



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

No. 190

## Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROGER MARSHALL, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank You for the progress we have made on this journey to reopen the government.

We refuse to give in to the fatigue of despair because You have fueled us with the buoyancy of hope. Lord, You know the hopes of the helpless. You bring justice to the oppressed. You see the troubles we face, for You are our all-wise King. Continue to shower us with Your blessings, instructing our lawmakers with Your wisdom as You use them for Your glory.

And, Lord, bless our veterans.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 10, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER MARSHALL, a

Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. MARSHALL thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5371, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:  
Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3168

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3168) to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of Federal employees, contract employees, and members of the Armed Forces during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

### CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am glad to be able to say that eight Democrats joined Republicans last night to take the first step to reopen the government. And in the very near future, we will be voting on a final package, a clean continuing resolution until January 30 and three bipartisan full-year appropriations bills.

These bills are the Military Construction-VA, Agriculture, and Legislative Branch appropriations, 3 of the 12 bills that Congress needs to pass on an annual basis.

What that means is that yearlong funding for SNAP, for WIC, for veterans, for essential farm programs, and for a number of other critical priorities will be met. I said that we will be voting on the final package in the very near future, and I am hoping that will be hours and not days.

We are on the 41st day of this shutdown. Nutrition benefits are in jeopardy, air travel is in an extremely precarious situation. Our staffs and many, many other government workers have been working for nearly 6 weeks without pay. I could spend an hour talking about all the problems we have seen, which have snowballed the longer this shutdown has gone on. But all of us, Democrat and Republican, who voted

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S8113

for last night's bill are well aware of the facts, and I am grateful that the end is in sight.

But I would encourage every Member of this body, Democrat and Republican, pro-bill or anti-bill, not to stand in the way of our being able to deliver the coming relief quickly. The American people have suffered for long enough. Let's not pointlessly drag this bill out. Let's get it done, get it over to the House so that we can get this government open.

As I have emphasized since being elected majority leader last November, I remain deeply committed to advancing full-year appropriations bills through regular order. And we have drafted this continuing resolution to extend to January 30, specifically, to give us more time to get this bipartisan work done.

I look forward to taking up additional appropriations bills on the floor in the near future. After 41 days, I am grateful to be able to say that we are close to getting the government reopened. And again, I ask all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, of both parties, to make it possible to quickly pass this bill.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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 (Mr. CURTIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority whip.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate took a major step forward on the path to reopening the government.

The bill before us is simple. It is clean. It is bipartisan. It is a continuing resolution, and it funds the government through January. It is paired with three full-year appropriations bills.

So let me repeat that: appropriations bills for the full next year.

Now, these are bills that have already passed the Senate with bipartisan support—broad bipartisan support. I would add—and they were negotiated on a bipartisan basis with the House.

They are fully funded in terms of veterans' care, and this is critical. Tomorrow is Veterans Day. Our veterans need to know that we stand behind them.

It is also fully funded on food assistance: SNAP and Women, Infants, and Children.

That is what we are debating here on the floor of the U.S. Senate. I believe it is reasonable, it is responsible, and it is ready to go.

Let's remember that this shutdown has caused serious pain to many, many American families. People have stood in line around the block at food banks

all across the country, and that is because 42 million Americans missed their SNAP payments.

Flights were delayed and canceled because control towers are understaffed. People there working are overworked. TSA agents and air traffic controllers have been working for the last 6 weeks without getting paid.

Yesterday, there were 2,300 flight cancellations. It looks like it may be even more than that today. Yesterday was one of the worst travel days in the last 2 years, and today may be worse.

This shutdown has hurt our economy, and it has hurt our country.

The government is finally on the path to reopening. It is the right result. This is what the American people need. They need certainty, and opening the government provides that level of certainty that the American people want, especially heading into the holidays.

I want to thank President Trump. I want to thank my colleagues in the Senate on both sides of the aisle who voted to support that.

The President stood strong when CHUCK SCHUMER stood here and demanded that tens of billions of dollars be sent from the Federal Treasury directly to the bank accounts of health insurance companies. President Trump's leadership protected taxpayers and continues to protect the country.

Let's be clear about what comes next. The Senate is going to use the next few months to pass the additional appropriations bills that will completely fund the government for a full year.

There is a pressing need to strengthen our economy, to secure our border, to invest in our military, to promote fiscal responsibility, and we have to do that after 4 years of high prices and an open border. That is what Republicans in this body and across the hall are fighting for.

Let's be clear. Republicans are making the appropriations process work again. Last year, Senator SCHUMER refused to bring a single appropriations bill to the floor even though the appropriations committees passed out bipartisan, many times unanimous appropriations bills. Yet the minority leader refused to bring them to the floor. That is no way to run the government. That is no way to run the Senate. That is not leadership.

The debate ahead is also about the many failures of the Obama healthcare law known as ObamaCare. This is a debate Republicans welcome. Healthcare in America is broken and is unaffordable, and it broke the day they passed ObamaCare. Costs have exploded. ObamaCare premiums have gone up 221 percent. That is what has happened since the law passed.

You recall President Obama at the time said that premiums for families would go down by \$2,500. It was all wrong. Democrats have no answer for that other than more direct subsidies

directly from the Federal Government directly into the bank accounts of the insurance companies. Republicans believe Americans deserve high-quality, affordable healthcare. Americans haven't gotten that since the day ObamaCare became law.

It is time to reopen the government because Americans have waited and suffered too long.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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, the last 41 days have exposed the depths of Donald Trump's cruelty. He shut the government down longer than any President in American history. He took innocent kids, veterans, and Federal workers as hostages—political hostages—all because he refuses to do anything—anything—to fix the healthcare crisis and instead keeps pushing policies that will cut people's coverage even more.

Look no further than Donald Trump's war on SNAP. Last night, the First Circuit reaffirmed what lower courts have already said: Donald Trump cannot take 42 million hungry people as hostages. He cannot withhold the benefits they need for food for their families.

Even now, Donald Trump isn't satisfied. Today—even more cruel—he appealed to the Supreme Court yet again to try to get out of paying full SNAP benefits. The President has done a lot of cruel, nasty, mean things over the years, but going all the way up to the Supreme Court—not once but twice—to ensure kids go hungry is about as cruel a thing as he has ever done. Donald Trump would rather make hungry Americans suffer—make kids suffer, make veterans go hungry, and disabled individuals suffer—than do anything to lower healthcare costs for the American people. The American people will not forget Donald Trump's cruelty and heartlessness over the last 6 weeks.

Let me say something else: The American people have now awoken to Trump's healthcare crisis. Healthcare is once again at the forefront of people's minds. People now see their premiums are about to skyrocket. They are terrified about how they are going to pay for their insurance.

Democrats demanded that we find a way to fix this crisis and quickly, but Republicans have refused to move an inch. So I cannot support the Republican bill that is on the floor because it fails to do anything of substance to fix America's healthcare crisis.

The healthcare crisis is causing millions of families back home sleepless

nights because they don't know how they are going to afford health insurance that is so much needed by their families.

Doing nothing is unacceptable, but that is the choice the Republican side made in obeisance to Donald Trump. Republicans now own this healthcare crisis. They knew it was coming. We wanted to fix it. Republicans said no, and now it is on them.

When people's out-of-pocket costs double or triple very soon, Americans will know Republicans made it happen. When 60-year-old couples start paying \$20,000 a year for health insurance, they will know Republicans made it happen. When 4 million Americans lose insurance, when kids with cancer are priced out of coverage, when families face financial ruin, they will know Republicans made it happen.

The pain will only get worse as more and more people on ACA and with private insurance see their premiums go up and up and up. People out there are struggling. It is harder to make ends meet. Rent is up, groceries are up, people's electricity bills are going up, and now, thanks to Republicans, healthcare costs will spike dramatically.

The past few weeks have exposed with shocking clarity how warped Republicans' priorities truly are. While people's healthcare costs have gone up, Republicans have come across as a party preoccupied with ballrooms, Argentina bailouts, and private jets.

Republicans' breach of trust with the American people is deep and perhaps irreversible. Now that they have failed to do anything to prevent premiums from going up, the anger that Americans feel against Donald Trump and the Republicans is going to get worse.

Republicans had their chance to fix this, and they blew it. Americans will remember Republican intransigence every time they make a sky-high payment on health insurance.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, after a record government shutdown of 41 days and 14 rollcalls failing to reopen it, the situation was clear. Donald Trump and the Senate Republican leadership were unwilling to do anything to reduce skyrocketing health insurance premiums, a terrible problem facing some 24 million American families.

The shutdown of the government stopped paychecks for thousands of Federal workers, causing real hardship for their families, including our over-worked and understaffed air traffic controllers and many other critical members of the Federal workforce.

Food pantries in my State and across the Nation were overwhelmed when

President Trump stopped SNAP food payments to 42 million Americans, one-third of whom were children. Food pantries were being overwhelmed as well by unemployed workers who had been laid off or furloughed because of the government shutdown.

So a group of Senators sat down to try to find a bipartisan resolution. After lengthy negotiations, an agreement was reached with the Republican Senate leader JOHN THUNE.

We will agree to reopen the government until January 30, 2026. During that time, we will pass three bipartisan appropriations bills that will fully fund SNAP, WIC, and all the veterans programs and finish our work on the remaining spending bills for this fiscal year.

The agreement would also reverse the Trump administration's mass firings during the shutdown and prevent future ones through January 30. We credit Senator Kaine of Virginia for this provision.

Leader THUNE has also promised the Democrats an opportunity before mid-December to present a Democratic bill on the floor with proposals to change the law and protect American families from dramatic healthcare premium increases. It is my fervent hope that this ends up being a bipartisan effort. It would be such an achievement of the Senate to finally return to that status.

I have served in the Senate for 29 years, and I have never seen that kind of offer from a Senate majority. During the historic rollcall last night, I walked across the aisle and met with Senator JOHN THUNE, the Republican leader. I told him that I was counting on him to keep his word on this agreement. He assured me he would.

The fate of this effort depends on both the Senate and the House of Representatives. After a 7-week absence, Speaker JOHNSON needs to call his Members back and join us in the hard work that lies ahead.

Many of my friends are unhappy. They think we should have kept our government closed indefinitely to protest the policies of the Trump administration. I share their opinions of this administration but cannot accept a strategy which wages political battle at the expense of my neighbors' paychecks or the food for their children.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to come to address my colleagues today in the Senate.

During the course of this shutdown—what has now become the longest shutdown in American history—there are a lot of people around the country wondering about what has been at stake in this debate and in this argument. And I think, with every day that has gone by, it has become clearer and clearer what is at stake.

I have heard my Republican colleagues, including the leader of the Re-

publican Party in the Senate, come to the floor to say, over and over again, that not a single Republican in this Chamber, not a single Republican in the United States Congress, voted for the Affordable Care Act when we passed it in 2010.

And for them, that is a badge of honor. That is a badge of honor that they recall from the last extensive debate we had around here about healthcare.

I deeply regret the fact that they are so proud of not having voted for the Affordable Care Act. It is true that there was not a single Republican in the Congress that voted for that bill.

And that bill was far from perfect—I will admit that. Even at the time, I was leading the fight for a public option to be included as part of the Affordable Care Act because I thought it would be a very important part of constraining costs for the American people in our healthcare system. I will say more about that in a minute.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter dated February 16, 2010, to then-Leader Harry Reid about the public health insurance option be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.  
Washington, DC, February 16, 2010.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
United States Senate Majority Leader,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER REID: We respectfully ask that you bring for a vote before the full Senate a public health insurance option under budget reconciliation rules.

There are four fundamental reasons why we support this approach—its potential for billions of dollars in cost savings; the growing need to increase competition and lower costs for the consumer; the history of using reconciliation for significant pieces of health care legislation; and the continued public support for a public option.

A PUBLIC OPTION IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR RESTORING FISCAL DISCIPLINE

As Democrats, we pledged that the Senate health care reform package would address skyrocketing health care costs and relieve overburdened American families and small businesses from annual double-digit health care cost increases. And that it would do so without adding a dime to the national debt.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) determined that the Senate health reform bill is actually better than deficit neutral. It would reduce the deficit by over \$130 billion in the first ten years and up to \$1 trillion in the first 20 years.

These cost savings are an important start. But a strong public option can be the centerpiece of an even better package of cost saving measures. CBO estimated that various public option proposals in the House save at least \$25 billion. Even \$1 billion in savings would qualify it for consideration under reconciliation.

Put simply, including a strong public option is one of the best, most fiscally responsible ways to reform our health insurance system.

A PUBLIC OPTION WOULD PROVIDE AMERICANS WITH A LOW-COST ALTERNATIVE AND IMPROVE MARKET COMPETITIVENESS

A strong public option would create better competition in our health insurance markets. Many Americans have no or little real

choice of health insurance provider. Far too often, it's "take it or leave it" for families and small businesses. This lack of competition drives up costs and leaves private health insurance companies with little incentive to provide quality customer service.

A recent Health Care for America Now report on private insurance companies found that the largest five for-profit health insurance providers made \$12 billion in profits last year, yet they actually dropped 2.7 million people from coverage. Private insurance—by gouging the public even during a severe economic recession—has shown it cannot function in the public's interest without a public alternative. Americans have nowhere to turn. That is not healthy market competition, and it is not good for the public.

If families or individuals like their current coverage through a private insurance company, then they can keep that coverage. And in some markets where consumers have many alternatives, a public option may be less necessary. But many local markets have broken down, with only one or two insurance providers available to consumers. Each and every health insurance market should have real choices for consumers.

**THERE IS A HISTORY OF USING RECONCILIATION FOR SIGNIFICANT PIECES OF HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION**

There is substantial Senate precedent for using reconciliation to enact important health care policies. The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare Advantage, and the *Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985* (COBRA), which actually contains the term 'reconciliation' in its title, were all enacted under reconciliation.

The American Enterprise Institute's Norman Ornstein and Brookings' Thomas Mann and Molly Reynolds jointly wrote, "Are Democrats making an egregious power grab by sidestepping the filibuster? Hardly." They continued that the precedent for using reconciliation to enact major policy changes is "much more extensive . . . than Senate Republicans are willing to admit these days."

**THERE IS STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A PUBLIC OPTION, ACROSS PARTY LINES**

The overwhelming majority of Americans want a public option. The latest New York Times poll on this issue, in December, shows that despite the attacks of recent months Americans support the public option 59% to 29%. Support includes 80% of Democrats, 59% of Independents, and even 33% of Republicans.

Much of the public identifies a public option as the key component of health care reform—and as the best thing we can do to stand up for regular people against big insurance companies. In fact, overall support for health care reform declined steadily as the public option was removed from reform legislation.

Although we strongly support the important reforms made by the Senate-passed health reform package, including a strong public option would improve both its substance and the public's perception of it. The Senate has an obligation to reform our unworkable health insurance market—both to reduce costs and to give consumers more choices. A strong public option is the best way to deliver on both of these goals, and we urge its consideration under reconciliation rules.

Mr. BENNET. In the end, it was not included. In the end, we couldn't overcome the objections of the special interests who wanted to deny the American people that choice. But it was an important case to be made, and we made that case.

But I voted in the end for the Affordable Care Act even though the public option was left out of it because it did some really important things for the healthcare system in America. Most of those had to do with making sure that the insurance companies couldn't throw you off your insurance just because you got sick; that cancer and other conditions could no longer be a preexisting condition; that you could still get healthcare even if you had the misfortune, as I have had, of having cancer; that there would be no lifetime cap that would prevent you from being able to provide healthcare or mental health care for your children or for your family just because things had gotten expensive over a period of time.

These were really critical decisions that were made as part of that bill—in addition to the expansion of Medicaid across the country—to be able to ensure that more working people had the chance to be able to afford healthcare, which brings to mind one of the really unusual—sort of the unusual context in which we have had healthcare debates in America, which is that we are the only rich country in the world, we are the only industrialized country among all industrialized countries where healthcare is not a right of citizenship for everyone who lives in that country.

Notwithstanding the fact that we have less access to healthcare than any other industrialized country in the world, it costs twice as much in the United States. It costs twice as much for the Federal Government. It costs twice as much for our society. Most important, it costs twice as much for the people that we represent in our various States, including in the State of Colorado.

People in Colorado, as we meet here, are struggling with the cost of housing, the cost of food, the cost of President Trump's uncertain and unpredictable tariff policy. But they are also continuing to struggle with the cost of healthcare because we are spending twice what any other industrialized country is spending to get a worse result.

I know the President knows this. The President of the Senate knows this because he is a doctor. I have heard him talk about the condition of our healthcare system.

Today in the United States, our life expectancy is 6 years shorter than it is in any of those industrialized countries. What greater indictment could there be of this system? In the 1970s, we had the same life expectancy as the rest of these countries. In fact, we were in the middle. In the years since, we have fallen further and further and further behind as we have spent more and more and more money because the system we have is so shot through with benefits for special interests, among other things, and a complete lack of transparency, which is a fancy way of saying that literally nobody has any idea what anything costs in our healthcare system.

I know the Presiding Officer agrees with that. You can't tell what anything costs when you show up to fill a prescription, when you are in the emergency room. We worked together on the surprise billing issue, which is an important part of this. If you are a senior that is trying to get your prescriptions filled, you go from one pharmacy to the next to the next.

I will never forget as long as I serve in public office and probably for my lifetime the conversation I had with senior citizens in Pueblo where they basically were telling me that their entire retirement was spent fighting to get prescriptions filled that their doctors had prescribed them. Seniors in other industrialized countries don't spend their retirements doing that. Only in the richest country in the world do seniors have to do that, and that is because a lack of transparency, a lack of clarity is built into our healthcare system from top to bottom.

But we took some important steps in the Affordable Care Act. I wish it had included a public option. It didn't. I think that the rate of rise of our healthcare inflation would have been a lot less. By the way, that is what the people that have looked at that bill and scored that bill over the years have said. We have been fighting for it now for a decade and a half. They said that it would actually save the government money because it would lower healthcare costs; it would introduce some competition into our insurance market.

I will say this to the Presiding Officer. He will probably be amused by it. This is the one place where I really am a Bolshevik. I believe in universal healthcare for all Americans. I think we should provide that to people in this country as a right. There is no reason not to do it in the richest country in the world, especially if we can save half of the cost of healthcare that we are providing now.

Families all over my State, all over Colorado, are fighting to get their kid the mental health care they need, are fighting to get their parents the prescriptions they have been prescribed, are fighting to hold on to their own health insurance, because that also has become less and less affordable over the years. That is a fight that no one else in the industrialized world has to have.

I think it is important to point out that most of the people I am talking about—almost all of the people I am talking about are working for a living in this country and still can't afford healthcare, still can't afford the peace of mind that they know that if their kid breaks their leg on a hike or breaks their leg skiing or needs to have the benefit of a mental health counselor, that that is something our safety net provides. Healthcare should be a right. It is a right. And whether you get it or not shouldn't be determined by how wealthy you are or where you live.

I think, given the rhetoric I hear out here sometimes about makers and takers and all that other stuff, it is important to point out that almost all the people I am talking about are working or taking care of children or are retired.

We should have a universal healthcare system in this country, but in the meantime, we shouldn't be making matters worse, which is why this debate is so crazy.

When we passed the Affordable Care Act without a single vote from the Republican Party in the House or the Senate, they said that they were going to make President Obama a one-term President. They said that I was going to lose my Senate seat. In fact, I was asked on national television whether I would lose my Senate seat as a result of my vote on the healthcare bill, and I said: If that is the cost of being here for that period of time, it is worth it. I am happy to lose based on that vote.

They ran ad after ad after ad during that campaign attacking me for being the 60th vote for the Affordable Care Act. And because I survived and a couple other Senators barely survived, we were able to preserve that bill, and 30 million people who would have lost their health insurance in America didn't lose their health insurance.

Then the efforts in the House began to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They voted, I think—I lost count—I think it was 70 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act in the House of Representatives—at least 70 times. They never were able to do it. And the longer it was there, the more people came to see the benefits of the insurance protection, came to see the benefits of the expansion in Medicaid, came to see the benefits of at least having a little bit of comfort that they couldn't just throw you off your insurance because they felt like it.

Now we have found ourselves in a debate related to the tax credits that so many Americans rely on to make insurance just a little bit more affordable. I wouldn't say affordable. I would say a little bit more affordable. I would say barely affordable but somewhat more affordable.

At a moment when grocery prices are what they are, at a moment when rent is what it is, at a moment when we are dealing with the incredible uncertainty these tariffs are causing, it would seem the least we could do is not make matters worse. The least we could do is extend the tax credit so it is a little bit easier for people to buy insurance for themselves and for their families. But just like with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, when not a single Republican supported it; just like when they voted 70 times in the House of Representatives—70 times—to repeal the Affordable Care Act, during this period, this episode, this shutdown, the longest in American history, the Republicans have voted 15 times to take away those benefits from the American people that they are relying on just to make insurance a little bit affordable.

We have taken the position that we shouldn't make matters worse, and that is why I voted again against the budget that has been proposed by President Trump and the Republicans, because they refuse to extend the tax credits. They refuse to make things just a little bit better for the American people.

I can't say I am surprised by the position. Who could be surprised after a vote on the Affordable Care Act where nobody joined it; all those years of voting to repeal it; wanting to make President Obama, they said, a one-term President; and now the vote day after day after day to not provide the American people the benefit of those tax credits.

Before this debate closes, I just want to say again that the current system is in dire need of help.

The American people are hanging on by their fingertips when it comes to the cost and availability of healthcare. There is no rich country in the world that doesn't have a universal system of healthcare. There is no rich country in the world that doesn't routinely supply access to doctors and primary care, access to mental health care for families and for kids, prescription drugs that don't cost an arm and a leg. It is not a pain point for those people in the different phases of their lives, much less a pain point every single day, which it is for the people that I represent in Colorado.

Apparently, President Trump is going to get his way, and those tax credits are not going to be extended by the majority here. And the cost of health insurance in Colorado is going to increase by 200 percent for some people, 300 percent for some people, 400 percent for people that are living in rural areas in my State. That is thousands and thousands of dollars to a typical family that just doesn't have that kind of money.

