings regarding the impact of the conversion of assistance under the First Component of the demonstration with respect to the preservation and improvement of public housing, the amount of private sector leveraging resulting from such conversion transactions, the prevalence of pre-conversion residents remaining in or returning to the property following conversion, and the effect of such conversion on tenants, including the impact of such conversion on the rights maintained by tenants as enumerated in regulations and other documents conferring rights upon tenants as developed by the Secretary, and other matters the Secretary may determine appropriate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may take remediative action or impose civil money penalties or other administrative sanctions for material violations of a requirement under the demonstration: *Provided further*, That nothing in the matter under this heading shall be construed to diminish, impair, or otherwise affect the rights of property owners or tenants as enumerated in current law and regulations: *Provided further*, That all property owner rights, including those related to ownership, management, and contractual obligations, shall continue to apply and be respected following a Rental Assistance Demonstration Program conversion: *Provided further*, That all tenant protections and rights established in current law and regulations shall remain fully in effect for properties converted under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program.''.

SEC. 5202. INCREASING HOUSING IN OPPORTUNITY ZONES.

(a) COVERED GRANT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered grant'' means any competitive grant relating to the construction, modification, rehabilitation, or preservation of housing, as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) PRIORITY.—When awarding a covered grant, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may give additional weight to applicants located in, or that primarily serve, a community that has been designated as a qualified opportunity zone under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 5203. HOUSING SUPPLY FRAMEWORKS ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States is facing a housing supply shortage. This housing supply shortage has resulted in a record number of cost-burdened households across regions and spanning the large and small cities, towns, and coastal and rural communities of the United States.

(2) Several factors contribute to the undersupply of housing in the United States, particularly workforce housing, including rising costs of construction, a shortage of labor, supply chain disruptions, and a lack of reliable funding sources.

(3) Regulatory barriers at the State and local levels, such as zoning and land use regulations, also inhibit the creation of new housing to meet local and regional housing needs.

(4) State and local governments are proactively exploring solutions for reforming regulatory barriers, but additional resources, data, and models can help adequately address these challenges.

(5) While land use regulation is the responsibility of State and local governments, there is Federal support for necessary reforms, and there is an opportunity for the Federal Government to provide support and assistance to State and local governments that wish to undertake necessary reforms in a manner that fits their communities' needs.

(6) Therefore, zoning ordinances or systems of land use regulation that have the intent or effect of restricting housing opportunities based on economic status or income without interests that are substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory and that outweigh the regional need for housing are contrary to the regional and national interest.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—The term ''affordable housing'' means housing for which the monthly payment is not more than 30 percent of the monthly income of the household.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(3) LOCAL ZONING FRAMEWORK.—The term ''local zoning framework'' means the local

zoning codes and other ordinances, procedures, and policies governing zoning and land-use at the local level.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(5) STATE ZONING FRAMEWORK.—The term ''State zoning framework'' means the State legislation or State agency and department procedures, or such legislation or procedures in an insular area of the United States, enabling local planning and zoning authorities and establishing and guiding related policies and programs.

(c) GUIDELINES ON STATE AND LOCAL ZONING FRAMEWORKS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall publish documents outlining guidelines and best practices to support production of adequate housing to meet the needs of communities and provide housing opportunities for individuals at every income level across communities with respect to—

(A) State zoning frameworks; and

(B) local zoning frameworks.

(2) CONSULTATION; PUBLIC COMMENT.—During the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, in developing the guidelines and best practices required under paragraph (1), the Assistant Secretary shall—

(A) publish draft guidelines in the Federal Register for public comment; and

(B) establish a task force for the purpose of providing consultation to draft guidelines published under subparagraph (A), the members of which shall include—

(i) planners and architects;

(ii) housing developers, including affordable and market-rate housing developers, manufactured housing developers, and other business interests;

(iii) community engagement experts and community members impacted by zoning decisions;

(iv) public housing authorities and transit authorities;

(v) members of local zoning and planning boards and local and regional transportation planning organizations;

(vi) State officials responsible for housing or land use, including members of State zoning boards of appeals;

(vii) academic researchers; and

(viii) home builders.

(3) CONTENTS.—The guidelines and best practices required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) with respect to State zoning frameworks, outline potential models for updated State enabling legislation or State agency and department procedures;

(B) include recommendations regarding—

(i) the reduction or elimination of parking minimums;

(ii) the increase in maximum floor area ratio requirements and maximum building heights and the reduction in minimum lot sizes and set-back requirements;

(iii) the elimination of restrictions against accessory dwelling units;

(iv) increasing by-right uses, including duplex, triplex, or quadplex buildings, across cities or metropolitan areas;

(v) mechanisms, including proximity to transit, to determine the appropriate scope for rezoning and ensure development that does not disproportionately burden residents of economically distressed areas;

(vi) provisions regarding review of by-right development proposals to streamline review and reduce uncertainty, including—

(I) nondiscretionary, ministerial review; and

(II) entitlement and design review processes;

(vii) the reduction of obstacles, regulatory or otherwise, to a range of housing types at all levels of affordability, including manufactured and modular housing;

(viii) State model zoning regulations for directing local reforms, including mechanisms to encourage adoption;

(ix) provisions to encourage transit-oriented development, including increased permissible units per structure and reduced minimum lot sizes near existing or planned public transit stations;

(x) potential reforms to strengthen the public engagement process;

(xi) reforms to protest petition statutes;

(xii) the standardization, reduction, or elimination of impact fees;

(xiii) cost effective and appropriate building codes;

(xiv) models for community benefit agreements;

(xv) mechanisms to preserve affordability, limit disruption of low-income communities, and prevent displacement of existing residents;

(xvi) with respect to State zoning frameworks—

(I) State model codes for directing local reforms, including mechanisms to encourage adoption;

(II) a model for a State zoning appeals process, which would—

(aa) create a process for developers or builders requesting a variance, conditional use, special permit, zoning district change, similar discretionary permit, or otherwise petitioning a local zoning or planning board for a project including a State-defined amount of affordable housing to appeal a rejection to a State body or regional body empowered by the State; and

(bb) establish qualifications for communities to be exempted from the appeals process based on their available stock of affordable housing; and

(III) streamlining of State environmental review policies;

(xvii) with respect to local zoning frameworks—

(I) the simplification and standardization of existing zoning codes;

(II) maximum review timelines;

(III) best practices for the disposition of land owned by local governments for affordable housing development;

(IV) differentiations between best practices for rural, suburban, and urban communities, and communities with different levels of density or population distribution; and

(V) streamlining of local environmental review policies; and

(xviii) other land use measures that promote access to new housing opportunities identified by the Secretary; and

(C) consider—

(i) the effects of adopting any recommendation on eligibility for Federal discretionary grants and tax credits for the purpose of housing or community development;

(ii) coordination between infrastructure investments and housing planning;

(iii) local housing needs, including ways to set and measure housing goals and targets;

(iv) a range of affordability for rental units, with a prioritization of units attainable to extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income residents;

(v) a range of affordability for homeownership;

(vi) accountability measures;

(vii) the long-term cost to residents and businesses if more housing is not constructed;

(viii) barriers to individuals seeking to access affordable housing in growing communities and communities with economic opportunity;

(ix) with respect to State zoning frameworks—

(I) distinctions between States providing constitutional or statutory home rule authority to municipalities and States operating under the Dillon Rule, as articulated in Hunter v. Pittsburgh, 207 U.S. 161 (1907); and

(II) Statewide mechanisms to preserve existing affordability over the long term, including support for land banks and community land trusts;

(x) public comments elicited under paragraph (2)(A); and

(xi) other considerations, as identified by the Secretary.

(d) ABOLISHMENT OF THE REGULATORY BARRIERS CLEARINGHOUSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse established pursuant to section 1205 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 12705d) is abolished.

(2) REPEAL.—Section 1205 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 12705d) is repealed.

(e) REPORTING.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which the Assistant Secretary publishes the guidelines and best practices for State and local zoning frameworks, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(A) the States that have adopted recommendations from the guidelines and best practices, pursuant to subsection (c);

(B) a summary of the localities that have adopted recommendations from the guidelines and best practices, pursuant to subsection (c);

(C) a list of States that adopted a State zoning framework;

(D) a summary of the modifications that each State has made in their State zoning framework;

(E) a general summary of the types of updates localities have made to their local zoning framework;

(F) of the States that have adopted a State zoning framework or recommendations from the guidelines and best practices, the effect of such adoptions; and

(G) a summary of recommendations that were routinely not adopted by States or by localities.

(2) MONITORING.—Two years after the date which the Assistant Secretary submits to Congress the initial report required under paragraph (1), and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) publish a report that—

(i) provides the latest information regarding the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of that paragraph;

(ii) identifies, to the greatest extent practicable, the adoption rates by States and localities of each guideline and best practice established under subsection (c);

(iii) requests and establishes a public comment period on the guidelines and best practices established under subsection (c) that are routinely not adopted or adopted at significantly lower rates by States and localities; and

(iv) includes other relevant information and criteria, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) review and consider all public feedback to the report required under subparagraph (A) for the purpose of improving the guidelines or best practices under subsection (c) to further achieve the zoning goals stated in subsection (a).

(f) GAO REPORT ON HOUSING SUPPLY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of

the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that investigates barriers to housing supply, which shall include an assessment of—

(1) the current state of—

(A) the rental and homeowner housing supply shortage;

(B) geographic patterns of that shortage;

(C) shortages in housing at various levels of affordability; and

(D) shortages in housing appropriate for seniors, families with children, and people with disabilities;

(2) the key drivers of the shortages described in paragraph (1);

(3) regulatory, administrative, or procedural barriers that exist in Federal housing programs that inhibit housing development, and policy actions that can be taken to address those barriers;

(4) the extent to which jurisdictions have successfully implemented zoning or other policy reforms to increase housing production and supply; and

(5) opportunities for increasing coordination between the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Treasury, and other agencies to address housing supply.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to permit the Department of Housing and Urban Development to take an adverse action against or fail to provide otherwise offered actions or services for any State or locality if the State or locality declines to adopt a guideline or best practice under subsection (c).

SEC. 5204. WHOLE-HOME REPAIRS ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE UNIT.—The term ''affordable unit'' means a unit for which the monthly rental payment is not more than 30 percent of the gross income of an individual earning at or below 80 percent of the area median income, as defined by the Secretary.

(2) ASSISTED UNIT.—The term ''assisted unit'' means a unit that undergoes repair or rehabilitation work through a whole-home repairs program administered by an implementing organization under this section.

(3) ELIGIBLE HOMEOWNER.—The term ''eligible homeowner'' means a homeowner—

(A) with a household income that—

(i) is not more than 80 percent of the area median income; or

(ii) meets the income eligibility requirements for receiving assistance or benefits under a specified program, as defined in paragraph (11); and

(B) who is—

(i) an owner of record as evidenced by a publicly recorded deed and occupies the home on which repairs are to be conducted as their principal residence;

(ii) an owner-occupant of the manufactured home on which repairs are to be conducted; or

(iii) an owner who can demonstrate an ownership interest in the property on which repairs are to be conducted, including a person who has inherited an interest in that property.

(4) ELIGIBLE LANDLORD.—The term ''eligible landlord'' means an individual—

(A) who owns, as determined by the relevant implementing organization, fewer than 10 eligible rental properties, with a majority of affordable units and not more than 50 total units, operated as primary residences in which a majority ownership interest is held by the individual, the spouse of the individual, or the dependent children of the individual, or any closely held legal entity controlled by the individual, the spouse of the individual, or the dependent children of the individual, either individually or collectively; and

(B) who agrees to the provisions described in subsection (b)(3).

(5) ELIGIBLE RENTAL PROPERTY.—The term ''eligible rental property'' means a residential property that—

(A) is leased, or offered exclusively for lease, as a primary residence by an eligible landlord; and

(B) includes affordable units.

(6) FORGIVABLE LOAN.—The term ''forgivable loan'' means a loan—

(A) made to an eligible landlord;

(B) that is secured by a lien recorded against a residential property; and

(C) that may be forgiven by the implementing organization not later than the date that is 3 years after the completion of the repairs if the eligible landlord has maintained compliance with the loan agreement described in subsection (b)(3).

(7) IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION.—The term ''implementing organization''—

(A) means a unit of general local government or a State that—

(i) will administer a whole-home repairs program through an agency, department, or other entity; or

(ii) enter into agreements with 1 or more local governments, municipal authorities, other governmental authorities, including a tribally designated housing entity, or qualified nonprofit organizations, to administer a whole-home repairs program as a subrecipient; and

(B) does not include a redundant entity in a jurisdiction already served by a grantee under subsection (b).

(8) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(9) QUALIFIED NONPROFIT.—The term ''qualified nonprofit'' means a nonprofit organization that—

(A) has received funding, as a recipient or subrecipient, through—

(i) the Community Development Block Grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(ii) the HOME Investment Partnerships program under subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.);

(iii) the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction grant program under section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4852) or a grant under the Healthy Homes Initiative administered by the Secretary pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z–1, 1701z–2);

(iv) the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity program authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 12805 note);

(v) a rural housing program under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.); or

(vi) the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation established under the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.);

(B) has coordinated, performed, or otherwise been engaged in weatherization, lead remediation, or home-repair work for not less than 2 years;

(C) has been certified by the Environmental Protection Agency, or by a State authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency to administer a certification program, as—

(i) eligible to carry out activities under the lead renovation, repair and painting program; or

(ii) a Home Certification Organization under the Energy Star program established by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a) or the WaterSense program under section 324B of that Act (42 U.S.C. 6294b), or recognized or otherwise approved by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Home Certification Organization under either of those programs; or

(D) is a community development financial institution, as defined in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702).

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(11) SPECIFIED PROGRAM.—For purposes of paragraph (3)(A)(ii), the term ''specified program'' means any of the following:

(A) The Medicaid program established under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(B) The State Children's Health Insurance Program established under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.).

(C) The supplemental security income benefits program established under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).

(D) The supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(E) The temporary assistance for needy families program established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

(12) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) each State of the United States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) any territory or possession of the United States; and

(E) an Indian tribe.

(13) TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY.—The term ''tribally designated housing entity'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(14) WHOLE-HOME REPAIRS.—The term ''whole-home repairs'' means modifications, repairs, or updates to homeowner or renter-occupied units to address—

(A) physical and sensory accessibility for individuals with disabilities and older adults, such as bathroom and kitchen modifications, installation of grab bars and handrails, guards and guardrails, lifting devices, ramp additions or repairs, sidewalk addition or repair, or doorway or hallway widening;

(B) habitability and safety concerns, such as repairs needed to ensure residential units are fit for human habitation and free from defective conditions or health and safety hazards; or

(C) energy and water efficiency, resilience, and weatherization.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to provide grants to implementing organizations to administer a whole-home repairs program for eligible homeowners and eligible landlords.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An implementing organization that receives a grant under this subsection—

(A) shall provide grants to eligible homeowners to implement whole-home repairs not covered by other Federal home repair programs and up to a maximum amount per unit, which maximum amount should—

(i) reflect local construction costs and the level of repairs needed in each unit; and

(ii) be calculated and approved by the Secretary;

(B) shall provide loans, which may be forgivable, to eligible landlords to implement whole-home repairs not covered by other Federal home repair programs for individual affordable units, public and common use areas within the property, and common structural elements up to a maximum amount per unit, area, or element, as applicable, which maximum amount should—

(i) reflect local construction costs; and

(ii) be calculated and approved by the Secretary;

(C) shall evaluate, or provide assistance to eligible homeowners and eligible landlords to evaluate, whole-home repair program funds provided under this subsection with Federal, State, and local home repair programs to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of eligible landlords and eligible homeowners and avoid duplication of benefits and redundancies;

(D) shall ensure that—

(i) all repairs funded or facilitated through an award under this subsection have been completed;

(ii) if repairs are not completed and the plan for whole-home repairs is not updated to reflect the new scope of work, that the loan or grant is repaid on a prorated basis based on completed work; and

(iii) any unused grant or loan balance is returned to the implementing organization, and is reused by the implementing organization for a new whole-home repair grant or loan under this subsection;

(E) may use not more than 5 percent of the awarded funds to carry out related functions, including workforce training for home repair professions, which shall be related to efforts to increase the number of home repairs performed and approved by the Secretary;

(F) may use not more than 10 percent of the awarded funds for administrative expenses;

(G) shall comply with Federal accessibility requirements and standards under applicable Federal fair housing and civil rights laws and regulations, including section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

(H) shall ensure that rental properties assisted under subparagraph (B) shall be treated as projects assisted under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

(3) LOAN AGREEMENT.—In a loan agreement with an eligible landlord under this subsection, an implementing organization shall include provisions establishing that the eligible landlord shall, for each eligible rental property for which a loan is used to fund repairs under this subsection—

(A) comply with Federal accessibility requirements and standards under applicable Federal fair housing and civil rights laws and regulations, including section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

(B)(i) if the landlord is renting the assisted units available in the eligible rental property to tenants receiving tenant-based rental assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)), under another tenant-based rental assistance program administered by the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture, or under a tenant-based rental subsidy provided by a State or local government, comply with the program requirements under the relevant tenant-based rental assistance program; or

(ii) if the eligible landlord is not renting to tenants receiving rental-based assistance as described in clause (i)—

(I)(aa) offer to extend the lease of current tenants on current terms, other than the terms described in subclause (iv) for not less than 3 years beginning after the completion of the repairs, unless the lease is terminated due to failure to pay rent, performance of an illegal act within the rental unit, or a violation of an obligation of tenancy that the tenants failed to correct after notice; and

(bb) if the tenant of an assisted unit moves out of the assisted unit at any point in the 3-year period following the loan agreement, maintain the unit as an affordable unit for the remainder of the 3-year period;

(II) provide documentation verifying that the property, upon completion of approved renovations, has met all applicable State and local housing and building codes;

(III) attest that the landlord has no known serious violations of renter protections that have resulted in fines, penalties, or judgments during the preceding 10 years; and

(IV) cap annual rent increases for each assisted unit at 5 percent of base rent or inflation, whichever is lower, for not less than 3 years beginning after the completion of the repairs.

(4) APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An implementing organization desiring an award under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application that includes—

(i) the geographic scope of the whole-home repairs program to be administered by the implementing organization, including the plan to address need in any rural, suburban, or urban area within a jurisdiction;

(ii) a plan for selecting subrecipients, if applicable;

(iii) how the implementing organization plans to execute the coordination of Federal, State, and local home repair programs, including programs administered by the Department of Energy or the Department of Agriculture, to increase efficiency and reduce redundancy;

(iv) available data on the need for affordable and quality housing within the geographic scope of the whole-home repairs program, and any plans to preserve affordability through the term of the award;

(v) how the implementing organization plans to process and verify applications for grants from eligible homeowners and applications for loans from eligible landlords; and

(vi) such other information as the Secretary requires to determine the ability of an applicant to carry out a program under this subsection.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making awards under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(i) with respect to applications submitted by States other than the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States, prioritize those applications with a demonstrated plan to—

(I) make a good faith effort to implement the pilot program in every jurisdiction; and

(II) provide non-metropolitan areas, or subrecipients serving non-metropolitan areas if applicable, with a share of total funds commensurate to their population;

(ii) aim to select applicants so that the awardees collectively span diverse geographies, with an intent to understand the impact of the pilot program under this subsection in urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal settings; and

(iii) not disqualify implementing organizations that were awarded grants under the pilot program in prior application cycles.

(5) PROGRAM INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall make available to grant recipients under this subsection information regarding existing Federal programs for which grant recipients may coordinate or provide assistance in coordinating applications for those programs in accordance with paragraph (2)(C).

(6) GRANT NUMBER.—In each year in which an award is made under this subsection, the Secretary shall award assistance to—

(A) not less than 2, and not more than 10, implementing organizations, as application numbers and funding permit; and

(B) not more than 1 implementing organization in any State.

(7) LOANS THAT ARE NOT FORGIVEN.—If a loan made by an implementing organization under paragraph (2)(B) is not forgiven, the loan repayment funds shall be reused by the implementing organization for a new whole-home repair grant or loan under this subsection, which shall remain subject to the original terms of the assistance awarded under this subsection.

(8) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts awarded under this subsection to implementing organizations shall supplement, not supplant, other Federal, State, and local funds made available to those entities.

(9) STREAMLINING PROGRAM DELIVERY AND ENSURING EFFICIENCY.—To the extent possible, in carrying out the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(A) endeavor to improve efficiency of service delivery, as well as the experience of and impact on the taxpayer, by encouraging programmatic collaboration and information sharing across Federal, State, and local programs for home repair or improvement, including programs administered by the Department of the Agriculture; and

(B) enhance collaboration and cross-agency streamlining efforts that reduce the burdens of multiple income verification processes and applications on the eligible homeowner, the eligible landlord, the implementing organization, and the Federal Government, including by establishing assistance application procedures for income eligibility under this subsection that recognize income eligibility determinations for assistance using any of the criteria under subsection (a)(3)(A) that have been used for assistance applications during the 1-year period preceding the date on which an eligible homeowner or eligible landlord applies for assistance under this subsection.

(10) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) ANNUAL REPORT.—An implementing organization that receives a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on initial funding that includes—

(i) the number of units served, including reporting on both homeownership and rental units, as well as accessible units;

(ii) the average cost per unit for modifications or repairs and the nature of those modifications or repairs, including reporting on accessibility and both homeownership and rental units;

(iii) the number of applications received, served, denied, or not completed, disaggregated by geographic area;

(iv) the aggregated demographic data of grant recipients, which may include data on income range, urban, suburban, and rural residency, age, and racial and ethnic identity;

(v) the aggregated demographic data of loan recipients, which may include data on income range, urban, suburban, and rural residency, age, and racial and ethnic identity;

(vi) an affirmation that the implementation organization has complied with the applicable regulations, including compliance with Federal accessibility requirements;

(vii) in the first year of receiving a grant, and as certified in subsequent reports, a comprehensive plan to prevent waste, fraud,

and abuse in the administration of the pilot program, which shall include, at a minimum—

(I) a policy enacted and enforced by the implementing organization to monitor ongoing expenditures under this subsection and ensure compliance with applicable regulations;

(II) a policy enacted and enforced by the implementing organization to detect and deter fraudulent activity, including fraud occurring in individual projects and patterns of fraud by parties involved in the expenditure of funds under this subsection;

(III) a statement setting forth any violations detected by the implementing organization during the previous calendar year, including details about steps taken to achieve compliance and any remedial measures; and

(IV) a certification by the chief executive or most senior compliance officer of the organization that the organization maintains sufficient staff and resources to effectively carry out the above-mentioned policies; and

(viii) such other information as the Secretary may require.

(B) REPORTING REQUIREMENT ALIGNMENT.—To limit the costs of implementing the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall endeavor, to the extent possible, to structure reporting requirements such that they align with the data reporting requirements in place for funding streams that implementing organizations are likely to use in partnership with funding from this subsection, including the reporting requirements under—

(i) the Community Development Block Grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(ii) the HOME Investment Partnerships program under subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.);

(iii) the Weatherization Assistance Program for low-income persons established under part A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.); and

(iv) the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.).

(C) PILOT PROGRAM PERIOD REPORTS.—Not less frequently than twice during the period in which the pilot program established under this subsection operates, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall complete an assessment of the implementation of measures to ensure the fair and legitimate use of the pilot program.

(D) SUMMARY TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives an annual report providing a summary of the data provided under subparagraphs (A) and (C) during the 1-year period preceding the report and all data previously provided under those subparagraphs.

(11) FUNDING.—The Secretary—

(A) is authorized to use up to $30,000,000 of funds made available as provided in appropriations Acts for programs administered by the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes to carry out the pilot program under this subsection; and

(B) shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on the appropriations accounts from which the Secretary will derive the funding under subparagraph (A).

(12) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—A grant under this subsection shall be—

(A) treated as assistance for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 3547); and

(B) subject to the regulations promulgated by the Secretary to implement such section.

(13) TERMINATION.—The pilot program established under this subsection shall terminate on October 1, 2031.

SEC. 5205. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AND PROSPERITY ACT.

(a) REVISED STATUTES.—The paragraph designated as the ''Eleventh'' of section 5136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 24) is amended, in the fifth sentence, by striking ''15'' each place the term appears and inserting ''20''.

(b) FEDERAL RESERVE ACT.—Section 9(23) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 338a) is amended, in the fifth sentence, by striking ''15'' each place the term appears and inserting ''20''.

SEC. 5206. BUILD NOW ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term ''covered recipient'' means a metropolitan city or urban county, as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302), that receives funds under section 106.