I just want to remind everybody in this Chamber that when this debate is done, we still have a very important project that we need to be engaged in with the American people, and that is to be able to provide a healthcare system like other wealthy and industrialized countries have provided—where people can count on their healthcare; where they know it is not going to cost them an arm and a leg; where they know, in the course of their lifetime, there are other things they can worry about, like the cost of their rent and the cost of food. But the one thing we are going to do is take care of this problem, just as countries all over the world have taken care of it for their citizens.

I wish I could say that the politics around healthcare have gotten better over the years that I have been here. They really haven't. But I think that the debate that we have had in this moment is going to serve to clarify who is fighting to try to make the system better for the American people and who is not.

I guarantee you this, as long as we have President Trump in the White House and a majority of Republicans in this Chamber, we will never have political leadership that is fighting for universal healthcare, that is fighting for a public option that can be available to every single family in America.

By the way, that is my proposal. It relies on everybody in America to make the best choice for their family. It is not something that would be imposed from here. It would be the chance for every family to say: You know what? I will stay with the private insurance I have or, actually, I would rather be on a system that is run by Medicare, where I know I am going to have access to mental health care and healthcare for my family in a predictable way.

I can see my colleague from Massachusetts. I will close by saying that my heart especially aches for young people across this country, the people the age of my own daughters.

I had a young woman ask me the other day, a recent graduate of Western State in Gunnison, CO—she said: I am coming off my parents' insurance after I am 26.

You will remember that we put that in the healthcare bill. Before that, there was no opportunity for people to stay on their parents' insurance. We did it. We said you get to stay on until you are 26.

She said: Senator, what am I supposed to do, take two or three jobs to pay for my health insurance when I have to come off my parents' insurance?

I said: That is exactly the right question. That is a question that 26-, 27-, and 28-year-olds are not having to ask in any other industrialized country in the world. Only in the United States of America are we running a system where young people in their twenties have to decide between health insurance and their rent, or health insurance and food, or health insurance and the ability to put some money away to save for a house.

We should change that.

I believe strongly that if we ever get to the point where we are expanding Medicare in this country, we should do it for the younger kids that are in their twenties first because they have done absolutely nothing to design the system that they are inheriting.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, our dedicated Federal workers deserve to get paid, and I am glad this deal means that the government will reopen, that public servants will be returning to work, and that they will receive their paychecks, including backpay.

I am also pleased that this deal will prevent Donald Trump from further delaying SNAP benefits for hungry children, senior citizens, and families. Using hungry people as political pawns,

which is what Donald Trump has been doing, is disgusting.

But this legislation does nothing—nothing—concrete to lower costs or protect healthcare for millions of Americans from MAGA Republican attacks. There are 22 million Americans who are going to see dramatic increases in their healthcare costs at the end of this year, 22 million Americans who are going to be very concerned about the healthcare of their families.

angry. They want to know who is on their side, and they are going to remember your vote. They are going to remember your vote if you do not solve this problem.

Thanksgiving is going to be the worst Thanksgiving ever for millions of families in their knowing that they are going to lose their health insurance, and the Republicans can do something about it. Unless and until they do so, then we are about to hit a healthcare tragedy that could have been avoidable and that the Republicans have, in fact, created.

This is a man-made crisis, and that man is the President of the United States, and the Republicans here on the floor of the Senate are following him blindly in a way that is going to result in harm to 22 million Americans and their families. So this is the moment. This is the time. This is the place. This is where people should be standing up to fight for those people.

Health is the first wealth. Health is the most important wealth. Without your health, you have nothing. You have nothing. Everything else is built on health—everything—and the Republicans are taking away that healthcare from 22 million Americans.

This is not the way to send families into Thanksgiving and Christmas. This is not the way we should be treating people. We are the wealthiest country in the history of the world. Yale University has made it very clear that 50,000 people additionally are going to die per year if all of Trump's healthcare cuts go into place. That is 500,000 people dying over the next 10 years if these healthcare premiums—Medicaid—are slashed. That is on this body. That is on this Senate. That is on the Republican leadership.

All I can say to you is that this is a mistake; it is a historic mistake; it is cruel; it is wrong; it is not what we should be doing to those who are the most vulnerable, to those who are the most in need in our country; and that is what the Republicans are about to perpetrate upon this country.

We are better than this. You can't have trillions of dollars in tax breaks for the wealthiest and then say we don't have enough money for those who are the sickest. If you have room for a tax break only after you have taken care of the sickest people—the people most in need of healthcare in our society—that is when you have room for tax breaks for billionaires. The Republicans are doing just the opposite: First, tax breaks for billionaires; then we will see what is left over.

"Oh," they say. "We can't afford healthcare for 22 million Americans. We can't afford to take care of their families because we don't have enough money."

Why don't you have enough money? Because you gave the tax breaks to billionaires. You gave the tax breaks to billionaires. That is why you don't have enough money.

And who are you going to take it out on? Are you going to say, all of a sud-

den, with your green eyeshades, that you are really concerned about the Federal budget deficit? And are you going to take it out upon those who are the least healthy? to those most in need of help in our society? No. We are better than that.

So this is a historic mistake, but just remember that Republicans have always harbored an ancient animosity toward Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. They voted against all of those programs. Now, with Donald Trump, they have the ability to gut them, and that is what they are doing. That is what they are doing. When they have a chance to stand up and say, "No. Let's be reasonable. Let's keep the healthcare subsidies, which are most needed," they are just walking away right now.

Donald Trump operates under "The Godfather, Part 1" rules. He gives them offers they can't refuse. And we saw that with Senators who tried to stand up to say: No. The Medicaid cuts are too deep. The Affordable Care Act cuts are too deep.

Trump just called them and said: Your career is over. You will not be a Senator again.

So now we are seeing the remaining Senators who are here who are Republicans, and they are just saying: Whatever you want, Mr. Trump, whatever Russell Vought wants at OMB, and whatever Stephen Miller wants, we will do. We are not going to have a negotiation. We are not going to sit down.

Before they cut the Medicaid and the Medicare programs back in July, did they negotiate with us? No, they did not. They refused to negotiate with Democrats at all. That is who they are. They saw their one opportunity to slash it once and for all.

All I can say is that we are in an incredible moment. The Republican House Members still are not back in Washington. They have been in a 6-week witness protection program. They refuse to come back to Washington. They refuse to sit down. They refuse to negotiate. So we are witnessing Robin Hood in reverse. We are seeing money taken from the poorest and given to the richest—that is what this is all about—and what they are taking from the poorest and the middle class is their healthcare. It is their protection.

So, from my perspective, this is a mistake—it is a historic mistake—and it is a mistake that will come back to haunt the Republican Party at the ballot box next year.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I have been coming to the floor to speak about how we can go forward in a way that actually lowers the cost of having health insurance for those who are on the exchanges and begin to build a future where we lower the cost of health insurance and healthcare for everybody

whether you are on an ObamaCare exchange or have employer-sponsored insurance or you name it. We know there is going to be a vote—as part of this agreement to open the government—on what to do about the exchanges; so we need to be thinking and talking about the solutions that are out there that benefit the American people.

Of course, the issue underlying it is that people cannot afford their health insurance. They cannot afford their healthcare. Those are two different things, by the way. The cost of healthcare is what dictates, theoretically, at least, the price of health insurance. If you lower the cost of healthcare, then you lower the price of health insurance. I saw this as a physician when I was practicing in a hospital for the uninsured for 20 years—I should say the uninsured and the poorly insured. There were middle-income people who could not afford their insurance and/or could not afford their healthcare.

So how do we get out of it? Well, first, it is complicated. We have got to be creative, and we have got to abandon set positions. Sometimes we are in this Chamber, and all we do is stick to our guns, and if the other party suggests something, we automatically reject it. We have got to move beyond that, not as, "Oh, my gosh. If the other side proposes it, I reject it," but rather as, "Wait a second. Let's listen. Is there a solution here that can benefit the American people?"

ObamaCare tried to make and has tried to make healthcare insurance affordable by just throwing billions at it. The problem with that is that it doesn't make healthcare affordable. It just makes the health insurance premium less expensive for those who are on the exchanges. This actually drives up the cost of insurance for some and does nothing about the underlying healthcare costs driving up the premiums for others.

So what is my proposal? I propose, instead of paying insurance companies to manage more of our billions, why don't we trust the American people to manage their own resources or to manage their own care with something which I call a prefunded Federal flexible spending account?

Let's first talk about the enhanced premium tax credit, which is at the center of this discussion. It is just a primer. Let's get the basics.

There are two types of premium tax credits used to fund insurance for those who are on the ObamaCare exchanges. One is the baseline tax credit, in the original ObamaCare law, which helps pay for the premiums for those who earn less than 400 percent of the Federal poverty level, but that didn't control costs. So, during the COVID epidemic, the Biden administration put in something called the enhanced premium tax credit that provides some additional benefits for those less than 400 percent of Federal poverty, but it gave additional benefits for those above 400

percent of Federal poverty, if you will, acknowledging that ObamaCare had not controlled healthcare costs, and premiums on the exchanges for those above 400 percent had become unaffordable.

Let's be clear: The discussion we are having now is not about the baseline premium tax credits; it is about the enhanced premium tax credits, which started under the Biden administration.

So it begs the question: Why were enhanced premium tax credits necessary? Well, as we have said, the cost of healthcare has continued to rise. You can argue, if you are going to an insurance company and you are saying, "We are going to give you more money if healthcare costs more," that they do not have the incentive to help control those healthcare costs.

Now, I am not here to bash insurance companies. They are essential to our society. So I will just put that out there. But if you have the choice of giving the money to the patient for her to manage it or giving it to the insurance company, I think we should give it to the patient.

So the question is: Can we put in programs that lower the cost of healthcare? How long will it be before it takes effect, and what do we do in the interim?

Well, it is too soon this coming year to put in programs to lower the costs of healthcare, but it is not too soon to put in programs that empower patients to manage their costs and give them the money, as opposed to giving it to the health insurance companies, but to do that, we have got to think differently.

So how do we lower costs for the coming year for the individual who is on the exchanges? It is important to realize that the total cost of having health insurance is not just the premium but that it includes the deductible and the copay. So if you can help with the deductible and the copay, that is as effective, or even more effective, than helping with the premiums.

So what I am proposing is something which actually helps the patient become a wise consumer of healthcare, helping her with the premiums and the copays, working with the health insurance policy but in a way which lowers their cost.

Let me be clear: This is not the official Republican position. President Trump has endorsed the concept, but it is not, say, for Leader THUNE. But I am the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which has jurisdiction over this, and we will be having hearings in the near future to address this. And my motivation is as a Senator and as a doctor who wants to make healthcare more affordable for all Americans.

Let's discuss what I am calling a prefunded flexible spending account. First, here is what we currently have: an enhanced premium tax credit, which is going to take \$26 billion next year

and give it to insurance companies that tell the patient what she can buy and what she cannot buy.

I have a typo here. I fixed it yesterday, but I have got to fix it once more.

Twenty percent of the money—20 percent of the \$26 billion going out the door to help pay for insurance premiums—actually will go for profits and overhead of the insurance company. So let me just change it right here. Again, I had a typo yesterday, and I have a typo today.

Twenty percent of the money we are giving to the insurance companies under the enhanced premium tax credits goes for profit and it goes for administrative overhead. Only 80 percent goes to pay for the insurance premium to pay for healthcare costs for the person who is a recipient.

Let's speak of what I am describing, the prefunded flexible spending account—prefunded because you take the enhanced premium tax credit, instead of giving it to the insurance company, you give it to the individual and her family through a flexible spending account—a flexible spending account which millions of Americans already have.

She can use this money to pay for prescription drugs, for dental work, for medical care, eyeglasses, orthodontia—much more flexibility than through a traditional insurance company.

The key thing is, whereas, if we give this money to the insurance company, 20 percent goes for profit and overhead. If we give it to the patient, 100 percent goes to healthcare that she needs. One hundred percent goes to her family's healthcare needs—100 percent, not 80 percent. This is better value for their healthcare dollar.

Now, who would get it? Every eligible American citizen on the exchange would receive a prefunded flexible spending account equal in value to the enhanced premium tax credit they would have received had the money gone to their insurance company. It doesn't pay for insurance premiums, but it pays for the actual healthcare that they actually need.

I am pleased to say President Trump has tweeted in support of the concept. Of course, I am pleased to be aligned with the President on this. He says he recommends that instead of giving hundreds of billions of dollars—and this is President Trump's rhetoric—to money-sucking insurance companies, the money should "BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE SO THEY CAN PURCHASE THEIR OWN, MUCH BETTER HEALTHCARE."

Notice the caps. That is a President Trump tweet.

I am pleased to be aligned with the President. But for my Democratic colleagues who want a guarantee that whatever we pass will get a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives, this is effectively a guarantee that if we pass a program like this, it can get a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. If the President asks

Speaker MIKE JOHNSON to bring it up for a vote, Speaker MIKE JOHNSON will.

Just imagine, my Democratic colleagues, how do we get something that 100 percent of the money goes for real healthcare; it doesn't go to insurance companies where 20 percent goes for profit and overhead; it is a system already used by millions of Americans, and, may I say, it all but guarantees to get a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives? This tweet gives them that assurance.

Some immediately begin to criticize the President, assuming that he was going to take all the money going for health insurance premiums and put it in one of these flexible spending accounts. That is not true. Go back to what I said earlier. We only are talking about the enhanced premium tax credits which would prefund this flexible spending account. We are not talking about—we are not talking about—the baseline premium tax credits that are part of the original ObamaCare law.

By the way, Republicans want people to have coverage. This doctor who used to take care of the uninsured wants people to have coverage.

The more I discuss this—and this is the fourth or fifth time I have given this talk—I am pleased to say that some of my Democratic colleagues are saying: Hey, we can talk about it. I am not quite there yet, but I see the wisdom of it. I am willing to move forward with it.

And I thank them for that. I want everybody in the Senate to put aside their prejudice, which sometimes is that if one side proposes it, it must be wrong.

I will say to my Democratic colleagues, what I am proposing with the prefunded flexible spending account is actually more closely aligned with how the original authors of the Affordable Care Act wanted that legislation to be implemented.

I find it ironic that some of my Democratic colleagues are rejecting something which is closer to the original bill. But I think they are rejecting it, in part, because of misunderstanding, lack of knowledge, and maybe for some because a Republican is proposing it.

Put that trench warfare mentality behind you. Think about, could this be better for the American people? Can this accomplish the goal of making the possession of health insurance and paying for my family's healthcare more affordable?

For those who think this is too complicated, let me say that 72 percent of Americans who get their health insurance through a Federal employer, a State employer, a local employer—72 percent of us have a flexible spending account. My family and I have a flexible spending account.

Forty-seven percent of Americans who are in private insurance have access to a flexible spending account. It doesn't mean they take it, but it just means they have access.

Millions of Americans are already using flexible spending accounts. What I am proposing, let's just give the same option to people who are on the individual exchanges.

By the way, let me just make the point, my wife and I, our family, we are on the ObamaCare Small Business Exchange. Everybody in Congress is on an ObamaCare Small Business Exchange. I am getting my flexible spending account through an exchange. All we are saying is open up the window just a little bit to allow those who are on the individual exchanges to likewise access that which I am getting through the Small Business Exchange.

This merely extends what is current law for some people on their health plan to extend it to those who are within the individual exchange.

The Federal Government can take the laws, the tools, the vendors, the Department it is already using and implement—implement—a prefunded flexible spending account for those on the individual exchange.

Why is that important? Because that can happen for plan year 2026. I am asking: What are we going to do about the people next year? This is about next year. How can we help those folks signing up for insurance right now for 2026? This brings them benefit right now for 2026.

Let me now kind of go through the differences between the enhanced premium tax credit and a federally funded flexible spending account. This is kind of a money chart, if you will. If you are with me in concept that maybe this could work, hopefully—hopefully—I can convince people who might be watching, my Democratic colleagues who might be listening to give power to the patients instead of giving enhanced premium tax credits to insurance companies.

OK. Who gets the money? Under the enhanced premium tax credit, the insurance company gets the money, and 20 percent of it goes for overhead and for profit. Under the prefunded flexible spending account, a patient and the family controls the money.

What can it be used for? The enhanced premium tax credit, it can be used for insurance premiums. Under the prefunded flexible spending account, it can be used for real care, if you will: dental visits, physician visits, eyeglasses, prescriptions, orthodontia. It has more flexibility than the traditional insurance policy has.

Who makes the decision? Well, the golden rule: He who has the gold makes the rule. Under the enhanced premium tax credit going to insurance companies, the insurance company makes the decision. They decide what care you have, where you get it, and how much you are charged.

When you have a prefunded flexible spending account, the patient makes the difference. The patient makes the decision. She decides where the dollars go. I always use the feminine because women make 95 percent of healthcare

decisions for themselves, their family, for their spouse, for their boyfriend. I always chuckle—guys are the stupidest people in the world when it comes to their healthcare, maybe a couple of other things. But the people who care about this are typically women, and so I speak to her.

Does it lower cost? Under the enhanced premium tax credit, there is really minimal incentive for the insurance company to attempt to lower costs; so, therefore, as costs go up, so do premiums. On the other hand, under a prefunded flexible spending account, you empower patients to shop, which drives competition.

One example: I was once stopped on the street by someone who had seen one of my talks. She goes: You talked about using cash or using my flexible spending account or using my health savings account to buy something. There was an MRI order for my son's shoulder. My deductible was \$5,000. The MRI was going to cost \$2,000. I was going to have to pay \$2,000 for the MRI of my son's shoulder.

I said: Wait, do you have a cash price? Well, your cash price is \$600. If you don't want to go to the insurance company, your cash price is \$600.

Now, the typical ObamaCare plan has a deductible anywhere from \$3,000 to \$6,800. So if we are talking about an MRI costing \$2,000, you are still within the deductible. If you have a flexible spending account, you are not paying for that out of your pocket, you are paying for it with your flexible spending account. And you can ask: What if I give you cash instead, and they will give you the lower price, not the higher price if there is a lower cash price. And there often is.

This turns that woman, that family, into an informed consumer, and that begins to drive down the costs.

This is the essence of giving power to the patients. The patient picks the best deal for her health and the best deal for her family's pocketbook. The prefunded, flexible spending account doesn't treat someone like a dependent of the Federal Government; it treats them as somebody who can make wise decisions for themselves and empowers them to make wiser decisions than the insurance company itself can.

Now, some would ask, how much money does it cost? The first year, depending on how we structure it, it might cost just as much as our enhanced premium tax credits. Why? Because we are going to take the amount of money that would go for the enhanced premium tax credit and put it into a prefunded, flexible spending account.

My Democratic colleagues should like that. They should say: Wait a second. It is still getting the same value—in fact, I would argue, better value because when you give it to the insurance company, 20 percent goes to profit and overhead, and when you give it to the patient, 100 percent goes to real care. But the cost the first year will be about the same.

But I will repeat: The difference is where the money goes. Because it goes 100 percent for real care, there is more value for every Federal dollar.

Once more, it is in the family's vested financial interest to purchase wisely, and that begins to drive down healthcare costs. That, coupled with other reforms in year 2 of this program—in year 2—would begin to reflect itself in lower premiums.

To conclude, here is the choice before us: We can keep paying insurance companies to hide the cost of higher premiums behind confusing bills, rising premiums, and a system which actually raises costs for many or we can give the patient the tool and trust her to pay for her care directly at fair prices, with transparency.

If we will, it puts patients before insurance companies, it encourages competition, it encourages and rewards smart choices, and it begins to make healthcare truly affordable—not by inflating subsidies but by unleashing the power of the consumer.

Let's stop writing blank checks to bureaucracies and insurance companies. Let's invest in our fellow Americans—if you will, invest in you.

This is going to be a little risky. We are doing something different. You will be saying: Oh, I am not just going to be a Democrat. I am not just going to be a Republican. I actually want to try to come together to find a solution to benefit all Americans.

Imagine that. Congress putting partisan politics behind us to come up with a creative solution that actually benefits Americans—a little bit out of our comfort zone. It is what we should be doing every day. I call upon us to do that today.

We have to be willing to take the risk to solve the problem, not be afraid to do something different. We have to be willing to tackle complex problems, not retreat—not retreat—to our trench, which is labeled “Republican” or “Democrat,” and be afraid to come out to find a creative solution.

I am a Republican, but more than that, I am a doctor who for 20 years tried to care for those who could not afford their healthcare or their health insurance. I invite my 99 colleagues to join me in trying to find affordable healthcare and affordable insurance for our fellow Americans.

Let's be creative. Let's do it. And let's not just reject the proposal because maybe my side or your side proposed it. Let's fix healthcare. Let's give patients the power.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. HUSTED assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The Senator from North Carolina.

#### RECOGNIZING FEDERAL WORKERS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, we are getting encouraging signs that we may be having some votes tonight. I hope that proves to be true and the Senate does its part to get out of the shutdown.

I was thinking, though, I have been telling a lot of staff around here and everybody else: I apologize for us not getting our work done.

I think a lot of people don't realize how many people around here haven't been paid for 41 days. Do you know who they are? Everybody you can see in this room and every one of your staff members and everybody else who has been doing the hard work, showing up.

I was thinking yesterday, with all the cars in the driveway, those young people that are coming in to pick up their Members and take them back to their apartments, condos, wherever they live here—those kids are doing that on a weekend and not getting paid either.

I also think that getting out of the shutdown and getting the tens of millions of people that are hanging in the lurch across the country—it is just a good thing.

It is a shame we got here, but I want to thank the Members on both sides of the aisle that have finally decided that we need to do our work here, pass a continuing resolution, pass actual regular order bills, and prove this place can work.

The work is not done. We have about 90 days now to fix the other part that we couldn't get agreement on. Let's make sure we start doing the work now so that every Capitol Police officer, every Sergeant at Arms, every Senate staff, and all the people down on the dais who are working extra long hours actually get paid for the hard work they do.