(2) CURRENT ANNUAL GROWTH RATE.—The term ''current annual growth rate'', with respect to an eligible recipient and a fiscal year, means the average annual percentage increase in the number of housing units in the jurisdiction of the eligible recipient, as calculated by the Secretary, during the period—

(A) beginning with the third quarter of the sixth preceding fiscal year; and

(B) ending with the third quarter of the preceding fiscal year.

(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ''eligible recipient'' means any covered recipient unless—

(A)(i) the median Small Area Fair Market Rent in the jurisdiction of the covered recipient is at or below the 60th percentile of median Small Area Fair Market Rents in the jurisdictions of all covered recipients; and

(ii) the median home value in the jurisdiction of the covered recipient is below the median home value for the United States;

(B) the annual natural rental vacancy rate in the jurisdiction of the covered recipient is greater than the national annual natural rental vacancy rate for the most recent year available, as published by the Bureau of the Census;

(C) during the 1-year period preceding the date on which the Secretary allocates funds under section 106, the jurisdiction of the covered recipient has been the subject of a major disaster or emergency declaration under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191); or

(D) the covered recipient lacks the legal authority to enact or update zoning and permitting ordinances.

(4) EXTREMELY HIGH-GROWTH RECIPIENT.—The term ''extremely high-growth recipient'' means an eligible recipient for which the current annual growth rate is at or above 4 percent.

(5) HOUSING GROWTH IMPROVEMENT RATE.—The term ''housing growth improvement rate'', with respect to an eligible recipient and a fiscal year, means the quotient of—

(A)(i) the current annual growth rate of the eligible recipient, minus

(ii) the prior annual growth rate of the eligible recipient; and

(B) the sum obtained by adding the absolute values of the current annual growth rate and the prior annual growth rate of the eligible recipient.

(6) PRIOR ANNUAL GROWTH RATE.—The term ''prior annual growth rate'', with respect to an eligible recipient and a fiscal year, means the average annual percentage increase in the number of housing units in the jurisdiction of the eligible recipient, as calculated by the Secretary, during the period—

(A) beginning with the third quarter of the 11th preceding fiscal year; and

(B) ending with the third quarter of the sixth preceding fiscal year.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(8) SECTION 106.—The term ''section 106'' means section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306).

(b) ADJUSTMENTS TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In allocating amounts to an eligible recipient under section 106 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall adjust the allocation based on the housing growth improvement rate of the eligible recipient, in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

(A) HOUSING GROWTH IMPROVEMENT RATE AT OR ABOVE MEDIAN; EXTREMELY HIGH-GROWTH RECIPIENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If, with respect to a fiscal year for which the allocation under section 106 is being determined, the housing growth improvement rate for an eligible recipient is at or above the median housing growth improvement rate for all eligible recipients other than extremely high-growth recipients, or if an eligible recipient is an extremely high-growth recipient, the Secretary shall allocate to the eligible recipient for that fiscal year, in addition to the amount that would otherwise be allocated to the eligible recipient under section 106, a bonus amount, as determined under clause (ii) of this subparagraph.

(ii) BONUS AMOUNT.—For purposes of clause (i), the bonus amount for an eligible recipient for a fiscal year shall be equal to the product of—

(I) the aggregate amount by which allocations to eligible recipients are decreased under subparagraph (B) for that fiscal year; and

(II) the quotient of—

(aa) the number of housing units, as of the third quarter of the preceding fiscal year, in the jurisdiction of the eligible recipient, as calculated by the Secretary; and

(bb) the number of housing units, as of the third quarter of the preceding fiscal year, in the jurisdictions of all eligible recipients that receive a bonus amount under this paragraph, as calculated by the Secretary.

(B) HOUSING GROWTH IMPROVEMENT RATE BELOW MEDIAN.—If, with respect to a fiscal year for which the allocation under section 106 is being determined, the housing growth improvement rate for an eligible recipient is below the median housing growth improvement rate for all eligible recipients other than high-growth outliers, the Secretary shall decrease the amount that would otherwise be allocated to the eligible recipient under section 106 for that fiscal year by 10 percent.

(c) CALCULATION OF HOUSING UNITS.—

(1) HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS.—In calculating the number of housing units in the jurisdiction of an eligible recipient under any provision of this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) use the Current Address Count Listing Files and other data products, as needed, of the Bureau of the Census tabulated from the Master Address File; and

(B) make calculations at the block level, using boundaries that reflect the most current boundaries.

(2) CENSUS BUREAU AND POSTAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—The Bureau of the Census and the United States Postal Service shall provide any relevant data to the Secretary upon request to assist the Secretary in making a calculation described in paragraph (1).

(3) ADJUSTMENT OF CALCULATION PERIODS.—The Secretary may adjust the calculation periods under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(2), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(6), and items (aa) and (bb) of subsection (b)(2)(A)(ii)(II) by not more than 2 months to achieve alignment with the data provided by the Bureau of the Census.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT ON HOUSING GROWTH IMPROVEMENT RATE.—Before allocating funds under section 106 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall publish a report that—

(1) includes the housing growth improvement rate for each eligible recipient; and

(2) lists, for the most recent fiscal year for which allocations were made under section 106—

(A) the eligible recipients that received a bonus amount under subsection (b)(2)(A); and

(B) the eligible recipients for which the allocation under section 106 was decreased under subsection (b)(2)(B) of this section.

(e) NOTIFICATION; IMPLEMENTATION DATES.—

(1) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify each eligible recipient of the recipient's housing growth improvement rate and whether that housing growth improvement rate is above, at, or below the median housing growth improvement rate for all eligible recipients other than extremely high-growth recipients.

(B) GUIDANCE.—As part of the notification under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall share guidance, including resources developed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on best practices and recommendations on policies to reduce regulatory barriers to housing and increase housing supply.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION DATES.—Subsection (b) shall take effect beginning with the third full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and remain in effect through fiscal year 2043.

(3) NO EFFECT ON PREVIOUS APPROPRIATIONS.—This section shall not apply to amounts appropriated before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5207. BETTER USE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) HOUSING ACT.

(a) DESIGNATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURE.—The Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3531 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 12 (42 U.S.C. 3537a) the following:

"SEC. 13. DESIGNATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary may, for purposes of environmental review, decision making, and action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and other provisions of law that further the purposes of such Act, designate the treatment of assistance administered by the Secretary as funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 3547).

''(b) EXCEPTION.—The designation described in subsection (a) shall not apply to assistance for which a procedure for carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and other provisions of law that further the purposes of such Act, is otherwise specified in law.''.

(b) TRIBAL ASSUMPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OBLIGATIONS.—Section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 3547) is amended—

(1) by striking ''State or unit of general local government'' each place it appears and inserting ''State, Indian tribe, or unit of general local government'';

(2) in paragraph (1)(C), in the heading, by striking ''STATE OR UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT'' and inserting ''STATE, INDIAN TRIBE, OR UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'Indian tribe' means a federally recognized tribe, as defined in section 4(13)(B) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103(13)(B)).''.

SEC. 5208. UNLOCKING HOUSING SUPPLY THROUGH STREAMLINED AND MODERNIZED REVIEWS ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INFILL PROJECT.—The term ''infill project'' means a project that—

(A) occurs within the geographic limits of a municipality;

(B) is adequately served by existing utilities and public services as required under applicable law;

(C) is located on a site of previously disturbed land of not more than 5 acres and substantially surrounded by residential or commercial development;

(D) will repurpose a vacant or underutilized parcel of land, or a dilapidated or abandoned structure; and

(E) will serve a residential or commercial purpose.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) NEPA STREAMLINING FOR HUD HOUSING-RELATED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, and section 103 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4333), expand and reclassify housing-related activities under the necessary administrative regulations as follows:

(A) The following housing-related activities shall be subject to regulations equivalent or substantially similar to the regulations entitled ''exempt activities'' as set forth in section 58.34 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2025:

(i) Tenant-based rental assistance.

(ii) Supportive services, including health care, housing services, permanent housing placement, day care, nutritional services, short-term payments for rent, mortgage, or utility costs, and assistance in gaining access to Federal Government and State and local government benefits and services.

(iii) Operating costs, including maintenance, security, operation, utilities, furnishings, equipment, supplies, staff training, and recruitment and other incidental costs.

(iv) Economic development activities, including equipment purchases, inventory financing, interest subsidies, operating expenses, and similar costs not associated with construction or expansion of existing operations.

(v) Activities to assist homebuyers to purchase existing dwelling units or dwelling units under construction, including closing costs and down payment assistance, interest rate buydowns, and similar activities that result in the transfer of title.

(vi) Affordable housing pre-development costs related to obtaining site options, project financing, administrative costs and fees for loan commitment, zoning approvals, and other related activities that do not have a physical impact.

(vii) Approval of supplemental assistance, including insurance or guarantee, to a project previously approved by the Secretary.

(viii) Emergency homeowner or renter assistance for HVAC, hot water heaters, and other necessary uses of existing utilities required under applicable law.

(B) The following housing-related activities shall be subject to regulations equivalent or substantially similar to the regulations entitled, (i) ''categorical exclusions not subject to section 58.5'' and (ii) ''categorical exclusions not subject to the Federal laws and authorities cited in sections 50.4'' in section 58.35(b) and section 50.19, respectively of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2025, if such activities do not materially alter environmental conditions and do not materially exceed the original scope of the project:

(i) Acquisition, repair, improvement, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of public facilities and improvements (other than buildings) if the facilities and improvements are in place and will be retained in the same use without change in size or capacity of more than 20 percent, including replacement of water or sewer lines, reconstruction of curbs and sidewalks, and repaving of streets.

(ii) Rehabilitation of 1-to-4 unit residential buildings, and existing housing-related infrastructure, such as repairs or rehabilitation of existing wells, septics, or utility lines that connect to that housing.

(iii) New construction, development, demolition, acquisition, or disposition on up to 4 scattered site existing dwelling units where there is a maximum of 4 units on any 1 site.

(iv) Acquisitions (including leasing) or disposition of, or equity loans on an existing structure, or acquisition (including leasing) of vacant land if the structure or land acquired, financed, or disposed of will be retained for the same use.

(C) The following housing-related activities shall be subject to regulations equivalent or substantially similar to the regulations entitled, (i) ''categorical exclusions subject to section 58.5'' and (ii) ''categorical exclusions subject to the Federal laws and authorities cited in sections 50.4'' in section 58.35(a) and section 50.20, respectively, of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2025, if such activities do not materially alter environmental conditions and do not materially exceed the original scope of the project:

(i) Acquisitions of open space or residential property, where such property will be retained for the same use or will be converted to open space to help residents relocate out of an area designated as a high-risk area by the Secretary.

(ii) Conversion of existing office buildings into residential development, subject to—

(I) a maximum number of units to be determined by the Secretary; and

(II) a limitation on the change in building size of not more than 20 percent.

(iii) New construction, development, demolition, acquisition, or disposition on 5 to 15 dwelling units where there is a maximum of fifteen units on any 1 site. The units can be 15 1-unit buildings or 1 15-unit building, or any combination in between.

(iv) New construction, development, demolition, acquisition, or disposition on 15 or more housing units developed on scattered sites when there are not more than 15 housing units on any 1 site, and the sites are

more than a set number of feet apart as determined by the Secretary.

(v) Rehabilitation of buildings and improvements in the case of a building for residential use with 5 to 15 units, if the density is not increased beyond 15 units and the land use is not changed.

(vi) Infill projects consisting of new construction, rehabilitation, or development of residential housing units.

(vii) The voluntary acquisition of properties—

(I) located in a—

(aa) floodway;

(bb) floodplain; or

(cc) other area, clearly delineated by the grantee; and

(II) that have been impacted by a predictable environmental threat to the safety and well-being of program beneficiaries caused or exacerbated by a federally declared disaster.

(c) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives an annual report during the 5-year period beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act that provides a summary of findings of reductions in review times and administrative cost reduction, with a particular focus on the affordable housing sector, as a result of the actions set forth in this section, and any recommendations of the Secretary for future congressional action with respect to revising categorical exclusions or exemptions under title 24, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 5209. INNOVATION FUND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ATTAINABLE HOUSING.—The term ''attainable housing'' means housing that—

(A) serves—

(i) a majority of households with income not greater than 80 percent of area median income; and

(ii) households with income not greater than 100 percent of area median income; or

(B) serves—

(i) a majority of households with income not greater than 60 percent of area median income; and

(ii) households with income not greater than 120 percent of area median income.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a metropolitan city or urban county, as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302), that has demonstrated an objective improvement in housing supply growth, as determined by the Secretary, whose methodology for determining such growth is published in the Federal Register to allow for public comment not less than 90 days before date on which the notice of funding opportunity is made available; or

(B) a unit of general local government or Indian tribe, as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302), that has demonstrated an objective improvement in housing supply growth, as determined by the Secretary, whose methodology for determining such improvement is published in the Federal Register to allow for public comment not less than 90 days before the date on which the notice of funding opportunity is made available.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities that have increased their local housing supply.

(2) LIST OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary shall make a list of eligible entities publicly available on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(3) ELIGIBLE PURPOSES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section may use funds to—

(A) carry out any of the activities described in section 105 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305);

(B) carry out any of the activities permitted under the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program established under section 6702 of title 49, United States Code;

(C) serve as matching funds under a State revolving fund program related to a clean water or drinking water program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency in which the eligible entity is the grantee under that program, unless otherwise determined by the Secretary; and

(D) carry out initiatives of the eligible entity that facilitate the expansion of the supply of attainable housing and that supplement initiatives the eligible entity has carried out, or is in the process of carrying out, as specified in the application submitted under paragraph (4).

(4) APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application that provides—

(i) a description of each purpose for which the eligible entity will use the grant, and an attestation that the grant will be used only for 1 or more eligible purposes described in paragraph (3);

(ii) data on characteristics of increased housing supply during the 3-year period ending on the date on which the application is submitted, which may include whether such housing—

(I) serves households at a range of income levels; and

(II) has improved the quality and affordability of housing in the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

(iii) a description of how each eligible purpose described in clause (i) may address a community need or advance an objective, or an aspect of an objective, included in the comprehensive housing affordability strategy and community development plan of the eligible entity under part 91 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation (commonly referred to as a ''consolidated plan''); and

(iv) a description of how the eligible entity has carried out, or is in the process of carrying out, initiatives that facilitate the expansion of the supply of housing.

(B) INITIATIVES.—Initiatives that meet the criteria described in paragraph (3)(D) include—

(i) increasing by-right uses, including duplex, triplex, quadplex, and multifamily buildings, in areas of opportunity;

(ii) revising or eliminating off-street parking requirements to reduce the cost of housing production;

(iii) revising minimum lot size requirements, floor area ratio requirements, setback requirements, building heights, and bans or limits on construction to allow for denser and more affordable development;

(iv) instituting incentives to promote dense development;

(v) passing zoning overlays or other ordinances that enable the development of mixed-income housing;

(vi) streamlining regulatory requirements and shortening processes, increasing code enforcement and permitting capacity, reforming zoning codes, or other initiatives that reduce barriers to increasing housing supply and affordability;

(vii) eliminating restrictions against accessory dwelling units and expanding their by-right use;

(viii) using local tax incentives or public financing to promote development of attainable housing;

(ix) streamlining environmental regulations;

(x) eliminating unnecessary manufactured-housing regulations and restrictions;

(xi) minimizing the impact of overburdensome energy and water efficiency standards on housing costs; and

(xii) other activities that reduce cost of construction, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make not fewer than 25 grants on an annual basis (unless amounts appropriated to provide grant amounts consistent with subsection (b) are insufficient, in which case fewer grants may be awarded), with strong consideration of different geographical areas and a relatively even spread of rural, suburban, and urban communities.

(B) LIMITATIONS ON AWARDS.—No grant awarded under this paragraph may be—

(i) more than $10,000,000; or

(ii) less than $250,000.

(C) PRIORITY.—When awarding grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity that has—

(i) demonstrated the use of innovative policies, interventions, or programs for increasing housing supply, including adoption of any of the frameworks developed under section 203; and

(ii) demonstrated a marked improvement in housing supply growth.

(D) GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND TERMS.—Projects assisted under this section for activities described in sector 23 of the North American Industry Classification System shall be treated as projects assisted under the Community Development Block Grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(1) to authorize the Secretary to mandate, supersede, or preempt any local zoning or land use policy; or

(2) to affect the requirements of section 105(c)(1) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12705(c)(1)).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

(2) ADJUSTMENT.—The amount authorized to be appropriated under paragraph (1) shall be adjusted for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index.

SEC. 5210. ACCELERATING HOME BUILDING ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—The term ''affordable housing'' means housing for which the total monthly housing cost payment is not more than 30 percent of the monthly household income for a household earning not more than 80 percent of the area median income.

(2) COVERED STRUCTURE.—The term ''covered structure'' means—

(A) a low-rise or mid-rise structure with not more than 25 dwelling units; and

(B) includes—

(i) an accessory dwelling unit;

(ii) infill development;

(iii) a duplex;

(iv) a triplex;

(v) a fourplex;

(vi) a cottage court;
(vii) a courtyard building;
(viii) a townhouse;
(ix) a multiplex; and
(x) any other structure with not less than 2 dwelling units that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a unit of general local government, as defined in section 102(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a));

(B) a municipal membership organization; and

(C) an Indian tribe, as defined in section 102(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)).

(4) HIGH OPPORTUNITY AREA.—The term ''high opportunity area'' has the meaning given the term in section 1282.1 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(5) INFILL DEVELOPMENT.—The term ''infill development'' means residential development on small parcels in previously established areas for replacement by new or refurbished housing that utilizes existing utilities and infrastructure.

(6) MIXED-INCOME HOUSING.—The term ''mixed-income housing'' means a housing development that is comprised of housing units that promote differing levels of affordability in the community.

(7) PRE-REVIEWED DESIGNS.—The term ''pre-reviewed designs'', also known as pattern books, means sets of construction plans that are assessed and approved by localities for compliance with local building and permitting standards to streamline and expedite approval pathways for housing construction.

(8) RURAL AREA.—The term ''rural area'' means any area other than a city or town that has a population of less than 50,000 inhabitants.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to select pre-reviewed designs of covered structures of mixed-income housing for use in the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, except that such grant awards may not be used for construction, alteration, or repair work.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing applications submitted by eligible entities for a grant under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

(1) the need for affordable housing by the eligible entity;

(2) the presence of high opportunity areas in the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

(3) coordination between the eligible entity and a State agency; and

(4) coordination between the eligible entity and State, local, and regional transportation planning authorities.

(d) SET-ASIDE FOR RURAL AREAS.—Of the amount made available in each fiscal year for grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 10 percent shall be used for grants to eligible entities that are located in rural areas.

(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall require eligible entities receiving grants under this section to report on—

(1) the impacts of the activities carried out using the grant amounts in improving the production and supply of affordable housing;

(2) the pre-reviewed designs selected using the grant amounts in their communities;

(3) the number of permits issued for housing development utilizing pre-reviewed designs; and

(4) the number of housing units produced in developments utilizing the pre-reviewed designs.

(f) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) to the extent possible, encourage localities to make publicly available through a website information on the pre-reviewed designs selected and submitted to the Secretary by eligible entities receiving grants under this section, including information on the benefits of use of those designs; and

(2) collect, identify, and disseminate best practices regarding such designs and make such information publicly available on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(g) DESIGN ADOPTION AND REPAYMENT.—The Secretary may require an eligible entity to return to the Secretary any grant funds received under this section if the selected pre-reviewed designs submitted under this section have not been adopted during the 5-year period following receipt of the grant, unless that period is extended by the Secretary.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may set aside not more than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) in a fiscal year to provide technical assistance to grant recipients under this section and pre-grant technical assistance for prospective applicants.

SEC. 5211. BUILD MORE HOUSING NEAR TRANSIT ACT.

Section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

''(6) PRO-HOUSING POLICY.—The term 'pro-housing policy'—

''(A) means any adopted State or local policy that will remove regulatory barriers to the construction or preservation of housing units, including affordable housing units; and

''(B) shall include any adopted State or local policy that—

''(i) reduces or eliminates parking minimums;

''(ii) establishes a by-right approval process for housing under which land use development approval is limited to determining that the development meets objective zoning and design standards that—

''(I) involve no subjective judgment by a public official;

''(II) are uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available to both the land use developer and the public official prior to submission; and

''(III) include only such standards as are published and adopted by ordinance or resolution by a jurisdiction before submission of a development application;

''(iii) reduces or eliminates minimum lot sizes;

''(iv) eliminates or raises residential property height limits or increases the number of dwelling units permitted to be constructed under a by-right approval process; or

''(v) carries out other policies as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.'';

(2) in subsection (g)(2), by adding at the end the following:

''(D) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF RATING FOR PROJECT JUSTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR PRO-HOUSING POLICIES; CONSIDERATIONS.—In evaluating and rating a project as a whole for project justification under subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

''(i) may increase 1 point on the 5-point scale (high, medium-high, medium, medium-low, or low) the rating of a project if the applicant submits documented evidence of pro-housing policies for areas accessible to transit facilities along the project route; and

''(ii) should consider whether the pro-housing policies documented by the applicant will result, through new production and preservation, in an amount of housing units, including housing units affordable below the area median income, that is appropriate to expected housing demand in the project area.

''(E) CONSULTATION.—In developing the evaluation process that could lead to the increased rating described in subparagraph (D)(i), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.'';

(3) in subsection (h)(6), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF RATING FOR PROJECT JUSTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR PRO-HOUSING POLICIES; CONSIDERATIONS.—In evaluating and rating the benefits of a project under subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

''(i) may increase the rating of a project if the applicant submits documented evidence of pro-housing policies for areas accessible to transit facilities along the project route; and

''(ii) should consider whether the pro-housing policies documented by the applicant will result, through new production and preservation, in an amount of housing units, including housing units affordable below the area median income, that is appropriate to expected housing demand in the project area.

''(D) CONSULTATION.—In developing the evaluation process that could lead to the increased rating described in subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.''; and

(4) in subsection (o)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) information concerning projects for which the applicant submitted pro-housing policies under subsection (g)(2)(D) or subsection (h)(6) and received an adjustment of rating for project justification.''.

SEC. 5212. REVITALIZING EMPTY STRUCTURES INTO DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTS (RESIDE) ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 227. REVITALIZING EMPTY STRUCTURES INTO DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ATTAINABLE HOUSING.—The term 'attainable housing' means housing that—

''(A) serves households earning not more than 100 percent of the area median income, if a majority of the housing units are affordable to households earning not more than 80 percent of the area median income; or

''(B) serves households earning not more than 120 percent of the area median income, if the majority of the housing units are affordable to households earning not more than 60 percent of the area median income.

''(2) CONVERTED HOUSING UNIT.—The term 'converted housing unit' means a housing unit that is created using a covered grant.

''(3) COVERED GRANT.—The term 'covered grant' means a grant awarded under the Pilot Program.

''(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a participating jurisdiction.

''(5) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term 'Pilot Program' means the Blighted Building to Housing Conversion Program carried out under subsection (b).

''(6) VACANT AND ABANDONED BUILDING.—The term 'vacant and abandoned building' means a property—

''(A) that was constructed for use as a warehouse, factory, mall, strip mall, or hotel, or for another industrial or commercial use; and

''(B)(i) with respect to which—

''(I) a code enforcement inspection has determined that the property is not safe; and

''(II) not less than 90 days have elapsed since the owner was notified of the deficiencies in the property and the owner has taken no corrective action; or

''(ii) that is subject to a court-ordered receivership or nuisance abatement related to abandonment pursuant to State or local law or otherwise meets the definition of an abandoned property under State law.

''(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—For each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, if the amounts made available to carry out the this subtitle exceed $1,350,000,000, the Secretary may use not more than $100,000,000 of the excess amounts to carry out a pilot program, to be known as the 'Blighted Building to Housing Conversion Program', under which the Secretary awards grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities to convert vacant and abandoned buildings into attainable housing.

''(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For any fiscal year for which $100,000,000 is available to carry out the Pilot Program pursuant to subsection (b), the amount of a covered grant shall be not less than $1,000,000 and not more than $10,000,000.

''(2) FISCAL YEARS WITH LOWER FUNDING.—For any fiscal year for which less than $100,000,000 is available to carry out the Pilot Program pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary shall seek to maximize the number of covered grants awarded.

''(d) RELATION TO FORMULA ALLOCATION.—A covered grant awarded to an eligible entity shall be in addition to, and shall not affect, the formula allocation for the eligible entity under section 217.