On behalf of the other Members, I thank you.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, during the course of tonight's debate, we will be voting on whether to table an item in the amendment lineup in order to submit an amendment that would ban pocket rescissions.

Well, that is a fancy name. What does a pocket rescission mean? It means the President can steal the power of the purse from Congress, which is assigned to Congress in the Constitution, by submitting a proposal to undo spending for a program in the last 45 days of the fiscal year.

And then, because under our rules there is 45 days to consider it, as a grace period, even though Congress never votes affirmatively in support of this proposal, the clock runs out and the funding for the program dies. It is kind of like the clock running out on midnight on Cinderella's stagecoach, and, suddenly, it is a pumpkin.

In this case, it is the funding for some key program in healthcare, in housing, or in education. Or maybe it is an investment in infrastructure. Maybe it is something that creates good-paying jobs. Maybe it is the research that keeps our economy humming far into the future. Maybe it is energy policy. But one person—the President—says he doesn't like that

program and decides to kill it by submitting a proposal to kill it in the last 45 days, and the clock runs out before Congress can vote. And then, even without Congress voting, the program dies.

This is an outright violation of the power of the purse assigned in the Constitution to Congress—to us. So we have a bipartisan responsibility to defend our congressional power—our congressional spending power.

Let's consider the difference between a democracy and an authoritarian government. In a democracy, you have folks who are elected from every corner of the country. They come together with their different life experiences. They come together with their different insights. They come together understanding that the needs in one part of the country are different than another. And they create spending programs and spending levels appropriate to address the challenges in every corner of the Nation. That is called a democracy.

Well, what about an authoritarian government? What does that look like? That is one person, a Chief Executive, who issues fiats and kills programs, and says things like: I am ending that grant program because it is not in alignment with my priorities. I am killing that program because it is not in alignment with my priorities.

That is an authoritarian government, and that is what a "pocket recession" is—an authoritarian killing programs when the Constitution gives that power to Congress, not the Executive.

So later on, I will ask all of us to stand up and defend our Constitution. I do hope that Members on both sides of the aisle will actually proceed to give that defense to the vision of a democracy, rather than granting authoritarian power to an authoritarian tyrant named Donald Trump.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senators MURRAY and COLLINS, the postcloture time be expired, and the Senate vote on adoption of the motion to proceed; further, if agreed to, and following recognition of the majority leader, it be in order for Senators BALDWIN, SANDERS, SLOTKIN, and MERKLEY to speak for up to 5 minutes each, prior to a Baldwin motion to table and a Merkley motion to table, if made; and following the disposition of that vote, if it is not agreed to, Senator PAUL be recognized to speak for up to 9 minutes, and the Senate then vote in relation to the Paul amendment No. 3941; further, that following disposition of the Paul amendment, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Collins substitute amendment No. 3937; and if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be expired, the pend-

ing amendments other than the Collins substitute be withdrawn, and the Senate vote on adoption of the Collins substitute amendment; and if adopted, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5371, as amended; finally, if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be expired, the bill, as amended, be read the third time, and the Senate vote on passage of H.R. 5371, as amended; and if passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and the mandatory quorum calls be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, like so many people in this country, I am so outraged that Republicans have refused to lift a finger to save so many families from the skyrocketing healthcare premiums all year long. I voted no on last night's vote because I do believe we need to address healthcare costs before we move forward.

There is simply no time left to kick the can down the road when it comes to saving the ACA tax credits. We are already 10 days into enrollment. Yet we have Republicans saying: Why should we stop premiums from skyrocketing when we never really wanted lower premiums in the first place?

We have Republicans talking about going back to the good old days of high-risk pools, which meant people with cancer could not get health insurance. We have Speaker JOHNSON bragging that Republicans strengthened healthcare by making the biggest cut to Medicaid in history. That is like saying you strengthened a ship by throwing the passengers overboard.

And when Democrats offered a clean 1-year extension of the tax credits, which is truly the most straightforward and commonsense thing we can do for people facing gigantic premium hikes this year, Republicans said: Never ever, ever, ever.

They called it "political terrorism." And to really put a fine point on it, they fired up the old bad ideas machine to try and find a new way to repeal the ACA. Republicans have gone from saying nothing about healthcare costs all year long to saying later, later, later, even after we are over a week into open enrollment and wasting every bit of time we had for real negotiations.

Then, incredibly, Republicans started saying: Let's scrap the Affordable Care Act altogether. Let's end protections for preexisting conditions. By refusing to work with Democrats on a solution before open enrollment started, Republicans have already pushed millions of Americans off the healthcare cliff.

The only question was—and is—could we throw them a rope back up? Could Congress get something done and stem some of the bleeding Republicans already caused? Yes. By passing a clean

1-year extension of the ACA tax credits.

But right away, Republicans said they wouldn't even consider it. I believe that we should keep pressing on that fight as time is of the essence, and the clock has nearly run out. The reality is, there is a point where it will be too late to make a meaningful difference on the healthcare premiums, and I don't believe there is some magical date set in stone, but that is coming up pretty fast.

It is pretty much now or never, and Republicans are essentially saying never to stopping the worst of the MAGA healthcare hike.

Now, here is the important thing: This fight is not over, far from it, because I and many of us have no intention of letting Republicans off the hook. No one should doubt for a single second who is to blame for the skyrocketing healthcare costs: Republicans and Republicans alone.

When families across America are paying the price that they will see for Republican inaction every month, I will make sure every single one of them remembers the same Republicans who did everything in their power to make tax breaks for billionaires permanent refused to even negotiate one year of healthcare tax credits for working families at a tiny fraction of the cost.

Unfortunately, here we are, and it seems clear Republicans are feeling no urgency to act on healthcare before it is too late, even a quick simple extension to help families.

But, I want to be clear, while I cannot vote for this overall deal today, not when we still need to address healthcare, I do absolutely support the appropriations bills and CR that we will move forward which do take meaningful steps to reject drastic cuts and extreme policies pushed by both Trump and House Republicans and make sure that Congress—not Trump—is in charge of Federal spending.

It is important that Democrats were at the table on the CR and our first three funding bills and used our spot at that table to fight for hard-working families in America. The difference is clear and a sharp contrast between the bills that were released yesterday and the bills written by the House Republicans and the budget put forward by President Trump.

In our bills, Democrats were able to secure real wins for folks back home and fight off painful, senseless cuts and extreme policy.

On the CR, we made sure to protect Federal workers, both by ensuring they receive backpay they are owed, something that has been debated extensively, and by reversing the punitive RIFs done by this administration during the administration and blocking them from doing more this year.

In the Agriculture appropriations bill, while Trump and House Republicans fought to make steep cuts to WIC that would have seriously cut ben-

efits for millions of women and kids, we successfully fought together to keep WIC fully funded. This bill ensures that 7 million moms and babies will get the full nutrition benefits they rely on.

We also sustained key investments in our rural communities because we rejected a Trump funding takeover. We protected housing support in rural communities and vital agricultural research happening across the country, including in my home State of Washington at WSU.

We stopped Trump from blowing a truly massive hole in FDA's budget which would have slowed drug approvals and seriously endangered our food supply.

None of this is inconsequential. All of this matters. And I want to thank Chair HOEVEN and Ranking Member SHAHEEN for all of their good work on that vital bill to our communities. In the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bills, we were able to secure funding to make sure we were taking care of our veterans and our servicemembers and ensure that this administration keeps its promises to our veterans by ensuring staffing of critical services such as the crisis hotline centers.

I want to thank Chair BOOZMAN and Ranking Member OSBOURNE for all their good work on this critical bill to our veterans and our servicemembers.

And, lastly, on the Legislative Branch bill, which is the smallest bill, it covers the important needs of this institution, from protecting GAO and CBO, the Architect of the Capitol, our Capitol Police, and other Agencies that actually make this place work, to make sure our offices have what they need to take care of our constituents and keep our campus safe.

We should all appreciate the hard work that went into completing this bill. I want to thank Chair MULLIN and Ranking Member HEINRICH for all of their work on that important bill and the critical matters within to every Senator in this Chamber.

Now, obviously, those are not the bills I would have written on my own. I have concerns we were not able to address in these bills, and Republicans were not open to some of them. But I still want to do more when it comes to delivering critical investments for communities in our country, and I will, as always, keep pushing my colleagues every day.

But we did secure real wins for folks back home when Democrats and Republicans were able to sit down at the table together on funding, and they are immeasurably better than Trump and Vought holding the pen—which is what the slush fund CR that we have been operating on this year allowed.

I am proud for what we have been able to negotiate to protect key programs our families and communities rely on and protect our authority as lawmakers who are here to be a voice for our constituents. I want to emphasize that I really appreciate the work

of my counterpart, the senior Senator from Maine SUSAN COLLINS, who has done incredible work on all these bills.

I want to thank our subcommittee chairs and ranking members and all of our staff who have worked hard to put these bills together, and I want to make clear I deeply appreciate the partnership of my colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee who have all worked in good faith during these very difficult times and these very difficult negotiations.

No matter what, these bills need to get done and our staff put in late nights and our chairs and ranking members held countless conversations to compromise and work toward solutions.

I hope to continue building on that progress and showing what it does look like when we come together and put families before politics.

I look forward to getting our next minibus up on the floor to move multiple needed bills along that we have marked up in the committee and give those to conference, and I hope we can be on that package as soon as possible.

I look forward to working with the Senator from Maine and working to get those final bills completed, so they, too, can be confereed with the House as soon as possible.

And I want to thank all of our committee members and staffs for their incredible work on these critical bills. We have a lot of work ahead, and I know we can get there.

Passing full-year funding bills helps to ensure that Congress—not Trump or Russ Vought—decides how taxpayer dollars are spent. We should never turn the keys over to Trump and his Cabinet Secretaries, allowing them to make unilateral cuts and shift funding around however they please.

Every day, they prove in a new way how critical it is that Congress assert its authority and rein in their chaos, and I will continue to work to do that on the Appropriations Committee.

But I also need to continue fighting to stop the MAGA healthcare hike for as long as there is still time left on this clock to fix this. The reality is, there is a point where it will be too late to make a meaningful difference, but until we reach that point of no return, we do have to fight tooth and nail to force Republicans to actually work with us on that issue. And because, in this package, Republicans have still refused to address the healthcare crisis families are facing right now, a crisis that gets worse and harder to fix every single day, I will be voting no.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, this is the 41st day of an entirely unnecessary government shutdown; a shutdown that never should have occurred; a shutdown that has caused tremendous harm to the American people, to our national security, to our entire country; a shutdown that has resulted in Federal employees being furloughed, laid

off, or forced to work without compensation; a shutdown that is causing enormous uncertainty and stress for families that rely upon the SNAP program for the nutrition that they need; a shutdown that is causing families to wonder: Are they going to be able to fly to see the grandparents on Thanksgiving? A shutdown that never should have occurred.

We finally have the ability tonight to end this shutdown. We have put forth, the Appropriations Committee, working in a bipartisan way with Members on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers, a package of bills that includes a continuing resolution that will reopen government immediately once it is passed by this Senate, the House, and signed into law by the President.

It is legislation that due to incredibly good work by Senators JEANNE SHAHEEN, TIM KAINE, KATIE BRITT, the White House, and many of us, will ensure that those Federal employees who have been furloughed or laid off or forced to work without pay will receive their backpay, will be recalled to their jobs if they were laid off as a result of this shutdown.

That will make a huge difference to these Federal employees who have worked so hard to serve the people of our Nation.

This package of bills also includes three—three—yearlong appropriations bills that were passed by overwhelming margins, bipartisan margins, more than 80 votes in each case, by the Members of this Senate way back on August 1.

These bills are the Agriculture bill, the Agriculture-FDA bill—Senator BOOZMAN chairs that subcommittee. It includes funding for the SNAP program; for the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program, known as WIC; for our farmers; for rural development; for our rural communities throughout this country. It is a very important bill—a bill that will take away the worry that families who are low income and seniors who are low income and rely upon the SNAP program or the WIC Program are feeling today about whether the funding is going to be there. That concern goes away with the passage of this full-year appropriations bill that extends until the end of September of next year.

A second bill in this package is the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill. That subcommittee is chaired—I have actually mixed up the two subcommittees. Agriculture is chaired by Senator HOEVEN, and Military Construction-VA is chaired by Senator BOOZMAN. They are both extraordinary chairmen who work in a bipartisan manner with their ranking minority members and with their House counterparts.

Think about it. Tomorrow is Veterans Day. Wouldn't it be wonderful if tonight the Senate passes the bill that provides yearlong funding through the end of this fiscal year, to September 30

of next year, for our VA? What a way to tell our veterans how much we value their sacrifice and their service—a debt to them that we can never fully repay. It is so important to get that bill through.

Military construction projects—what a difference that makes to our troops all over the world. There are two that matter a great deal to me in the State of Maine, one that will help the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which I worked on with my fellow Senator from Maine and our two Senators from New Hampshire, and one that will benefit the Air National Guard Base in Bangor, ME, where I live. I am so proud of that base. It does more refuelings than any base on the east coast during wartime, and it is extraordinarily skillful and filled with patriots. They will be taken care of.

The third bill is the Legislative Branch bill. That bill answers concerns that a lot of our Members have about security in this increasingly polarized and difficult environment in which we live. But that is not all, and I want to correct any misimpression that has been given by some who have spoken today on the other side of the aisle.

The Senate majority leader has given a public commitment that he will bring to the Senate floor bills that extend the Affordable Care Act, which, unfortunately, has turned out to be anything but affordable. But it will extend the premium tax credits that allow our lower income and middle-income families to afford their much needed health insurance. In many cases, these are individuals who are self-employed, so they do not get health insurance through the workplace, or they are the employees of small businesses that are unable to provide health insurance, particularly in this time when we are seeing skyrocketing premiums.

So, as I have said from the beginning, I support an extension of the ACA tax credits, but they need reform. It is wrong that wealthy families qualify for taxpayer-subsidized tax credits for their health insurance when they can afford their own health insurance. That was the change in ObamaCare that was made during COVID.

We should take a look at what the original income cap was under the Affordable Care Act. It was 400 percent of the poverty level. Now, we can decide what it should be, but surely we ought to be able to agree in a bipartisan way that there should be some cap on income so that very wealthy individuals are not able to receive taxpayer-funded tax credits. Let's limit that to those who are in middle-income and lower income families.

There are other great ideas that have been raised by our colleagues on how we can reform the ACA to make health insurance more affordable. I know that the chair of the HELP Committee, Senator CASSIDY, who is a medical doctor, as well as Chairman MIKE CRAPO of the Finance Committee have promised to have hearings to take a hard look at

this, and we have the commitment of the majority leader to bring these bills to the floor.

So it is just not true that we are ignoring this issue. We do need to act by the end of the year, and that is exactly what the majority leader has promised.

In addition, he has pledged to bring additional, yearlong appropriations bills to the Senate floor. We will be doing that shortly, and that is the right thing to do.

I want to thank the eight Democrats who yesterday stood up for the American people and did what was right: pledged to reopen government; to pass these three appropriations bills that Members of this Chamber passed by over 80 votes on August 1 and which will take away the threat of any kind of shut down for the programs in those three bills.

As I mentioned, the last bill is the Leg Branch bill. I want to thank Senator MARKWAYNE MULLIN for his leadership on that bill as well.

We have terrific members on the Appropriations Committee on both sides of the aisle who have worked so hard, and I must say that I think all of them ought to be voting for this package of bills tonight.

I made most of my comments yesterday when I brought these bills to floor. There are others who are seeking recognition, so I will cease my remarks. But I just want to encourage everyone to cast their vote for this package of bills so that we can send it over to our House colleagues, where I hope they will do the same, and then send it to the President, who has already endorsed this package and pledged to sign the bill into law.

Let's end this entirely unnecessary, shameful shutdown.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to each rollcall in relation to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

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

#### VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Ms. COLLINS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 611 Leg.]

#### YEAS—60

Banks	Cassidy	Cruz
Barrasso	Collins	Curtis
Blackburn	Cornyn	Daines
Boozman	Cortez Masto	Durbin
Britt	Cotton	Ernst
Budd	Cramer	Fetterman
Capito	Crapo	Fischer

Graham	Lankford	Rosen
Grassley	Lee	Rounds
Hagerty	Lummis	Schmitt
Hassan	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Hawley	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Hooven	McCormick	Shaheen
Husted	Moody	Sheehy
Hyde-Smith	Moran	Sullivan
Johnson	Moreno	Thune
Justice	Mullin	Tillis
Kaine	Murkowski	Tuberville
Kennedy	Ricketts	Wicker
King	Risch	Young

NAYS—40

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The clerk will report the bill.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 3937

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up substitute amendment No. 3937.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE], for Ms. COLLINS, proposes an amendment numbered 3937 to H.R. 5371.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

##### 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 bill clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on substitute amendment No. 3937 to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Kevin Cramer, John Barra, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Lisa Murkowski, Katie Boyd Britt, Pete Ricketts, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy, Jerry Moran, Susan M. Collins.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 3941 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3937

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3941 from Senator PAUL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE], for Mr. PAUL, proposes an amendment numbered 3941 to amendment No. 3937.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strike a provision modifying the definition of hemp for purposes of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946)

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, in title VII of division B, section 781 shall have no force or effect.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 3942 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3941

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE], proposes an amendment numbered 3942 to amendment No. 3941.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

##### AMENDMENT NO. 3943

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the text of the underlying bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE], proposes an amendment numbered 3943 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 3937.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days"

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 3944 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3943

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 3944 to amendment No. 3943

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment."

##### MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3945

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] moves to commit the bill, H.R. 5371, to the Committee on Appropriations to report back forthwith with instructions with an amendment numbered 3945.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to commit with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 3946

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 3946 to the instructions on the motion to commit with an amendment No. 3945.

Mr. THUNE. I ask consent the reading be waived.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike "5 days" and insert "6 days"

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 3947 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3946

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 3947 to amendment No. 3946.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading of the names be waived.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike “6 days” and insert “7 days”

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk with respect to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, as amended.

John Thune, Kevin Cramer, John Barra, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Lisa Murkowski, Katie Boyd Britt, Pete Ricketts, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy, Jerry Moran, Susan M. Collins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

MOTION TO TABLE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, shortly, I will move to table amendment No. 3947 for the purposes of offering my amendment to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits for 1 year. I am doing this because my Republican colleagues are refusing to act to stop healthcare premiums from doubling for over 20 million Americans.

I just can't stand by without a fight. Americans have said loudly and clearly that they are in a healthcare crisis. That is not up for a negotiation. But it didn't have to be this way. We are at this moment because Donald Trump and congressional Republicans have simply refused to address the biggest increase in insurance premiums they will likely ever experience.

For months, congressional Republicans and Donald Trump have refused to even talk to us about addressing it. Estimates show that 22 million Americans will see their premiums double on average. I am getting calls daily from Wisconsinites begging me to stay in this fight.

A couple in Door County, WI, told me their premium is rising by \$550 a month next year. Everything is already too expensive. So where are they supposed to find 6,500 extra dollars in their budget?

Another couple, from Butternut, WI, told me their premiums are going from \$400 per month to over \$5,000 per month. That is \$55,000 more a year. As they wrote to me, “healthcare tax breaks are not just numbers on paper. They are a lifeline that allows us to

sleep at night, knowing that we won't lose everything if one of us gets sick.”

Behind every one of the 22 million Americans who rely on these tax credits is a story, a family who has to put together a budget, who has to make the hard decisions of what they can afford for their family next year. Some are logging on to healthcare.gov right now and finding that they simply can't afford health insurance next year. That is unconscionable.

Addressing this demands that we act now—not in a week, not next month, but now.

That is why a handshake deal with my Republican colleagues to reopen the government and no guarantee to actually lower costs is simply not good enough. The people I work for need more than that. They need healthcare that they can afford, not a symbolic vote.

For over a year now, I have been fighting to get a bill passed to avoid this very situation and make these tax credits permanent. My colleagues and I have tried every which way to get this bill passed. Every time, my Republican colleagues kill the effort and put 22 million Americans on the path to pay more for healthcare next year.

For 41 days, I have been clear. I will work with anyone to reopen the government and lower Americans' healthcare costs. And I am not throwing in the towel until we have exhausted every option to make that happen.

That is why I have offered an amendment to extend tax breaks for Americans who buy their insurance through the Affordable Care Act for 1 year. My amendment is as straightforward as it gets. It would extend current law for 1 year, stop costs from skyrocketing for constituents, and give us time to negotiate on healthcare costs, without leaving 22 million Americans in the lurch.

Is this everything I think we should do? No. We should make healthcare more affordable for everyone forever. But I am willing to compromise to avoid catastrophe for families I work for.

I am demanding that we take this vote so that we can actually provide some relief to millions of American families. The American people are desperate for healthcare that they can afford and demand that we do everything in our power to lower costs. This is a tool in my toolbox to try to lower their costs. So I am using it.

I have talked to so many of my Republican colleagues who want to do something here, who want to keep healthcare costs down for their constituents, who know their constituents in red States and districts will be hardest hit.

Well, now is the time to show it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. BALDWIN. My sincere hope is that the Republicans join me so I can make this amendment to the continuing resolution and let 22 million

Americans rest easier. I hope my Republican colleagues choose to join us.

And now I yield to Senator SANDERS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Wisconsin for offering this important and very simple and straightforward amendment. Nothing can be simpler.

Are you prepared, I say to my Republican friends, to sit back and allow over 20 million Americans to see a doubling of their healthcare premiums?

In my State of Vermont, people who are 65, 63 years of age will, in some cases, see a tripling or quadrupling. And that is the case in your States as well.

All that Senator BALDWIN is saying is: Let us take a deep breath. Let us make sure that people do not see an outrageous increase in their premiums. Let us not pave the way for 15 million Americans to lose their healthcare entirely because of savage cuts to Medicaid. That is all she is asking.

Now, I notice that recently, some of my Republican colleagues are beginning to talk about the healthcare crisis. Well, during Trump's first 4 years, he had virtually nothing to say about the crisis, and nothing to say about it in the next 4 years. But I am glad that there is some discussion.