''(e) PRIORITY.—In awarding covered grants, the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity that—

''(1) will use the covered grant in a community that is experiencing economic distress;

''(2) will use the covered grant in a qualified opportunity zone (as defined in section 1400Z–1(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

''(3) will use the covered grant to construct housing that will serve a need identified in the comprehensive housing affordability strategy and community development plan of the eligible entity under part 91 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation (commonly referred to as a 'consolidated plan'); or

''(4) has enacted ordinances to reduce regulatory barriers to conversion of vacant and abandoned buildings to housing, which shall not include any alteration of an ordinance that governs safety and habitability.

''(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use a covered grant for—

''(1) property acquisition;

''(2) demolition;

''(3) health hazard remediation;

''(4) site preparation;

''(5) construction, renovation, or rehabilitation; or

''(6) the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of community land trusts.

''(g) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In administering covered grants, the Secretary may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by eligible entities of covered grant funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, or the environment) if the Secretary makes a public finding that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement.

''(h) STUDY; REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the termination of the Pilot Program, the Secretary shall study and submit a report to Congress on the impact of the Pilot Program on—

''(1) improving the tax base of local communities;

''(2) increasing access to affordable housing, especially for elderly individuals, disabled individuals, and veterans;

''(3) increasing homeownership; and

''(4) removing blight.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (Public Law 101–625; 104 Stat. 4079) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 226 the following:

''Sec. 227. Revitalizing empty structures into desirable environments.''.

SEC. 5213. HOUSING AFFORDABILITY ACT.

(a) MULTIFAMILY LOAN LIMIT STUDY.—The Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall conduct a study to assess—

(1) whether current multifamily loan limits for each multifamily mortgage insurance program are set at appropriate amounts, including to cover the cost of land and construction;

(2) whether the Commissioner has sufficient authority to set loan limits for each multifamily mortgage insurance program at appropriate amounts, including to cover the cost of land and construction;

(3) the potential impacts of altering the calculation of annual adjustments under section 206A of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1712a) using the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers to instead use the percentage change in the Price Deflator Index of Multifamily Residential Units Under Construction released by the Bureau of the Census from March of the previous year to March of the year in which the adjustment is made, or a combination thereof, including—

(A) the impact on the General Insurance and Special Risk Insurance Fund;

(B) the availability of multifamily purchase and construction lending;

(C) the impact on prices, including rental prices, within the multifamily housing market; and

(D) the impact on housing supply.

(b) REPORT.—The Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration shall submit a report to Congress within 180 days of enactment of this Act summarizing its findings under the study in subsection (a).

(c) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, conduct notice and comment rulemaking to increase multifamily loan limits in a manner that would not exceed the following:

(1) With respect to insurance under section 207 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1713)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $83,655 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $92,664 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $110,682 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $136,422 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $154,440 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $96,525 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $108,108 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $132,561 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $166,023 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $187,721.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.

(2) With respect to insurance under section 213 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715e)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $90,665.50 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $104,524 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $126,060 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $161,354.50 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $179,757.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $96,525 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $109,362 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $132,981 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $172,033.50 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $188,839 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.

(3) With respect to insurance under section 220 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715k)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $83,655 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $92,664 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $110,682 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $136,422 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $154,440 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $96,525 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $108,108 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $132,561 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $161,023 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $187,721.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.

(4) With respect to insurance under section 221 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715l)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $83,254.50 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $94,498.50 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $114,224 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $143,372 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $162,461 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $89,927 per family unit without a bedroom;
(ii) $103,090 per family unit with one bedroom;
(iii) $125,354 per family unit with two bedrooms;
(iv) $162,162 per family unit with three bedrooms; and
(v) $178,008.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.
(5) With respect to insurance under section 231 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715v)—
(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—
(i) $83,254.50 per family unit without a bedroom;
(ii) $94,498.50 per family unit with one bedroom;
(iii) $114,224 per family unit with two bedrooms;
(iv) $143,372 per family unit with three bedrooms; and
(v) $162,461 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and
(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—
(i) $89,927 per family unit without a bedroom;
(ii) $103,090 per family unit with one bedroom;
(iii) $125,354 per family unit with two bedrooms;
(iv) $162,162 per family unit with three bedrooms; and
(v) $178,008.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.
(6) With respect to insurance under section 234 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715y)—
(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—
(i) $92,505.50 per family unit without a bedroom;
(ii) $106,658 per family unit with one bedroom;
(iii) $128,631.50 per family unit with two bedrooms;
(iv) $164,648 per family unit with three bedrooms; and
(v) $183,425 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and
(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—
(i) $97,350 per family unit without a bedroom;
(ii) $111,593 per family unit with one bedroom;
(iii) $135,696 per family unit with two bedrooms;
(iv) $175,544.50 per family unit with three bedrooms; and
(v) $192,693.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.
(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendment made by this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to revise the statutory exceptions for high-cost percentage and high-cost areas annual indexing.

TITLE III—MANUFACTURED HOUSING FOR AMERICA

SEC. 5301. HOUSING SUPPLY EXPANSION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 603(6) of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5402(6)) is amended by striking ''on a permanent chassis'' and inserting ''with or without a permanent chassis''.
(b) MANUFACTURED HOME CERTIFICATIONS.—Section 604 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5403) is amended by adding at the end the following:
''(i) MANUFACTURED HOME CERTIFICATIONS.—
''(1) IN GENERAL.—
''(A) INITIAL CERTIFICATION.—Subject to subparagraph (B), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025, a State shall submit to the Secretary an initial certification that the laws and regulations of the State—
''(i) treat any manufactured home in parity with a manufactured home (as defined and regulated by the State); and
''(ii) subject a manufactured home without a permanent chassis to the same laws and regulations of the State as a manufactured home built on a permanent chassis, including with respect to financing, title, insurance, manufacture, sale, taxes, transportation, installation, and other areas as the Secretary determines, after consultation with and approval by the consensus committee, are necessary to give effect to the purpose of this section.
''(B) STATE PLAN SUBMISSION.—Any State plan submitted under subparagraph (C) shall contain the required State certification under subparagraph (A) and, if contained therein, no additional or State certification under subparagraph (A) or paragraph (3).
''(C) EXTENDED DEADLINE.—With respect to a State with a legislature that meets biennially, the deadline for the submission of the initial certification required under subparagraph (A) shall be 2 years after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025.
''(D) LATE CERTIFICATION.—
''(i) NO WAIVER.—The Secretary may not waive the prohibition described in paragraph (5)(B) with respect to a certification submitted after the deadline under subparagraph (A) or paragraph (3) unless the Secretary approves the late certification.
''(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a State from submitting the initial certification required under subparagraph (A) after the required deadline under that subparagraph.
''(2) FORM OF STATE CERTIFICATION NOT PRESENTED IN A STATE PLAN.—The initial certification required under paragraph (1)(A), if not submitted with a State plan under paragraph (1)(B), shall contain, in a form prescribed by the Secretary, an attestation by an official that the State has taken the steps necessary to ensure the veracity of the certification required under paragraph (1)(A), including, as necessary, by—
''(A) amending the definition of 'manufactured home' in the laws and regulations of the State; and
''(B) directing State agencies to amend the definition of 'manufactured home' in regulations.
''(3) ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION.—Not later than a date to be determined by the Secretary each year, a State shall submit to the Secretary an additional certification that—
''(A) confirms the accuracy of the initial certification submitted under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1); and
''(B) certifies that any new laws or regulations enacted or adopted by the State since the date of the previous certification does not change the veracity of the initial certification submitted under paragraph (1)(A).
''(4) LIST.—The Secretary shall publish and maintain in the Federal Register and on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development a list of States that are up-to-date with the submission of initial and subsequent certifications required under this subsection.
''(5) PROHIBITION.—
''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered manufactured home' means a home that is—
''(i) not considered a manufactured home under the laws and regulations of a State because the home is constructed without a permanent chassis;
''(ii) considered a manufactured home under the definition of the term in section 603; and
''(iii) constructed after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025.
''(B) BUILDING, INSTALLATION, AND SALE.—If a State does not submit a certification under paragraph (1)(A) or (3) by the date on which those certifications are required to be submitted—
''(i) with respect to a State in which the State administers the installation of manufactured homes, the State shall prohibit the manufacture, installation, or sale of a covered manufactured home within the State; and
''(ii) with respect to a State in which the Secretary administers the installation of manufactured homes, the State and the Secretary shall prohibit the manufacture, installation, or sale of a covered manufactured home within the State.''.
(c) OTHER FEDERAL LAWS REGULATING MANUFACTURED HOMES.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may coordinate with the heads of other Federal agencies to ensure that Federal agencies treat a manufactured home (as defined in Federal laws and regulations other than section 603 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5402)) in the same manner as a manufactured home (as defined in section 603 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5402), as amended by this Act).
(d) ASSISTANCE TO STATES.—Section 609 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5408) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;
(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and
(3) by adding at the end the following:
''(3) model guidance to support the submission of the certification required under section 604(i).''.
(e) PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed as limiting the scope of Federal preemption under section 604(d) of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5403(d)).

SEC. 5302. MODULAR HOUSING PRODUCTION ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) MANUFACTURED HOME.—The term ''manufactured home'' has the meaning given the term in section 603 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5402).
(2) MODULAR HOME.—The term ''modular home'' means a home that is constructed in a factory in 1 or more modules, each of which meet applicable State and local building codes of the area in which the home will be located, and that are transported to the home building site, installed on foundations, and completed.
(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
(b) FHA CONSTRUCTION FINANCING PROGRAMS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a review of Federal Housing Administration construction financing programs to identify barriers to the use of modular home methods.
(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) identify and evaluate regulatory and programmatic features that restrict participation in construction financing programs by modular home developers, including construction draw schedules; and

(B) identify administrative measures authorized under section 525 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1735f–3) to facilitate program utilization by modular home developers.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish a report that describes the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1), which shall include a description of programmatic and policy changes that the Secretary recommends to reduce or eliminate identified barriers to the use of modular home methods in Federal Housing Administration construction financing programs.

(4) RULEMAKING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary publishes the report under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to examine an alternative draw schedule for construction financing loans provided to modular and manufactured home developers, which shall include the ability for interested stakeholders to provide robust public comment.

(B) DETERMINATION.—Following the period for public comment under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) issue a final rule regarding an alternative draw schedule described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) provide an explanation as to why the rule shall not become final.

(c) STANDARDIZED UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE FOR MODULAR HOMES.—

(1) AWARD.—The Secretary may award a grant to study the design and feasibility of a standardized uniform commercial code for modular homes, which shall evaluate—

(A) the utility of a standardized coding system for serializing and securing modules, streamlining design and construction, and improving modular home innovation; and

(B) a means to coordinate a standardized code with financing incentives.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary to carry out paragraph (1).

SEC. 5303. PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT AND MANUFACTURED HOUSING LOAN MODERNIZATION ACT.

(a) NATIONAL HOUSING ACT AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting ''construction of additional or accessory dwelling units, as defined by the Secretary,'' after ''energy conserving improvements,''; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) $75,000 if made for the purpose of financing alterations, repairs and improvements upon or in connection with an existing single-family structure, including a manufactured home;'';

(II) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) by striking ''$60,000'' and inserting ''$150,000'';

(bb) by striking ''$12,000'' and inserting ''$37,500''; and

(cc) by striking ''an apartment house or'';

(III) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

''(C)(i) $106,405 if made for the purpose of financing the purchase of a single-section manufactured home; and

''(ii) $195,322 if made for the purpose of financing the purchase of a multi-section manufactured home;

''(D)(i) $149,782 if made for the purpose of financing the purchase of a single-section manufactured home and a suitably developed lot on which to place the home; and

''(ii) $238,699 if made for the purpose of financing the purchase of a multi-section manufactured home and a suitably developed lot on which to place the home;'';

(IV) in subparagraph (E)—

(aa) by striking ''$23,226'' and inserting ''$43,377''; and

(bb) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(V) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(VI) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(VII) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

''(H) such principal amount as the Secretary may prescribe if made for the purpose of financing the construction of an accessory dwelling unit.'';

(ii) in the matter immediately preceding paragraph (2)—

(I) by striking ''regulation'' and inserting ''notice'';

(II) by striking ''increase'' and inserting ''set'';

(III) by striking ''(A)(ii), (C), (D), and (E)'' and inserting ''(A) through (H)'';

(IV) by inserting '', or as necessary to achieve the goals of the Federal Housing Administration, periodically reset the dollar amount limitations in subparagraphs (A) through (H) based on justification and methodology set forth in advance by regulation'' before the period at the end; and

(V) by adjusting the margins appropriately;

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking ''exceeds—'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''exceeds such period of time as determined by the Secretary, not to exceed 30 years.'';

(iv) by striking paragraph (9) and inserting the following:

''(9) ANNUAL INDEXING OF CERTAIN DOLLAR AMOUNT LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary shall develop or choose 1 or more methods of indexing in order to annually set the loan limits established in paragraph (1), based on data the Secretary determines is appropriate for purposes of this section.''; and

(v) in paragraph (11), by striking ''lease—'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''lease meets the terms and conditions established by the Secretary''.

(2) DEADLINE FOR DEVELOPMENT OR CHOICE OF NEW INDEX; INTERIM INDEX.—

(A) DEADLINE FOR DEVELOPMENT OR CHOICE OF NEW INDEX.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall develop or choose 1 or more methods of indexing as required under section 2(b)(9) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(b)(9)), as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(B) INTERIM INDEX.—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development develops or chooses 1 or more methods of indexing as required under section 2(b)(9) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(b)(9)), as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, the method of indexing established by the Secretary under that subsection before the date of enactment of this Act shall apply.

(b) HUD STUDY OF OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION HOUSING.—The term ''off-site construction housing'' includes manufactured homes and modular homes.

(B) MANUFACTURED HOME.—The term ''manufactured home'' means any home constructed in accordance with the construction and safety standards established under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.).

(C) MODULAR HOME.—The term ''modular home'' means a home that is constructed in a factory in 1 or more modules, each of which meet applicable State and local building codes of the area in which the home will be located, and that are transported to the home building site, installed on foundations, and completed.

(2) STUDY.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the cost effectiveness of off-site construction housing, that includes—

(A) an analysis of the advantages of the impact of centralization in a factory and transportation to a construction site on cost, precision, and materials waste;

(B) the extent to which off-site construction housing meets housing quality standards under the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate, or other standards as the Secretary may prescribe, compared to the extent for site-built homes, for such standards;

(C) the expected replacement and maintenance costs over the first 40 years of life of off-site construction homes compared to those costs for site-built homes; and

(D) opportunities for use beyond single-family housing, such as applications in accessory dwelling units, two- to four-unit housing, and large multifamily housing.

SEC. 5304. PRICE ACT.

Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 105(a) (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Activities'' and inserting ''Unless otherwise authorized under section 123, activities''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 123. PRESERVATION AND REINVESTMENT FOR COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term 'community development financial institution' means an institution that has been certified as a community development financial institution (as defined in section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702)) by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(2) ELIGIBLE MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY.—The term 'eligible manufactured housing community' means a manufactured housing community that—

''(A) is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons, as determined by the Secretary, but not more than 120 percent of the area median income; and

''(B)(i) is owned by the residents of the manufactured housing community through a resident-controlled entity such as a resident-owned cooperative; or

''(ii) will be maintained as such a community, and remain affordable for low- and moderate-income persons, to the maximum extent practicable and for the longest period feasible.

''(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term 'eligible recipient' means—

''(A) an eligible manufactured housing community;

''(B) a unit of general local government;

''(C) a housing authority;
''(D) a resident-owned community;
''(E) a resident-owned cooperative;
''(F) a nonprofit entity with housing expertise or a consortia of such entities;
''(G) a community development financial institution;
''(H) an Indian tribe;
''(I) a tribally designated housing entity;
''(J) a State; or
''(K) any other entity that is—
''(i) an owner-operator of an eligible manufactured housing community; and
''(ii) working with an eligible manufactured housing community.
''(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).
''(5) MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY.—The term 'manufactured housing community' means—
''(A) any community, court, park, or other land under unified ownership developed and accommodating or equipped to accommodate the placement of manufactured homes, where—
''(i) spaces within such community are or will be primarily used for residential occupancy;
''(ii) all homes within the community are used for permanent occupancy; and
''(iii) a majority of such occupied spaces within the community are occupied by manufactured homes, which may include homes constructed prior to enactment of the Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards; or
''(B) any community that meets the definition of manufactured housing community used for programs similar to the program under this section.
''(6) RESIDENT HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ACCESSIBILITY ACTIVITIES.—The term 'resident health, safety, and accessibility activities' means the reconstruction, repair, or replacement of manufactured housing and manufactured housing communities to—
''(A) protect the health and safety of residents;
''(B) address weatherization and reduce utility costs; or
''(C) address accessibility needs for residents with disabilities.
''(7) TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY.—The term 'tribally designated housing entity' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall, by notice, carry out a competitive grant program to award funds to eligible recipients to carry out eligible projects for development of or improvements in eligible manufactured housing communities.

''(c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—
''(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts from grants under this section may be used for—
''(A) community infrastructure, facilities, utilities, and other land improvements in or serving an eligible manufactured housing community;
''(B) reconstruction or repair existing housing within an eligible manufactured housing community;
''(C) replacement of homes within an eligible manufactured housing community;
''(D) planning;
''(E) resident health, safety, and accessibility activities in homes in an eligible manufactured housing community;
''(F) land and site acquisition and infrastructure for expansion or construction of an eligible manufactured housing community;
''(G) resident and community services, including relocation assistance, eviction prevention, and down payment assistance; and
''(H) any other activity that—
''(i) is approved by the Secretary consistent with the requirements under this section;
''(ii) improves the overall living conditions of an eligible manufactured housing community, which may include the addition or enhancement of shared spaces such as community centers, recreational areas, or other facilities that support resident well-being and community engagement; and
''(iii) is necessary to protect the health and safety of the residents of the eligible manufactured housing community and the long-term affordability and sustainability of the community.
''(2) REPLACEMENT.—For purposes of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), grants under this section—
''(A) may not be used for rehabilitation or modernization of units that were built before June 15, 1976; and
''(B) may only be used for disposition and replacement of units described in subparagraph (A), provided that any replacement housing complies with the Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards or is another allowed home, as determined by the Secretary.
''(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize applicants that will carry out activities that primarily benefit low- and moderate-income residents and preserve long-term housing affordability for residents of eligible manufactured housing communities.
''(e) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of law or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with use of amounts made available under this section other than requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment, upon a finding that the waiver or alternative requirement is not inconsistent with the overall purposes of this section and that the waiver or alternative requirement is necessary to facilitate the use of amounts made available under this section.
''(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—
''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any grant made under this section shall be made pursuant to criteria for selection of recipients of such grants that the Secretary shall by regulation establish and publish together with any notification of availability of amounts under this section.
''(2) SET ASIDE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may set aside amounts provided under this section for grants to Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities.
''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.''.

TITLE IV—ACCESSING THE AMERICAN DREAM

SEC. 5401. CREATING INCENTIVES FOR SMALL DOLLAR LOAN ORIGINATORS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.
(2) SMALL DOLLAR MORTGAGE.—The term ''small dollar mortgage'' means a mortgage loan having an original principal obligation of not more than $100,000 that is—
(A) secured by real property designed for the occupancy of between 1 and 4 families; and
(B)(i) insured by the Federal Housing Administration under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.);
(ii) made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Veterans Affairs;
(iii) made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Agriculture; or
(iv) eligible to be purchased or securitized by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or the Federal National Mortgage Association.
(b) REQUIREMENT REGARDING LOAN ORIGINATOR COMPENSATION PRACTICES.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on loan originator compensation practices throughout the residential mortgage market, including the relative frequency of loan originators being compensated—
(1) with a salary;
(2) with a commission reflecting a fixed percentage of the amount of credit extended;
(3) with a commission based on a factor other than a fixed percentage of the amount of credit extended;
(4) with a combination of salary and commission;
(5) on a loan volume basis;
(6) with a commission reflecting a percentage of the amount of credit extended, for which a minimum or maximum compensation amount is set; and
(7) by any other mechanism that the Director may find to be a practice for compensating mortgage loan originators, including any mechanism that provides a loan originator with compensation in such a way that the loan originator does not necessarily receive a lower level of compensation for originating a small dollar mortgage than the loan originator would receive for originating a mortgage loan that is not a small dollar mortgage.
(c) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (b) shall include—
(1) data and other analysis regarding the effect of the approaches to loan originator compensation described in subsection (b) on the availability of small dollar mortgage loans; and
(2) analysis and discussion regarding other potential barriers to small dollar mortgage lending.
(d) RULEMAKING.—Following the issuance of the report required under subsection (b), the Director may issue regulations to clarify the forms of compensation a lender may use to compensate a loan originator that—
(1) are permissible pursuant to section 129B(c) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1639b(c)); and
(2) would result in the loan originator receiving compensation for originating a small dollar mortgage that is not less than the compensation the loan originator would receive for originating a mortgage loan that is not a small dollar mortgage.

SEC. 5402. SMALL DOLLAR MORTGAGE POINTS AND FEES.

(a) SMALL DOLLAR MORTGAGE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''small dollar mortgage'' means a mortgage with an original principal obligation of less than $100,000.
(b) AMENDMENTS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, shall evaluate the impact of the existing thresholds under section 1026.43 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, on small dollar mortgage originations.
(2) RULEMAKING.—Following the evaluation required under paragraph (1), the Director of

the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection may initiate rulemaking to amend the limitations with respect to points and fees under section 1026.43 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, to encourage additional lending for small dollar mortgages.

SEC. 5403. APPRAISAL INDUSTRY IMPROVEMENT ACT.

(a) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—

(1) CERTIFICATION OR LICENSING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(g)(5) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)(5)) is amended—

(i) by moving the paragraph two ems to the left; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) be certified or licensed by the State in which the property to be appraised is located, except that a Federal employee who has as their primary duty conducting appraisal-related activities and who chooses to become a State-licensed or certified real estate appraiser need only to be licensed or certified in 1 State or territory to perform appraisals on mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration in all States and territories;

''(B) meet the requirements under the competency rule set forth in the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice before accepting an assignment; and

''(C) have demonstrated verifiable education in the appraisal requirements established by the Federal Housing Administration under this subsection, which shall include the completion of a course or seminar that educates appraisers on those appraisal requirements, which shall be provided by—

''(i) the Federal Housing Administration; or

''(ii) a third party, so long as the course is approved by the Secretary or a State appraiser certifying or licensing agency.''.

(B) APPLICATION.—Subparagraph (C) of section 202(g)(5) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)(5)), as added by subparagraph (A), shall not apply with respect to any certified appraiser approved by the Federal Housing Administration to conduct appraisals on property securing a mortgage to be insured by the Federal Housing Administration on or before the effective date under paragraph (3)(C).

(2) COMPLIANCE WITH VERIFIABLE EDUCATION AND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS.—On and after the effective date under paragraph (3)(C), no appraiser may conduct an appraisal on a property securing a mortgage to be insured by the Federal Housing Administration unless—

(A) the appraiser is in compliance with the requirements under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 202(g)(5) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)(5)), as amended by paragraph (1); and

(B) if the appraiser was not approved by the Federal Housing Administration to conduct appraisals on mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration before the date on which the mortgagee letter or guidance take effect under paragraph (3)(C), the appraiser is in compliance with subparagraph (C) of such section 202(g)(5).

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than the 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall issue a mortgagee letter or guidance that shall—

(A) implement the amendments made by paragraph (1);

(B) clearly set forth all of the specific requirements under section 202(g)(5) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)(5)), as amended by paragraph (1), for approval to conduct appraisals on property secured by a mortgage to be insured by the Federal Housing Administration, which shall include—

(i) providing that, before the effective date of the mortgagee letter or guidance, compliance with the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of such section 202(g)(5), as amended by paragraph (1), shall be considered to fulfill the requirements under such subparagraphs; and

(ii) providing a method for appraisers to demonstrate such prior compliance; and

(C) take effect not later than the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the mortgagee letter or guidance.

(b) ANNUAL REGISTRY FEES FOR APPRAISAL MANAGEMENT COMPANIES.—Section 1109(a) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3338(a)) is amended, in the matter following clause (ii) of paragraph (4)(B), by adding at the end the following: ''Subject to the approval of the Council, the Appraisal Subcommittee may adjust fees established under clause (i) or (ii) to carry out its functions under this Act.''.

(c) STATE CREDENTIALED TRAINEES.—

(1) MAINTENANCE ON NATIONAL REGISTRY.—Section 1103(a) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3332(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting ''and State credentialed trainee appraisers'' after ''licensed appraisers''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking paragraph (4);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(D) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''year. The report shall also detail'' and inserting ''year, details'';

(ii) by striking ''provide'' and inserting ''provides''; and

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''.

(2) ANNUAL REGISTRY FEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1109 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3338) is amended—

(i) in the section heading, by striking ''**OR LICENSED**'' and inserting ''**, LICENSED, AND CREDENTIALED TRAINEE**''; and

(ii) in subsection (a)—

(I) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', and in the case of a State with a supervisory or trainee program, a roster listing individuals who have received a State trainee credential'' after ''this title''; and

(II) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) transmit reports on the issuance and renewal of licenses, certifications, credentials, sanctions, and disciplinary actions, including license, credential, and certification revocations, on a timely basis to the national registry of the Appraisal Subcommittee;''.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall require a State to establish or operate a program for State credentialed trainee appraisers, as defined in paragraph (12) of section 1121 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, as added by paragraph (4) of this subsection.

(3) TRANSACTIONS REQUIRING THE SERVICES OF A STATE CERTIFIED APPRAISER.—Section 1113 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3342) is amended—

(A) by striking ''In determining'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—In determining''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) USE OF STATE CREDENTIALED TRAINEE APPRAISERS.—In performing an appraisal under this section, a State certified appraiser may use the assistance of a State credentialed trainee appraiser or an unlicensed trainee appraiser, except that a State certified appraiser assisted by a trainee shall be liable for final work.''.

(4) DEFINITION.—Section 1121 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3350) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(12) STATE CREDENTIALED TRAINEE APPRAISER.—The term 'State credentialed trainee appraiser' means an individual who—

''(A) meets the minimum criteria established by the Appraiser Qualification Board for a trainee appraiser credential; and

''(B) is credentialed by a State appraiser certifying and licensing agency.''.

(d) GRANTS FOR WORKFORCE AND TRAINING.—Section 1109(b) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3338(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) to make grants to State appraiser certifying and licensing agencies, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education to support the carrying out of education and training activities or other activities related to addressing appraiser industry workforce needs, including recruiting and retaining workforce talent, such as through scholarship assistance and career pipeline development.''.

(e) APPRAISAL SUBCOMMITTEE.—Section 1011 of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3310) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting ''the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Housing and Urban Development,'' after ''Financial Protection,''.

SEC. 5404. HELPING MORE FAMILIES SAVE ACT.

Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(p) ESCROW EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COVERED FAMILY.—The term 'covered family' means a family that receives assistance under section 8 or 9 of this Act and is enrolled in the pilot program.

''(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means an entity described in subsection (c)(2).

''(C) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term 'pilot program' means the pilot program established under paragraph (2).

''(D) WELFARE ASSISTANCE.—The term 'welfare assistance' has the meaning given the term in section 984.103 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary shall select not more than 25 eligible entities to establish and manage escrow accounts for not more than 5,000 covered families, in accordance with this subsection.

''(3) ESCROW ACCOUNTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity selected to participate in the pilot program—

''(i) shall establish an interest-bearing escrow account and place into the account an amount equal to any increase in the amount of rent paid by each covered family in accordance with the provisions of section 3, 8(o), or 8(y), as applicable, that is attributable to increases in earned income by the covered families during the participation of each covered family in the pilot program; and

''(ii) notwithstanding any other provision of law, may use funds it controls under section 8 or 9 for purposes of making the escrow

deposit for covered families assisted under, or residing in units assisted under, section 8 or 9, respectively, provided such funds are offset by the increase in the amount of rent paid by the covered family.

''(B) INCOME LIMITATION.—An eligible entity may not escrow any amounts for any covered family whose adjusted income exceeds 80 percent of the area median income at the time of enrollment.

''(C) WITHDRAWALS.—A covered family shall be able to withdraw funds, including interest earned, from an escrow account established by an eligible entity under the pilot program—

''(i) after the covered family ceases to receive welfare assistance; and

''(ii)(I) not earlier than the date that is 5 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account under this subsection;

''(II) not later than the date that is 7 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account under this subsection, if the covered family chooses to continue to participate in the pilot program after the date that is 5 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account;

''(III) on the date the covered family ceases to receive housing assistance under section 8 or 9, if such date is earlier than 5 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account;

''(IV) earlier than 5 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account, if the covered family is using the funds to advance a self-sufficiency goal as approved by the eligible entity; or

''(V) under other circumstances in which the Secretary determines an exemption for good cause is warranted.

''(D) INTERIM RECERTIFICATION.—For purposes of the pilot program, a covered family may recertify the income of the covered family multiple times per year, as determined by the Secretary, and not fewer than once per year.

''(E) CONTRACT OR PLAN.—A covered family is not required to complete a standard contract of participation or an individual training and services plan in order to participate in the pilot program.

''(4) EFFECT OF INCREASES IN FAMILY INCOME.—Any increase in the earned income of a covered family during the enrollment of the family in the pilot program may not be considered as income or a resource for purposes of eligibility of the family for other benefits, or amount of benefits payable to the family, under any program administered by the Secretary.

''(5) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking to participate in the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application—

''(i) at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require by notice; and

''(ii) that includes the number of proposed covered families to be served by the eligible entity under this subsection.

''(B) GEOGRAPHIC AND ENTITY VARIETY.—The Secretary shall ensure that eligible entities selected to participate in the pilot program—

''(i) are located across various States and in both urban and rural areas; and

''(ii) vary by size and type, including both public housing agencies and private owners of projects receiving project-based rental assistance under section 8.

''(6) NOTIFICATION AND OPT-OUT.—An eligible entity participating in the pilot program shall—

''(A) notify covered families of their enrollment in the pilot program;

''(B) provide covered families with a detailed description of the pilot program, including how the pilot program will impact their rent and finances;

''(C) inform covered families that the families cannot simultaneously participate in the pilot program and the Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section; and

''(D) provide covered families with the ability to elect not to participate in the pilot program—

''(i) not less than 2 weeks before the date on which the escrow account is established under paragraph (3); and

''(ii) at any point during the duration of the pilot program.

''(7) MAXIMUM RENTS.—During the term of participation by a covered family in the pilot program, the amount of rent paid by the covered family shall be calculated under the rental provisions of section 3 or 8(o), as applicable.

''(8) PILOT PROGRAM TIMELINE.—

''(A) AWARDS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall select the eligible entities to participate in the pilot program.

''(B) ESTABLISHMENT AND TERM OF ACCOUNTS.—An eligible entity selected to participate in the pilot program shall—

''(i) not later than 6 months after selection, establish escrow accounts under paragraph (3) for covered families; and

''(ii) maintain those escrow accounts for not less than 5 years, or until the date the family ceases to receive assistance under section 8 or 9, and, at the discretion of the covered family, not more than 7 years after the date on which the escrow account is established.

''(9) NONPARTICIPATION AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Assistance under section 8 or 9 for a family that elects not to participate in the pilot program shall not be delayed or denied by reason of such election.

''(B) NO TERMINATION.—Housing assistance may not be terminated as a consequence of participating, or not participating, in the pilot program under this subsection for any period of time.

''(10) STUDY.—Not later than 8 years after the date the Secretary selects eligible entities to participate in the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall conduct a study and submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on outcomes for covered families under the pilot program, which shall evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program in assisting families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, and the impact coaching and supportive services, or the lack thereof, had on individual incomes.

''(11) WAIVERS.—To allow selected eligible entities to effectively administer the pilot program and make the required escrow account deposits under this subsection, the Secretary may waive requirements under this section.

''(12) TERMINATION.—The pilot program under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this subsection.

''(13) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2026 such sums as may be necessary—

''(i) for technical assistance related to implementation of the pilot program; and

''(ii) to carry out an evaluation of the pilot program under paragraph (10).

''(B) AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 5405. CHOICE IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT.

(a) SATISFACTION OF INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN OTHER HOUSING PROGRAMS.—Section 8(o)(8) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(8)), as amended by section 101(a) of the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–201; 130 Stat. 783), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(I) SATISFACTION OF INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN OTHER HOUSING PROGRAMS.—

''(i) LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT-FINANCED BUILDINGS.—A dwelling unit shall be deemed to meet the inspection requirements under this paragraph if—

''(I) the dwelling unit is in a building, the acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction of which was financed by a person who received a low-income housing tax credit under section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in exchange for that financing;

''(II) the dwelling unit was physically inspected and passed inspection as part of the low-income housing tax credit program described in subclause (I) during the preceding 12-month period; and

''(III) the applicable public housing agency is able to obtain the results of the inspection described in subclause (II).

''(ii) HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM.—A dwelling shall be deemed to meet the inspection requirements under this paragraph if—

''(I) the dwelling unit is assisted under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.);

''(II) the dwelling unit was physically inspected and passed inspection as part of the program described in subclause (I) during the preceding 12-month period; and

''(III) the applicable public housing agency is able to obtain the results of the inspection described in subclause (II).

''(iii) RURAL HOUSING SERVICE.—A dwelling unit shall be deemed to meet the inspection requirements under this paragraph if—

''(I) the dwelling unit is assisted by the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture;

''(II) the dwelling unit was physically inspected and passed inspection in connection with the assistance described in subclause (I) during the preceding 12-month period; and

''(III) the applicable public housing agency is able to obtain the results of the inspection described in subclause (II).

''(iv) REMOTE OR VIDEO INSPECTIONS.—When complying with inspection requirements for a housing unit located in a rural or small area using assistance under this subtitle, the Secretary may allow a grantee to conduct a remote or video inspection of a unit.

''(v) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) shall be construed to affect the operation of a housing program described in, or authorized under a provision of law described in, that clause.''.

(b) PRE-APPROVAL OF UNITS.—Section 8(o)(8)(A) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(8)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) INITIAL INSPECTION PRIOR TO LEASE AGREEMENT.—

''(I) DEFINITION.—In this clause, the term 'new landlord' means an owner of a dwelling unit who has not previously entered into a housing assistance payment contract with a public housing agency under this subsection for any dwelling unit.

''(II) EARLY INSPECTION.—Upon the request of a new landlord, a public housing agency may inspect the dwelling unit owned by the new landlord to determine whether the unit meets the housing quality standards under subparagraph (B) before the unit is selected by a tenant assisted under this subsection.

''(III) EFFECT.—An inspection conducted under subclause (II) that determines that the dwelling unit meets the housing quality standards under subparagraph (B) shall satisfy this subparagraph and subparagraph (C) if the new landlord enters into a lease agreement with a tenant assisted under this subsection not later than 60 days after the date of the inspection.

''(IV) INFORMATION WHEN FAMILY IS SELECTED.—When a public housing agency selects a family to participate in the tenant-based assistance program under this subsection, the public housing agency shall include in the information provided to the family a list of dwelling units that have been inspected under subclause (II) and determined to meet the housing quality standards under subparagraph (B).''.

TITLE V—PROGRAM REFORM

SEC. 5501. REFORMING DISASTER RECOVERY ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Fund established under subsection (c).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The offices and officers of the Department shall be responsible for—

(A) leading and coordinating the disaster-related responsibilities of the Department under the National Response Framework, the National Disaster Recovery Framework, and the National Mitigation Framework;

(B) coordinating and administering programs, policies, and activities of the Department related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, resiliency, and mitigation, including disaster recovery assistance under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(C) supporting disaster-impacted communities as those communities specifically assess, plan for, and address the housing stock and housing needs in the transition from emergency shelters and interim housing to permanent housing of those displaced, especially among vulnerable populations and extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households;

(D) collaborating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration and across the Department to align disaster-related regulations and policies, including incorporation of consensus-based codes and standards and insurance purchase requirements, and ensuring coordination and reducing duplication among other Federal disaster recovery programs;

(E) promoting best practices in mitigation and resilient land use planning;

(F) coordinating technical assistance, including mitigation, resiliency, and recovery training and information on all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, to entities that receive disaster recovery assistance under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) that demonstrate capacity constraints; and

(G) supporting State, Tribal, and local governments in developing, coordinating, and maintaining their capacity for disaster resilience and recovery and developing pre-disaster recovery and hazard mitigation plans, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other Federal agencies.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCY.—Section 4 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) OFFICE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCY.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the Office of the Secretary, the Office of Disaster Management and Resiliency.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Office of Disaster Management and Resiliency shall—

''(A) be responsible for oversight and coordination of all departmental disaster preparedness and response responsibilities; and

''(B) coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and the Office of Community Planning and Development and other offices of the Department in supporting recovery and resilience activities to provide a comprehensive approach in working with communities.''.

(c) LONG-TERM DISASTER RECOVERY FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Fund.

(2) DEPOSITS, TRANSFERS, AND CREDIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Fund shall consist of amounts appropriated, transferred, and credited to the Fund.

(B) TRANSFERS.—The following may be transferred to the Fund:

(i) Amounts made available through section 106(c)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306(c)(4)) as a result of actions taken under section 104(e), 111, or 124(j) of such Act.

(ii) Any unobligated balances available until expended remaining or subsequently recaptured from amounts appropriated for any disaster and related purposes under the heading ''Community Development Fund'' in any Act prior to the establishment of the Fund.

(C) USE OF TRANSFERRED AMOUNTS.—Amounts transferred to the Fund shall be used for the eligible uses described in paragraph (3).

(3) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available—

(i) to provide assistance in the form of grants under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d); and

(ii) for activities of the Department that support the provision of such assistance, including necessary salaries and expenses, information technology, and capacity building, technical assistance, and pre-disaster readiness.

(B) SET ASIDE.—Of each amount appropriated for or transferred to the Fund, 3 percent shall be made available for activities described in subparagraph (A)(ii), which shall be in addition to other amounts made available for those activities.

(C) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—With respect to amounts made available for use in accordance with subparagraph (B)—

(i) amounts may be transferred to the account under the heading for ''Program Offices—Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development'', or any successor account, for the Department to carry out activities described in paragraph (1)(B); and

(ii) amounts may be used for the activities described in subparagraph (A)(ii) and for the administrative costs of administering any funds appropriated to the Department under the heading ''Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund'' for any major disaster declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) in any Act before the establishment of the Fund.

(D) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not less than one-tenth of 1 percent of each series of awards the Secretary makes from the Fund shall be transferred to the account under the heading ''Office of Inspector General'' for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support audit activities and to investigate grantee noncompliance with program requirements and waste, fraud, and abuse as a result of appropriations made available through the Fund.

(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Funding under clause (i) shall not be made available to the Office of Inspector General until 90 days after the date on which the grantee plan or supplemental plan for the grantee is approved by the Secretary under subsection (c) or (f)(3)(C) of section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d), is approved by the Secretary.

(4) INTERCHANGEABILITY OF PRIOR ADMINISTRATIVE AMOUNTS.—Any amounts appropriated in any Act prior to the establishment of the Fund and transferred to the account under the heading ''Program Offices—Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development'', or any predecessor account, for the Department for the costs of administering funds appropriated to the Department under the heading ''Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund'' for any major disaster declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) shall be available for the costs of administering any such funds provided by any prior or future Act, notwithstanding the purposes for which those amounts were appropriated and in addition to any amount provided for the same purposes in other appropriations Acts.

(5) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated, transferred, and credited to the Fund shall remain available until expended.

(6) FORMULA ALLOCATION.—Use of amounts in the Fund for grants shall be made by formula allocation in accordance with the requirements of section 124(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d).

(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund such sums as may be necessary to respond to current or future major disasters declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179) for grants under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d).

(d) ESTABLISHMENT OF CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.—Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), as amended by this Act, is amended—

(1) in section 102(a) (42 U.S.C. 5302(a))—

(A) in paragraph (20)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(ii) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by inserting ''or (B)'' after ''subparagraph (A)''; and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) The term 'persons of extremely low income' means families and individuals whose income levels do not exceed household

income levels determined by the Secretary under section 3(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)(C)), except that the Secretary may provide alternative definitions for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(25) The term 'major disaster' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).'';

(2) in section 106(c)(4) (42 U.S.C. 5306(c)(4))—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act'';

(ii) inserting ''States for use in nonentitlement areas and to'' before ''metropolitan cities''; and

(iii) inserting ''major'' after ''affected by the'';

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking ''metropolitan city or'' and inserting ''State, metropolitan city, or'';

(ii) by striking ''city or county'' and inserting ''State, city, or county''; and

(iii) by inserting ''major'' before ''disaster'';

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''metropolitan cities and'' and inserting ''States, metropolitan cities, and'';

(D) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking ''metropolitan city or'' and inserting ''State, metropolitan city, or''; and

(ii) by inserting ''major'' before ''disaster''; and

(E) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''metropolitan city or'' and inserting ''State, metropolitan city, or'';

(3) in section 122 (42 U.S.C. 5321), by striking ''disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act'' and inserting ''major disaster''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 124. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION, FORMULA, AND ALLOCATION.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized to make community development block grant disaster recovery grants from the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Fund established under section 501(c) of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Fund') for necessary expenses for activities authorized under subsection (f)(1) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster.

''(2) GRANT AWARDS.—Grants shall be awarded under this section to States, units of general local government, and Indian tribes based on capacity and the concentration of damage, as determined by the Secretary, to support the efficient and effective administration of funds.

''(3) SECTION 106 ALLOCATIONS.—Grants under this section shall not be considered relevant to the formula allocations made pursuant to section 106.

''(4) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue a notice in the Federal Register containing the latest formula allocation methodologies used to determine the total estimate of unmet needs related to housing, economic revitalization, and infrastructure in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster.

''(B) PUBLIC COMMENT.—If the Secretary has not already requested public comment on the formula described in the notice required by subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall solicit public comments on—

''(i) the methodologies described in subparagraph (A) and seek alternative methods for formula allocation within a similar total amount of funding;

''(ii) the impact of formula methodologies on rural areas and Tribal areas;

''(iii) adjustments to improve targeting to the most serious needs;

''(iv) objective criteria for grantee capacity and concentration of damage to inform grantee determinations and minimum allocation thresholds; and

''(v) research and data to inform an additional amount to be provided for mitigation depending on type of disaster, which shall be up to 18 percent of the total estimate of unmet needs.

''(5) REGULATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a formula to allocate assistance from the Fund to the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster.

''(B) FORMULA REQUIREMENTS.—The formula established under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) set forth criteria to determine that a major disaster is catastrophic, which criteria shall consider the presence of a high concentration of damaged housing or businesses that individual, State, Tribal, and local resources could not reasonably be expected to address without additional Federal assistance or other nationally encompassing data that the Secretary determines are adequate to assess relative impact and distress across geographic areas;

''(ii) include a methodology for identifying most impacted and distressed areas, which shall consider unmet serious needs related to housing, economic revitalization, and infrastructure;

''(iii) include an allocation calculation that considers the unmet serious needs resulting from the catastrophic major disaster and an additional amount up to 18 percent for activities to reduce risks of loss resulting from other natural disasters in the most impacted and distressed area, primarily for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons, with particular focus on activities that reduce repetitive loss of property and critical infrastructure; and

''(iv) establish objective criteria for periodic review and updates to the formula to reflect changes in available data.

''(C) MINIMUM ALLOCATION THRESHOLD.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a minimum allocation threshold.

''(D) INTERIM ALLOCATION.—Until such time that the Secretary issues final regulations under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

''(i) allocate assistance from the Fund using the formula allocation methodology published in accordance with paragraph (4); and

''(ii) include an additional amount for mitigation of up to 18 percent of the total estimate of unmet need.

''(6) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(i) except as provided in clause (ii), not later than 90 days after the President declares a major disaster, use best available data to determine whether the major disaster is catastrophic and qualifies for assistance under the formula described in paragraph (4) or (5), unless data is insufficient to make this determination; and

''(ii) if the best available data is insufficient to make the determination required under clause (i) within the 90-day period described in that clause, the Secretary shall determine whether the major disaster qualifies when sufficient data becomes available, but in no case shall the Secretary make the determination later than 120 days after the declaration of the major disaster.

''(B) ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALLOCATION.—If amounts are available in the Fund at the time the Secretary determines that the major disaster is catastrophic and qualifies for assistance under the formula described in paragraph (4) or (5), the Secretary shall immediately announce an allocation for a grant under this section.

''(C) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If additional amounts are appropriated to the Fund after amounts are allocated under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall announce an allocation or additional allocation (if a prior allocation under subparagraph (B) was less than the formula calculation) within 15 days of any such appropriation.

''(7) PRELIMINARY FUNDING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To speed recovery, the Secretary is authorized to allocate and award preliminary grants from the Fund before making a determination under paragraph (6)(A) if the Secretary projects, based on a preliminary assessment of impact and distress, that a major disaster is catastrophic and would likely qualify for funding under the formula described in paragraph (4) or (5).

''(B) AMOUNT.—

''(i) MAXIMUM.—The Secretary may award preliminary funding under subparagraph (A) in an amount that is not more than $5,000,000.

''(ii) SLIDING SCALE.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a sliding scale for preliminary funding awarded under subparagraph (A) based on the size of the preliminary assessment of impact and distress.

''(C) USE OF FUNDS.—The uses of preliminary funding awarded under subparagraph (A) shall be limited to eligible activities that—

''(i) in the determination of the Secretary, will support faster recovery, improve the ability of the grantee to assess unmet recovery needs, plan for the prevention of improper payments, and reduce fraud, waste, and abuse; and

''(ii) may include evaluating the interim housing, permanent housing, and supportive service needs of the disaster impacted community, with special attention to vulnerable populations, such as homeless and low- to moderate-income households, to inform the grantee action plan required under subsection (c).

''(D) CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING.—Preliminary funding awarded under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) is not subject to the certification requirements of subsection (h)(1); and

''(ii) shall not be considered when calculating the amount of the grant used for administrative costs, technical assistance, and planning activities that are subject to the requirements under subsection (f)(2).

''(E) WAIVER.—To expedite the use of preliminary funding for activities described in this paragraph, the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements to the requirements of this section in accordance with subsection (i).

''(F) AMENDED AWARD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An award for preliminary funding under subparagraph (A) may be amended to add any subsequent amount awarded because of a determination by the Secretary that a major disaster is catastrophic and qualifies for assistance under the formula.

''(ii) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (D), amounts provided by an

amendment under clause (i) are subject to the requirements under subsections (f)(1) and (h)(1) and other requirements on grant funds under this section.

''(G) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Concurrent with the allocation of any preliminary funding awarded under this paragraph, the Secretary shall assign or provide technical assistance to the recipient of the grant.

''(b) INTERCHANGEABILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to approve the use of grants under this section to be used interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a declaration of another catastrophic major disaster that qualifies for assistance under the formula established under paragraph (4) or (5) of subsection (a) or a major disaster for which the Secretary allocated funds made available under the heading 'Community Development Fund' in any Act prior to the establishment of the Fund.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish requirements to expedite the use of grants under this section for the purpose described in paragraph (1).

''(3) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—Amounts repurposed pursuant to this subsection that were previously designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

''(c) GRANTEE PLANS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary announces a grant allocation under this section, unless an extension is granted by the Secretary, the grantee shall submit to the Secretary a plan for approval describing—

''(A) the activities the grantee will carry out with the grant under this section;

''(B) the criteria of the grantee for awarding assistance and selecting activities;

''(C) how the use of the grant under this section will address disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas;

''(D) how the use of the grant funds for mitigation is consistent with hazard mitigation plans submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency under section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165);

''(E) the estimated amount proposed to be used for activities that will benefit persons of low and moderate income;

''(F) how the use of grant funds will repair and replace existing housing stock for vulnerable populations, including low- to moderate-income households;

''(G) how the grantee will address the priorities described in paragraph (5);

''(H) how uses of funds are proportional to unmet needs, as required under paragraph (6);

''(I) for State grantees that plan to distribute grant amounts to units of general local government, a description of the method of distribution; and

''(J) such other information as may be determined by the Secretary in regulation.

''(2) PUBLIC CONSULTATION.—To permit public examination and appraisal of the plan described in paragraph (1), to enhance the public accountability of grantee, and to facilitate coordination of activities with different levels of government, when developing the plan or substantial amendments proposed to the plan required under paragraph (1), a grantee shall—

''(A) publish the plan before adoption;

''(B) provide citizens, affected units of general local government, and other interested parties with reasonable notice of, and opportunity to comment on, the plan, with a public comment period of not less than 14 days;

''(C) consider comments received before submission to the Secretary;

''(D) follow a citizen participation plan for disaster assistance adopted by the grantee that, at a minimum, provides for participation of residents of the most impacted and distressed area affected by the major disaster that resulted in the grant under this section and other considerations established by the Secretary; and

''(E) undertake any consultation with interested parties as may be determined by the Secretary in regulation.