The truth of the matter is, in my view, that the current healthcare system is broken, it is dysfunctional, and it is cruel.

But I want to ask my Republican friends a simple question: Are you happy with the fact that here in the United States, we are the only major country not to guarantee healthcare to every man, woman, and child?

We are unique. That is not the kind of exceptionalism we should be proud of.

Are you happy that we are paying twice as much per capita for healthcare, over \$14,000 per person, more than any other major country, and yet we have 85 million Americans who are uninsured or underinsured?

Are you content with the fact that the insurance companies and the drug companies are making huge profits, paying their CEOs exorbitant salaries? Are you happy with that?

Are you happy that patients in America have to get on the phone and fight like crazy and deal with all kinds of bureaucrats in order to get the healthcare that they paid for in an incredibly complicated, broken system?

So if you want to have a debate about healthcare, let's have that debate. I happen to believe that we should join the rest of the industrialized world, guarantee healthcare to all people through a Medicare-for-all, single-payer system.

You got a better idea? Bring it forward. But what we should agree upon is that you don't raise premiums by 100 percent or, in some cases, triple or quadruple.

Let's take a deep breath. Let's extend these ACA subsidies for another

year. Let's have that debate on healthcare. That is what the American people want.

Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Michigan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Ms. BALDWIN's amendment on a clean 1-year extension on the healthcare.gov credits.

Since July, I have been really clear. If you want me to vote on a deal, it has got to do something to bring down the cost of healthcare because of the healthcare crisis that Republicans in this Chamber precipitated back in July.

Just to review the bidding, in July, the Big Beautiful Bill, which all of you voted for—most of you voted for—slashed Medicaid and slashed coverage for people on healthcare.gov. Now, all our hospitals, all our healthcare systems, all our nursing homes—everybody—accepted that and started to plan.

In response to that, the hospitals said: Well, look, people are still going to come. They are still going to get into car accidents. They are still going to have heart attacks. They are just not going to be covered by health insurance. So we are going to have to charge the people with insurance even more money.

So we are now at this point. This crisis that has been precipitated has led to the fact that every single American—everyone watching, everyone listening—is either facing losing their health insurance or paying more, and that includes people on private, employer-provided insurance.

When we take a step back and we look at all the people that are going to fall off healthcare, all the healthy young people that are not going to pay for healthcare anymore, it looks like—across, at least, my State—every single person is looking at their prices doubling, not just the people who are affected by the Big Beautiful Bill but the bill payers, the people on private health insurance.

No one in this room would say that we are paying too little for healthcare right now.

And I don't always agree with Senator SANDERS, but I can say there is no more broken system in America than healthcare right now. It needs full rebuilding. We may disagree on some of the ways to do it, but the Republicans offered zero plan, zero ideas. Hell, MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE is talking about how Republican don't have a plan. I never thought I would be agreeing with her.

So, today, all we are asking for is a clean 1-year extension. No one says ObamaCare is perfect. No one says a clean extension is perfect.

But you pushed people back into a corner. You have said we are going to pay for our tax cuts on the backs of everyday Americans by using their healthcare as the bill payer.

So can we do a 1-year extension, please, so that we can have some kind of conversation—a real conversation—that the American people expect people of our stature to be having? Can we have that conversation over the next year, but not, in some cases, have people's health insurance go up by 600 percent? That is what you have precipitated.

So to every American watching, whether you are on healthcare.gov or you are on private insurance, if you are getting those letters, if you are getting those notifications of an increase of your bill of \$200, \$500, \$800 starting January 1, my peers on the other side of the aisle are the ones—you should lay it at their feet because they have put us in this place. And if they vote tonight against this, it is because they don't give a crap about the cost of your healthcare. They don't give one single crap about it.

So I hope my colleagues find it in their hearts to say: Let's fix the system, fine. But at least for now, give us a 1-year extension so we can have a real conversation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

MOTION TO TABLE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I move to table amendment No. 3947 for the purposes of offering my amendment to extend ACA tax credits for 1 year. That is Baldwin No. 3950.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 612 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	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	

NAYS—53

Banks	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Barrasso	Cruz	Johnson
Blackburn	Curtis	Justice
Boozman	Daines	Kennedy
Britt	Ernst	Lankford
Budd	Fischer	Lee
Capito	Graham	Lummis
Cassidy	Grassley	Marshall
Collins	Hagerty	McConnell
Cornyn	Hawley	McCormick
Cotton	Hoeven	Moody
Cramer	Husted	Moran

Moreno	Rounds	Thune
Mullin	Schmitt	Tillis
Murkowski	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Paul	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Ricketts	Sheehy	Young
Risch	Sullivan	

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Oregon.

MOTION TO TABLE AMENDMENT NO. 3946

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I want to provide an opportunity tonight for us all to stand up for the Constitution, one of the most important powers that we have here as a Congress, and that is the ability to design a program and to fund a program. And once that has been signed into law by a President of the United States, it is the law of the land. The President has the responsibility to execute that program as designed and funded.

But back in 1974, we decided to give the President a fast track to propose that something we have designed and funded should be unfunded. It is called a rescission, a fancy name for us acting to unfund a program we previously had put in place.

And here is the thing, that law, the Budget Act of 1974, says that it takes an affirmative vote of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to unfund the program that is already in law.

But an unexpected challenge has emerged, and that unexpected challenge is that if the request from the President to unfund the program comes within 45 days of the end of the year, even if we were to act and turn down the rescission, it still means that, under a grace period in the law, the funds evaporate at the end of the year. So in other words, with no approval from the House or Senate, no new law being passed, the existing law is undone on the clock. It is like—well, it is like Cinderella's coach. It reaches midnight, and the coach becomes a pumpkin. It falls apart. It disappears.

That is a threat that goes fundamentally to the difference between a democracy and an autocracy. In a democracy, we come together with all of our varied experiences, with all of our different parts of the country, and we say: Here are programs and funding that fit our Nation as a whole. It is a master compromise. But in an authoritarian government, one person decides what is funded and what isn't. And that is what happens in this special power when it is submitted within 45 days of the end of the fiscal year.

So however much one may like or dislike a given President in power, support or oppose, all of us have a responsibility to stand up for our constitutional power of the purse; that all of America will be served by the laws we pass and that if they are to be undone, they have to be voted on by this Chamber and the Chamber down the hall in an affirmative fashion.

So I will, at the appropriate moment a minute or two from now, propose at that point to table an amendment that is in the tree so we can submit an

amendment that will defend our Constitution, defend article I power, defend our democracy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that the remaining rollcall votes be 10 minutes in length.

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

There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I will be happy to give a portion of that equally divided by saying simply this: None of us are well served by a situation where the President decides to cancel programs based on the President's preferences. That is not a democracy.

And whether it is this President or a future President, we need to have these rescission requests submitted in time for us to take action as the law requires.

So submitting them with enough time to spare at the end of the fiscal year for us to vote up or down is the right thing to do. It protects our constitutional power to design and fund programs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The Senator from Oregon.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. MERKLEY. I move to table amendment No. 3946 for the purpose of offering my amendment No. 3948 to defend our constitutional power of the purse and the importance of our democracy in ensuring that what we put into law stays in law unless we choose to change it.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 613 Leg.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—53

Banks	Britt	Collins
Barrasso	Budd	Cornyn
Blackburn	Capito	Cotton
Boozman	Cassidy	Cramer

Crapo	Justice	Ricketts
Cruz	Kennedy	Risch
Curtis	Lankford	Rounds
Daines	Lee	Schmitt
Ernst	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Fischer	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Graham	McConnell	Sheehy
Grassley	McCormick	Sullivan
Hagerty	Moody	Thune
Hawley	Moran	Tillis
Hoeven	Moreno	Tuberville
Husted	Mullin	Wicker
Hyde-Smith	Murkowski	Young
Johnson	Paul	

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 3941

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, instead of a clean CR, this bill contains language that has been air-dropped in that will destroy hemp farming in Kentucky and across the United States.

Tucked away on page 163, title VII, division B of this spending package is a provision that will shut down the hemp industry across the United States. My amendment would strip the provision designed to regulate the hemp industry to death.

The bill as it now stands overrides the regulatory frameworks of several States, cancels the collective decisions of hemp consumers, and destroys the livelihoods of hemp farmers. And it couldn't come at a worse time for America farmers. Times are tough for our farmers. Farmers' costs have increased as the price of fertilizer and machinery have jumped, while prices for their crops, like soybean, corn, and wheat, have declined.

For many farmers, hemp has proved to be a lifeline, a new cash crop. Farmers turn to growing hemp to mitigate the losses they endured during this season of hardship. But that lifeline may soon be extinguished by this very legislation.

The effective hemp ban included in this spending package is a result, we are told, of bad actors skirting the legal limits by overly enhancing the concentration of THC in their products. The hemp industry, myself, and others have come together, and we have been willing to negotiate to get rid of the bad actors. Yet, instead, we are met with legislation that would be prohibition.

Members of the industry, myself, and others who are advocates of this have been willing to get rid of synthetic cannabinoids, willing to compromise at every turn, but we are met with the numbers in this bill, which will eradicate the hemp industry.

For the last several weeks, we have offered proposals with the goal of creating an environment in which the hemp industry could thrive and sell products, and we have been met with those who want to prohibit the industry from continuing.

This bill's per-serving THC content limit would make illegal any hemp product that contains more than 0.4 milligrams. That would be nearly 100 percent of the existing market. The numbers put forward in this bill will eliminate 100 percent of the hemp prod-

ucts in our country. That amounts to an effective ban because the limit is so low that the products intended to manage pain or anxiety will lose their effect.

The States have done what they are supposed to. The States have instituted laws. Twenty-three States have instituted laws on hemp. None of them have limits anywhere close to what is being proposed in this bill. So what will happen is most of the things that your States have regulated, are regulating, and have made legal will be made illegal by this bill. This bill will effectively preempt and nullify all State laws concerning hemp.

Currently, Maine limits THC to 3 milligrams per serving; that will be overruled. My home State limits THC to 5 milligrams in beverages; that will be overruled. Minnesota, Utah, and Louisiana also have 5 milligrams per serving. Alabama and Georgia have 10 milligrams. Tennessee has 15 milligrams. The bill before us nullifies all these State laws and makes the hemp industry kaput.

The language in this bill will outlaw all current hemp plants and seeds. It changes the definition of what a hemp plant is. It makes it so low that there may not even be an existing plant that can meet the parameters. But every plant in the country will have to be destroyed. Every hemp seed in the country will have to be destroyed. This is the most thoughtless, ignorant proposal to an industry that I have seen in a long, long time.

The States have made progress, and more progress is coming. Most States have age limits.

To add insult to injury, we are given this legislation in an appropriations bill. We have Senate rules against this.

So I would recommend that we vote for this amendment, and my amendment would strip out the language.

I would transfer the remainder of my time to Senator MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. I really ask my colleagues, particularly on this side, to hear me out on this.

The Senators from Kentucky and Oregon cooperated to create the first research on hemp. We cooperated to give the first opportunity to move research seeds across State lines. We cooperated and pushed to create hemp as a legitimate agricultural product.

CBD derived from hemp has been approved by the FDA for treating seizures. It is a legal medicine. We would wipe out an industry that we have spent more than a decade creating.

The advocates for this language that is in the bill will tell you this won't affect CBD. Every expert I have consulted has said that that is exactly wrong; that this will, in fact, wipe out 95 to 99 percent of the industry.

My colleague from Kentucky is exactly right. We asked our farmers to engage in this research, and we asked them to build this industry. We should protect it for CBD.

I support my other colleague from Kentucky, who doesn't want intoxicated products produced from hemp. The definition that is in this bill does far more than that, and it has to be fixed. So, for now, it needs to be stripped out.

Please support Senator PAUL's position.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the language I helped secure in the Agriculture appropriations bill addresses a serious concern regarding the manufacturing and selling of unregulated, intoxicating THC products nationwide.

I led the effort to legalize industrial hemp through the 2014 pilot program and the 2018 farm bill. Unfortunately, companies have exploited a loophole in the 2018 legislation by taking legal amounts of THC from hemp and turning it into intoxicating substances and then marketing it to children in candylike packaging and selling it in easily accessible places like gas stations and convenience stores all across our country. So the children end up being the unknowing consumers of these poisonous products and being sent to the hospital at an alarming rate.

My efforts to close this loophole and stop this from happening are included in this appropriations package. It will keep these dangerous products out of the hands of children while preserving the hemp industry for farmers. Industrial hemp and CBD will remain legal for industrial applications—such as seed, stock, fiber, grain oil—or will be used in drug trials. This language merely clarifies the original intent of the 2018 farm bill, rooting out the bad actors and protecting the growing hemp industry.

While some may masquerade as advocates for hemp farmers, even sometimes threatening to hold up government funding over this issue, I will continue to work on behalf of Kentucky's farmers while protecting our children not only in my State but in yours as well. I would urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE

Therefore, I move to table Senate amendment No. 3941, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

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

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.

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 614 Leg.]

#### YEAS—76

Alsobrooks	Blunt Rochester	Cantwell
Banks	Boozman	Capito
Barrasso	Britt	Cassidy
Blackburn	Budd	Collins

Coons	Husted	Ricketts	Capito	Hassan	Moreno
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Risch	Cassidy	Hawley	Mullin
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Rosen	Collins	Hooven	Murkowski
Cotton	Justice	Rounds	Cornyn	Husted	Ricketts
Cramer	Kennedy	Schiff	Cortez Masto	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Crapo	Kim	Schmitt	Cotton	Johnson	Rosen
Curtis	King	Scott (FL)	Cramer	Justice	Rounds
Daines	Lankford	Scott (SC)	Crapo	Kaine	Schmitt
Duckworth	Lee	Shaheen	Cruz	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Durbin	Luján	Sheehy	Curtis	King	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Lummis	Slotkin	Daines	Lankford	Shaheen
Fetterman	Marshall	Sullivan	Durbin	Lee	Sheehy
Fischer	McConnell	Thune	Ernst	Lummis	Sullivan
Gillibrand	McCormick	Tillis	Fetterman	Marshall	Thune
Graham	Moody	Tuberville	Fischer	McConnell	Tillis
Grassley	Moran	Van Hollen	Graham	McCormick	Tuberville
Hagerty	Moreno	Warner	Grassley	Moody	Wicker
Hassan	Mullin	Whitehouse	Hagerty	Moran	Young
Hawley	Murkowski	Wicker			
Heinrich	Murray	Young			
Hirono	Padilla				
Hoeven	Reed				

#### NAYS—24

Baldwin	Kelly	Sanders	Alsobrooks	Kelly	Schatz
Bennet	Klobuchar	Schatz	Baldwin	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	Markey	Schumer	Bennet	Klobuchar	Schumer
Booker	Merkley	Smith	Blumenthal	Luján	Slotkin
Cruz	Murphy	Warnock	Blunt Rochester	Markey	Smith
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren	Booker	Merkley	Van Hollen
Hickenlooper	Paul	Welch	Cantwell	Murphy	Warner
Kaine	Peters	Wyden	Coons	Murray	Warnock

The motion was agreed to.

(Mr. HUSTED assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield back all remaining time.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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 substitute amendment No. 3937 to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Lisa Murkowski, Katie Boyd Britt, Pete Ricketts, Jon Husted, Roger Marshall, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy, Jerry Moran, Susan M. Collins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 3937 to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 615 Leg.]

#### YEAS—60

Banks	Cramer	Hassan
Barrasso	Crapo	Hawley
Blackburn	Cruz	Hooven
Boozman	Curtis	Husted
Britt	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Budd	Durbin	Johnson
Capito	Ernst	Justice
Cassidy	Fetterman	Kaine
Collins	Fischer	Kennedy
Cornyn	Graham	King
Cortez Masto	Grassley	Lankford
Cotton	Hagerty	Lee

#### NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Kelly	Schatz
Baldwin	Kim	Schiff
Bennet	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blumenthal	Luján	Slotkin
Booker	Markey	Smith
Cantwell	Murphy	Van Hollen
Coons	Murray	Warner
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warnock
Gallego	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Paul	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	
Kaine	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 40.

Three-fifths of the Senators, duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENTS WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit and the amendments pending thereto fall.

Under the previous order, the pending amendments, other than the substitute amendment No. 3937, are withdrawn and all postcloture time is expired.

The amendments were withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on the substitute amendment.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I yield back all debate time.

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

#### VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3937

The question is on adoption of the amendment.

Mrs. MURRAY. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 616 Leg.]

#### YEAS—60

Banks	Cramer	Hassan
Barrasso	Crapo	Hawley
Blackburn	Cruz	Hooven
Boozman	Curtis	Husted
Britt	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Budd	Durbin	Johnson
Capito	Ernst	Justice
Cassidy	Fetterman	Kaine
Collins	Fischer	Kennedy
Cornyn	Graham	King
Cortez Masto	Grassley	Lankford
Cotton	Hagerty	Lee

Lummis	Murkowski	Shaheen
Marshall	Ricketts	Sheehy
McConnell	Risch	Sullivan
McCormick	Rosen	Moran
Moody	Rounds	Thune
Moran	Schmitt	Moreno
Moreno	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Mullin	Scott (SC)	Murkowski
	Wicker	Scott (SC)
	Young	Ricketts

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Kelly	Schatz
Baldwin	Kim	Schiff
Bennet	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blumenthal	Luján	Blumenthal
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Blunt Rochester
Booker	Merkley	Booker
Cantwell	Murphy	Cantwell
Coons	Murray	Coons
Duckworth	Ossoff	Duckworth
Gallego	Padilla	Gallego
Gillibrand	Paul	Gillibrand
Heinrich	Peters	Heinrich
Hickenlooper	Reed	Hickenlooper
Hirono	Sanders	Hirono

The amendment (No. 3937) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. I yield back all debate time.

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

## CLOUTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOUTURE 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 Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, as amended.

John Thune, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Lisa Murkowski, Katie Boyd Britt, Pete Ricketts, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy, Jerry Moran, Susan M. Collins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, as amended, shall be brought to a close.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 617 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Banks	Crapo	Hoeven
Barrasso	Cruz	Husted
Blackburn	Curtis	Hyde-Smith
Boozman	Daines	Johnson
Britt	Durbin	Justice
Budd	Ernst	Kaine
Capito	Fetterman	Kennedy
Cassidy	Fischer	King
Collins	Graham	Lankford
Cornyn	Grassley	Lee
Cortez Masto	Hagerty	Lummis
Cotton	Hassan	Marshall
Cramer	Hawley	McConnell

McCormick	Risch	Sheehy
Moody	Rosen	Sullivan
Moran	Rounds	Thune
Moreno	Schmitt	Tillis
Mullin	Mullin	Tuberville
	Scott (FL)	Wick
	Scott (SC)	Wicker
	Ricketts	Young

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Kelly	Schatz
Baldwin	Baldwin	Schiff
Bennet	Bennet	Klobuchar
Blumenthal	Blumenthal	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Luján	Blumenthal
Booker	Markey	Blunt Rochester
Cantwell	Smith	Booker
Coons	Van Hollen	Cantwell
Duckworth	Warner	Coons
Gallego	Warnock	Murphy
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warner
Heinrich	Whitehouse	Duckworth
Hickenlooper	Reed	Ossoff
Hirono	Wyden	Warnock
	Sanders	Gallego

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 40.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I want to thank all of our colleagues for their hard work on this bill. I am excited about its impending passage. I hope that will mean that we will immediately reopen government as soon as the House acts and the President signs it into law.

I am also very pleased that we were able to fully fund three appropriations bills that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support on August 1.

I thank my colleagues. I know of no other requests for time.

I yield back the remaining time.

## VOTE ON H.R. 5371, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will read the bill by title for the third time.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 618 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Banks	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Barrasso	Curtis	Johnson
Blackburn	Daines	Justice
Boozman	Durbin	Kaine
Britt	Ernst	Kennedy
Budd	Fetterman	King
Capito	Fischer	Lankford
Cassidy	Graham	Lee
Collins	Grassley	Lummis
Cornyn	Hagerty	Marshall
Cortez Masto	Hassan	McConnell
Cotton	Hawley	Mccormick
Cramer	Hoeven	Moody
	Crapo	Moran

Moreno	Rounds	Sullivan
Mullin	Schmitt	Thune
Ricketts	Scott (FL)	Tillis
Rosen	Scott (SC)	Tuberville
	Sheehy	Wicker
	Young	Young

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Kelly	Schatz
Baldwin	Kim	Schiff
Bennet	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blumenthal	Luján	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Smith
Booker	Smith	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Murphy	Warner
Coons	Murray	Warnock
Duckworth	Ossoff	Ossoff
Gallego	Padilla	Padilla
Gillibrand	Paul	Paul
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Welch
Hirono	Sanders	Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 40. The bill, as amended, is passed.

The bill (H.R. 5371), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The Senator from Maine.

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I just want to reiterate my gratitude for my colleagues, our staff who report night and day, literally, and to all of those who have brought us to this point.

We are going to reopen government. We are going to ensure that Federal employees, whether they were furloughed or laid off or forced to work without pay, will now receive compensation that they have earned and deserve.

And we will also be able to celebrate on Veterans Day tomorrow the fact that we have passed the appropriations bill for the VA.

This would not have come about without the work of so many people—too numerous to mention. But I do want to thank my fellow appropriators, particularly the chairs of the three committees—Senator BOOZMAN, Senator HOEVEN, and Senator MULLIN—for their hard work.

I want to thank our House counterparts, particularly Chairman COLE, who worked night and day with us on getting conference agreements.

And our Democratic colleagues who courageously realized that we could not let this shutdown continue to go on with the harmful consequences growing worse with each passing day.

I also want to particularly thank my staff. They literally went without sleep and worked continuously to do all that needed to be done.

I want to thank Leader THUNE and Leader BARRASSO for their hard work and the work of their staff as well.

My list of gratitude could go on and on, but the hour is getting late, and I do want people to be able to go home for the night and home-home, finally.

Again, I think this is a great victory for the American people. It shows that the Senate can work; that we can produce the results that are needed.

I want to give a shout-out to Senator KATIE BRITT, who is here this evening—

she helped in so many ways with the negotiations—and Senator SHAHEEN, Senator Kaine, Senator ANGUS KING, my colleague, and the rest of the eight Democrats who were willing to cross party lines for the good of the people of this country.

So thank you, Mr. President, for all that has been done and for your personal participation as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this has been a very long road—quite literally, the longest shutdown in history. I am very, very happy to be able to say that we are coming to the end.

Before we close today, I want to take the time to say thank you to my staff, who have worked around the clock tirelessly now for the past 6 weeks; to the staff of the Appropriations Committee, who have played a critical role in getting us to where we are today; to the Cloakroom staff; to every Senate staffer on both sides of the aisle, who has spent 41 days coming into work without pay; to the custodial staff, who, again without pay, have kept this building and the Senate office buildings livable; to all institutional staff, without whom this place would not run; to the Secretary of the Senate and everyone in her office; the Sergeant at Arms and her team; the Architect of the Capitol and his staff; and everyone on the floor right now making this session happen; and to the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police, who have shown up during this shutdown day in and day out to protect the rest of us. I am humbled by and grateful for your service.

I know that the strain of these weeks has been immense, and you all have families, rent to meet, bills to pay, car and mortgage payments. I am grateful for all you have done to keep the Senate running and for all that you do every day, shutdown or no shutdown, to serve the Senate and to serve our country.

With that, after 6 excruciating weeks, I will stop talking and let all of you get some rest.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 515.

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 Ho Nieh, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2029.

#### 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. 515, Ho Nieh, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2029.

John Thune, Roger Marshall, John Barra, John R. Curtis, Ted Budd, Mike Rounds, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tommy Tuberville, Jon Husted, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Deb Fischer, Jim Justice, Kevin Cramer, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, David McCormick.

#### 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. 464.

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 Donald Korb, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

#### 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. 464, Donald Korb, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

John Thune, Roger Marshall, John Barra, John R. Curtis, Ted Budd, Mike Rounds, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tommy Tuberville, Jon Husted, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Deb Fischer, Jim Justice, Kevin Cramer, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, David McCormick.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### PAUL AMENDMENT NO. 3941

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I voted yes on the motion to table Senator PAUL's amendment No. 3941 to strike a provision modifying the definition of hemp from the Agriculture Appropriations Act because I am concerned that existing Federal law creates the opportunity for unregulated and intoxicating synthetic hemp products to be marketed and sold to children. Current Maryland law bans these products, but without Federal action, they can still be distributed in our State. The language in the underlying bill would close that loophole while the Paul amendment would leave the loophole in place.

While I support closing the loophole that allows these intoxicating products to be marketed and sold to children, we should use the implementation period in the bill to ensure a sustainable pathway forward for safe hemp products like CBD, which many people depend on to safely manage pain and other health conditions. We ultimately need balanced, science-based regulation that preserves access to safe products while protecting public health.

#### VERMONT HEALTHCARE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the following printed in the RECORD.

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

#### RUTLAND, VERMONT—RESOLUTION REGARDING PROPOSED FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS AND VERMONT'S HEALTH CARE CRISIS

Whereas, health-care organizations are among Vermont's largest employers, and reductions in federal health funding will likely have negative ripple effects on local economies, workforce stability, lead to service reductions, and limit access to care; and

Whereas, Vermont's health-care system is financially fragile, with several rural hospitals operating at or below break-even levels, and experts warn that further reductions in federal Medicaid support could force providers to reduce services, delay investments, or close certain programs; and

Whereas, the federal Budget Reconciliation Act enacted on July 4, 2025, is projected by the Congressional Budget Office and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to reduce federal Medicaid funding by more than \$1 trillion over ten years, shifting significant costs to states and threatening health coverage for millions of Americans; and

Whereas, analyses by the Medicare Rights Center indicate that the same law would reduce hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicare funding, creating uncertainty for older

adults and hospitals that rely on these reimbursements; and

Whereas, the Kaiser Family Foundation has found that this legislation will also restrict the use of provider taxes, a key funding mechanism that Vermont employs to support its Medicaid program; and

Whereas, rural hospitals in Vermont rely heavily on Medicaid funding due to the demographics of the populations they serve, and reductions in this support will shift the cost of uncompensated care onto already strained hospital budgets, designated mental health agencies, primary care clinics, and private insurers, resulting in higher insurance premiums for individuals, school systems, and employers; and

Whereas, VTdigger reports that Vermont officials estimate that as many as 45,000 Vermonters could lose health insurance coverage as a result of the federal funding changes; and

Whereas, according to the 2021 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey conducted by the Vermont Department of Health and Market Decisions Research, approximately 35 percent of Vermonters under age 65 and 17 percent of Vermonters age 65 and older reported that they could not afford needed health care, representing roughly 187,800 working-age adults and 34,900 aged 65 and older, or more than one in three Vermonters overall who struggle to pay medical costs not covered by insurance; and

Whereas, the 2021 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey also determined that 11 percent of households, approximately 60,000 Vermonters, carry medical debt, which often affects their ability to pay for food, clothing, and other necessities; and

Whereas, national estimates from the Congressional Budget Office and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities project an additional \$186 billion reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as 3SquaresVT in Vermont, funding over the next decade due to the Budget Reconciliation Act, which would result in fewer food benefits for thousands of Vermont households.

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved* that the Rutland Board of Aldermen:

1. Expresses its concern regarding the potential impacts of the Budget Reconciliation Act on the health, well-being, and economic stability of Rutland Regional Medical Center, Rutland residents and Vermonters statewide;

2. Urges the Vermont General Assembly to explore legislative measures to help protect Vermont's health-care system and mitigate the adverse effects of anticipated reductions in Medicaid and SNAP funding;

3. Calls upon Vermont's Congressional delegation to continue building bipartisan coalitions to safeguard federal funding for Medicaid, Medicare, and SNAP, ensuring that vulnerable populations are not left behind;

4. Directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to Vermont's Congressional delegation, the Governor, and the leadership of the Vermont General Assembly; and

5. Encourages other municipal boards across Vermont to consider adopting similar resolutions in support of protecting health care and nutrition programs essential to their communities.

Adopted this 3 day of November 2025, by the Board of Aldermen of the city of Rutland, Vermont.

DAVID W. ALLAIRE,  
Chair, David Allaire, Board of Aldermen, City of Rutland, Vermont.

## MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3168. A bill to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of Federal employees, contract employees, and members of the Armed Forces during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-2114. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report to advise that he is exercising his authority to designate an Acting Inspector General of the Department of Education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. McCORMICK):

S. 3169. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to expand new home construction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 3170. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement an automated system with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3171. A bill to waive the guarantee fee for certain business loans made to veterans and spouses of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MULLIN, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3172. A bill to repeal certain Acts that impose sanctions upon Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3173. A bill to prohibit the Small Business Administration from awarding sole source contracts until the Administration conducts a full audit of and submits to Congress a report on the business development program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3174. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to affirm a collective bargaining agreement, and to nullify certain Executive orders that relate to, collective bargaining by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MORAN):

S. Res. 492. A resolution recognizing community care as an essential tool for meeting the health care needs of the veterans of the United States; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. Res. 493. A resolution reducing the annual rate of pay of Senators if a Government shutdown occurs during a year; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. Res. 494. A resolution observing the 50th anniversary of the date on which the SS Edmund Fitzgerald sank in Lake Superior, and remembering the 29 lives lost in one of the worst storms ever recorded on the Great Lakes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. GALLEGOS):

S. Res. 495. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and honoring the United States veterans who served during the conflict; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 496. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 8, 2025, as "National First-Generation College Celebration Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 497. A resolution permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WELCH):

S. Res. 498. A resolution honoring Dr. Jane Goodall and her legacy as an ethologist, conservationist, and activist; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 142

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 142, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 752, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. McCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to amend

chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to provide that a member of the Armed Forces and the spouse of that member shall have the same rights regarding the receipt of firearms at the location of any duty station of the member.

S. 966

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 966, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define “State of residence” and “resident”, and for other purposes.

S. 997

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSO BROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to modernize the business of selling firearms.

S. 1717

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 1717, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 2690

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require that commercial driver’s licenses be restricted to United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals authorized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to engage in employment in the United States that includes driving a commercial motor vehicle, and for other purposes.

S. 2721

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) 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. 2960

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2960, a bill to develop economic tools to deter aggression by the People’s Republic of China against Taiwan.

S. 3151

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3151, a bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the automatic contingent extension of the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 491

At the request of Mr. GALLEGUO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 491, a resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the commencement of continuous operations of Stars and Stripes in the Pacific and the invaluable service of the Stars and Stripes as the ‘hometown newspaper’ for members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees, and family members stationed around the world.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 492—RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY CARE AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:

S. RES. 492

Whereas 10 years ago, the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this preamble as the “VA”) experienced a nationwide crisis regarding the ability to provide access to care that highlighted the urgent need for timely, high-quality services for veterans;

Whereas Congress responded with the bipartisan passage of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182; 132 Stat. 1393), which expanded opportunities for veterans to receive care in their communities when the VA could not meet their needs;

Whereas community care has since proven to be a vital complement to the VA health care system, offering veterans greater convenience, accessibility, and choice, particularly for those in rural areas, those facing transportation or mobility challenges, and those requiring specialized treatment;

Whereas VA data demonstrate that community care is cost-effective and also strengthens veteran trust in the VA as an institution;

Whereas veterans, their families, and caregivers have consistently affirmed that community care provides life-saving access to oncology, mental health, emergency, pain management, and other essential services; and

Whereas Congress has consistently provided the VA with record levels of funding to support both direct care and community

care, ensuring that resource constraints should never justify limiting veterans’ access to needed treatment: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes community care as an essential tool for meeting the health care needs of the veterans of the United States;

(2) affirms that community care complements, rather than threatens, the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this resolution as the “VA”);

(3) urges the VA to implement the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182; 132 Stat. 1393) in both letter and spirit, ensuring veterans have timely access to community providers when the VA cannot meet their needs; and

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to ensuring that every veteran has timely access to high-quality, affordable, and veteran-centered care, whether provided in VA facilities or in the community.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 493—REDUCING THE ANNUAL RATE OF PAY OF SENATORS IF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS DURING A YEAR

Mr. KENNEDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 493

*Resolved*,

##### SECTION 1. NO PAY FOR SENATORS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “Government shutdown” means a lapse in appropriations for 1 or more Federal agencies or departments; and

(2) the term “Secretary of the Senate” means the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out the requirements of this section.

(b) REQUIRING REDUCTION OF PAY OF SENATORS IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If on any day during a pay period a Government shutdown is in effect, the Secretary of the Senate shall exclude from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to that pay period for the compensation of each Senator an amount equal to the product of—

(A) an amount equal to one day’s worth of pay under the annual rate of pay of the Senator under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

(B) the number of 24-hour periods during the pay period during which the Government shutdown is in effect.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to days occurring after the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2026 (in this section referred to as the “pay reduction effective date”).

(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR SENATORS BEFORE GENERAL ELECTION.—

(1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If on any day before the pay reduction effective date a Government shutdown is in effect, the Secretary of the Senate shall—

(A) withhold from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to a pay period for the compensation of each Senator an amount equal to the product of—

(i) an amount equal to one day’s worth of pay under the annual rate of pay applicable to the Senator under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

(ii) the number of 24-hour periods during which the Government shutdown is in effect which occur during the pay period; and

(B) deposit in an escrow account all amounts withheld under subparagraph (A).

(2) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the compensation of Senators in violation of the 27th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Secretary of the Senate shall release for payments to Senators any amounts remaining in any escrow account under this subsection on the pay reduction effective date.

(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall apply with respect to days during the period beginning on the date of adoption of this resolution and ending on the pay reduction effective date.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 494—OBSERVING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE SS EDMUND FITZGERALD SANK IN LAKE SUPERIOR, AND REMEMBERING THE 29 LIVES LOST IN ONE OF THE WORST STORMS EVER RECORDED ON THE GREAT LAKES**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. SLOTKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 494**

Whereas, on November 9, 1975, the *Fitzgerald* left the port of Superior, Wisconsin, captained by Ernest McSorley with a crew of 28 men;

Whereas Captain McSorley had 44 years of experience and a crew of men from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, and California;

Whereas the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* measured 729 feet long and, at the time of construction, was the largest ore freighter on the Great Lakes, earning it the nicknames “The Pride of the American Side,” “The Mighty Fitz,” and “The Titanic of the Great Lakes”;

Whereas the *Fitzgerald* set multiple records, often beating its own records for the most cargo carried in a single shipping season and was the first ship to carry 1,000,000 tons of iron ore through the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan;

Whereas the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* hauled 26,116 tons of iron ore pellets destined for steel mills to be used in the production of automobiles;

Whereas the storm on November 10, 1975, was named “the storm of the century,” with gales of 100 miles per hour and 50-foot waves;

Whereas the Great Lakes region is the third largest economy in the world, and its maritime system is the backbone of the region’s economy, supporting the livelihoods of farmers, fishers, iron ore miners, steelworkers, shippers, and manufacturers;

Whereas the investigation of the wreck by the Coast Guard led to policy changes that continue to improve the safety of shipping on the Great Lakes, including the deployment of buoys to monitor lake conditions, an effort which later grew into the Coastal-Marine Automated Network; and

Whereas the final voyage of the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* was immortalized in Gordon Lightfoot’s famed ballad “The Wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*,” helping to ensure that the ship and its crew are never forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the wreck of the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald*;

(2) expresses its support to the families of those who lost their lives;

(3) commends the courageous work of the rescue crews, the Coast Guard, and the commercial vessels and their crews that assisted in the initial search for survivors;

(4) recognizes Gordon Lightfoot and all those who reside in the Great Lakes region who carry on the legacy of the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* every day; and

(5) reaffirms its commitment to ensuring safe shipping on the Great Lakes.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 495—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND HONORING THE UNITED STATES VETERANS WHO SERVED DURING THE CONFLICT**

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. GALLEGUO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 495**

Whereas, between October 1955 and May 7, 1975, the Armed Forces of the United States supported the cause of freedom in South Vietnam, beginning with the commencement of the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam;

Whereas, on January 12, 1962, the United States carried out its first combat mission in Vietnam, in support of the Republic of Vietnam against the communist forces of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong;

Whereas, in 1965, ground combat units of the Armed Forces of the United States arrived in the Republic of Vietnam to join approximately 23,000 personnel of the Armed Forces who were already present there;

Whereas, by 1969, the number of such troops reached a peak of approximately 549,500, including members of the Armed Forces in the region who were supporting the combat operations;

Whereas more than 10,000,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States served worldwide during the Vietnam War era;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in Vietnam included approximately 10,000 women, who served as nurses, physicians, air traffic controllers, in military intelligence, in administrative roles, and in many other capacities;

Whereas 58,281 members of the Armed Forces of the United States lost their lives in the Vietnam War, more than 300,000 were wounded in Vietnam, and 771 endured the hardships of being prisoners of war, with 113 dying while in internment;

Whereas 1,545 members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam remain missing and unaccounted for, and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) continues its diligent efforts to locate, identify, and repatriate their remains, providing closure to families and honoring the commitment to leave no one behind;

Whereas significant battles, including the Tet Offensive (1968), the Battle of Hue (1968), the Battle of Khe Sanh (1968), the Easter Offensive (1972), and the Battle of Hamburger Hill (1969), exemplify the courage and commitment to duty of members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, throughout the Vietnam War, indigenous forces such as the Hmong, Montagnard, and Lao guerrillas provided in-

valuable support to the Armed Forces of the United States, serving as scouts, fighters, and intelligence operatives, often at great personal risk to themselves and their families, and many of those allies and their families have since sought refuge in the United States;

Whereas, throughout much of the war, American Red Cross volunteers, including 627 young women who were part of the organization’s Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas (SRAO) program, known affectionately as the “Donut Dollies,” volunteered to be sent to the front lines to support members of the Armed Forces of the United States directly engaged with the enemy, sharing with military personnel the hardships, privation, and dangers of life in a war zone;

Whereas the Donut Dollies, building on the legacies of the American Red Cross volunteers who provided moral support to members of the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and the Korean War, traveled an average of 27,000 miles every month by jeep, truck, airplane, and helicopter to provide recreation programs for members of the Armed Forces at 28 SRAO unit locations throughout Vietnam;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed, officially ending hostilities between the United States and North Vietnam, leading to the withdrawal of United States combat forces and the increased return of American prisoners of war to the United States;

Whereas, from February 12, 1973, to March 29, 1973, Operation Homecoming transported 591 American military and civilian prisoners home to the United States;

Whereas, on April 30, 1975, the fall of Saigon marked the final chapter of the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War, culminating in the dramatic and heroic evacuation of United States personnel and thousands of South Vietnamese allies, a moment forever etched in history as a testament to the commitment of the United States to those who stood alongside its forces;

Whereas, in the years following the war, hundreds of thousands of refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos fled persecution and hardship under communist rule in search of freedom and safety, with many finding new homes and opportunities in the United States, enriching the Nation with their resilience and contributions to their new communities;

Whereas many returning Vietnam veterans faced mistreatment, discrimination, and a lack of recognition and appreciation for their service;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were repeatedly targeted with criticism and disparagement as the result of decisions that were beyond their control;

Whereas Vietnam Veterans of America, the only congressionally chartered national organization exclusively dedicated to Vietnam veterans and their families, was founded in 1978 by Vietnam veterans seeking recognition and advocacy for their unique needs, growing from modest beginnings into a respected national institution with more than 600 chapters worldwide, providing steadfast service, legal assistance, and legislative leadership to advance the welfare, rights, and dignity of Vietnam veterans and their communities;

Whereas many thousands of veterans of the Vietnam War were exposed to Agent Orange and other harmful herbicides during the course of their service, carrying home delayed wounds of toxic exposure such that Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991

(Public Law 102-4), leading to the recognition of Agent Orange as a presumptive hazard and paving the way for benefits for affected veterans;

Whereas the Agent Orange Act of 1991, and research conducted pursuant to that law, yielded new presumptions of service connection related to herbicide exposure and provided a blueprint for Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to address military toxic exposures encountered by succeeding generations of veterans, culminating in the passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-168) (commonly known as the “PACT Act”);

Whereas the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, completed in 1982, stands as a lasting tribute to those who lost their lives in the conflict, with its black granite walls inscribed with the names of the fallen, offering a place of reflection and remembrance for their loved ones and fellow citizens;

Whereas the Vietnam Women’s Memorial in Washington, DC, dedicated in 1993 as the first national memorial to female veterans, honors the heroic service and sacrifices made by the many women who served in Vietnam, often as medical personnel rendering the final care and comfort to their dying comrades;

Whereas the thousands of Gold Star families that remember loved ones lost continue to maintain the legacy of Vietnam veterans who answered the Nation’s call to defend freedom and made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; and

Whereas The Wall That Heals, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and other community-based replica Walls across the country provide veterans and their families with opportunities to pay tribute and find solace: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War;

(2) honors and expresses profound gratitude to the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served with bravery, courage, dedication, sacrifice, and selflessness in the Vietnam War;

(3) remembers and pays tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War and those who remain missing in action from that conflict;

(4) commends the work of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in its continued mission to bring home the 1,545 members of the Armed Forces of the United States who remain missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, and urges DPAA to redouble efforts to bring all of the United States’ fallen sons and daughters home;

(5) acclaims the work of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration for its mission to recognize, thank, and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice;

(6) acknowledges the challenges and hardships faced by Vietnam veterans upon their return home and reaffirms the Nation’s respect and appreciation for their service;

(7) recognizes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Wall That Heals, and other tribute sites as enduring symbols of remembrance and national gratitude;

(8) commits to ensuring the well-being and support of Vietnam veterans, particularly those affected by Agent Orange and herbicide exposure;

(9) underscores the importance of a new spirit of 21st century cooperation and partnerships between former enemies engaging in diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation;

(10) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29 and remember the commitment to duty demonstrated by Vietnam veterans;

(11) reaffirms the importance of educating future generations about the Vietnam War and the sacrifices made by those who served, ensuring their legacy is never forgotten; and

(12) lauds the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, which continues to gather firsthand accounts and record the recollections of veterans who served in the Vietnam War, preserving their stories for future generations of Americans.

---

**SENATE RESOLUTION 496—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 8, 2025, AS “NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION DAY”**

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 496**

Whereas a “first-generation college student” means an individual whose parents did not complete a baccalaureate degree, or in the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from only 1 parent, an individual whose parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree;

Whereas November 8 honors the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) by President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 8, 1965;

Whereas the Higher Education Act of 1965 was focused on increasing postsecondary education access and success for students, particularly low-income and first-generation college students;

Whereas the Higher Education Act of 1965 helped usher in programs necessary for low-income, first-generation college students to access, remain in, and complete postsecondary education, including the Federal TRIO programs under chapter 1 of subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a-11 et seq.) and the Federal Pell Grant program under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a);

Whereas the Federal TRIO programs are the primary national effort supporting underrepresented students in postsecondary education and are designed to identify individuals from low-income backgrounds that would be first-generation college students and prepare them for postsecondary education, provide them support services, and motivate and prepare them for doctoral programs;

Whereas the Federal Pell Grant program under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) is the primary Federal investment in financial aid for low-income college students and is used by students at institutions of higher education of their choice;

Whereas first-generation college students may face additional academic, financial, and social challenges that their peers do not face in pursuing higher education;

Whereas 54 percent of all college students pursuing degrees at the time of the introduction of this resolution are first-generation college students;

Whereas the Council for Opportunity in Education and FirstGen Forward, formerly

the Center for First-generation Student Success, jointly launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration in 2017; and

Whereas the First-Generation College Celebration has continued to grow, and institutions of higher education, corporations, non-profit organizations, and elementary and secondary schools now celebrate November 8 as “First-Generation College Celebration Day”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of November 8, 2025, as “National First-Generation College Celebration Day”; and

(2) urges all people of the United States to—

(A) celebrate “National First-Generation College Celebration Day” throughout the United States;

(B) recognize the important role that first-generation college students play in helping to develop the future workforce; and

(C) celebrate the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) and its programs that help underrepresented students access higher education.