''(3) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) by regulation, specify criteria for the approval, partial approval, or disapproval of a plan submitted under paragraph (1), including approval of substantial amendments to the plan;

''(B) review a plan submitted under paragraph (1) upon receipt of the plan;

''(C) allow a grantee to revise and resubmit a plan or substantial amendment to a plan under paragraph (1) that the Secretary disapproves;

''(D) by regulation, specify criteria for when the grantee shall be required to provide the required revisions to a disapproved plan or substantial amendment under paragraph (1) for public comment prior to resubmission of the plan or substantial amendment to the Secretary; and

''(E) approve, partially approve, or disapprove a plan or substantial amendment under paragraph (1) not later than 60 days after the date on which the plan or substantial amendment is received by the Secretary.

''(4) LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME OVERALL BENEFIT.—

''(A) USE OF FUNDS.—Not less than 70 percent of a grant made under this section shall be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income unless the Secretary—

''(i) specifically finds that—

''(I) there is compelling need to reduce the percentage for the grant; and

''(II) the housing needs of low- and moderate-income persons have been addressed; and

''(ii) issues a waiver and alternative requirement specific to the grant pursuant to subsection (i) to lower the percentage.

''(B) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish protocols that reflect the required use of funds under subparagraph (A), including persons with extremely and very low incomes.

''(5) PRIORITIZATION.—The grantee shall prioritize activities that—

''(A) assist persons with extremely low-, low-, and moderate-incomes and other vulnerable populations to better recover from and withstand future disasters;

''(B) address housing needs arising from a disaster, or those needs present prior to a disaster, including the needs of both renters and homeowners;

''(C) prolong the life of housing and infrastructure;

''(D) use cost-effective means of preventing harm to people and property and incorporate protective features and redundancies; and

''(E) other measures that will assure the continuation of critical services during future disasters.

''(6) PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION.—For each specific disaster, a grantee under this section shall allocate grant funds proportional to unmet needs between housing activities for renters and homeowners, economic revitalization, and infrastructure unless the Secretary specifically finds that—

''(A) there is a compelling need for a disproportional allocation among those unmet needs; and

''(B) the disproportional allocation described in subparagraph (A) is not inconsistent with the requirements under paragraph (4).

''(7) DISASTER RISK MITIGATION.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'hazard-prone areas'—

''(i) means areas identified by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, at risk from natural hazards that threaten property damage or health, safety, and welfare, such as floods, wildfires (including Wildland-Urban Interface areas), earthquakes, lava inundation, tornados, and high winds; and

''(ii) includes areas having special flood hazards as identified under the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4002 et seq.) or the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

''(B) HAZARD-PRONE AREAS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall establish minimum construction standards, insurance purchase requirements, and other requirements for the use of grant funds in hazard-prone areas.

''(C) SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For the areas described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the insurance purchase requirements established under subparagraph (B) shall meet or exceed the requirements under section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a(a)).

''(ii) TREATMENT AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—All grants under this section shall be treated as financial assistance for purposes of section 3(a)(3) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4003(a)(3)).

''(D) CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE RISKS.—The Secretary may consider future risks to protecting property and health, safety, and general welfare, and the likelihood of those risks, when making the determination of or modification to hazard-prone areas under this paragraph.

''(8) RELOCATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.) shall apply to activities assisted under this section to the extent determined by the Secretary in regulation, or as provided in waivers or alternative requirements authorized in accordance with subsection (i).

''(B) POLICY.—Each grantee under this section shall establish a relocation assistance policy that—

''(i) minimizes displacement and describes the benefits available to persons displaced as a direct result of acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition in connection with an activity that is assisted by a grant under this section; and

''(ii) includes any appeal rights or other requirements that the Secretary establishes by regulation.

''(d) CERTIFICATIONS.—Any grant under this section shall be made only if the grantee certifies to the satisfaction of the Secretary that—

''(1) the grantee is in full compliance with the requirements under subsection (c)(2);

''(2) for grants other than grants to Indian tribes, the grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.);

''(3) the projected use of funds has been developed so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities that will benefit recipients described in subsection (c)(4)(A) and activities described in subsection (c)(5), and may also include activities that are designed to aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight to support disaster recovery, meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs, and alleviate future threats to human populations, critical natural resources, and property that an analysis of hazards shows are likely to result from natural disasters in the future;

''(4) the grant funds shall principally benefit persons of low- and moderate-income as described in subsection (c)(4)(A);

''(5) for grants other than grants to Indian tribes, within 24 months of receiving a grant or at the time of its 3- or 5-year update, whichever is sooner, the grantee will review and make modifications to its non-disaster housing and community development plans and strategies required by subsections (c) and (m) of section 104 to reflect the disaster recovery needs identified by the grantee and consistency with the plan under subsection (c)(1);

''(6) the grantee will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted in whole or part under this section by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements, unless—

''(A) funds received under this section are used to pay the proportion of such fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from revenue sources other than under this chapter; or

''(B) for purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of moderate income, the grantee certifies to the Secretary that the grantee lacks sufficient funds received under this section to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (A);

''(7) the grantee will comply with the other provisions of this title that apply to assistance under this section and with other applicable laws;

''(8) the grantee will follow a relocation assistance policy that includes any minimum requirements identified by the Secretary; and

''(9) the grantee will adhere to construction standards, insurance purchase requirements, and other requirements for development in hazard-prone areas described in subsection (c)(7).

''(e) PERFORMANCE REVIEWS AND REPORTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, on not less frequently than an annual basis until the closeout of a particular grant allocation, make such reviews and audits as may be necessary or appropriate to determine whether a grantee under this section has—

''(A) carried out activities using grant funds in a timely manner;

''(B) met the performance targets established by paragraph (2);

''(C) carried out activities using grant funds in accordance with the requirements of this section, the other provisions of this title that apply to assistance under this section, and other applicable laws; and

''(D) a continuing capacity to carry out activities in a timely manner.

''(2) PERFORMANCE TARGETS.—The Secretary shall develop and make publicly available critical performance targets for review, which shall include spending thresholds for each year from the date on which funds are obligated by the Secretary to the grantee until such time all funds have been expended.

''(3) FAILURE TO MEET TARGETS.—

''(A) SUSPENSION.—If a grantee under this section fails to meet 1 or more critical performance targets under paragraph (2), the Secretary may temporarily suspend the grant.

''(B) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—If the Secretary suspends a grant under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide to the grantee a performance improvement plan with the specific requirements needed to lift the suspension within a defined time period.

''(C) REPORT.—If a grantee fails to meet the spending thresholds established under paragraph (2), the grantee shall submit to the Secretary, the appropriate committees of Congress, and each member of Congress who represents a district or State of the grantee a written report identifying technical capacity, funding, or other Federal or State impediments affecting the ability of the grantee to meet the spending thresholds.

''(4) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND REPORTING.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT.—A grantee under this section shall provide to the Secretary such information as the Secretary may determine necessary for adequate oversight of the grant program under this section.

''(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall make information submitted under subparagraph (A) available to the public and to the Inspector General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

''(C) SUMMARY STATUS REPORTS.—To increase transparency and accountability of the grant program under this section the Secretary shall, on not less frequently than an annual basis, post on a public facing dashboard summary status reports for all active grants under this section that includes—

''(i) the status of funds by activity;

''(ii) the percentages of funds allocated and expended to benefit low- and moderate-income communities;

''(iii) performance targets, spending thresholds, and accomplishments; and

''(iv) other information the Secretary determines to be relevant for transparency.

''(D) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that personally identifiable information regarding applicants for assistance provided from funds made available under this section is not made publicly available.

''(E) RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, upon a formal request from researchers, make disaggregated information available to the requestor that is specific and relevant to the research being conducted, and for the purposes of researching program impact and efficacy.

''(ii) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—In making information available under clause (i), the Secretary shall protect personally identifiable information as required under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Privacy Act of 1974').

''(f) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Activities assisted under this section—

''(A) may include activities permitted under section 105 or other activities permitted by the Secretary by waiver or alternative requirement pursuant to subsection (i); and

''(B) shall be related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from the major disaster for which the grant was awarded.

''(2) PROHIBITION.—Grant funds under this section may not be used for costs reimbursable by, or for which funds have been made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PLANNING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in regulation the maximum grant amounts a grantee may use for administrative costs, technical assistance and planning activities, taking into consideration size of grant, complexity of recovery, and other factors as determined by the Secretary, but not to exceed 8 percent for administration and 20 percent in total.

''(B) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts available for administrative costs for a grant under this section shall be available for eligible administrative costs of the grantee for any grant made under this section, without regard to a particular disaster.

''(C) SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Grantees may submit to the Secretary an optional supplemental plan to the grantee plan required under this title specifically for administrative costs, which shall include a description of the use of all grant funds for administrative costs, including for any eligible pre-award program administrative costs, and how such uses will prepare the grantee to more effectively and expeditiously administer funds provided under the full plan.

''(ii) USE OF FUNDS.—If a supplemental plan is approved under clause (i), a grantee may draw down the aforementioned administrative funds before the full grantee plan is approved.

''(iii) WAIVERS.—In carrying out this subparagraph, the Secretary may include any waivers or alternative requirements in accordance with subsection (i).

''(4) PROGRAM INCOME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any grantee under this section may retain program income that is realized from grants made by the Secretary under this section if the grantee agrees that the grantee will utilize the program income in accordance with the requirements for grants under this section, except that the Secretary may—

''(A) by regulation, exclude from consideration as program income any amounts determined to be so small that compliance with this paragraph creates an unreasonable administrative burden on the grantee; or

''(B) permit the grantee to transfer remaining program income to the other grants of the grantee under this title upon closeout of the grant.

''(5) PROHIBITION ON USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT RELOCATION ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants under this section may not be used to assist directly in the relocation of any industrial or commercial plant, facility, or operation, from one area to another area, if the relocation is likely to result in a significant loss of employment in the labor market area from which the relocation occurs.

''(B) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibition under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a business that was operating in the disaster-declared labor market area before the incident date of the applicable disaster and has since moved, in whole or in part, from the affected area to another State or to a labor market area within the same State to continue business.

''(6) REQUIREMENTS.—Grants under this section are subject to the requirements of this section, the other provisions of this title

that apply to assistance under this section, and other applicable laws, unless modified by waivers or alternative requirements in accordance with subsection (i).

''(g) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

''(1) ADOPTION.—A recipient of funds provided under this section that uses the funds to supplement Federal assistance provided under section 203, 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, 408(c)(4), 428, or 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170a, 5170b, 5170c, 5172, 5173, 5174(c)(4), 5189f, 5192) may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency, and such adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of the recipient with respect to such environmental review, approval, or permit under section 104(g)(1), so long as the actions covered by the existing environmental review, approval, or permit and the actions proposed for these supplemental funds are substantially the same.

''(2) APPROVAL OF RELEASE OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding section 104(g)(2), the Secretary or a State may, upon receipt of a request for release of funds and certification, immediately approve the release of funds for an activity or project to be assisted under this section if the recipient has adopted an environmental review, approval, or permit under paragraph (1) or the activity or project is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

''(3) UNITS OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The provisions of section 104(g)(4) shall apply to assistance under this section that a State distributes to a unit of general local government.

''(h) FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop requirements and procedures to demonstrate that a grantee under this section—

''(A) has adequate financial controls and procurement processes;

''(B) has adequate procedures to detect and prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and duplication of benefit; and

''(C) maintains a comprehensive and publicly accessible website.

''(2) CERTIFICATION.—Before making a grant under this section, the Secretary shall certify that the grantee has in place proficient processes and procedures to comply with the requirements developed under paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) COMPLIANCE BEFORE ALLOCATION.—The Secretary may permit a State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe to demonstrate compliance with the requirements for adequate financial controls developed under paragraph (1) before a disaster occurs and before receiving an allocation for a grant under this section.

''(4) DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available under this section shall be used in accordance with section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), as amended by section 1210 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (division D of Public Law 115–254), and such rules as may be prescribed under such section 312.

''(B) PENALTIES.—In any case in which the use of grant funds under this section results in a prohibited duplication of benefits, the grantee shall—

''(i) apply an amount equal to the identified duplication to any allowable costs of the award consistent with actual, immediate cash requirement;

''(ii) remit any excess amounts to the Secretary to be credited to the obligated, undisbursed balance of the grant consistent with requirements on Federal payments applicable to such grantee; and

''(iii) if excess amounts under clause (ii) are identified after the period of performance or after the closeout of the award, remit such amounts to the Secretary to be credited to the Fund.

''(C) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—Any grantee provided funds under this section or from prior Appropriations Acts under the heading 'Community Development Fund' for purposes related to major disasters that fails to comply with section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155) or fails to satisfy penalties to resolve a duplication of benefits shall be subject to remedies for noncompliance under section 111, unless the Secretary publishes a determination in the Federal Register that it is not in the best interest of the Federal Government to pursue remedial actions.

''(i) WAIVERS AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In administering grants under this section, the Secretary may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by the grantee of those funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, the environment, and the requirements of this section that do not expressly authorize modifications by waiver or alternative requirement), if the Secretary makes a public finding that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement.

''(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A waiver or alternative requirement described in paragraph (1) shall not take effect before the date that is 5 days after the date of publication of the waiver or alternative requirement on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the effective date for any regulation published in the Federal Register.

''(3) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the public of all waivers or alternative requirements described in paragraph (1) in accordance with the requirements of section 7(q)(3) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(q)(3)).

''(j) UNUSED AMOUNTS.—

''(1) DEADLINE TO USE AMOUNTS.—A grantee under this section shall use an amount equal to the grant within 6 years beginning on the date on which the Secretary obligates the amounts to the grantee, as such period may be extended under paragraph (4).

''(2) RECAPTURE.—The Secretary shall recapture and credit to the Fund any amount that is unused by a grantee under this section upon the earlier of—

''(A) the date on which the grantee notifies the Secretary that the grantee has completed all activities identified in the disaster grantee's plan under subsection (c); or

''(B) the expiration of the 6-year period described in paragraph (1), as such period may be extended under paragraph (4).

''(3) RETENTION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary—

''(A) shall allow a grantee under this section to retain amounts needed to close out grants; and

''(B) may allow a grantee under this section to retain up to 10 percent of the remaining funds to support maintenance of the minimal capacity to launch a new program in the event of a future disaster and to support pre-disaster long-term recovery and mitigation planning.

''(4) EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may extend the 6-year period described in paragraph (1) by not more than 4 years, or not more than 6 years for mitigation activities, if—

''(A) the grantee submits to the Secretary—

''(i) written documentation of the exigent circumstances impacting the ability of the grantee to expend funds that could not be anticipated; or

''(ii) a justification that such request is necessary due to the nature and complexity of the program and projects; and

''(B) the Secretary submits a written justification for the extension to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that specifies the period of that extension.

''(k) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).''.

(e) REGULATIONS.—

(1) PROPOSED RULES.—Following consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and other Federal agencies, not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue proposed rules to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act and shall provide a 90-day period for submission of public comments on those proposed rules.

(2) FINAL RULES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue final regulations to carry out section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d).

(f) COORDINATION OF DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE, BENEFITS, AND DATA WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) COORDINATION OF DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.—In order to ensure a comprehensive approach to Federal disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster, the Secretary shall coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to the greatest extent practicable, in the implementation of assistance authorized under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d).

(2) DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS.—To support the coordination of data to prevent duplication of benefits with other Federal disaster recovery programs while also expediting recovery and reducing burden on disaster survivors, the Department shall establish data sharing agreements that safeguard privacy with relevant Federal agencies to ensure disaster benefits effectively and efficiently reach intended beneficiaries, while using effective means of preventing harm to people and property.

(3) DATA TRANSFER FROM FEMA AND SBA TO HUD.—As permitted and deemed necessary for efficient program execution, and consistent with a computer matching agreement entered into under paragraph (6)(A), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall provide data on disaster applicants to the Department, including, when necessary, personally identifiable information, disaster recovery needs, and resources determined eligible for, and amounts expended, to the Secretary for all major disasters declared by the President pursuant to section 401 of Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) for the purpose of providing additional assistance to disaster

survivors and prevent duplication of benefits.

(4) DATA TRANSFERS FROM HUD TO HUD GRANTEES.—The Secretary is authorized to provide to grantees under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d), offices of the Department, technical assistance providers, and lenders information that in the determination of the Secretary is reasonably available and appropriate to inform the provision of assistance after a major disaster, including information provided to the Secretary by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or other Federal agencies.

(5) DATA TRANSFERS FROM HUD GRANTEES TO HUD, FEMA, AND SBA.—

(A) REPORTING.—Grantees under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d), shall report information requested by the Secretary on households, businesses, and other entities assisted and the type of assistance provided.

(B) SHARING INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall share information collected under subparagraph (A) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and other Federal agencies to support the planning and delivery of disaster recovery and mitigation assistance and other related purposes.

(6) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The Secretary may make and receive data transfers authorized under this subsection, including the use and retention of that data for computer matching programs, to inform the provision of assistance, assess disaster recovery needs, and prevent the duplication of benefits and other waste, fraud, and abuse, provided that—

(A) the Secretary enters an information sharing agreement or a computer matching agreement, when required by section 522a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Privacy Act of 1974''), with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or other Federal agencies covering the transfer of data;

(B) the Secretary publishes intent to disclose data in the Federal Register;

(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), section 552a of title 5, United States Code, or any other law, the Secretary is authorized to share data with an entity identified in paragraph (4), and the entity is authorized to use the data as described in this section, if the Secretary enters a data sharing agreement with the entity before sharing or receiving any information under transfers authorized by this section, which data sharing agreement shall—

(i) in the determination of the Secretary, include measures adequate to safeguard the privacy and personally identifiable information of individuals; and

(ii) include provisions that describe how the personally identifiable information of an individual will be adequately safeguarded and protected, which requires consultation with the Secretary and the head of each Federal agency the data of which is being shared subject to the agreement.

SEC. 5502. HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS REAUTHORIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 205 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12724) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.

''The HOME Investment Partnerships Program under subtitle A is hereby authorized. There is authorized such sums as may be necessary to carry out subtitle A.''.

(b) INCREASE IN PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION RESOURCES.—Subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 212(c) (42 U.S.C. 12742(c)), by striking ''10 percent'' and inserting ''15 percent''; and

(2) in section 220(b) (42 U.S.C. 12750(b))—

(A) by striking ''RECOGNITION.—'' and all that follows through ''A contribution'' and inserting the following: ''RECOGNITION.—A contribution''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2).

(c) MODIFICATION OF JURISDICTIONS ELIGIBLE FOR REALLOCATIONS.—Section 217(d)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12747(d)(3)) is amended by striking ''LIMITATION.—Unless otherwise specified'' and inserting the following: ″LIMITATIONS.— ''

''(A) REMOVAL OF PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS FROM REALLOCATION.—The Secretary may, upon a finding that such jurisdiction has failed to meet or comply with the requirements of this title, remove a participating jurisdiction from participation in reallocations of funds made available under this title.

''(B) REALLOCATION TO SAME TYPE OF ENTITY.—Unless otherwise specified''.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO QUALIFICATION AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—Section 215 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12745) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(E), by striking all that follows ''purposes of this Act,'' and inserting the following: ''except upon a foreclosure by a lender (or upon other transfer in lieu of foreclosure) if such action—

''(i) recognizes any contractual or legal rights of public agencies, nonprofit sponsors, or others to take actions that would avoid termination of low-income affordability in the case of foreclosure or transfer in lieu of foreclosure; and

''(ii) is not for the purpose of avoiding low-income affordability restrictions, as determined by the Secretary; and''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) SMALL-SCALE HOUSING.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'small-scale housing' means housing with not more than 4 rental units.

''(B) ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—Small-scale housing shall qualify as affordable housing under this title if—

''(i) the housing bears rents that comply with paragraph (1)(A);

''(ii) each unit is occupied by a household that qualifies as a low-income family;

''(iii) the housing complies with paragraph (1)(D);

''(iv) the housing meets the requirements under paragraph (1)(E); and

''(v) the participating jurisdiction monitors ongoing compliance of the housing with requirements of this title in a manner consistent with the purposes of section 226(b), as determined by the Secretary.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''(defined as the amount borrowed by the homebuyer to purchase the home, or estimated value after rehabilitation, which may be adjusted to account for the limits on future value imposed by the resale restriction)'' after ''purchase price''.

(e) ELIMINATION OF COMMITMENT DEADLINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 218 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12748) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (g); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (g).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 218(c) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12748(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking ''section 224'' and inserting ''section 223''.

(f) REFORM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP RESALE RESTRICTIONS.—Section 215 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12745), as amended by this section, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking paragraph (3);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

''(C) is subject to restrictions that are established by the participating jurisdiction and determined by the Secretary to be appropriate, including with respect to the useful life of the property, to—

''(i) require that any subsequent purchase of the property be—

''(I) only by a person who meets the qualifications specified under subparagraph (B); and

''(II) at a price that is determined by a formula or method established by the participating jurisdiction that provides the owner with a reasonable return on investment, which may include a percentage of the cost of any improvements; or

''(ii) recapture the investment provided under this title in order to assist other persons in accordance with the requirements of this title, except where there are no net proceeds or where the net proceeds are insufficient to repay the full amount of the assistance; and'';

(E) by striking ''Housing that is for homeownership'' and inserting the following:

''(1) QUALIFICATION.—Housing that is for homeownership''; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) PURCHASE BY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (C)(i) of paragraph (1) and under terms determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may permit a participating jurisdiction to allow a community land trust that used assistance provided under this subtitle for the development of housing that meets the criteria under paragraph (1), to acquire the housing—

''(A) in accordance with the terms of the preemptive purchase option, lease, covenant on the land, or other similar legal instrument of the community land trust when the terms and rights in the preemptive purchase option, lease, covenant, or legal instrument are and remain subject to the requirements of this title;

''(B) when the purchase is for—

''(i) the purpose of—

''(I) entering into the chain of title;

''(II) enabling a purchase by a person who meets the qualifications specified under paragraph (1)(B) and is on a waitlist maintained by the community land trust, subject to enforcement by the participating jurisdiction of all applicable requirements of this subtitle, as determined by the Secretary;

''(III) performing necessary rehabilitation and improvements; or

''(IV) adding a subsidy to preserve affordability, which may be from Federal or non-Federal sources; or

''(ii) another purpose determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

''(C) if, within a reasonable period of time after the applicable purpose under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph is fulfilled, as determined by the Secretary, the housing is then sold to a person who meets the qualifications specified under paragraph (1)(B).

''(3) SUSPENSION OR WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MILITARY MEMBERS.—A participating jurisdiction, in accordance with terms established by the Secretary, may suspend or waive a requirement under paragraph (1)(B) with respect to housing that otherwise meets the criteria under paragraph (1) if the owner of the housing—

''(A) is a member of a regular component of the armed forces or a member of the National Guard on full-time National Guard duty, active Guard and Reserve duty, or inactive-duty training (as those terms are defined in section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code); and

''(B) has received—

''(i) temporary duty orders to deploy with a military unit or military orders to deploy as an individual acting in support of a military operation, to a location that is not within a reasonable distance from the housing, as determined by the Secretary, for a period of not less than 90 days; or

''(ii) orders for a permanent change of station.

''(4) SUSPENSION OR WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR HEIR OR BENEFICIARY OF DECEASED OWNER.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1), housing that meets the criteria under that paragraph prior to the death of an owner may continue to qualify as affordable housing if—

''(A) the housing is the principal residence of an heir or beneficiary of the deceased owner, as defined by the Secretary; and

''(B) the heir or beneficiary, in accordance with terms established by the Secretary, assumes the duties and obligations of the deceased owner with respect to funds provided under this title.''.

(g) HOME PROPERTY INSPECTIONS.—Section 226(b) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12756(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Each participating jurisdiction'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each participating jurisdiction''; and

(2) by striking ''Such review shall include'' and all that follows and inserting the following:

''(2) ON-SITE INSPECTIONS.—

''(A) INSPECTIONS BY UNITS OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—A review conducted under paragraph (1) by a participating jurisdiction that is a unit of general local government shall include an on-site inspection to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations.

''(B) INSPECTIONS BY STATES.—A review conducted under paragraph (1) by a participating jurisdiction that is a State shall include an on-site inspection to determine compliance with a national standard as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) INCLUSION IN PERFORMANCE REPORT AND PUBLICATION.—A participating jurisdiction shall include in the performance report of the participating jurisdiction submitted to the Secretary under section 108(a), and make available to the public, the results of each review conducted under paragraph (1).''.

(h) REVISIONS TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 223 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12753) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''**PENALTIES FOR MISUSE OF FUNDS**'' and inserting ''**PROGRAM ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**'';

(2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting after ''any provision of this subtitle'' the following: '', including any provision applicable throughout the period required by section 215(a)(1)(E) and applicable regulations,'';

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(4) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) reduce payments to the participating jurisdiction under this subtitle by an amount equal to the amount of such payments which were not expended in accordance with this title.''.

(i) TENANT AND PARTICIPANT PROTECTIONS FOR SMALL-SCALE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—Section 225 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12755) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) TENANT SELECTION FOR SMALL-SCALE HOUSING.—Paragraphs (2) through (4) of subsection (d) shall not apply to the owner of small-scale housing (as defined in section 215(a)(7)).''.

(j) MODIFICATION OF RULES RELATED TO COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS OF COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12704) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (6)(B)—

(I) by striking ''significant''; and

(II) by striking ''and otherwise'' and inserting ''or as otherwise determined acceptable by the Secretary''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(26) The term 'community land trust' means a nonprofit entity or a State or local government or instrumentality thereof that—

''(A) is not managed by, or an affiliate of, a for-profit organization;

''(B) has as a primary purpose acquiring, developing, or holding land to provide housing that is permanently affordable to low- and moderate-income persons, and monitors properties to ensure affordability is preserved;

''(C) provides housing described in subparagraph (B) using a ground lease, deed covenant, or other similar legally enforceable measure, as determined by the Secretary, that—

''(i) keeps the housing affordable to low- and moderate-income persons for not less than 30 years; and

''(ii) enables low- and moderate-income persons to rent or purchase the housing for homeownership; and

''(D) maintains preemptive purchase options to purchase the property so the housing remains affordable to low-and moderate-income persons.''.

(B) ELIMINATION OF EXISTING DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.—Section 233 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12773) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(2) SET-ASIDE FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 231 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12771) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''to be developed, sponsored, or owned by community housing development organizations'' and inserting ''when a community housing development organization materially participates in the ownership or development of such housing, as determined by the Secretary'';

(B) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) RECAPTURE AND REUSE.—If any funds reserved under subsection (a) remain uninvested for a period of 24 months, then the Secretary shall make such funds available to the participating jurisdiction for any eligible activities under this title without regard to whether a community housing development organization materially participates in the use of the funds.''; and

(C) by striking subsection (c).

(k) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—The Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 104 (42 U.S.C. 12704)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (23) (relating to the definition of the term ''to demonstrate to the Secretary'') as paragraph (22); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (24) (relating to the definition of the term ''insular area'', as added by section 2(2) of Public Law 102–230) as paragraph (23);

(2) in section 105(b) (42 U.S.C. 12705(b))—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking ''Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act'' and inserting ''McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act''; and

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking ''subparagraphs'' and inserting ''paragraphs'';

(3) in section 106 (42 U.S.C. 12706), by striking ''Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act'' and inserting ''McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act'';

(4) in section 108(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 12708(a)(1)), by striking ''section 105(b)(15)'' and inserting ''section 105(b)(18)'';

(5) in section 212 (42 U.S.C. 12742)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting ''United States'' before ''Housing Act''; and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4);

(B) in subsection (d)(5), by inserting ''United States'' before ''Housing Act''; and

(C) in subsection (e)(1)—

(i) by striking ''section 221(d)(3)(ii)'' and inserting ''section 221(d)(4)''; and

(ii) by striking ''not to exceed 140 percent'' and inserting ''as determined by the Secretary'';

(6) in section 215(a)(6)(B) (42 U.S.C. 20 12745(a)(6)(B)), by striking ''grand children'' and inserting ''grandchildren'';

(7) in section 217 (42 U.S.C. 12747)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''(3)'' and inserting ''(2)'';

(ii) by striking paragraph (3), as added by section 211(a)(2)(D) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–550; 106 Stat. 3756); and

(iii) by redesignating the remaining paragraph (3), as added by the matter under the heading ''HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM'' under the heading ''HOUSING PROGRAMS'' in title II of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102–389; 106 Stat. 1581), as paragraph (2); and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the first sentence of subparagraph (A)—

(aa) by striking ''in regulation'' and inserting '', by regulation,''; and

(bb) by striking ''eligible jurisdiction'' and inserting ''eligible jurisdictions''; and

(II) in subparagraph (F)—

(aa) in the first sentence—

(AA) in clause (i), by striking ''Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs'' and inserting ''Subcommittee on Housing,

Transportation, and Community Development''; and

(BB) in clause (ii), by striking ''Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development of the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs'' and inserting ''Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance of the Committee on Financial Services''; and

(bb) in the second sentence, by striking ''the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs of the House of Representatives'' and inserting ''the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''$500,000'' each place that term appears and inserting ''$750,000'';

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking ''$500,000'' each place that term appears and inserting ''$750,000''; and

(II) by striking '', except as provided in paragraph (4)''; and

(iv) by striking paragraph (4);

(8) in section 220(c) (42 U.S.C. 12750(c))—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Secretary'' and all that follows and inserting ''Secretary;'';

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''under this title'' and all that follows and inserting ''under this title;''; and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively;

(9) in section 225(d)(4)(B) (42 U.S.C. 12755(d)(4)(B)), by striking ''for'' the first place that term appears; and

(10) in section 283 (42 U.S.C. 12833)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs'' and inserting ''Financial Services''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''General Accounting Office'' each place that term appears and inserting ''Government Accountability Office''.

SEC. 5503. RURAL HOUSING SERVICE REFORM ACT.

(a) APPLICATION OF MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PROCEDURES TO MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGES HELD BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND PRESERVATION OF THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT UPON FORECLOSURE.—

(1) MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGE PROCEDURES.—Section 363(2) of the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 (12 U.S.C. 3702(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) section 514, 515, or 538 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485, 1490p).''.

(2) PRESERVATION OF CONTRACT.—Section 521(d) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law in managing and disposing of any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance under this section—

''(A) the Secretary shall maintain any rental assistance payments that are attached to any dwelling units in the property; and

''(B) the rental assistance contract may be used to provide further assistance to existing projects under 514, 515, or 516.''.

(b) STUDY ON RURAL HOUSING LOANS FOR HOUSING FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a publicly available report on the loan program under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a), including—

(1) the total amount provided by the Secretary in subsidies under such section 521 to borrowers with loans made pursuant to section 502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1472);

(2) how much of the subsidies described in paragraph (1) are being recaptured; and

(3) the amount of time and costs associated with recapturing those subsidies.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR STAFFING AND IT UPGRADES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 such sums as may be necessary for increased staffing needs and information technology upgrades to support all Rural Housing Service programs.

(d) FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026 for improvements to the technology of the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture used to process and manage housing loans.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available until the date that is 5 years after the date of the appropriation.

(3) TIMELINE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall make the improvements described in paragraph (1) during the 5-year period beginning on the date on which amounts are appropriated under paragraph (1).

(e) PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.—Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 545. HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out a program under this section for the preservation and revitalization of multifamily rental housing projects financed under section 514, 515, or 516.

''(b) NOTICE OF MATURING LOANS.—

''(1) TO OWNERS.—On an annual basis, the Secretary shall provide written notice to each owner of a property financed under section 514, 515, or 516 that will mature within the 4-year period beginning upon the provision of the notice, setting forth the options and financial incentives that are available to facilitate the extension of the loan term or the option to decouple a rental assistance contract pursuant to subsection (f).

''(2) TO TENANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—On an annual basis, for each property financed under section 514, 515, or 516, not later than the date that is 2 years before the date that the loan will mature, the Secretary shall provide written notice to each household residing in the property that informs them of—

''(i) the date of the loan maturity;

''(ii) the possible actions that may happen with respect to the property upon that maturity; and

''(iii) how to protect their right to reside in federally assisted housing, or how to secure housing voucher, after that maturity.

''(B) LANGUAGE.—Notice under this paragraph shall be provided in plain English and shall be translated to other languages in the case of any property located in an area in which a significant number of residents speak such other languages.

''(c) LOAN RESTRUCTURING.—Under the program under this section, in any circumstance in which the Secretary proposes a restructuring to an owner or an owner proposes a restructuring to the Secretary, the Secretary may restructure such existing housing loans, as the Secretary considers appropriate, for the purpose of ensuring that those projects have sufficient resources to preserve the projects to provide safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers, by—

''(1) reducing or eliminating interest;

''(2) deferring loan payments;

''(3) subordinating, reducing, or reamortizing loan debt;

''(4) providing other financial assistance, including advances, payments, and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary; and

''(5) permanently removing a portion of the housing units from income restrictions when sustained vacancies have occurred.

''(d) RENEWAL OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—When the Secretary proposes to restructure a loan or agrees to the proposal of an owner to restructure a loan pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary shall offer to renew the rental assistance contract under section 521(a)(2) for a term that is the shorter of 20 years and the term of the restructured loan, subject to annual appropriations, provided that the owner agrees to bring the property up to such standards that will ensure maintenance of the property as decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the full term of the rental assistance contract.

''(2) ADDITIONAL RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect to a project described in paragraph (1), if rental assistance is not available for all households in the project for which the loan is being restructured pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary may extend such additional rental assistance to unassisted households at that project as is necessary to make the project safe and affordable to low-income households.

''(e) RESTRICTIVE USE AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—As part of the preservation and revitalization agreement for a project, the Secretary shall obtain a restrictive use agreement that is recorded and obligates the owner to operate the project in accordance with this title.

''(2) TERM.—

''(A) NO EXTENSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—Except when the Secretary enters into a 20-year extension of the rental assistance contract for a project, the term of the restrictive use agreement for the project shall be consistent with the term of the restructured loan for the project.

''(B) EXTENSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—If the Secretary enters into a 20-year extension of the rental assistance contract for a project, the term of the restrictive use agreement for the project shall be for the longer of—

''(i) 20 years; or

''(ii) the remaining term of the loan for that project.

''(C) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate the 20-year use restrictive use agreement for a project before the end of the term of the agreement if the 20-year rental assistance contract for the project with the owner is terminated at any time for reasons outside the control of the owner.

''(f) DECOUPLING OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) RENEWAL OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—If the Secretary determines that a loan maturing during the 4-year period beginning upon the provision of the notice required under subsection (b)(1) for a project cannot reasonably be restructured in accordance with subsection (c) because it is not financially feasible or the owner does not agree with the proposed restructuring, and the project was operating with rental assistance under section 521 and the recipient is a borrower under section 514 or 515, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance contract, notwithstanding any requirement

under section 521 that the recipient be a current borrower under section 514 or 515, for a term of 20 years, subject to annual appropriations.

''(2) ADDITIONAL RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect to a project described in paragraph (1), if rental assistance is not available for all households in the project for which the loan is being restructured pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary may extend such additional rental assistance to unassisted households at that project as is necessary to make the project safe and affordable to low-income households.

''(3) RENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any agreement to extend the term of the rental assistance contract under section 521 for a project shall obligate the owner to continue to maintain the project as decent, safe, and sanitary housing and to operate the development as affordable housing in a manner that meets the goals of this title.

''(B) RENT AMOUNTS.—Subject to subparagraph (C), in setting rents, the Secretary—

''(i) shall determine the maximum initial rent based on current fair market rents established under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f); and

''(ii) may annually adjust the rent determined under clause (i) by the operating cost adjustment factor as provided under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note).

''(C) HIGHER RENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) shall not apply if the Secretary determines that the budget-based needs of a project require a higher rent than the rent described in subparagraph (B).

''(ii) RENT.—If the Secretary makes a positive determination under clause (i), the Secretary may approve a budget-based rent level for the project.

''(4) CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL.—Before the approval of a rental assistance contract authorized under this section, the Secretary shall require, through an annual notice in the Federal Register, the owner to submit to the Secretary a plan that identifies financing sources and a timetable for renovations and improvements determined to be necessary by the Secretary to maintain and preserve the project.

''(g) MULTIFAMILY HOUSING TRANSFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Under the program under this section, the Secretary may provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations and public housing agencies to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to borrowers under loans under this title for multifamily housing to facilitate the acquisition or preservation of such multifamily housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines there is a risk of loss of affordable housing.

''(h) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of any amounts made available for the program under this section for any fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than $1,000,000 for administrative expenses for carrying out such program.

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the program under this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

''(j) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025, the Secretary shall—

''(A) publish an advance notice of proposed rulemaking; and

''(B) consult with appropriate stakeholders.

''(2) INTERIM FINAL RULE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025, the Secretary shall publish an interim final rule to carry out this section.''.

(f) RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Section 521(d) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(d)), as amended by this section, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) upon request of an owner of a project financed under section 514 or 515, the Secretary is authorized to enter into renewal of such agreements for a period of 20 years or the term of the loan, whichever is shorter, subject to amounts made available in appropriations Acts;'';

(C) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by striking ''subparagraph (A)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) and (B)''; and

(D) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking ''subparagraphs (A) and (B)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C)'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''shall'' and inserting ''may''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) In the case of any rental assistance contract authority that becomes available because of the termination of assistance on behalf of an assisted family—

''(A) at the option of the owner of the rental project, the Secretary shall provide the owner a period of not more than 6 months before unused assistance is made available pursuant to subparagraph (B) during which the owner may use such assistance authority to provide assistance on behalf of an eligible unassisted family that—

''(i) is residing in the same rental project in which the assisted family resided before the termination; or

''(ii) newly occupies a dwelling unit in the rental project during that 6-month period; and

''(B) except for assistance used as provided in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use such remaining authority to provide assistance on behalf of eligible families residing in other rental projects originally financed under section 514, 515, or 516.''.

(g) MODIFICATIONS TO LOANS AND GRANTS FOR MINOR IMPROVEMENTS TO FARM HOUSING AND BUILDINGS; INCOME ELIGIBILITY.—Section 504(a) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1474(a)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting ''and may make a loan to an eligible low-income applicant'' after ''applicant'';

(2) by inserting ''Not less than 60 percent of loan funds made available under this section shall be reserved and made available for very low-income applicants.'' after the first sentence; and

(3) by striking ''$7,500'' and inserting ''$15,000''.

(h) RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.—Subtitle E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 381O. RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) a private, nonprofit community-based housing or community development organization;

''(B) a rural community; or

''(C) a federally recognized Indian tribe.

''(2) ELIGIBLE INTERMEDIARY.—The term 'eligible intermediary' means a qualified—

''(A) private, nonprofit organization; or

''(B) public organization.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Rural Community Development Initiative, under which the Secretary shall provide grants to eligible intermediaries to carry out programs to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible entities to develop the capacity and ability of eligible entities to carry out projects to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

''(c) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The amount of a grant provided to an eligible intermediary under this section shall be not more than $250,000.

''(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible intermediary receiving a grant under this section shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than the amount of the grant.

''(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive paragraph (1) with respect to a project that would be carried out in a persistently poor rural region, as determined by the Secretary.''.

(i) ANNUAL REPORT ON RURAL HOUSING PROGRAMS.—Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.), as amended by this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 546. ANNUAL REPORT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and publish on the website of the Department of Agriculture an annual report on rural housing programs carried out under this title, which shall include significant details on the health of Rural Housing Service programs, including—

''(1) raw data sortable by programs and by region regarding loan performance;

''(2) the housing stock of those programs, including information on why properties end participation in those programs, such as for maturation, prepayment, foreclosure, or other servicing issues; and

''(3) risk ratings for properties assisted under those programs.

''(b) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—The data included in each report required under subsection (a) may be aggregated or anonymized to protect participant financial or personal information.''.

(j) GAO REPORT ON RURAL HOUSING SERVICE TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of how the outdated technology used by the Rural Housing Service impacts participants in the programs of the Rural Housing Service;

(2) an estimate of the amount of funding that is needed to modernize the technology used by the Rural Housing Service; and

(3) an estimate of the number and type of new employees the Rural Housing Service needs to modernize the technology used by the Rural Housing Service.

(k) ADJUSTMENT TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT VOUCHER AMOUNT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue regulations to establish a process for adjusting the voucher amount provided under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r) after the issuance of the voucher following an interim or annual review of the amount of the voucher.

(2) INTERIM REVIEW.—The interim review described in paragraph (1) shall, at the request of a tenant, allow for a recalculation of

the voucher amount when the tenant experiences a reduction in income, change in family composition, or change in rental rate.

(3) ANNUAL REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The annual review described in paragraph (1) shall require tenants to annually recertify the family composition of the household and that the family income of the household does not exceed 80 percent of the area median income at a time determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—If a tenant does not recertify the family composition and family income of the household within the time frame required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Agriculture—

(i) shall consider whether extenuating circumstances caused the delay in recertification; and

(ii) may alter associated consequences for the failure to recertify based on those circumstances.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Following the annual review of a voucher under paragraph (1), the updated voucher amount shall be effective on the 1st day of the month following the expiration of the voucher.

(4) DEADLINE.—The process established under paragraph (1) shall require the Secretary of Agriculture to review and update the voucher amount described in paragraph (1) for a tenant not later than 60 days before the end of the voucher term.

(l) ELIGIBILITY FOR RURAL HOUSING VOUCHERS.—Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) ELIGIBILITY OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SECTIONS 514, 515, AND 516 PROJECTS.—The Secretary may provide rural housing vouchers under this section for any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing for a term longer than the remaining term of their lease that is in effect on the date of prepayment, foreclosure, or mortgage maturity, in a property financed with a loan under section 514 or 515 or a grant under section 516 that has—

''(1) been prepaid with or without restrictions imposed by the Secretary pursuant to section 502(c)(5)(G)(ii)(I);

''(2) been foreclosed; or

''(3) matured after September 30, 2005.''.

(m) AMOUNT OF VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any rural housing voucher provided pursuant to section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r), the amount of the monthly assistance payment for the household on whose behalf the assistance is provided shall be determined as provided in subsection (a) of such section 542, including providing for interim and annual review of the voucher amount in the event of a change in household composition or income or rental rate.

(n) TRANSFER OF MULTIFAMILY RURAL HOUSING PROJECTS.—Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485) is amended—

(1) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) TRANSFER TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—A nonprofit or public body purchaser, including a limited partnership with a general partner with the principal purpose of providing affordable housing, may purchase a property for which a loan is made or insured under this section that has received a market value appraisal, without addressing rehabilitation needs at the time of purchase, if the purchaser—

''(A) makes a commitment to address rehabilitation needs during ownership and long-term use restrictions on the property; and

''(B) at the time of purchase, accepts long-term use restrictions on the property.''; and

(2) in subsection (w)(1), in the first sentence in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''9 percent'' and inserting ''25 percent''.

(o) EXTENSION OF LOAN TERM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 502(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(a)(2)) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''The Secretary'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking ''paragraph'' and inserting ''subparagraph''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) The Secretary may refinance or modify the period of any loan, including any refinanced loan, made under this section in accordance with terms and conditions as the Secretary shall prescribe, but in no event shall the total term of the loan from the date of the refinance or modification exceed 40 years.''.

(2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made under paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to loans made under section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472) before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(p) RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR SECTION 502 GUARANTEED BORROWER UPON ASSUMPTION OF ORIGINAL LOAN BY NEW BORROWER.—Section 502(h)(10) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(h)(10)) is amended to read as follows:

''(10) TRANSFER AND ASSUMPTION.—Upon the transfer of property for which a guaranteed loan under this subsection was made and the assumption of the guaranteed loan by an approved eligible borrower, the original borrower of a guaranteed loan under this subsection shall be relieved of liability with respect to the loan.''.

(q) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOAN RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms ''State'' and ''Tribal organization'' have the meanings given those terms in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

(2) REVISION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall revise section 3555.102(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to exclude from the restriction under that section—

(A) a home-based business that is a licensed, registered, or regulated child care provider under State law or by a Tribal organization; and

(B) an applicant that has applied to become a licensed, registered or regulated child care provider under State law or by a Tribal organization.

(r) LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 502(h)(4) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(h)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively;

(2) by striking ''Loans may be guaranteed'' and inserting the following:

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'accessory dwelling unit' means a single, habitable living unit—

''(i) with means of separate ingress and egress;

''(ii) that is usually subordinate in size;

''(iii) that can be added to, created within, or detached from a primary 1-unit, single-family dwelling; and

''(iv) in combination with a primary 1-unit, single family dwelling, constitutes a single interest in real estate.

''(B) SINGLE FAMILY REQUIREMENT.—Loans may be guaranteed''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the leasing of an accessory dwelling unit or the use of rental income derived from such a lease to qualify for a loan guaranteed under this subsection—

''(i) after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025; and

''(ii) if the property that is the subject of the loan was constructed before the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025.''.

(s) APPLICATION REVIEW.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress, not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture receives an application for a loan, grant, or combined loan and grant under section 502 or 504 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472, 1474), the Secretary of Agriculture should—

(A) review the application;

(B) complete the underwriting;

(C) make a determination of eligibility with respect to the application; and

(D) notify the applicant of determination.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report—

(i) detailing the timeliness of eligibility determinations and final determinations with respect to applications under sections 502 and 504 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472, 1474), including justifications for any eligibility determinations taking longer than 90 days; and

(ii) that includes recommendations to shorten the timeline for notifications of eligibility determinations described in clause (i) to not more than 90 days.

(B) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this subparagraph is the date on which, during the preceding 5-year period, the Secretary of Agriculture provides each eligibility determination described in subparagraph (A) during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which each application is received.

SEC. 5504. NEW MOVING TO WORK COHORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MOVING TO WORK DEMONSTRATION.—The term ''Moving to Work demonstration'' means the Moving to Work demonstration authorized under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the completion of the initial report required under subsection (h)(2), the Secretary may add up to an additional 25 public housing agencies that are designated as high performing agencies under the Public Housing Assessment System or the Section 8 Management Assessment Program to participate in a new cohort as part of the Moving to Work demonstration.

(2) NAME.—The new cohort authorized under paragraph (1) shall be entitled the ''Economic Opportunity and Pathways to Independence Cohort''.

(c) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the authority of the Secretary to grant waivers to agencies admitted to the Moving to Work demonstration under this section or to designate policy changes as part of a cohort design under this section shall be limited to the waivers codified as of January 2025 in Appendix I of the document of the Department

of Housing and Urban Development entitled ''Operations Notice for the Expansion of the Moving to Work Demonstration Program'' (FR–5994–N–05) published in the Federal Register on August 28, 2020, as amended by the notice entitled ''Operations Notice for Expansion of the Moving to Work Demonstration Program Technical Revisions'' (FR–5994–N–06) published in the Federal Register on March 20, 2025.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Under paragraph (1), the Secretary may not grant waivers 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1k, 1l, 1o, 1p, 1q, 6, 7, 9a, 9h, or 12 in the document described in paragraph (1), including modifications of or safe harbor requirement waivers for such waivers.

(3) POLICY OPTIONS.—In carrying out the Moving to Work demonstration cohort established under this section, the Secretary may consider policy options to provide opt-out savings or escrow accounts and report positive rental payments to consumer reporting agencies (as defined in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a)) with resident consent.

(d) FUNDING AND USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Public housing agencies in the cohort authorized under this section may expend not more than 5 percent of the amounts those public housing agencies receive in any fiscal year for housing assistance payments under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) for purposes other than such housing assistance payments.

(2) OTHER USES.—Such other uses of amounts described in paragraph (1) shall comply with all other applicable requirements.

(3) FORMULA.—

(A) RENEWAL.—The amount of funding public housing agencies receive for renewal of housing assistance payments under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) shall be determined according to the same funding formula applicable to public housing agencies that do not participate in the Moving to Work demonstration, except that the Secretary shall provide public housing agencies funding to renew any funds expended under this subsection, with an adjustment for inflation.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—The amount of funding public housing agencies receive for administrative fees under section 8(q) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)), public housing operating subsidies under section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)), and public housing capital funding under section 9(d) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d)) shall be determined according to the same funding formula applicable to public housing agencies that do not participate in the Moving to Work demonstration.

(e) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall select public housing agencies designated under this section through a competitive process, as determined by the Secretary, with the following parameters:

(1) No public housing agency shall be granted this designation under this section that administers more than 27,000 aggregate housing vouchers and public housing units.

(2) Of the public housing agencies selected under this section, not more than 12 shall administer 1,000 or fewer aggregate housing vouchers and public housing units, not more than 8 shall administer between 1,001 and 6,000 aggregate housing vouchers and public housing units, and not more than 5 shall administer between 6,001 and 27,000 aggregate housing vouchers and public housing units.

(3) Selection of public housing agencies under this section shall be based on ensuring the geographic diversity of Moving to Work demonstration public housing agencies.

(4) Within the requirements under paragraphs (1) through (3), the Secretary shall prioritize selecting public housing agencies that serve families with children and youth aging out of foster care at a rate above the national average.