---

**SENATE RESOLUTION 497—PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS**

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 497**

*Resolved*,

**SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within a Senate building or other office secured for a Senator non-monetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a non-profit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the first session of the 119th Congress.

---

**SENATE RESOLUTION 498—HONORING DR. JANE GOODALL AND HER LEGACY AS AN ETHOLOGIST, CONSERVATIONIST, AND ACTIVIST**

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 498**

Whereas Dr. Jane Goodall, born Valerie Jane Morris-Goodall on April 3, 1934, was a

world-renowned ethologist, conservationist, and activist;

Whereas Dr. Goodall immersed herself in the study of chimpanzees in their natural habitat within Gombe Stream National Park in Gombe, Tanzania;

Whereas Dr. Goodall was one of the first female wildlife field researchers, inspiring countless other women to follow in her footsteps;

Whereas Dr. Goodall's findings on the tool-making practices of chimpanzees revolutionized the field of primatology and forever changed the way animals are perceived and studied;

Whereas the Jane Goodall Institute, established in 1977 by Dr. Goodall, spearheads the world's longest-running field research into great apes, supports the protection and restoration of the natural world, is an innovative leader in advancing community led conservation, and promotes environmental education;

Whereas Dr. Goodall, through the Jane Goodall Institute, has provided over 300 scholarships to young women to support their education and has paved the way for women in science;

Whereas the Tchimpounga Rehabilitation Center was established by the Jane Goodall Institute in the Republic of Congo in 1991 to care for chimpanzees orphaned by the illegal commercial bushmeat and pet trades and has cared for over 200 chimpanzees in its 30-year existence;

Whereas Dr. Goodall was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2002, the highest honor of the United Nations, to recognize her peace building work through the Roots & Shoots youth program;

Whereas the Roots & Shoots youth program has inspired over 1,470,000 young people in over 65 countries to engage in activities that make a difference in their communities;

Whereas Dr. Goodall transformed traditional conservation through the Lake Tanganyika Catchment Reforestation and Education (TACARE) program, which prioritizes community-centered conservation in designing the future;

Whereas Dr. Goodall became a beacon of hope through her numerous books and documentaries, inspiring individuals of all ages to work towards a brighter future; and

Whereas Dr. Goodall built a legacy of environmental activism, humanity, and infectious compassion: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) uses April 3, 2025, and April 3, 2026, to commemorate the birth of Dr. Jane Goodall and to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Goodall and the impact she had on the world;

(2) proclaims April 3, 2025, and April 3, 2026, as “Jane Goodall Day” across the country; and

(3) expresses gratitude to Dr. Goodall for her unwavering dedication to the well-being of animals, conservation, and the planet as a whole.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3937. Ms. COLLINS proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

SA 3938. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3937 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 5371, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3939. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5371, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3940. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3937 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 5371, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3941. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3937 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 5371, supra.

SA 3942. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3941 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. WYDEN)) to the amendment SA 3937 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 5371, supra.

SA 3943. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5371, supra.

SA 3944. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3943 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 5371, supra.

SA 3945. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5371, supra.

SA 3946. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3945 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 5371, supra.

SA 3947. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3946 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the amendment SA 3945 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 5371, supra.

SA 3948. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5371, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3949. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5371, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3950. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. SLOTKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3937 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 5371, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3937.** Ms. COLLINS proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026”.

##### SECTION 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Explanatory statement.
- Sec. 5. Statement of appropriations.

##### DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

##### DIVISION B—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

##### Title I—Agricultural Programs

##### Title II—Farm Production and Conservation Programs

##### Title III—Rural Development Programs

##### Title IV—Domestic Food Programs

##### Title V—Foreign Assistance and Related Programs

##### Title VI—Related Agency and Food and Drug Administration

##### Title VII—General Provisions

##### DIVISION C—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

##### Title I—Legislative Branch

##### Title II—General Provisions

##### DIVISION D—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

##### Title I—Department of Defense

Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs

Title III—Related Agencies

Title IV—General Provisions

##### DIVISION E—EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

##### DIVISION F—HEALTH EXTENDERS

##### Title I—Public Health Extenders

##### Title II—Medicare

##### Title III—Human Services

##### Title IV—Medicaid

##### Title V—Food and Drug Administration

##### Title VI—No Surprises Act Implementation

##### DIVISION G—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXTENDERS

##### Title I—Health Care Matters

##### Title II—Benefits

##### Title III—Housing

##### Title IV—Other Matters

##### DIVISION H—MISCELLANEOUS

##### SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

##### SEC. 4. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the Senate section of the Congressional Record on or about November 9, 2025, and submitted by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions B through D of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

##### SEC. 5. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

##### DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2025 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2025, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), except sections 1110, 1113, and 1114; the proviso in paragraph (4) of section 1602; and sections 1708 and 1808; and except section 540 of division C, and sections 110 and 112 of division D of Public Law 118-42, as continued in effect by section 1101 of division A of Public Law 119-4; and except section 7069(b) of division F of Public Law 118-47, as continued in effect by section 1101 of division A of Public Law 119-4.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for:

(1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2025 or prior years;

(2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2025 funds; or

(3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or

organization (defined as any project, sub-project, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P-1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R-1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2025.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs:

(1) The enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act.

(2) The enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026 without any provision for such project or activity.

(3) January 30, 2026.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2026 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in an appropriations Act specified in section 101, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law,

under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2025 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a)(1) For each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, each provision of law designating each such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to such section shall not apply.

(2) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 in the following provisions of law are designated by the Congress as 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: section 11206(4) of division A of Public Law 119-4 and 7068(b) of division F of Public Law 118-47, as continued in effect by section 1101 of division A of Public Law 119-4.

(b) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget.

(c) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated in division B of Public Law 117-159, division J of Public Law 117-58, or in section 443(b) of division G of Public Law 117-328 by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget shall continue to be treated as an amount specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118-5.

SEC. 115. (a) Rescissions or cancellations of discretionary budget authority that continue pursuant to section 101 in Treasury Appropriations Fund Symbols (TAFS)—

(1) to which other appropriations are not provided by this Act, but for which there is a current applicable TAFS that does receive an appropriation in this Act; or

(2) which are no-year TAFS and receive other appropriations in this Act,

may be continued instead by reducing the rate for operations otherwise provided by section 101 for such current applicable TAFS, as long as doing so does not impinge on the final funding prerogatives of the Congress.

(b) Rescissions or cancellations described in subsection (a) shall continue in an amount equal to the lesser of—

(1) the amount specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act; or

(2) the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2025, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act.

(c) No later than December 5, 2025, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a comprehensive list of the rescissions or cancellations that will continue pursuant to section 101: *Provided*, That the information in such comprehensive list shall be periodically updated to reflect any subsequent changes in the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2025, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101, and such updates shall be transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate upon request.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding section 106(1), amounts made available in divisions A through D of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 for personnel pay, allowances, and benefits in each department and agency shall be available for payments pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1341 of title 31, United States Code and such payments shall be made.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 106(1), all obligations incurred and in anticipation of the appropriations made and authority granted by divisions A through D of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 for the purposes of maintaining the essential level of activity to protect life and property and bringing about orderly termination of Government function, and for purposes as otherwise authorized by law, are hereby ratified and approved if otherwise in accord with the provisions of divisions A through D of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026.

SEC. 118. (a) If a State (or another Federal grantee) used State funds (or the grantee's non-Federal funds) to continue carrying out a Federal program or furloughed State employees (or the grantee's employees) whose compensation is advanced or reimbursed in whole or in part by the Federal Government—

(1) such furloughed employees shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation for such period;

(2) the State (or such other grantee) shall be reimbursed for expenses that would have been paid by the Federal Government during such period had appropriations been available, including the cost of compensating such furloughed employees, together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code; and

(3) the State (or such other grantee) may use funds available to the State (or the grantee) under such Federal program to reimburse such State (or the grantee), together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “State” and the term “grantee” shall have the meaning as such term is defined under the applicable Federal program under subsection (a). In addition, “to continue carrying out a Federal program” means the continued performance by a State or other Federal grantee, during the period of a lapse in appropriations, of a Federal program that the State or such other grantee had been carrying out prior to the period of the lapse in appropriations.

(c) Notwithstanding section 106, the authority under this section applies with respect to any period in fiscal year 2026 (not limited to periods beginning or ending after the date of the enactment of this Act) during which there occurs a lapse in appropriations with respect to any department or agency of the Federal Government which, but for such lapse in appropriations, would have paid, or made reimbursement relating to, any of the expenses referred to in this section with respect to the program involved. Payments and reimbursements under this authority shall be made only to the extent and in amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, including divisions A through D of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding section 106(1), for the purposes of divisions A through D of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026, the time covered by such divisions shall be considered to have begun on October 1, 2025.

SEC. 120. (a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding section 106(1), during the period between the date of enactment of this Act and the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act, no federal funds may be used to initiate, carry out, implement, or otherwise notice a reduction in force to reduce the number of employees within any department, agency, or office of the Federal Government.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall apply to all civilian positions, whether permanent, temporary, full-time, part-time, or intermittent, and without regard to the source of funding for such positions.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to—

(1) voluntary separations or retirements; (2) actions necessary to comply with a court order; or

(3) actions taken, beginning only on the first day of a lapse in appropriations, necessary to implement or maintain an orderly shutdown of government operations.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the term “reduction in force” means actions taken by an agency pursuant to section 3501 through 3504 of title 5, United States Code or section 3595 of such title, or any similar reduction of positions at any department, agency, or office of the Federal Government, unless such reduction has been provided for in this Act.

(e) Notwithstanding section 106(1), any reduction in force proposed, noticed, initiated, executed, implemented, or otherwise taken by an Executive Agency between October 1, 2025, and the date of enactment, shall have no force or effect.

(1) Any employee who received notice of being subject to such a reduction in force shall have that notice rescinded and be returned to employment status as of September 30, 2025, without interruption. Such employees shall receive all pay to which they otherwise would have been entitled in the absence of receiving such notice, including backpay in accordance with section 116 of this Act.

(2) Within 5 days of date of enactment of this Act, each Federal agency shall send notice to all affected employees and the chairs and ranking members of the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of the withdrawal of the reduction in force notice and the affected employee's reinstatement, if applicable.

(3) Notices must include reinstatement date and the amount of back pay determined in paragraph (1), if applicable.

SEC. 121. Section 8302(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 3851a(b)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “October 1, 2023”.

SEC. 122. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Justice—United States Marshals Service—Salaries and Expenses” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain program operations.

(b) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, for “Department of Justice—United States Marshals Service—Salaries and Expenses”, there is appropriated \$30,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until September 30, 2027, to carry out protective operations.

SEC. 123. Any expiration date established by section 235(b) of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. 3551 note; Public Law 98-473; 98 Stat. 2032), as such section relates to chapter 311 of title 18, United States Code, and the United States Parole Commission, shall not apply from October 1, 2025, through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 124. (a) For the closeout of all Space Shuttle contracts and associated programs, amounts that have expired but have not been cancelled in the Exploration, Space Operations, Human Space Flight, Space Flight Capabilities, and Exploration Capabilities appropriations accounts shall remain available through fiscal year 2030 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred during the period of fiscal year 2001 through fiscal year 2013.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2025, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2025.

SEC. 125. Section 3014(a) of title 18, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2025”: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 119, this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and shall not apply retroactively.

SEC. 126. During the period covered by this Act, section 1930(a)(6)(B)(i) of title 28, United States Code, shall be applied as if “During the 5-year period” were struck.

SEC. 127. Notwithstanding section 101, the first proviso in each of sections 8092 and 8096 of title VIII of division A of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “advances” for “reimbursements”.

SEC. 128. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force” shall be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for the E-7 Wedgetail program, in an amount not to exceed \$199,676,000, only for the purpose of continuing rapid prototyping activities to maintain program schedule and transition to production for the E-7 Wedgetail program.

SEC. 129. Of the unobligated balance of funds available to the Department of Defense for the E-7 program under the heading “Aircraft Procurement, Air Force” in Public Law 119-4, \$200,000,000 is hereby transferred to and

merged with amounts available for the E-7 program under the heading “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force” only for the purpose of continued rapid prototyping activities to maintain program schedule and transition to production for the E-7 Wedgetail program.

SEC. 130. Section 717(a) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4564(a)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 131. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, amounts made available by section 101 of this Act to the Department of Defense for “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to fund completion of prior year shipbuilding programs for the following programs:

(1) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2013/2026: Carrier Replacement Program, \$150,000,000;

(2) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2016/2026: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$121,538,000;

(3) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2016/2026: DDG 51 Program, \$14,892,000;

(4) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2026: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$99,116,000;

(5) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2026: DDG 51 Program, \$62,365,000;

(6) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2026: LHA Replacement Program, \$93,603,000;

(7) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2018/2026: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$289,761,000;

(8) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2018/2026: DDG 51 Program, \$104,238,000;

(9) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2019/2026: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$15,400,000;

(10) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2020/2026: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$48,260,000;

(11) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2022/2026: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$19,650,000;

(12) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2022/2026: Expeditionary Sea Base Program, \$30,000,000;

(13) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2023/2026: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$6,530,000; and

(14) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2024/2026: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$6,200,000.

SEC. 132. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to use amounts otherwise appropriated for such purposes to reimburse the Government of Palau for land acquisition costs for defense sites in Palau.

SEC. 133. During the period covered by this Act, section 103(f)(4)(A) of Public Law 108-361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) shall be applied by substituting “\$32,600,000” for “\$30,000,000”.

SEC. 134. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 in the first proviso under the heading “Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain current operations for the safe, secure transport of nuclear weapons.

(b) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 135. Notwithstanding section 101, the matter preceding the first proviso under the heading “Office of Personnel Management—Salaries and Expenses” in title V of division B of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied by substituting “\$197,446,000” for “\$219,076,000”, and the second proviso under such heading in such title of such division of such Act shall be applied by substituting “\$214,605,000” for “\$192,975,000”.

SEC. 136. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds made available under the heading “District of Columbia—District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2024 (title IV of division B of Public Law 118–47) at the rate set forth in the Fiscal Year 2026 Local Budget Act of 2025 (D.C. Law 26–51), as modified as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 137. Notwithstanding section 101, paragraph (1) under the heading “Department of the Treasury—Departmental Offices—Salaries and Expenses” in title I of division B of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied by substituting “\$1,350,000” for “\$350,000”: *Provided*, That such amounts may be obligated in the account and budget structure set forth in the fiscal year 2026 President’s Budget, submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, and accompanying justification materials.

SEC. 138. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under paragraphs (1) through (35) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), for guarantees of trust certificates authorized by section 5(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(g)), for commitments to guarantee loans under section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697), and for commitments to guarantee loans for debentures under section 303(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 683(b)).

SEC. 139. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of the Treasury—Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence—Salaries and Expenses” at a rate for operations of \$237,662,000.

SEC. 140. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, section 1605 of title VI of division A of Public Law 119–4 shall be applied through the end of the last applicable pay period that commences by the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act by substituting “the end of the last applicable pay period that commences in calendar year 2025” for “the date specified in section 1106 of this Act”.

(b) Notwithstanding section 101, section 747 of title VII of division B of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act by—

(1) substituting “2025” for “2023” each place it appears;

(2) substituting “2026” for “2024” each place it appears;

(3) substituting “2027” for “2025”; and

(4) substituting “section 747 of division B of Public Law 118–47, as continued in effect and modified by section 1605 of title VI of division A of Public Law 119–4, as in effect on September 30, 2025” for “section 747 of division E of Public Law 117–328” each place it appears.

(c) Subsection (b) shall not take effect until the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

SEC. 141. Section 1(b) of Public Law 117–25 (135 Stat. 297; 136 Stat. 2133; 136 Stat. 5984; 138 Stat. 1771; 139 Stat. 46) shall be applied in each of paragraphs (3) and (4) by substituting

the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 142. Notwithstanding section 101, title V of division B of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied as though the heading “Commodity Futures Trading Commission” and the appropriation language thereunder, as it appeared under the heading “Independent Agencies” in title VI of division B of Public Law 118–42, appeared in title V of division B of Public Law 118–47.

SEC. 143. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101 for “The Judiciary—Supreme Court of the United States—Salaries and Expenses”, there is appropriated \$28,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended, for the protection of the Supreme Court Justices, including the purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344, to be expended as the Chief Justice may approve.

SEC. 144. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “The Judiciary—Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services Defender Services” at a rate for operations of \$1,564,373,000: *Provided*, That such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to make payments, including to panel attorneys and related service providers, due under sections 3006A and 3599(g) of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 145. Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 146. Section 225(e) of division A of Public Law 116–6 (49 U.S.C. 44901 note) shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2019 through the date specified in section 106(3) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026” for “fiscal years 2019 through 2025”.

SEC. 147. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Homeland Security under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out response and recovery activities under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SEC. 148. Section 227(a) of the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1525(a)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 149. Section 111(a) of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1510(a)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 150. Section 2220A(s)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 665g(s)(1)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 151. During the period covered by this Act, section 1701 of title VII of division B of Public Law 117–43, as amended, shall be applied by substituting “calendar years 2021 through 2026” for “2021 or 2022 or 2023 or 2024” each place it appears.

SEC. 152. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management” and “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for wildfire suppression activities.

SEC. 153. (a) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Services” at a rate for operations of \$72,265,000, for an additional

amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

(b) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Facilities” at a rate for operations of \$8,050,000, for an additional amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

SEC. 154. Of the amounts made available in the third paragraph under the heading “Environmental Protection Agency—State and Tribal Assistance Grants” in the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division N of Public Law 117–328), up to \$54,000,000 shall be available for technical assistance and grants under section 1442(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1(b)) in areas where the President declared an emergency in August of fiscal year 2022 pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously 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 section 1(e) of H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022, are designated 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.

SEC. 155. Notwithstanding section 101, the matter under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs” in title II of division D of Public Law 118–47 shall be applied by adding the following after the second proviso: “*Provided further*, That for purposes of section 640(a)(2)(B)(v) of such Act, the base grant for each of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands shall be \$8,000,000, and shall be considered equal to the amount provided for base grants for such jurisdictions under such Act for the prior fiscal year.”.

SEC. 156. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated—

(1) For payment to Ashley Paige Turner, heir of Sylvester Turner, late a Representative from the State of Texas, \$174,000.

(2) For payment to Ramona Grijalva, widow of Raúl M. Grijalva, late a Representative from the State of Arizona, \$174,000.

(3) For payment to Catherine M. Smith, widow of Gerald E. Connolly, late a Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia, \$174,000.

SEC. 157. In addition to amounts otherwise made available for “Capitol Police—United States Capitol Police Mutual Aid Reimbursements”, there is appropriated \$30,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended, for reimbursements for mutual aid and related training provided under the agreements described in section 7302 of Public Law 108–458: *Provided*, That amounts provided by this section shall be subject to the same authorities and conditions as if such amounts were provided by title I of division C of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans

Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026: *Provided further*, That obligation of the funds made available in this section in this Act shall be subject to notification to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the Committee on House Administration of the amount and purpose of the expense within 15 days of obligation.

SEC. 158. Section 1424(a) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9624(a)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act”.

SEC. 159. The fifth and sixth provisos under the heading “Millennium Challenge Corporation” in title III of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be amended by striking “December 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2026” each place it appears.

SEC. 160. Section 562(c) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.), is further amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end:

“(13) CAPITAL INCREASE.—

“(A) SUBSCRIPTION AUTHORIZED.—

“(i) The United States Governor of the Bank may subscribe on behalf of the United States up to 40,000 additional shares of the paid-in capital stock of the Bank.

“(ii) Any subscription by the United States to additional paid-in capital stock of the Bank shall be effective only to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In order to pay for the increase in the United States subscription to the Bank under paragraph (A), there are authorized to be appropriated, without fiscal year limitation, \$437,457,804, for payment by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding section 106, during fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may use the unobligated balances of amounts made available in prior fiscal years in paragraphs (2), (3), and (8) under the heading “Public and Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assistance” to support additional allocations under subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4) of such heading to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as the result of insufficient funding in the calendar year 2025 funding cycle: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 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.

SEC. 162. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—Payments to Air Carriers” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain Essential Air Service program operations.

SEC. 163. Section 4144(d) of the Motor Carrier Safety Reauthorization Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 31100 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2025”.

This division may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026”.

**DIVISION B—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026**

TITLE I

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS  
PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$46,361,000 of which not to exceed \$7,000,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary, of which \$500,000 shall be for the establishment of a Seafood Industry Liaison; not to exceed \$1,700,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to exceed \$5,190,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations, of which \$1,000,000 shall be to continue a Tribal Public Health Resource Center at a land grant university with existing indigenous public health expertise to expand current partnerships and collaborative efforts with indigenous groups to improve the delivery of public health services and functions in American Indian communities focusing on indigenous food sovereignty; not to exceed \$5,250,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, of which \$1,500,000 shall be for 7 U.S.C. 2279(c)(5); not to exceed \$18,721,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which \$17,015,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed \$3,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed \$5,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$22,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551-558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs shall be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary

has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency: *Provided further*, That during any 30 day notification period referenced in section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take no action to begin implementation of the action that is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public announcement of such action in any form.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, \$29,500,000, of which \$10,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$2,425,000 shall be for an interdisciplinary center based at a land grant university focused on agricultural policy relevant to the Midwest region which will provide private entities, policymakers, and the public with timely insights and targeted economic solutions: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$500,000 shall be available to carry out section 224 of subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924), as amended by section 12504 of Public Law 115-334.

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, \$14,500,000.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, \$14,967,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, \$85,000,000, of which not less than \$60,032,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, \$5,867,000.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, \$1,466,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Civil Rights mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$30,000,000.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegation of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administrator of General Services, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Department of Agriculture, to comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42

U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), \$1,619,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That appropriations and funds available herein to the Department for Hazardous Materials Management may be transferred to any agency of the Department for its use in meeting all requirements pursuant to the above Acts on Federal and non-Federal lands.

OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

For necessary expenses of the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection, \$24,000,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452; 5 U.S.C. App.), \$103,000,000, including such sums as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452; 5 U.S.C. App.), and including not to exceed \$125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 1337 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98).

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, \$60,537,000.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, \$4,500,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, \$1,884,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$500,000 shall be made available for the Office of the Chief Scientist.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Economic Research Service, \$90,612,000.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, \$185,000,000, of which up to \$46,000,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: *Provided*, That amounts made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to conduct Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204g(d) and (f): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress in writing at least 30 days prior to discontinuing data collection programs and reports.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100,000 and with prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, \$1,793,063,000, which shall be for the purposes,

and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "Agricultural Research Service Salaries and Expenses" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided, the cost of constructing any one building shall not exceed \$500,000, except for headhouses or greenhouses which shall each be limited to \$1,800,000, except for 10 buildings to be constructed or improved at a cost not to exceed \$1,100,000 each, and except for four buildings to be constructed at a cost not to exceed \$5,000,000 each, and the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building or \$500,000, whichever is greater: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for entering into lease agreements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the lease shall be that any facility shall be owned, operated, and maintained by the non-Federal entity and shall be removed upon the expiration or termination of the lease agreement: *Provided further*, That the limitations on alterations contained in this Act shall not apply to modernization or replacement of existing facilities at Beltsville, Maryland: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: *Provided further*, That the foregoing limitations shall not apply to replacement of buildings needed to carry out the Act of April 24, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 113a): *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by, and acceptable to, the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the easements shall be that upon completion the facility shall be accepted by the Secretary, subject to the availability of funds herein, if the Secretary finds that acceptance of the facility is in the interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds may be received from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of establishing or operating any research facility or research project of the Agricultural Research Service, as authorized by law: *Provided further*, That no later than 60 days from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both House of Congress that outlines the current funding levels, staffing levels, and hiring plans in fiscal year 2026 for each research unit: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall include in the department's fiscal year 2027 budget request estimates for funding levels, staffing levels, and hiring plans for each research unit: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the Experienced Services Program at the Agricultural Research Service (16 U.S.C. 3851).

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture, where not otherwise provided, \$60,650,000, to remain available until ex-

pended, of which \$57,650,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and of which, in addition to amounts otherwise available, \$3,000,000 shall be for construction and facilities improvements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, and for other expenses, \$1,075,810,000, which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which \$551,060,000 shall remain available until expended and of which \$7,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, \$13,560,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), to remain available until expended, which shall not be subject to section 6(c) and section 6(d) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d): *Provided further*, That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program receives no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions be made available to individual eligible institutions or consortia of eligible institutions with funds awarded equally to each of the States of Alaska and Hawaii: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222: *Provided further*, That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this or any other Act to carry out the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under 7 U.S.C. 3157 may be retained by the Secretary of Agriculture to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out that authority.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103-382 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), \$11,880,000, to remain available until expended.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

For payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, \$561,100,000 which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which \$33,500,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension receive no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93-471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents.

## INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

For the integrated research, education, and extension grants programs, including necessary administrative expenses, \$40,100,000, which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled “National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Activities” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which \$8,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program Area grant awarded under the Crop Protection/Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, \$1,617,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including up to \$30,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4085), \$1,157,534,000 which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled “Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which \$594,551,000 shall remain available until expended, of which \$11,384,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), to remain available until expended, and of which \$8,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the purchase, replacement, operation, and maintenance of aircraft: *Provided further*, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of the United States, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310 and 8316) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751 and 7772), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in the preceding fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary must notify the Committees on Appropriations about any transfer of funds in the preceding proviso within 15 days after such transfer being made: *Provided fur-*

*ther*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

In fiscal year 2026, the agency is authorized to collect fees to cover the total costs of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, provided that such fees are structured such that any entity's liability for such fees is reasonably based on the technical assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

## BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2268a, \$500,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
MARKETING SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, \$211,367,000, of which \$6,000,000 shall be available for the purposes of section 12306 of Public Law 113-79, and of which \$1,000,000 shall be available for the purposes of section 779 of division A of Public Law 117-103: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$13,750,000, to remain available until expended, shall be to carry out section 12513 of Public Law 115-334, of which \$11,250,000 shall be for dairy business innovation initiatives established in Public Law 116-6 and the Secretary shall take measures to ensure an equal distribution of funds between these three regional innovation initiatives: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

Fees may be collected for the cost of standardization activities, as established by regulation pursuant to law (31 U.S.C. 9701), except for the cost of activities relating to the development or maintenance of grain standards under the United States Grain Standards Act, 7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.

## LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$62,596,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses: *Provided*, That if crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur, the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), shall be used only for commodity program expenses as authorized therein, and other related operating expenses, except for: (1) transfers to the Department of Commerce as authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.); (2) transfers otherwise provided in this Act; and (3) not more than \$23,880,000

for formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and the Agricultural Act of 1961 (Public Law 87-128).

## PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

For payments to departments of agriculture, bureaus and departments of markets, and similar agencies for marketing activities under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), \$500,000.

## LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$55,000,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for inspection and weighing services: *Provided*, That if grain export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur, this limitation may be exceeded by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, \$1,117,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food Safety mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

## FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

For necessary expenses to carry out services authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, including not to exceed \$10,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$1,215,200,000; and in addition, \$1,000,000 may be credited to this account from fees collected for the cost of laboratory accreditation as authorized by section 1327 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 138f): *Provided*, That funds provided for the Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure system shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no fewer than 148 full-time equivalent positions shall be employed during fiscal year 2026 for purposes dedicated solely to inspections and enforcement related to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the Food Safety and Inspection Service shall continue implementation of section 11016 of Public Law 110-246 as further clarified by the amendments made in section 12106 of Public Law 113-79: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

## TITLE II

## FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, \$1,527,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Farm Production and Conservation mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

## FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

## (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center,

\$167,633,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall be for the implementation of section 773 of Public Law 117-328: *Provided*, That \$70,740,000 of amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year pursuant to section 1241(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Service Agency, \$1,125,000,000, of which not less than \$15,000,000 shall be for the hiring of new employees to fill vacancies and anticipated vacancies at Farm Service Agency county offices and farm loan officers and shall be available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That the agency shall submit a report by the end of the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2026 to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that identifies for each project/investment that is operational (a) current performance against key indicators of customer satisfaction, (b) current performance of service level agreements or other technical metrics, (c) current performance against a pre-established cost baseline, (d) a detailed breakdown of current and planned spending on operational enhancements or upgrades, and (e) an assessment of whether the investment continues to meet business needs as intended as well as alternatives to the investment: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to use the services, facilities, and authorities (but not the funds) of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make program payments for all programs administered by the Agency: *Provided further*, That other funds made available to the Agency for authorized activities may be advanced to and merged with this account: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$696,594,000 shall be made available to county offices, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, any funds made available to county offices in the current fiscal year that the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency deems to exceed or not meet the amount needed for the county offices may be transferred to or from the Farm Service Agency for necessary expenses: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available for any department or agency in this or any other appropriations Acts, including prior year Acts, shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available in this or any other Act, including prior year Acts, shall be used to permanently relocate county based employees that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

For grants pursuant to section 502(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5101-5106), \$6,500,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may determine that United States territories and Federally recognized Indian tribes are "States" for the purposes of Subtitle A of such Act.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out wellhead or groundwater protection activities under section 12400 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-2), \$7,500,000, to remain available until expended.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and

manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indemnity program, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such program is carried out by the Secretary in the same manner as the dairy indemnity program described in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-387, 114 Stat. 1549A-12).

GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

For necessary expenses to carry out direct reimbursement payments to geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers under section 1621 of the Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8792), \$3,500,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed farm ownership (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) and operating (7 U.S.C. 1941 et seq.) loans, emergency loans (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.), Indian tribe land acquisition loans (25 U.S.C. 5136), boll weevil loans (7 U.S.C. 1989), guaranteed conservation loans (7 U.S.C. 1924 et seq.), to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund, as follows: \$3,500,000,000 for guaranteed farm ownership loans and \$2,580,000,000 for farm ownership direct loans; \$2,000,000,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans and \$1,633,000,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, \$14,388,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, \$20,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, \$150,000,000; and for boll weevil eradication program loans, \$60,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall deem the pink bollworm to be a boll weevil for the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: \$1,000,000 for emergency loans, to remain available until expended; \$32,766,000 for farm ownership direct loans, and \$84,000 for boll weevil eradication program loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$326,053,000: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$305,803,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for "Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses".

Funds appropriated by this Act to the Agricultural Credit Insurance Program Account for farm ownership, operating, conservation, and emergency direct loans and loan guarantees may be transferred among these programs: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Risk Management Agency, \$60,000,000: *Provided*, That \$1,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading in this Act shall be available for compliance and integrity activities required under section 516(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1516(b)(2)(C)), and shall be in addition to amounts otherwise provided for such purpose: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1506(i).

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a-f), including preparation of con-

servation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 2268a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, \$850,000,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the table titled "Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which \$34,625,000 shall for be for the purposes, and in the amounts specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed \$250,000: *Provided further*, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses to carry out preventive measures, including but not limited to surveys and investigations, engineering operations, works of improvement, and changes in use of land, in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001-1005 and 1007-1009) and in accordance with the provisions of laws relating to the activities of the Department, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$32,360,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That for funds provided by this Act or any other prior Act, the limitation regarding the size of the watershed or subwatershed exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand acres in which such activities can be undertaken shall only apply for activities undertaken for the primary purpose of flood prevention (including structural and land treatment measures): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be allocated to multi-benefit irrigation modernization projects and activities that increase fish or wildlife habitat, reduce drought impact, improve water quality or instream flow, or provide off-channel renewable energy production.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Under the authorities of section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, \$3,000,000 is provided.

CORPORATIONS

The following corporations and agencies are hereby authorized to make expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or

agency and in accord with law, and to make contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation or agency, except as hereinafter provided.

#### FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

For payments as authorized by section 516 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516), such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended.

#### COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

##### REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a-11): *Provided*, That of the funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation under section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i) for the conduct of its business with the Foreign Agricultural Service, up to \$5,000,000 may be transferred to and used by the Foreign Agricultural Service for information resource management activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service that are not related to Commodity Credit Corporation business: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in writing 15 days prior to the obligation, commitment, or transfer of any emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation or the transfer or cancellation of any previously obligated Commodity Credit Corporation funds: *Provided further*, That such written notification shall include a detailed spend plan for the anticipated uses of such funds and an expected timeline for program execution if such obligation, commitment, transfer, or cancellation exceeds \$100,000,000.

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

##### (LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

For the current fiscal year, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall not expend more than \$15,000,000 for site investigation and cleanup expenses, and operations and maintenance expenses to comply with the requirement of section 107(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9607(g)), and section 6001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6961).

#### TITLE III

#### RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

##### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development, \$1,620,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Rural Development mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

#### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for carrying out the administration and implementation of Rural Development programs, including activities with institutions concerning the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives; and for cooperative agreements; \$312,000,000: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, no less than \$75,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for information technology expenses: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support Rural Development programs: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other funds appropriated for purposes authorized by section 502(i) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(i)), any amounts collected under such section, as amended by this Act, will immediately be credited to this account and will remain available until expended for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a pilot program that assists rural hospitals to improve long-term operations and financial health, including strategies to expand and sustain access to maternal health care services, by providing technical assistance through analysis of current hospital management practices.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE  
RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM  
ACCOUNT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund, as follows: \$1,000,000,000 shall be for section 502 direct loans; \$5,000,000 shall be for a Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes; and \$25,000,000,000 shall be for section 502 unsubsidized guaranteed loans; \$25,000,000 for section 504 housing repair loans; \$50,000,000 for section 515 rental housing; \$400,000,000 for section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans; \$10,000,000 for credit sales of single family housing acquired property; \$5,000,000 for section 523 self-help housing land development loans; \$5,000,000 for section 524 site development loans; and \$15,000,000 for section 514 direct farm labor housing loans.

For the cost of direct loans, guaranteed loans, and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: section 502 direct loans, \$130,600,000, of which \$32,650,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027; Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes, \$2,125,000; section 504 housing repair loans, \$4,333,000; repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of section 515 rental housing, \$15,130,000, to remain available until expended; section 523 self-help housing land development loans, \$657,000; section 524 site development loans, \$502,000; section 514 farm labor housing loans, \$4,761,000, to remain available until expended; and farm labor housing grants, as authorized by section 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1486), \$6,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That to support the loan program level for section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized: *Provided further*, That applicants in communities that have a current rural area waiver under section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490q) shall be treated as living in a rural area for purposes of section 502 guaranteed loans provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts available under this paragraph for section 502 direct loans, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for direct loans for individuals whose homes will be built pursuant to a program funded with a mutual and self-help housing grant author-

ized by section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 until June 1, 2026: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall implement provisions to provide incentives to nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities to facilitate the acquisition of Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multifamily housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary, with such incentives to include, but not be limited to, the following: allow such nonprofit entities and public housing authorities to earn a Return on Investment on the owner's initial equity contributions, as defined by the Secretary, invested in the transaction; and allow reimbursement of organizational costs associated with owner's oversight of asset referred to as "Asset Management Fee" of up to \$7,500 per property.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of the sections 514, 515, and 516 multi-family rental housing properties to restructure existing USDA multi-family housing loans, as the Secretary deems appropriate, expressly for the purposes of ensuring the project has sufficient resources to preserve the project for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers including reducing or eliminating interest; deferring loan payments, subordinating, reducing or re-amortizing loan debt; and other financial assistance including advances, payments and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall, as part of the preservation and revitalization agreement, obtain a restrictive use agreement consistent with the terms of the restructuring.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$412,254,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

#### RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to the authority under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 or agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 502(c)(5)(D) of the Housing Act of 1949, \$1,715,000,000, and in addition such sums as may be necessary, as authorized by section 521(c) of the Act, to liquidate debt incurred prior to fiscal year 1992 to carry out the rental assistance program under section 521(a)(2) of the Act: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available for renewal of rental assistance agreements for a maximum of 5,000 units where the Secretary determines that a maturing loan for a project cannot reasonably be restructured with another USDA loan or modification and the project was operating with rental assistance under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may enter into rental assistance contracts in maturing properties with existing rental assistance agreements notwithstanding any provision of section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949, for a term of at least 10 years but not more than 20 years: *Provided further*, That any agreement to enter into a rental assistance contract under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 for a maturing property shall obligate the owner to continue to maintain the project as decent, safe,

and sanitary housing and to operate the development in accordance with the Housing Act of 1949, except that rents shall be based on current Fair Market Rents as established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 24 CFR 888 Subpart A, 42 U.S.C. 1437f and 3535d, to determine the maximum initial rent and adjusted annually by the Operating Cost Adjustment Factor pursuant to 24 CFR 888 Subpart B, unless the Agency determines that the project's budget-based needs require a higher rent, in which case the Agency may approve a budget-based rent level: *Provided further*, That rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed during the current fiscal year shall be funded for a one year period: *Provided further*, That upon request by an owner under section 514 or 515 of the Act, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance agreement for a period of 20 years or until the term of such loan has expired, subject to annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That any unexpended balances remaining at the end of such one-year agreements may be transferred and used for purposes of any debt reduction, maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of any existing projects; preservation; and rental assistance activities authorized under title V of the Act: *Provided further*, That rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2026 for a farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act may not be recaptured for use in another project until such assistance has remained unused for a period of twelve consecutive months, if such project has a waiting list of tenants seeking such assistance or the project has rental assistance eligible tenants who are not receiving such assistance: *Provided further*, That such recaptured rental assistance shall, to the extent practicable, be applied to another farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the seventh proviso under this heading and notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, the Secretary may recapture rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2026 for a project that the Secretary determines no longer needs rental assistance and use such recaptured funds for current needs: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for information technology improvements under this heading.

#### RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER ACCOUNT

For the rural housing voucher program as authorized under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949, but notwithstanding subsection (b) of such section, \$48,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the funds made available under this heading shall be available for rural housing vouchers to any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing in a property financed with a section 515 loan which has been prepaid or otherwise paid off after September 30, 2005, and is not receiving stand-alone section 521 rental assistance: *Provided further*, That the amount of such voucher shall be the difference between comparable market rent for the section 515 unit and the tenant paid rent for such unit: *Provided further*, That funds made available for such vouchers shall be subject to the availability of annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, administer such vouchers with current regulations and administrative guidance applicable to section 8 housing vouchers administered by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and

Urban Development: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

#### MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

For grants and contracts pursuant to section 523(b)(1)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c), \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for very low-income housing repair and rural housing preservation made by the Rural Housing Service, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1474, and 1490m, \$27,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM

##### ACCOUNT

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$1,250,000,000 for direct loans and \$650,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$677,160,846 to remain available until expended, of which \$659,160,846 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for a Rural Community Development Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be used solely to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes to undertake projects to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be made available to qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out a program of financial and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That such intermediary organizations shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than funds provided: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances from prior year appropriations under this heading for the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including amounts deobligated or cancelled, may be made available to cover the subsidy costs for direct loans, loan guarantees and or grants under this heading in this fiscal year: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the preceding proviso from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or that were specified in the tables titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statements accompanying prior year Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts, as described

in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of such Acts: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the fifth proviso without prior notification and approval of the Committees of Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That \$13,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for community facilities grants, as authorized by section 306(a)(19) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which \$8,000,000 shall be for grants to tribal colleges as authorized by section 306(a)(25) of such Act: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

#### RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

##### RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For gross obligations for the principal amount of guaranteed loans as authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)), \$1,750,000,000.

For the cost of loan guarantees and grants, for the rural business development programs authorized by section 310B and described in subsections (a), (c), (f) and (g) of section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$50,575,000, to remain available until expended, of which no less than \$100,000 shall be made available for one or more qualified state technology council to promote private-sector economic development in the bio-sciences: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$15,575,000 shall be for business and industry guaranteed loans: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$21,000,000 shall be for rural business development grants as authorized by section 310B(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not to exceed \$500,000 shall be made available for one grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.), the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15101 et seq.), the Southwest Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15301 et seq.), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.) for any Rural Community Advancement Program purpose as described in section 381E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, including \$250,000 for a grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to funds made available under this heading.

#### INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND

##### ACCOUNT

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), \$9,000,000.

For the cost of direct loans, \$2,495,000 as authorized by the Intermediary Relending

Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), of which \$250,000 shall be available through June 30, 2026, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which \$499,000 shall be available through June 30, 2026, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100-460): *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, \$4,468,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

**RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS  
PROGRAM ACCOUNT**

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, \$50,000,000.

The cost of grants authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects shall not exceed \$10,000,000.

**RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

For rural cooperative development grants authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), \$20,000,000: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program; \$3,000,000 shall be for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives that serve socially disadvantaged groups and a majority of the boards of directors or governing boards of which are comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups; \$8,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for value-added agricultural product market development grants, as authorized by section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946; and \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized pursuant to section 6402 of Public Law 107-171.

**RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM**

For the principal amount of direct loans as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s), \$17,000,000.

For the cost of loans and grants, \$4,000,000 under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

**RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM**

For the principal amount of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), \$100,000,000.

**HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE**

For the cost of loans and grants that is consistent with section 243 of subtitle D of title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953), as added by section 4206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, for necessary expenses of the Secretary to support projects that provide access to healthy food in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities, \$50,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs of loans, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

**RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE  
RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM  
ACCOUNT**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as follows: \$1,015,000,000 for direct loans; and \$50,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306C(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$445,864,564 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$51,476,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for direct loans, of which no less than \$3,876,000 shall be available for water and waste direct one percent loans for distressed communities as the Secretary deems appropriate: *Provided further*, That \$1,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306A(a)(2)(B) of such Act: *Provided further*, That \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act, of which \$1,000,000 shall be to provide subgrants to eligible individuals for the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individually owned household decentralized waste water systems: *Provided further*, That \$7,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act in addition to funding authorized by section 306A(i)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That \$60,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants including water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306C(a)(2)(B) and section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes authorized by 306C(a)(1) of such Act, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (of the State of Hawaii): *Provided further*, That funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be provided to a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by the State of Alaska for training and technical assistance programs and not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83 for training and technical assistance programs: *Provided further*, That \$35,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for technical assistance grants for rural water and waste systems pursuant to section 306(a)(14) of such Act, unless the Secretary makes a determination of extreme need, of which \$10,000,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified nonprofit multi-State regional technical assistance organization, with experience in working with small communities on water and waste water problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less, in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and waste water systems, and of which not less than \$800,000 shall be for a qualified

national Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: *Provided further*, That \$23,900,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for contracting with qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for solid waste management grants: *Provided further*, That \$250,488,564 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for grants pursuant to section 306(a)(2)(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which \$110,488,564 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/ Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That \$8,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to, and merged with, the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account to provide grants authorized under section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a): *Provided further*, That if any funds made available for the direct loan subsidy costs under this heading remain unobligated after July 31, 2026, such unobligated balances may be used for grant programs funded under this heading: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances from prior year appropriations under this heading for the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including amounts deobligated or cancelled, may be made available to cover the subsidy costs for direct loans, loan guarantees and or grants under this heading in this fiscal year: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the two preceding provisos from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or that are specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding/ Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

**RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

The principal amount of loans and loan guarantees as authorized by sections 4, 305, 306, 313A, and 317 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 904, 935, 936, 940c-1, and 940g) shall be made as follows: guaranteed rural electric loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, \$2,667,000,000; cost of money direct loans made pursuant to sections 4, notwithstanding the one-eighth of one percent in 4(c)(2), and 317, notwithstanding 317(c), of that Act, \$4,333,000,000; guaranteed underwriting loans pursuant to section 313A of that Act, \$910,000,000; for cost-of-money rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section 305(d)(2) of that Act, \$350,000,000; and for guaranteed rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, \$200,000,000: *Provided*, That up to \$2,000,000,000 shall be used for the construction, acquisition, design, engineering or improvement of fossil-fueled electric generating plants (whether new or existing) that utilize carbon subsurface utilization and storage systems.