(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES.—Consistent with section 204(c)(3) of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), public housing agencies selected for the Moving to Work demonstration under this section shall—

(1) ensure that not less than 75 percent of the families assisted are very low-income families, as defined in section 3(b)(2)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)(B));

(2) establish a reasonable rent policy, which shall be designed to encourage employment and self-sufficiency by participating families, consistent with the purpose of the Moving to Work demonstration, such as by excluding some or all of a family's earned income for purposes of determining rent;

(3) continue to assist substantially the same total number of eligible low-income families as would have been served had the amounts not been combined;

(4) maintain a comparable mix of families (by family size) as would have been provided had the amounts not been used under the Moving to Work demonstration; and

(5) assure that housing assisted under the Moving to Work demonstration meets housing quality standards established or approved by the Secretary.

(g) NONCOMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary finds that a public housing agency participating in the cohort authorized under this section is not in compliance with the requirements under this section, the Secretary shall make a determination of noncompliance.

(2) COMPLIANCE.—Upon making a determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop a process to bring the public housing agency into compliance.

(3) REMOVAL.—If a public housing agency cannot be brought into compliance under the process developed under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall remove the participating public housing agency from the cohort and replace it with a similarly qualified public housing agency currently not in the cohort chosen in the manner described in subsection (e).

(4) NOTIFICATION.—Upon removing a public housing agency under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall immediately submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives—

(A) a notification of the removal; and

(B) a report on the active steps the Secretary is taking to replace the public housing agency with a new public housing agency.

(h) COMPREHENSIVE MOVING TO WORK REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) COHORT RESEARCH.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall continue ongoing research investigations commenced as part of the assessment of the cohorts established under section 239 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2016 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note; Public Law 114–113), make public all products completed as part of those investigations, and keep such products online for at least 5 years.

(B) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the advisory committee established under section 239 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2016 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note; Public Law 114–113) to establish a research program to evaluate the outcomes and efficacy of the following for all Moving to Work demonstration agencies designated under the authority under such section and this section:

(i) The waivers granted to each cohort and whether those waivers accomplish the goals of achieving greater cost effectiveness and administrative capacity, incentivizing families to become economically self-sufficient, and increasing housing choice.

(ii) The additional flexibilities granted to individual public housing agencies under each cohort.

(iii) How the flexibilities described in clause (ii) were used for local, non-traditional activities.

(2) COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that contains the following for each Moving to Work demonstration cohort under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), section 239 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2016 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note; Public Law 114–113), and this section:

(A) The annual administrative plans of each Moving to Work demonstration public housing agency.

(B) Assessments of longitudinal data, including data on units, households, and outcomes, which shall be evaluated to compare changes in the following trends before and after Moving to Work demonstration designation:

(i) Impacts on tenants based on the following, disaggregated by the public housing program and the housing choice voucher program:

(I) Eviction rates.

(II) Hardship policy usage.

(III) Share of rent covered by a household.

(IV) Turnover, including the number of household moves with or without continued assistance.

(V) Reasons for exit from the program.

(VI) The number and characteristics of households served, including households with a non-elderly family member with a disability, 3 or more minors, homelessness status at the time of admission, and average and median income as a percent of area median income.

(ii) Impacts on public housing agency operations based on the following:

(I) The number of units, broken down by type.

(II) The size, including the number of bedrooms per unit, accessibility, affordability, and quality of units.

(III) The length of each waitlist maintained and average wait times.

(IV) Changes in capital backlog needs and surplus fund and reserve levels.

(V) The number of public housing units undergoing a conversion under the rental assistance demonstration program authorized under the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 673) or demolition or disposition projects under section 18 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437p), including the number of units lost and the location of any replacement housing resulting from demolition or disposition.

(VI) The share of project-based vouchers compared to tenant-based vouchers.

(VII) The following annual housing choice voucher data:

(aa) Voucher unit utilization rates.
(bb) Voucher budget utilization rates.
(cc) Annualized voucher success rate.
(dd) Demographic composition of households issued vouchers compared to utilized vouchers.
(ee) Average time to lease-up.
(ff) Average cost per voucher.
(gg) Average cost per landlord incentive.
(hh) Ratio of the proportion of voucher households living in concentrated low-income areas to the proportion of renter-occupied units in concentrated low-income areas.
(ii) Characteristics of census tracts where voucher recipients reside.
(VIII) How the public housing agency met each of the statutory requirements in section 204(c)(3) of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note).
(iii) Impacts on public housing staffing and capacity, including the average public housing agency operating, administrative, and housing assistance payment expenditures per household per month.
(C) Legislative recommendations for flexibilities that could be expanded to all public housing agencies and how each flexibility enhances housing choice, affordability, and administrative capacity and efficiency for public housing agencies.
(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain all reports submitted pursuant to this section in a manner that is publicly available, accessible, and searchable on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for not less than 5 years.
(B) OTHER INFORMATION.—
(i) IN GENERAL.—Annually, the Secretary shall make the annual plan of the Moving to Work demonstration, the Section 8 administrative plan, and the admission and continued occupancy policy publicly available in 1 location on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for not less than 5 years.
(ii) DATABASE.—The Secretary may establish a searchable database on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to track the types of flexibilities into which Moving to Work demonstration public housing agencies have opted or for which a waiver was approved by the Secretary, disaggregated by year such flexibilities were adopted or approved.

SEC. 5505. REDUCING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH PROGRAM REFORM ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—
(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and
(B) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.
(2) AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.—The term ''at risk of homelessness'' has the meaning given the term in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360).
(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
(4) HOMELESS.—The term ''homeless'' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).
(5) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term ''public housing agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).
(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'', except as otherwise provided, means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR THE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM.—Section 418 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11378) is amended by striking ''7.5 percent'' and inserting ''10 percent''.
(c) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) is amended—
(A) in section 402(g) (42 U.S.C. 11360a(g))—
(i) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and
(ii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:
''(2) TIME LIMIT ON DESIGNATION.—The Secretary—
''(A) shall accept applications for designation as a unified funding agency annually or biennially, which designation shall be effective for not more than 2 years; and
''(B) may, on an annual or biennial basis, renew any designation under subparagraph (A).'';
(B) in section 422 (42 U.S.C. 11382)—
(i) in subsection (b)—
(I) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:
''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary''; and
(II) by adding at the end the following:
''(2) 2-YEAR NOTIFICATION.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may issue a notification of funding availability for grants awarded under this subtitle that provides funding for 2 successive fiscal years, which shall—
''(A) award funds for the second year of projects, including adjustments under subsection (f), unless the project is underperforming, as determined by the collaborative applicant, and the collaborative applicant applies to replace the project with a new project; and
''(B) include—
''(i) the method for applying for and awarding projects to replace underperforming projects in year 2;
''(ii) the method for applying for and awarding renewals of expiring grants for projects that were not eligible for renewal in the first fiscal year;
''(iii) the method for allocating any amounts in the second fiscal year that are in excess of the amount needed to fund the second fiscal year of all grants awarded in the first fiscal year;
''(iv) the method of applying for and awarding grants, which are 1-year transition grants awarded by the Secretary to project sponsors for activities under this subtitle to transition from 1 eligible activity to another eligible activity if the recipient—
''(I) has the consent of the continuum of care; and
''(II) meets standards determined by the Secretary;
''(C) announce by notice the award of second fiscal year funding and awards for new and renewal projects; and
''(D) identify the process by which the Secretary may approve replacement of a collaborative applicant that is not a unified funding agency to receive the award in the second fiscal year.'';
(ii) in subsection (c)(2)—
(I) by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary''; and
(II) by striking subparagraph (B); and
(iii) in subsection (e), by striking ''1 year'' and inserting ''2 years'';
(C) in section 423(a) (42 U.S.C. 11383)—
(i) in paragraph (4), in the third sentence—
(I) by striking '', at the discretion of the applicant and the project sponsor,''; and
(II) by inserting ''not more than'' before ''15 years'';
(ii) in paragraph (7), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''payment of not more than 6 months of arrears for rent and utility expenses,'' after ''moving costs,''; and
(iii) in paragraph (10), by striking ''3 percent'' and inserting ''the greater of either $70,000 or 5 percent'';
(D) in section 425 (42 U.S.C. 11385), by adding at the end the following:
''(f) ADJUSTMENT OF COSTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and on a biennial basis thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States—
''(1) shall study the hiring, retention, and compensation levels of the workforce providing the services described in subsection (c), including executive directors, case managers, and frontline staff, and examine whether low compensation is undermining program effectiveness;
''(2) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on any findings, and to the Secretary any recommendations, as the Comptroller General considers appropriate regarding funding levels for the cost of the supportive services and the staffing to provide the services described in subsection (c); and
''(3) in carrying out the study under paragraph (1), may reference the Consumer Price Index or other similar surveys.'';
(E) in section 426 (42 U.S.C. 11386), by adding at the end the following:
''(h) INSPECTIONS.—When complying with inspection requirements for a housing unit provided to a homeless individual or family using assistance under this subtitle, the Secretary may allow a grantee to—
''(1) conduct a pre-inspection not more than 60 days before leasing the unit;
''(2) if the unit is located in a rural or small area, conduct a remote or video inspection of a unit; and
''(3) allow the unit to be leased prior to completion of an inspection if the unit passed an alternative Federal inspection within the preceding 12-month period, so long as the unit is inspected not later than 15 days after the start of the lease.''; and
(F) in section 430 (42 U.S.C. 11386d), by adding at the end the following:
''(d) COSTS PAID BY PROGRAM INCOME.—With respect to grant amounts awarded under this subtitle, costs paid by the program income of a grant recipient may count toward the contributions required under subsection (a) if the costs—
''(1) are eligible expenses under this subtitle;
''(2) meet standards determined by the Secretary; and
''(3) supplement activities carried out by the recipient under this subtitle.''.
(2) OTHER MODIFICATIONS.—
(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—
(i) the terms ''collaborative applicant'' and ''eligible entity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360); and
(ii) the terms ''Indian tribe'' and ''tribally designated housing entity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).
(B) NONAPPLICATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.—With respect to the funds made available for the Continuum of Care program authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'' in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260)

and under section 231 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) shall not apply to applications by or awards for projects to be carried out—

(i) on or off reservation or trust lands for awards made to Indian tribes or tribally designated housing entities; or

(ii) on reservation or trust lands for awards made to eligible entities.

(C) CERTIFICATION.—With respect to funds made available for the Continuum of Care program authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'' under section 231 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a)—

(i) applications for projects to be carried out on reservations or trust land shall contain a certification of consistency with an approved Indian housing plan developed under section 102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112), notwithstanding section 106 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12706) and section 403 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11361);

(ii) Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities that are recipients of awards for projects on reservations or trust land shall certify that they are following an approved housing plan developed under section 102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112); and

(iii) a collaborative applicant for a Continuum of Care whose geographic area includes only reservation and trust land is not required to meet the requirement in section 402(f)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360a(f)(2)).

(d) AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM.—Section 8(o)(5) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)—

''(i) a public housing agency may accept a third party income calculation and verification of family income for purposes of this subsection if—

''(I) the calculation and verification was completed for determination of income eligibility for a Federal program or service during the preceding 12-month period; and

''(II) there has been no change in income or family composition since the calculation and verification under clause (i); and

''(ii) when using prior year income under section 3(a)(7)(B), a public housing agency shall use the income of the family as determined by the agency or owner for the prior calendar year or another 12-month period ending during the preceding 12 months, taking into consideration any redetermination of income between the start of such prior calendar year or other 12-month period and the date of the annual review.'';

(e) IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an evidence-based, nonpartisan analysis that—

(1) reviews the research on linkages between access to affordable health care and homelessness and analyzes the effect of greater coordination and partnerships between health care organizations, mental health and substance use disorder and substance use disorder service providers, and housing service providers, including possible cost-savings from providing greater access to health services, recovery housing, or housing-related supportive services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and other types of homelessness; and

(2) includes policy and program recommendations for improving access to health care and housing, health care and housing outcomes, possible cost-savings and efficiencies, and best practices.

(f) DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 409. DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

''(2) HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATION.—The term 'health care organization' means an entity providing medical or mental and behavioral health care, including—

''(A) a hospital (as defined in section 1861(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(e)));

''(B) a Federally-qualified health center (as defined in section 1905(l)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2))) or another community health center eligible to receive a grant under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b); and

''(C) a licensed or certified provider of evidence-based substance use disorder services or mental health services providing such services pursuant to funding under a block grant for substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services or a block grant for community mental health services under subpart II or subpart I, respectively, of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x et seq.).

''(3) HOUSING PROVIDER.—The term 'housing provider' means an entity, including a grant recipient under subtitle B or C of this title, a public housing agency (as defined in section 3 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a)), or a federally funded organization or a nonprofit organization, that administers a program to provide housing services to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including rapid rehousing, transitional housing, housing choice vouchers, and housing-related supportive services.

''(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may establish demonstration projects or partnerships that involve collaboration between housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide housing-related supportive services, including—

''(1) assistance in coordinating data systems in a manner that is compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (Public Law 104–191); and

''(2) projects or partnerships that are aimed at serving individuals—

''(A) who are homeless, chronically homeless, or at risk of homelessness; and

''(B) with—

''(i) a high-use of emergency services or emergency departments;

''(ii) chronic disabilities, including physical health or mental health conditions;

''(iii) substance use disorders;

''(iv) serious mental illness; or

''(v) other severe service needs.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 4 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each demonstration project or partnership established under this section.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 101(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 408 the following:

''Sec. 409. Demonstration authority.''.

(g) STREAMLINING COORDINATED ENTRY.—

(1) AUDIT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(A) conduct a multi-community evaluation of the operations of coordinated assessment systems by the Continuum of Care Program under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) program to examine the efficiency, accuracy, and outcomes of those operations; and

(B) submit to the appropriate congressional committees on any findings and to the Secretary on any recommendations, as the Comptroller General considers appropriate, for a more effective and efficient coordinated entry process.

(2) ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the coordinated assessment processes under the Continuum of Care Program under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.), which shall include—

(i) a request for information from continuums of care about coordinated entry tools, processes, barriers, documentation barriers, and necessary guidance;

(ii) incorporation of findings from relevant reports and demonstrations of the Department, including the report described in paragraph (1); and

(iii) consultation with organizations with expertise in providing health care to people experiencing homelessness on best practices in assessment tools for prioritizing resources and characterizing chronic homelessness and people experiencing homelessness with high-service needs;

(B) issue an updated notice, which shall include guidance—

(i) on effective assessment processes that remove barriers, streamline access, allow for coordination with public housing agencies, include trauma-informed data collection practices, improve accuracy, address needs for underserved groups, and successfully rehouse homeless individuals;

(ii) that includes all key populations and subpopulations, including consideration for age, family status, health status, or other factors, access points, prioritization, and programs and systems serving individuals experiencing homelessness; and

(iii) that allows for local flexibility and tailoring based on the needs and resources within the specific community; and

(C) establish a timely, periodic procedure to request feedback on coordinated assessment and update the guidance, which may include conducting a request for information not less frequently than once every 5 years.

(h) IMPROVING TARGETED DATA COLLECTION, FUNDING, AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) issue not less than 1 request for information on—

(A) improving data collection, including through the use of the Homeless Management Information System or other data systems;

(B) coordination and use of data between housing and homelessness providers and physical, mental, and behavioral health organizations, substance use treatment providers, and the Department of Veterans Affairs for implementation of programs to provide services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including the chronically homeless; and

(C) the potential benefits and risks of using artificial intelligence models for the purpose of improving program coordination and effectiveness and assessing the effectiveness of interventions to house individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including by sub-populations;

(2) consider providing incentives to improve data collection, enhance the use of the Homeless Management Information System, implement community information exchanges, and strengthen the coordination of data from physical, mental, and behavioral health organizations with housing and homelessness providers, in order to target resources for housing, outreach, homelessness prevention, and housing-related supportive services for homeless individuals, or chronically homeless individuals; and

(3) coordinate with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve coordination between data systems for vouchers provided under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)), the Homeless Management Information System, and any other applicable homeless program supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.— Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to provide flexibility under housing laws in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act. The flexibilities and waivers authorized under this section and the amendments made by this section shall not replace or result in the termination of other flexibilities and waivers that the Secretary is authorized to exercise.

SEC. 5506. INCENTIVIZING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS.

Section 414 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11373) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) FUNDING CAP WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, a recipient may request a waiver of the spending cap established pursuant to section 415(b) for amounts provided between fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

''(2) WAIVER REQUEST.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A recipient seeking a waiver described in paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary a waiver request that includes not more than the following:

''(i) A demonstration of local needs and circumstances that necessitate a waiver.

''(ii) A detailed plan for how the recipient intends to use funds.

''(iii) A justification for how the proposed use of funds supports the most recent Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report of the recipient.

''(iv) Any public input solicited under subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(B) NOTIFICATION.—Each recipient shall—

''(i) notify all subrecipients, including local continuums of care, of the availability of waivers under this subsection; and

''(ii) prior to the submission of a waiver request under subparagraph (A)), solicit public input regarding the potential need for and proposed uses of such waiver.

''(C) APPROVAL; PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall—

''(i) make all waiver requests submitted under subparagraph (A) publicly available on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

''(ii) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a waiver request under subparagraph (A), approve or deny the request; and

''(iii) deny any waiver submitted under subparagraph (A) by a recipient that relocates or threaten to relocates individuals or their property without providing emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or other permanent housing options.

''(3) REVOCATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A waiver approved under this subsection shall remain in effect for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 unless the recipient notifies the Secretary in writing that the recipient wishes to revoke the waiver.

''(B) NOTIFICATION.—If a recipient revokes a waiver under subparagraph (A), the recipient shall solicit input from subrecipients regarding the revocation and provide a justification for the revocation.

''(C) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish any revocation of a waiver under subparagraph (A) and the justification of the recipient for the waiver on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.''.

TITLE VI—VETERANS AND HOUSING

SEC. 5601. VA HOME LOAN AWARENESS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part 2 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4541 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1329. UNIFORM RESIDENTIAL LOAN APPLICATION.

''Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Director shall, by regulation or order, require each enterprise to include a disclaimer below the military service question on the form known as the Uniform Residential Loan Application stating, 'If yes, you may qualify for a VA Home Loan. Consult your lender regarding eligibility.'.''.

(b) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on whether not less than 80 percent of lenders using the Uniform Residential Loan Application have included on that form the disclaimer required under section 1329 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 5602. VETERANS AFFAIRS LOAN INFORMED DISCLOSURE (VALID) ACT.

(a) FHA INFORMED CONSUMER CHOICE DISCLOSURE.—

(1) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO VA LOANS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 203(f)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(f)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(i)'' after ''loan-to-value ratio''; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon the following: '', and (ii) in connection with a loan guaranteed or insured under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, assuming prevailing interest rates''.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by paragraph (1) shall be construed to require an original lender to determine whether a prospective borrower is eligible for any loan included in the notice required under section 203(f) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(f)).

(b) MILITARY SERVICE QUESTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part 2 of subtitle A of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4541 et seq.), as amended by section 601(a) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1330. UNIFORM RESIDENTIAL LOAN APPLICATION.

''Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Director shall require each enterprise to—

''(1) include a military service question on the form known as the Uniform Residential Loan Application; and

''(2) position the question described in paragraph (1) above the signature line of the Uniform Residential Loan Application.''.

(2) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall issue a rule to carry out the amendment made by this section.

SEC. 5603. HOUSING UNHOUSED DISABLED VETERANS ACT.

(a) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN DISABILITY BENEFITS.—Section 3(b)(4)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(4)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

''(iv) for the purpose of determining income eligibility with respect to the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19), any disability benefits received under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, received by a veteran, except that this exclusion shall not apply to the income in the definition of adjusted income;

''(v) for the purpose of determining income eligibility with respect to any household receiving rental assistance under the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19) as it relates to eligibility for other types of housing assistance, any disability benefits received under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, received by a veteran, except that this exclusion shall not apply to income in the definition of adjusted income;''.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISABILITY BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—When determining the eligibility of a veteran to rent a residential dwelling unit constructed on Department property on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, for which assistance is provided as part of a housing assistance program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall exclude from income any disability benefits received under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code by such person.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(B) DEPARTMENT PROPERTY.—The term ''Department property'' has the meaning given the term in section 901 of title 38, United States Code.

TITLE VII—OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 5701. REQUIRING ANNUAL TESTIMONY AND OVERSIGHT FROM HOUSING REGULATORS.

(a) HUD PROGRAMS.—The Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3531 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 15. ANNUAL TESTIMONY.

''The Secretary shall, on an annual basis, testify before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the

House of Representatives on the status of all programs carried out by the Department, at the request of the relevant committee.''.

(b) GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED OR INSURED MORTGAGES.—On an annual basis, the following individuals shall testify before the appropriate committees of Congress with respect to mortgage loans made, guaranteed, or insured by the Federal Government:

(1) The President of the Government National Mortgage Association.

(2) The Federal Housing Commissioner.

(3) The Administrator of the Rural Housing Service.

(4) The Executive Director of the Loan Guaranty Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(5) The Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

(c) MORTGAGEE REVIEW BOARD.—Section 202(c)(8) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(c)(8)) is amended—

(1) by striking '', in consultation with the Federal Housing Administration Advisory Board,''; and

(2) by inserting ''and to Congress'' after ''the Secretary''.

SEC. 5702. FHA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS.

(a) MONTHLY REPORTING ON MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE FUND CAPITAL RATIO.—Section 202(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) OTHER REQUIRED REPORTING.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) submit to Congress monthly reports on the capital ratio required under section 205(f)(2); and

''(B) notify Congress as soon as practicable after the Fund falls below the capital ratio required under section 205(f)(2).''.

(b) ANNUAL INDEPENDENT ACTUARIAL STUDY.—Section 202(a)(4) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'first-time homebuyer' means a borrower for whom no consumer report (as defined in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a)) indicates that the borrower has or had a loan with a consumer purpose that is secured by a 1- to 4-unit residential real property.

''(B) STUDY AND REPORT.—The Secretary''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), as so designated, by striking ''also'' and inserting ''detail how many loans were originated in each census tract to first-time homebuyers, as well as''.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 203(w)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(w)(2)) is amended by inserting ''and first-time homebuyers (as defined in section 202(a)(4)(A))'' after ''minority borrowers''.

(d) GAO STUDY ON SUSTAINABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the value for the Federal Housing Administration of defining what is sustainable homeownership in a way that considers borrower default, refinancing of a mortgage that is not insured by the Federal Housing Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or Rural Housing Service, paying off a mortgage loan and transitioning back to renting, and other factors that demonstrate whether insurance provided under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.) has successfully served a borrower, including for first-time homebuyers for whom no consumer report (as defined in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a)) indicates that the borrower has or had a loan with a consumer purpose that is secured by a 1- to 4-unit residential real property; and

(2) the feasibility of the Federal Housing Administration developing a scorecard using the metrics described in paragraph (1) to measure borrower performance and reporting the scorecard data to Congress.

SEC. 5703. UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS OVERSIGHT.

Section 203(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11313(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009'' and inserting ''Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act''; and

(B) by striking ''update such plan annually'' and inserting the following: ″submit to the President and Congress a report every year thereafter that includes— ''

''(A) the status of completion of the plan; and

''(B) any modifications that were made to the plan and the reasons for those modifications;'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (13) as paragraphs (11) through (14), respectively;

(3) by redesignating the second paragraph (9) (relating to collecting and disseminating information) as paragraph (10);

(4) in paragraph (13), as so redesignated, by striking ''and'' at the end;

(5) in paragraph (14), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(15) testify annually before Congress.''.

SEC. 5704. NEIGHBORWORKS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 415(a)(1)(A) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation,'' after ''the Postal Regulatory Commission,''.

(b) DUTIES AND AUDITS.—The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 606 (42 U.S.C. 8105), by adding at the end the following:

''(e)(1) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Inspector General of the corporation established under section 415 of title 5, United States Code, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

''(2) There shall not be transferred to the Office of Inspector General of the corporation any program operating responsibilities of the corporation, including the organizational assessments work and grantee oversight function of the corporation.''.

(c) INDEPENDENT AUDIT.—Section 607 of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8106) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting following:

''(b)(1) The accounts of the corporation shall be audited annually by an independent external auditor.

''(2) Notwithstanding any other audit work performed by the Office of Inspector General of the corporation, the audits required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by independent certified public accountants who are certified by a regulatory authority of the jurisdiction in which the audit is undertaken.''.

SEC. 5705. APPRAISAL MODERNIZATION ACT.

(a) RECONSIDERATION OF VALUE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 129E of the Truth In Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1639e) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

''(j) CONSUMER RIGHT TO RECONSIDERATION OF VALUE OR SUBSEQUENT APPRAISAL.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(A) UNACCEPTABLE APPRAISAL PRACTICE.—The term 'unacceptable appraisal practice' means an appraisal report that—

''(i) uses unsupported or subjective terms to assess or rate the property without providing a foundation for analysis and contextual information;

''(ii) uses inaccurate or incomplete data about the subject property, the neighborhood, the market area, or any comparable property;

''(iii) includes references, statements or comparisons about crime rates or crime statistics, whether objective or subjective;

''(iv) relies in the appraisal analysis on comparable properties that were not personally inspected by the appraiser when required by the appraisal's scope of work;

''(v) relies in the appraisal analysis on inappropriate comparable properties;

''(vi) fails to use comparable properties that are more similar, or nearer, to the subject property without adequate explanation;

''(vii) uses comparable property data provided by any interested party to the transaction without verification by a disinterested party;

''(viii) uses inappropriate adjustments for differences between the subject property and the comparable properties that do not reflect the market's reaction to such differences; or

''(ix) fails to make proper adjustments, including time adjustments for differences between the subject property and the comparable properties when necessary.

''(B) UNSUPPORTED.—The term 'unsupported' means, with respect to an appraisal report or an appraiser's opinion of value, that the appraisal report or the opinion of value is not supported by relevant evidence and logic.

''(2) REVIEW.—In connection with a consumer credit transaction secured by a consumer's principal dwelling, a creditor shall have a review and resolution procedure for a consumer-initiated reconsideration of value or subsequent appraisal that complies with the following requirements:

''(A) The creditor shall complete its own appraisal review before delivering the appraisal to the consumer.

''(B) The creditor shall have policies and procedures that provide the consumer with a process to submit 1 request for a reconsideration of value and subsequent appraisal prior to the loan closing or within 60 calendar days of denial of a credit application if the consumer believes the appraisal report may be unsupported, may be deficient due to an unacceptable appraisal practice, or may reflect discrimination.

''(C) At the time of application and upon delivery of the appraisal report to the consumer, the creditor shall provide a written disclosure to the consumer describing the process for requesting a reconsideration of value or subsequent appraisal, which written disclosure shall include a standardized format for the consumer to submit the request for a reconsideration of value, including—

''(i) the name of the borrower;

''(ii) the property address;

''(iii) the effective date of the appraisal;

''(iv) the appraiser's name;

''(v) the date of the request;

''(vi) a description of why the consumer believes the appraisal report may be unsupported, may be deficient due to an unacceptable appraisal practice, or may reflect discrimination;

''(vii) any additional information, data, including not more than 5 alternative comparable properties and the related data

sources that the consumer would like the appraiser to consider; and

''(viii) an explanation of why the new information, data, or comparable properties support the reconsideration of value.

''(D) The creditor shall obtain the necessary information from the consumer if the consumer's request for reconsideration of value or subsequent appraisal is unclear or requires more information.

''(E) The creditor shall have a standardized format to communicate the reconsideration of value to the appraiser, which format shall include—

''(i) the name of the borrower;

''(ii) the property address;

''(iii) the effective date of the appraisal;

''(iv) the appraiser's name;

''(v) the date of the request;

''(vi) a description of any area of the appraisal report that may be unsupported, may be deficient due to an unacceptable appraisal practice, or may reflect discrimination;

''(vii) any additional information, data, including not more than 5 alternative comparable properties and the related data sources that the consumer would like the appraiser to consider;

''(viii) an explanation of why the new information, data, or comparable properties support the reconsideration of value;

''(ix) a definition of turn-time expectations for the appraiser to communicate the reconsideration of value results back to the creditor;

''(x) instructions for delivering the reconsideration of value response as part of a revised appraisal report that includes commentary on conclusions regardless of the outcome; and

''(xi) a reference for appraisers on how to correct minor appraisal issues or non-material errors not related to the reconsideration of value process.

''(3) SUBSEQUENT APPRAISAL AND REFERRAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the creditor identifies material deficiencies in the appraisal report that are not corrected or addressed by the appraiser upon request of the creditor, including through a consumer-initiated reconsideration of value, or if there is evidence of unsupported or unacceptable appraisal practices, the creditor shall—

''(i) at the request of the consumer, order a subsequent appraisal at the creditor's own expense; and

''(ii) forward the appraisal report and the creditor's summary of findings to the appropriate appraisal licensing agency or regulatory board.

''(B) DISCRIMINATION.—If the creditor has reason to believe that an appraisal report reflects discrimination, the creditor shall—

''(i) order a subsequent appraisal, at the creditor's own expense;

''(ii) forward the appraisal report and the creditor's summary of findings to the appropriate local, State, or Federal enforcement agency; and

''(iii) upon a final determination of discrimination by the appropriate local, State, or Federal enforcement agency, receive a reimbursement from the appraiser covering the cost of the subsequent appraisal ordered by the creditor.

''(C) DEFINITION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), in this paragraph, the term 'reason to believe' means that the creditor has reviewed the applicable law and available evidence and determined that a potential violation of Federal or state antidiscrimination law exists. The available evidence may include the appraisal report, loan files, written communications, credible observations by persons with direct knowledge, statistical analysis, and the appraiser's response to the request for a reconsideration of value.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—The term 'reason to believe' does not mean that there is a final legal determination of discrimination.

''(4) DOCUMENT RETENTION.—The creditor shall retain all documentation and written communications related to the request for reconsideration of value or subsequent appraisal in the loan file during the 7-year period beginning on the date on which the consumer submitted the credit application.

''(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This subsection is consistent with the exceptions to the appraiser independence requirements found in subsection (c). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a creditor to submit a reconsideration of value to the original appraiser before ordering a subsequent appraisal from a subsequent appraiser.''.

(2) RULES AND INTERPRETATIVE GUIDELINES.—Section 129E(g) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1639e(g)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''paragraph (2), the Board'' and inserting ''paragraphs (2) and (3), the Bureau''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall issue a final rule after notice and comment and issue such guidance as may be necessary to carry out and enforce subsection (j).''.

(b) PUBLIC APPRAISAL DATABASE.——

(1) COVERED AGENCIES DEFINED.—The term ''covered agencies'' means—

(A) the Federal Housing Finance Agency, on behalf of the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation;

(B) the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including the Federal Housing Administration;

(C) the Department of Agriculture; and

(D) the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—No later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a public report to Congress assessing the feasibility of creating a publicly available appraisal database that consists of a searchable and downloadable appraisal-level public use file that consolidates appraisal data held or aggregated by covered agencies, which shall include—

(A) the costs and benefits associated with establishing and maintaining the public database;

(B) the benefits and risks associated with either the Federal Housing Finance Agency or the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection being responsible for the public database and whether there is another Federal agency best suited for implementing and administering such database;

(C) any safety and soundness, antitrust, or consumer privacy-related risks associated with making certain appraisal data factors publicly available, including whether–

(i) there are any existing legal requirements, including under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) and section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act''), or additional actions Federal agencies could take to mitigate such risks, such as modifying or aggregating data, or eliminating personally identifiable information; and

(ii) there are any data factors that, if made public, may violate conduct, ethics, or other professional standards as they relate to appraisals and appraisal or valuation professionals;

(D) the feasibility of consolidating or matching appraisal data held by covered agencies with corresponding data that is required and made public under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.);

(E) whether the publication of any appraisal data factors may pose unfair business advantages within the valuation industry;

(F) the feasibility of including all valuation data held by covered agencies, including data produced by automated valuation models;

(G) the feasibility and benefits of making the full appraisal dataset, including any modified fields, available to—

(i) Federal agencies, including for purposes related to enforcement and supervision responsibilities;

(ii) relevant State licensing, supervision, and enforcement agencies and State attorneys general;

(iii) approved researchers, including academics and nonprofit organizations that, in connection with their mission, work to ensure the fairness and consistency of home valuations, including appraisals; and

(iv) any other entities identified by the Comptroller General as having a compelling use for disaggregated data;

(H) what appraisal data is already available in the public domain; and

(I) the feasibility of incorporating legacy data held by covered agencies during the period beginning on January 1, 2017 and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, and whether there are specific data points not easily consolidated or matched, as described in subparagraph (D), with more recent data.

(3) PURPOSE.—The database described in paragraph (2) shall be used to provide the public, the Federal Government, and State governments with residential real estate appraisal data to help determine whether financial institutions, appraisal management companies, appraisers, valuation technologies, such as automated valuation models, and other valuation professionals are serving the housing market in a manner that is efficient and consistent for all mortgage loan applicants, borrowers, and communities.

(4) CONSULTATION.—As part of the information used in the report required under paragraph (2), the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct interviews with—

(A) relevant Federal agencies;

(B) relevant State licensing, supervision, and enforcement agencies and State attorneys general;

(C) appraisers and other home valuation industry professionals;

(D) mortgage lending institutions;

(E) fair housing and fair lending experts; and

(F) any other relevant stakeholders as determined by the Comptroller General.

(5) HEARING.—Upon the completion of the report under paragraph (2), the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives shall each hold a hearing on the findings of the report and the feasibility of establishing a public appraisal-level appraisal database.

TITLE VIII—COORDINATION, STUDIES, AND REPORTING

SEC. 5801. HUD-USDA-VA INTERAGENCY COORDINATION ACT.

(a) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a memorandum of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreement, to share relevant housing-related research and market data that facilitates evidence-based policymaking.

(b) INTERAGENCY REPORT.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Finance of the House of Representatives a report containing—

(A) a description of opportunities for increased collaboration between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reduce inefficiencies in housing programs;

(B) a list of Federal laws and regulations that adversely affect the availability and affordability of new construction of assisted housing and single family and multifamily residential housing subject to mortgages insured under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.), insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary of Agriculture under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.), or insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code; and

(C) recommendations for Congress regarding the Federal laws and regulations described in subparagraph (B).

(2) PUBLICATION.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall, prior to submission under that subsection, be published in the Federal Register and open for comment for a period of 30 days.

SEC. 5802. STREAMLINING RURAL HOUSING ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to—

(1) evaluate categorical exclusions under the environmental review process for housing projects funded by amounts from the Department of the Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture;

(2) develop a process to designate a lead agency and streamline adoption of Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments approved by the other Department to construct housing projects funded by both agencies;

(3) maintain compliance with environmental regulations under part 58 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2025, except as required to amend, add, or remove categorical exclusions identified under sections 58.35 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, through standard rulemaking procedures; and

(4) evaluate the feasibility of a joint physical inspection process for housing projects funded by amounts from the Department of the Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture.

(b) ADVISORY WORKING GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an advisory working group for the purpose of consulting on the memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (a).

(2) MEMBERS.—The advisory working group established under paragraph (1) shall consist of representatives of—

(A) affordable housing nonprofit organizations;

(B) State housing agencies;

(C) nonprofit and for-profit home builders and housing developers;

(D) property management companies;

(E) public housing agencies;

(F) residents in housing assisted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Department of Agriculture and representatives of those residents; and

(G) housing contract administrators.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that includes recommendations for legislative, regulatory, or administrative actions—

(1) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of housing projects funded by amounts from the Department of the Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture; and

(2) that do not materially, with respect to residents of housing projects described in paragraph (1)—

(A) reduce the safety of those residents;

(B) shift long-term costs onto those residents; or

(C) undermine the environmental standards of those residents.

SEC. 5803. IMPROVING SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF FAMILIES IN HUD-SUBSIDIZED HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) STUDY.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall conduct a study on the implementation of work requirements implemented prior to the date of enactment of this Act by public housing agencies described in paragraph (4) participating in the Moving to Work demonstration authorized under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note).

(2) SCOPE.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) consider the short-, medium-, and long-term benefits and challenges of work requirements on public housing agencies described in paragraph (4) and on program participants who are subject to such requirements, including the effects work requirements have on homelessness rates, poverty rates, asset building, earnings growth, job attainment and retention, and public housing agencies' administrative capacity; and

(B) include quantitative and qualitative evidence, including interviews with program participants described in subparagraph (A) and their respective resident councils.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report the initial findings of the study required under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(4) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES DESCRIBED.—The public housing agencies described in this paragraph are public housing agencies that, as part of an application to participate in the program under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), submit a proposal identifying work requirements as an innovative proposal.

(b) DETERMINATION.—The requirement under subsection (a) shall apply if the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development determines that—

(1) there are a sufficient number of public housing agencies described in subsection (a)(4) such that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development can rigorously evaluate the impact of the implementation of work requirements described in that subsection; and

(2) the study would not negatively impact low-income families receiving assistance through a public housing agency described in subsection (a)(4).

SA 3902. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. DOJ GRANT ELIGIBILITY.

In awarding grants administered by the Department of Justice to any entity and in determining the eligibility of the entity to receive grant funds, the Attorney General may not require the entity to agree to comply with, certify compliance with, or comply with—

(1) section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373);

(2) any memorandum issued by the President; or

(3) any Executive Order issued by the President.

SA 3903. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) 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 F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. LIMITATION ON CIVIL ACTIONS AFFECTED BY UNITED STATES SANCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1660. Limitation on civil actions affected by United States sanctions

''(a) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any provision of law, no person (other than the United States or a person acting on behalf of the United States) may bring a civil action in Federal or State court to enforce any foreign judgment or foreign arbitral award arising from a claim where—

''(1) the underlying conduct or circumstances giving rise to the claim resulted from actions to comply with United States sanctions impeding the performance of a contract; or

''(2) the court or tribunal issuing the judgment or arbitral award asserted jurisdiction based, in whole or in part, on the imposition of United States sanctions or export controls (or any foreign law enacted in response to the imposition of United States sanctions or export controls).

''(b) REMOVAL AND DISMISSAL.—An action to recognize or enforce a foreign judgment or foreign arbitral award described in subsection (a) may be removed by any defendant to the appropriate United States district court, which shall dismiss the action.

''(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit—

''(1) the authority of the President, any delegate of the President (including the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury), or any other officer or official of the United States to bring any action or exercise any responsibility under any applicable State or Federal law;

''(2) any right, remedy, or cause of action available to a victim of international terrorism, torture, extrajudicial killing, aircraft sabotage, or hostage taking, who is, or was at the time of the victim's injury, a national of the United States, a member of the United States Armed Forces, an employee of the United States Government, or an individual performing a contract awarded by the United States Government acting within the scope of the individual's employment, or a family member of any such victim, under any applicable State or Federal law, including—

''(A) chapter 97 of this title;

''(B) chapter 113B of title 18; and

''(C) the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) and any other laws providing for the application of sanctions with respect to Iran or Syria;

''(3) any right, remedy, or cause of action available to any party arising under or relating to the party's contractual rights (other than an action to enforce a foreign judgment or foreign arbitral award described in subsection (a)) where the parties agreed to resolve all disputes by litigation in a State or Federal court within the United States or by arbitration within the United States; or

''(4) any other right, remedy, or cause of action available to any party arising under State or Federal law (other than an action to enforce a foreign judgment or foreign arbitral award described in subsection (a)) where the underlying conduct or circumstances giving rise to the claim resulted from the imposition of United States sanctions or export controls.

''(d) UNITED STATES SANCTIONS DEFINED.—In this section:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'United States sanctions' means any prohibition, restriction, or condition on transactions involving any property in which any foreign country or national thereof has any interest that is imposed by the United States to address threats to the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States pursuant to—

''(A) section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702); or

''(B) any other provision of law, including any provision of law relating to export controls.

''(2) DUTIES.—The term 'United States sanctions' does not include the imposition of a duty on the importation of goods.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1659 the following new item:

''1660. Limitation on civil actions affected by United States sanctions.''.

(c) APPLICATION.—Section 1660 of title 28, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), applies with respect to civil actions pending on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3904. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10___. NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER PROJECTS ACT.

(a) Project Contracts.—Section 10604(b)(3)(B) of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1389) is amended by striking ''shall be at least'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''shall not exceed $76,000,000.''.

(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—Section 10609(a)(1) of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1395) is amended—

(1) by striking ''$870,000,000'' and inserting ''$1,815,000,000''; and

(2) by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2026''.

SA 3905. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1264. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS IN SUPPORTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai Peninsula have effectively maintained peace and stability between Egypt and Israel by monitoring compliance with the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian Peace and preventing the resurgence of hostilities for over four decades.

(2) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led peacekeepers in Kosovo effectively stabilized that region by preventing renewed ethnic conflict, safeguarding civilians, and supporting the return of displaced persons following the 1999 conflict.

(3) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) peacekeeping forces in Bosnia effectively enforced the Dayton Peace Agreement, ended large-scale hostilities, and contributed to long-term regional stability and reconstruction.

(4) The African Union-led Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), jointly deployed with the United Nations, has protected vulnerable populations, ensured delivery of humanitarian aid, and helped rebuild infrastructure in the aftermath of a protracted conflict.

(5) Multinational peacekeeping missions, led by alliances such as NATO, the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), and ad hoc coalitions, have successfully supported humanitarian operations in complex emergencies in locations such as Iraq, the Sahel Region, Somalia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

(6) Such missions have provided immediate and sustained humanitarian relief, including the protection of civilians, the delivery of food and medical supplies, and the support of internally displaced persons and refugees.

(7) The United States Government has constructively engaged in negotiations and promoted peace settlements among parties in post-conflict environments that had suffered from mass atrocities and acts of terrorism, including in Bosnia, Kosovo, Liberia, El Salvador, Sudan, Colombia, and Guatemala.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the policy of the United States should be—

(1) to support an immediate cease-fire in Gaza;

(2) to help organize a multinational force that includes international peacekeepers from NATO, major non-NATO allies, and members of the League of Arab States in coordination with local Palestinian civilian leaders, for the purpose of facilitating and protecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population of Gaza; and

(3) to support—

(A) the delivery of food, water, and medical supplies to Gaza;

(B) capacity-building activities for Gaza in water, sanitation, electricity, medical care, and food systems; and

(C) final implementation of a diplomatic solution for working toward a long-term peace in the Middle East in line with a two-state solution.

SA 3906. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 849B. BRIEFING ON PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FLAME RESISTANT ARMY COMBAT UNIFORM.

Not later than December 15, 2025, the Secretary of War shall brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the procurement strategy on how the Department of War will work with industry to maintain a strong industrial base as identified in the 2024 Defense Logistics Agency CAMOLAND Clothing and Textile Industrial Base Wargame, specifically addressing the procurement strategy for the Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniform (FRACU).

SA 3907. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. TIMBER PRODUCTION EXPANSION GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means an individual or entity that

owns or operates a sawmill or other wood-processing facility located in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))) of the United States.

(2) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''eligible Federal land'' means any unit of Federal land, including Indian forest land or rangeland, that has been identified by the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, as high or very high priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal under subsection (b).

(3) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program of the Department of Agriculture.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE FEDERAL LAND.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, shall—

(1) review Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior; and

(2) identify units of Federal land that, as determined by the Secretaries, are high or very high priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal.

(c) LOAN GUARANTEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, shall provide loan guarantees under the Program to eligible entities seeking to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood-processing facility located within a 250-mile radius of, a unit of eligible Federal land, if the presence of a sawmill or other wood-processing facility would, or does, substantially decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration projects involving vegetation removal on the eligible Federal land, as determined by the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) CONDITIONS.—A loan guarantee under the Program shall be provided in accordance with such conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary may provide a total of not more than $220,000,000 in loan guarantees under the Program.

SA 3908. Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 707. MEDICAL TESTING AND RELATED SERVICES FOR FIREFIGHTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) PROVISION OF SERVICES.—During the annual periodic health assessment of each firefighter of the Department of Defense, or at such other intervals as may be indicated in subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the firefighter (at no cost to the firefighter) appropriate medical testing and related services to detect, document the presence or absence of, and prevent, certain cancers.

(b) CRITERIA.—Services required to be provided under subsection (a) shall meet, at a minimum, the following criteria:

(1) BREAST CANCER.—With respect to breast cancer screening, if the firefighter is a female firefighter—

(A) such services shall include the provision of a mammogram to the firefighter—

(i) if the firefighter is 40 years old to 49 years old (inclusive), not less frequently than twice each year;

(ii) if the firefighter is 50 years old or older, not less frequently than annually; and

(iii) as clinically indicated (without regard to age); and

(B) in connection with the provision of a mammogram under subparagraph (A), a licensed radiologist shall review the most recent mammogram provided to the firefighter, as compared to prior mammograms so provided, and provide to the firefighter the results of such review.

(2) COLON CANCER.—With respect to colon cancer screening—

(A) if the firefighter is 40 years old or older, or as clinically indicated without regard to age, such services shall include the communication to the firefighter of the risks and benefits of stool-based blood testing;

(B) if the firefighter is 45 years old or older, or as clinically indicated without regard to age, such services shall include the provision, at regular intervals, of visual examinations (such as a colonoscopy, CT colonoscopy, or flexible sigmoidoscopy) or stool-based blood testing; and

(C) in connection with the provision of a visual examination or stool-based blood testing under subparagraph (B), a licensed physician shall review and provide to the firefighter the results of such examination or testing, as the case may be.

(3) PROSTATE CANCER.—With respect to prostate cancer screening, if the firefighter is a male firefighter, such services shall include the communication to the firefighter of the risks and benefits of prostate cancer screenings and the provision to the firefighter of a prostate-specific antigen test—

(A) not less frequently than annually if the firefighter—

(i) is 50 years old or older; or

(ii) is 40 years old or older and is a high-risk individual; and

(B) as clinically indicated (without regard to age).

(4) OTHER CANCERS.—Such services shall include routine screenings for any other cancer the risk or occurrence of which the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified as higher among firefighters than among the general public, the provision of which shall be carried out during the annual periodic health assessment of the firefighter.

(c) OPTIONAL NATURE.—A firefighter of the Department of Defense may opt out of the receipt of medical testing or a related service provided under subsection (a).

(d) USE OF CONSENSUS TECHNICAL STANDARDS.—In providing medical testing and related services under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use consensus technical standards in accordance with section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–113; 15 U.S.C. 272 note).

(e) DOCUMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing medical testing and related services under subsection (a), the Secretary—

(A) shall document the acceptance rates of such tests offered and the rates of such tests performed;

(B) shall document test results to identify trends in the rates of cancer occurrences among firefighters; and

(C) may collect and maintain additional information from the recipients of such tests and other services to allow for appropriate scientific analysis.

(2) PRIVACY.—In analyzing any information of an individual documented, collected, or maintained under paragraph (1), in addition to complying with other applicable privacy laws, the Secretary shall ensure the name and any other personally identifiable information of the individual is removed from such information prior to the analysis.

(3) SHARING WITH CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.—The Secretary may share data from any tests performed under subsection (a) with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as appropriate, to increase the knowledge and understanding of cancer occurrences among firefighters.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FIREFIGHTER.—The term ''firefighter'' means someone whose primary job or military occupational specialty is being a firefighter.

(2) HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''high-risk individual'' means an individual who—

(A) is African American;

(B) has at least one first-degree relative who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early age; or

(C) is otherwise determined by the Secretary to be high risk with respect to prostate cancer.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

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 Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 11 a.m. on Friday, September 19, and that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. THUNE. 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 the Democratic leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Democratic leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tomorrow, the Senate will hold votes on two bills: the status quo continuing resolution from the Republicans, which will lead to a shutdown, and the Democrats' plan to prevent a shutdown while avoiding a catastrophe in rising healthcare costs.

Tomorrow, Americans will see the glaring contrast, the contrast between the Republican plan continuing the status quo of Donald Trump's healthcare cuts and high costs and the Democratic plan to avoid a shutdown while lowering premiums, fixing Medicaid, and protecting funds for scientific and medical research.

The latest studies, in fact, show that the impacts of the Republican healthcare cuts are quickly getting worse and worse than first imagined. This is an oncoming train that must be stopped.

So tomorrow, Republicans can choose: Either listen to Donald Trump and shut the government down or break this logjam by supporting our bill and keeping the government open. The votes tomorrow will tell all.

I yield the floor.

RECESS UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:59 p.m., recessed until Friday, September 19, 2025, at 11 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the senate September 18, 2025:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JESSICA KRAMER, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LESLIE BEYER, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

THEODORE J. GARRISH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ANDREA TRAVNICEK, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JUSTIN OVERBAUGH, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SCOTT PAPPANO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WILLIAM L. DOFFERMYRE, OF TEXAS, TO BE SOLICITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

KYLE HAUSTVEIT, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (FOSSIL ENERGY).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

MATTHEW NAPOLI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

RICHARD ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROBERT GLEASON, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEAN MCMASTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

DONALD BERGIN III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JOHN SQUIRES, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DANIEL ARONOWITZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL DODD, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

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.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

GEORGE WESLEY STREET, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

PETER THOMSON, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KIMBERLY GUILFOYLE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GREECE.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHRISTINE TORETTI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

BENJAMIN DEMARZO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

EXPORT–IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

JOVAN JOVANOVIC, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT–IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2029.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RICHARD FORDYCE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PETER LAMELAS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

JASON EVANS, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (MANAGEMENT).

THE JUDICIARY

EDWARD ALOYSIUS O'CONNELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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.