For the cost of direct loans as authorized by section 305(d)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935(d)(2)), including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, \$3,570,000.

In addition, \$4,200,000 to remain available until expended, to carry out section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a): *Provided*, That the energy efficiency measures supported by the funding in this paragraph shall contribute in a demonstrable way to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$33,270,000, which shall be paid to the appropriation for “Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses”.

#### DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

For grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., \$40,767,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$10,767,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That \$3,000,000 shall be made available for grants authorized by section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That funding provided under this heading for grants under section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may only be provided to entities that meet all of the eligibility criteria for a consortium as established by this section.

For the cost to continue a broadband loan and grant pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), \$50,750,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$750,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That the Secretary may award grants described in section 601(a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 950bb(a)) for the purposes of carrying out such pilot program: *Provided further*, That the cost of direct loans shall be defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That at least 90 percent of the households to be served by a project receiving a loan or grant under the pilot program shall be in a rural area without sufficient access to broadband: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such pilot program, a rural area without sufficient access to broadband shall be defined as twenty-five megabits per second downstream and three megabits per second upstream: *Provided further*, That to the extent possible, projects receiving funds provided under the pilot program must build out service to at least one hundred megabits per second downstream, and twenty megabits per second upstream: *Provided further*, That an entity to which a loan or grant is made under the pilot program shall not use the loan or grant to overbuild or duplicate broadband service in a service area by any entity that has received a broadband loan from the Rural Utilities Service unless such service is not provided sufficient access to broadband at the minimum service threshold: *Provided further*, That not more than

four percent of the funds made available in this paragraph can be used for administrative costs to carry out the pilot program and up to three percent of funds made available in this paragraph may be available for technical assistance and pre-development planning activities to support the most rural communities: *Provided further*, That the Rural Utilities Service is directed to expedite program delivery methods that would implement this paragraph: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall adhere to the notice, reporting and service area assessment requirements set forth in section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 950cc).

In addition, \$17,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Community Connect Grant Program authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950bb-3.

#### TITLE IV

#### DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

##### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, \$1,127,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

##### FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

###### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; \$37,841,674,000 to remain available through September 30, 2027, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: *Provided*, That of the total amount available, \$18,691,638 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$21,918,000 shall be available to carry out studies and evaluations and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 18(g)(3)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)(3)(C)), the total grant amount provided to a farm to school grant recipient in fiscal year 2026 shall not exceed \$500,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$10,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$4,378,000 shall be available for food safety education including activities that support sections 17 and 21 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786, 1790) and to support the safe distribution of USDA Foods, as defined in 7 CFR 250.2: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out activities authorized under subsections (a)(2) and (e)(2) of section 21 of the Richard B. Russell National School

Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b-1(a)(2) and (e)(2)): *Provided further*, That section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2010 through 2025” and inserting “2010 through 2027”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “For fiscal year 2024” and inserting “For fiscal year 2026”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “For fiscal year 2024” and inserting “For fiscal year 2026”.

##### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$8,200,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, of which \$150,000,000 shall be placed in reserve, to remain available until expended, to be allocated as the Secretary deemed necessary, notwithstanding section 17(i) of such Act, to support participation should cost or participation exceed budget estimates: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), not less than \$90,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, and \$14,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, including investments to develop strategies to improve timely program data collection and reporting: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use funds made available under this heading to maintain the amount for the cash-value voucher for women and children participants at an amount recommended by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and adjusted for inflation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the request of a State agency.

##### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), \$107,481,218,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, and \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2028, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations: *Provided*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$998,000 may be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, shall be used to carry out section 4003(b) of Public Law 115-334 relating to demonstration projects for tribal organizations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$4,000,000

shall be used to carry out section 4208 of Public Law 115-334: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workforce requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1), section 4(b), and section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183A): *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

#### COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster and commodity assistance, \$551,070,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, of which \$460,000,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note), \$80,000,000 shall be for the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, \$1,070,000 shall be for assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188), and \$10,000,000 shall be for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year 2026 to support the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 20 percent for costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

#### NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, \$160,000,000: *Provided*, That of the funds provided herein, \$2,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107-171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110-246.

#### TITLE V

#### FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

##### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, \$932,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to any agency in the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

##### OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Codex Alimentarius, \$4,922,000, including not to exceed \$100,000 for official reception and representation expenses.

#### FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service, including not to exceed \$250,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$222,000,000, of which no more than 6 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027, for overseas operations to include the payment of locally employed staff: *Provided*, That the Service may utilize advances of funds, or reimburse this appropriation for expenditures made on behalf of Federal agencies, public and private organizations and institutions under agreements executed pursuant to the agricultural food production assistance programs (7 U.S.C. 1737) and the foreign assistance programs of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Cochran Fellowship Program, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 3293, \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship program, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 3319j, and up to \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the purpose of offsetting fluctuations in international currency exchange rates, subject to documentation by the Foreign Agricultural Service: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$1,000,000, shall be for the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of State and heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies as applicable, to conduct an inter-agency review and, within 60 days of enactment of this Act, provide a detailed report outlining the process and agency needs to support a transfer of the Food for Peace program from the U.S. Agency for International Development to the Foreign Agricultural Service within the Department of Agriculture: *Provided further*, That such report shall include the requirements outlined in the section entitled "Food for Peace Inter-agency Review and Report" under the heading "Food for Peace Title II Grants" in Senate Report 119-37 and shall also address any other needs that the Department of Agriculture believes will be required to support successful implementation of such program transfer.

#### FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

For expenses during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years' costs, including interest thereon, under the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 88-480), for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, \$1,200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1), \$240,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to provide the services, facilities, and authorities for the purpose of implementing such section, subject to reimbursement from amounts provided herein: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, not more than 10 percent, but not less than \$24,000,000, shall remain available until expended to purchase agricultural commodities as described in subsection 3107(a)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1(a)(2)).

#### COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT (LOANS) CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Guarantee Program, GSM 102 and GSM 103, \$6,063,000, to cover common overhead expenses as permitted by section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and in conformity with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, which shall be paid to the appropriation for "Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses".

#### TITLE VI

#### RELATED AGENCY AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

##### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Food and Drug Administration, including hire and purchase of passenger motor vehicles; for payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313 for programs and activities of the Food and Drug Administration which are included in this Act; for rental of special purpose space in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; for miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$25,000; and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107-188; \$6,957,972,000: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,556,039,000 shall be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379h, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$478,166,000 shall be derived from medical device user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$670,900,000 shall be derived from human generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$55,841,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-52, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$36,152,000 shall be derived from animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-12, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$26,724,000 shall be derived from generic new animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-21, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$712,000,000 shall be derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That in addition to and notwithstanding any other provision under this heading, amounts collected for prescription drug user fees, medical device user fees, human generic drug user fees, biosimilar biological product user fees, animal drug user fees, and generic new animal drug user fees that exceed the respective fiscal year 2026 limitations are appropriated and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, human generic drug, biosimilar biological product, animal drug, and generic new animal drug assessments for fiscal year 2026, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2026 but credited for fiscal year 2026, shall be subject to the fiscal year 2026 limitations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may accept payment during fiscal year 2026 of user fees specified under this

heading and authorized for fiscal year 2027, prior to the due date for such fees, and that amounts of such fees assessed for fiscal year 2027 for which the Secretary accepts payment in fiscal year 2026 shall not be included in amounts under this heading: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used to develop, establish, or operate any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated: (1) \$1,171,319,000 shall be for the Human Foods Program and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Human Foods Program, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist, of which no less than \$15,000,000 shall be used for inspections of foreign seafood manufacturers and field examinations of imported seafood; (2) \$2,496,766,000 shall be for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist, of which no less than \$10,000,000 shall be for pilots to increase unannounced foreign inspections and shall remain available until expended; (3) \$601,291,000 shall be for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (4) \$278,185,000 shall be for the Center for Veterinary Medicine and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (5) \$894,063,000 shall be for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (6) \$71,758,000 shall be for the National Center for Toxicological Research; (7) \$688,038,000 shall be for the Center for Tobacco Products and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (8) \$205,180,000 shall be for Rent and Related activities, of which \$44,400,000 is for White Oak Consolidation, other than the amounts paid to the General Services Administration for rent; (9) \$208,018,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; and (10) \$343,354,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, and central services for these offices: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of this amount shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Commissioner: *Provided further*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to, and for the administration of, section 770(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379dd(n)) shall only be from amounts made available under this heading for other activities and shall not exceed \$2,000,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts that are made available under this heading for "other activities", and that are not derived from user fees, \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General" for oversight of the programs and operations of the Food and Drug Administration and shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available for oversight

of the Food and Drug Administration: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

In addition, mammography user fees authorized by 42 U.S.C. 263b, export certification user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 381, priority review user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360n and 360ff, food and feed recall fees, food reinspection fees, and voluntary qualified importer program fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, outsourcing facility fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-62, prescription drug wholesale distributor licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), third-party logistics provider licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360eee-3(c)(1), third-party auditor fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 384d(c)(8), medical countermeasure priority review voucher user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4a, and fees relating to over-the-counter monograph drugs authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-72 shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended.

#### BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, demolition, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of or used by the Food and Drug Administration, where not otherwise provided, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### INDEPENDENT AGENCY

##### FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

###### LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$106,500,000 (from assessments collected from farm credit institutions, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses as authorized under 12 U.S.C. 2249: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receivings: *Provided further*, That the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the purposes of section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)), the Farm Credit Administration may exempt, an amount in its sole discretion, from the application of the limitation provided in that clause of export loans described in the clause guaranteed or insured in a manner other than described in subclause (II) of the clause.

#### TITLE VII

##### GENERAL PROVISIONS

###### (INCLUDING REVISIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 701. The Secretary may use any appropriations made available to the Department of Agriculture in this Act to purchase new passenger motor vehicles, in addition to specific appropriations for this purpose, so long as the total number of vehicles purchased in fiscal year 2026 does not exceed the number of vehicles owned or leased in fiscal year 2018: *Provided*, That, prior to purchasing additional motor vehicles, the Secretary must determine that such vehicles are necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may not increase the Department of Agriculture's fleet above the 2018 level unless the Secretary notifies in writing, and receives approval from, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of the notification.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture

may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Department financial, and administrative information technology services, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency administrator: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with the requirements of section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the National Finance Center Information Technology Services Division personnel and data center management responsibilities, and control of any functions, missions, and systems for current and future human resources management and integrated personnel and payroll systems (PPS) and functions provided by the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer shall remain in the National Finance Center and under the management responsibility and administrative control of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture and the offices of the Chief Financial Officer shall actively market to existing and new Departments and other government agencies National Finance Center shared services including, but not limited to, payroll, financial management, and human capital shared services and allow the National Finance Center to perform technology upgrades: *Provided further*, That of annual income amounts in the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture allocated for the National Finance Center, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of financial, administrative, and information technology services, and other systems of the National Finance Center or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification to the Committees on

Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the limitations on the obligation of funds pending notification to Congressional Committees shall not apply to any obligation that, as determined by the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a declared state of emergency that significantly impacts the operations of the National Finance Center; or to evacuate employees of the National Finance Center to a safe haven to continue operations of the National Finance Center.

SEC. 703. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 704. No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to pay negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements or similar arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nonprofit institutions in excess of 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement when the purpose of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.

SEC. 705. Appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following accounts: The Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

SEC. 706. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 11319 of title 40, United States Code, none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for information technology shall be obligated for projects, contracts, or other agreements over \$25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer: *Provided further*, That the Chief Information Officer may authorize an agency to obligate funds without written approval from the Chief Information Officer for projects, contracts, or other agreements up to \$250,000 based upon the performance of an agency measured against the performance plan requirements described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113-235.

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any former Rural Utilities Service borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act,

shall be eligible for assistance under section 313B(a) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.

SEC. 709. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not more than \$20,000,000 in unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency shall remain available through September 30, 2027, for information technology expenses.

SEC. 710. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 711. In the case of each program established or amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) or by a successor to that Act, other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or programs for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation—

(1) such funds shall be available for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

(2) the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

SEC. 712. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than \$2,900,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture, except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

SEC. 713. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 714. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 1422 of Public Law 110-246 (7 U.S.C. 612c-6; in this section referred to as “section 1422”), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out a program under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c; in this section referred to as “section 32”) in excess of \$1,716,293,000 (exclusive of carryover appropriations from prior fiscal years), as follows: Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities—\$485,000,000; State Option Contracts—\$5,000,000; Removal of Defective Commodities—\$2,500,000; Administration of section 32 Commodity Purchases—\$40,971,000: *Provided*, That, of the total funds made available in the matter preceding this proviso that remain unobligated on October 1, 2026, such unobligated balances shall carryover into fiscal year 2027 and shall remain available until expended for any of the purposes of section 32, except that any such carryover funds used in accordance with clause (3) of section 32 may not exceed \$350,000,000 and may not be obligated until the Secretary of Agriculture provides written notification of the expenditures to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least two

weeks in advance: *Provided further*, That, with the exception of any available carry-over funds authorized in any prior appropriations Act to be used for the purposes of clause (3) of section 32, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture to carry out clause (3) of section 32.

SEC. 715. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President’s budget submission to the Congress for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2026 appropriations Act.

SEC. 716. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economy Act, or in the case of the Department of Agriculture, through use of the authority provided by section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) or section 8 of Public Law 89-106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(1) creates new programs;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(4) relocates an office or employees;

(5) reorganizes offices, programs, or activities; or

(6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees;

unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming of such funds or the use of such authority.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for activities, programs, or projects through a reprogramming or use of the authorities referred to in subsection (a) involving funds in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

(1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;

(2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or

(3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in

a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress; unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming or transfer of such funds or the use of such authority.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress before implementing any program or activity not carried out during the previous fiscal year unless the program or activity is funded by this Act or specifically funded by any other Act.

(d) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for—

(1) modifying major capital investments funding levels, including information technology systems, that involves increasing or decreasing funds in the current fiscal year for the individual investment in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent of the total cost, whichever is less;

(2) realigning or reorganizing new, current, or vacant positions or agency activities or functions to establish a center, office, branch, or similar entity with five or more personnel; or

(3) carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request; unless the agencies funded by this Act notify, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes.

(e) As described in this section, no funds may be used for any activities unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services receives from the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress written or electronic mail confirmation of receipt of the notification as required in this section.

SEC. 717. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

SEC. 718. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, or the Farm Credit Administration shall be used to transmit or otherwise make available reports, questions, or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process to any non-Department of Agriculture, non-Department of Health and Human Services, or non-Farm Credit Administration employee.

SEC. 719. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.

SEC. 720. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or of-

fice of the Department for more than 60 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment.

SEC. 721. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed obligation plan delineated by program, project, and activity, as defined in the report accompanying this Act, for all amounts made available by this Act and prior appropriations Acts that remain available for obligation, including appropriated user fees and loan authorizations: *Provided*, That such obligation plan shall include breakdowns of estimated obligations for each such program, project, or activity by fiscal quarter, source appropriation, and the number of full-time equivalent positions supported: *Provided further*, That such obligation plan shall serve as the baseline for reprogramming notifications for the purposes of section 716 of this Act.

SEC. 722. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, promulgate, or implement any rule, or take any other action with respect to, allowing or requiring information intended for a prescribing health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 503(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)), to be distributed to such professional electronically (in lieu of in paper form) unless and until a Federal law is enacted to allow or require such distribution.

SEC. 723. For the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural Housing Service programs the Secretary shall not include incarcerated prison populations.

SEC. 724. For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and for which the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: *Provided*, That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.

SEC. 725. None of the credit card refunds or rebates transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to section 729 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (7 U.S.C. 2235a; Public Law 107-76) shall be available for obligation without written notification to, and the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided*, That the refunds or rebates so transferred shall be available for obligation only for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Departmental financial management, information technology, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 726. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the “variety” requirements of the final rule entitled “Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on December 15, 2016 (81

Fed. Reg. 90675) until the Secretary of Agriculture amends the definition of the term “variety” as defined in section 278.1(b)(1)(ii)(C) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, and “variety” as applied in the definition of the term “staple food” as defined in section 271.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to increase the number of items that qualify as acceptable varieties in each staple food category so that the total number of such items in each staple food category exceeds the number of such items in each staple food category included in the final rule as published on December 15, 2016: *Provided*, That until the Secretary promulgates such regulatory amendments, the Secretary shall apply the requirements regarding acceptable varieties and breadth of stock to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program retailers that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

SEC. 727. In carrying out subsection (h) of section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472), the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the same authority with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans as the Secretary has under subsections (h) and (j) of section 538 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1490p-2) with respect to loans guaranteed under such section 538 and eligible lenders for such loans.

SEC. 728. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be available for the United States Department of Agriculture to propose, finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new user fees pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9701 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 729. Notwithstanding any provision of law that regulates the calculation and payment of overtime and holiday pay for FSIS inspectors, the Secretary may charge establishments subject to the inspection requirements of the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 451 et seq., the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq., and the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq., for the cost of inspection services provided outside of an establishment's approved inspection shifts, and for inspection services provided on Federal holidays: *Provided*, That any sums charged pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed as overtime pay or holiday pay under section 1001(d) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 242): *Provided further*, That sums received by the Secretary under this paragraph shall, in addition to other available funds, remain available until expended to the Secretary without further appropriation for the purpose of funding all costs associated with FSIS inspections.

SEC. 730. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) conduct audits in a manner that evaluates the following factors in the country or region being audited, as applicable—

(A) veterinary control and oversight;

(B) disease history and vaccination practices;

(C) livestock demographics and traceability;

(D) epidemiological separation from potential sources of infection;

(E) surveillance practices;

(F) diagnostic laboratory capabilities; and

(G) emergency preparedness and response; and

(2) promptly make publicly available the final reports of any audits or reviews conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under its international trade agreements.

SEC. 731. (a)(1) No Federal funds made available for this fiscal year for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926 et seq.) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water or wastewater system unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term “iron and steel products” means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) or the designee of the Secretary finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Secretary or the designee receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Secretary or the designee shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Secretary or the designee shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Secretary may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account” for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

(f) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a project for which the engineering plans and specifications include use of iron and steel products otherwise prohibited by such subsection if the plans and specifications have received required approvals from State agencies prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) For purposes of this section, the terms “United States” and “State” shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each Federally recognized Indian Tribe.

SEC. 732. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 733. Of the total amounts made available by this Act for direct loans and grants under the following headings: “Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account”; “Rural Housing Service—Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants”; “Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Assistance Grants”; “Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Ac-

count”; “Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Business Program Account”; “Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account”; “Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Cooperative Development Grants”; “Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program”; “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account”; “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account”; and “Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program”, to the maximum extent feasible, at least 10 percent of the funds shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties under this section, including, notwithstanding any other provision regarding population limits, any county seat of such a persistent poverty county that has a population that does not exceed the authorized population limit by more than 10 percent: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the term “persistent poverty counties” means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses, and 2007–2011 American Community Survey 5-year average, or any territory or possession of the United States: *Provided further*, That with respect to specific activities for which program levels have been made available by this Act that are not supported by budget authority, the requirements of this section shall be applied to such program level.

SEC. 734. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to notify a sponsor or otherwise acknowledge receipt of a submission for an exemption for investigational use of a drug or biological product under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have not been received by the Secretary, and the exemption may not go into effect.

SEC. 735. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enforce the final rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration entitled “Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption”, and published on November 27, 2015, and the proposed rule issued by the Food and Drug Administration pending at the Office of Management and Budget entitled “Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding Produce for Human Consumption Related to Agricultural Water” (86 Fed. Reg. 69120 and 87 Fed. Reg. 42973), with respect to the regulation of entities that grow, harvest, pack, or hold wine grapes, hops, pulse crops, or almonds.

SEC. 736. For school years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to restrict or limit the substitution of any vegetable subgroup for fruits under the school breakfast program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

SEC. 737. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—

(1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940), subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, or section 10114 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018; or

(2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with section 7606 of the Agricultural

Act of 2014 or subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, within or outside the State in which the hemp is grown or cultivated.

SEC. 738. The Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement under section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(g)).

SEC. 739. The Secretary of Agriculture shall be included as a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) on a case by case basis pursuant to the authorities in section 721(k)(2)(J) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)(2)(J)) with respect to each covered transaction (as defined in section 721(a)(4) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4))) involving agricultural land, agriculture biotechnology, or the agriculture industry (including agricultural transportation, agricultural storage, and agricultural processing), as determined by the CFIUS Chairperson in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture shall, to the maximum extent practicable, notify CFIUS of any agricultural land transaction that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe, based on information from or in cooperation with the Intelligence Community, is a covered transaction (A) that may pose a risk to the national security of the United States, with particular emphasis on covered transactions of an interest in agricultural land by foreign governments or entities of concern, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 19221(a), including the People’s Republic of China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran; and (B) with respect to which a person is required to submit a report to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501(a)).

SEC. 740. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a pilot program for the Secretary to provide grants to qualified non-profit organizations and public housing authorities to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to RHS multi-family housing borrowers to facilitate property preservation through the acquisition of RHS multi-family housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines a risk of loss of affordable housing, by non-profit housing organizations and public housing authorities as authorized by law that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multi-family housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary: *Provided*, That such funds may also be used for technical assistance for non-profit organizations, public housing authorities, and private owners for the decoupling of rental assistance.

SEC. 741. Funds made available under title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) may only be used to provide assistance to recipient nations if adequate monitoring and controls, as determined by the Administrator, are in place to ensure that emergency food aid is received by the intended beneficiaries in areas affected by food shortages and not diverted for unauthorized or inappropriate purposes.

SEC. 742. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to procure raw or processed poultry products or seafood imported into the United States from the People’s Republic of China for use in the school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), the Child and Adult Care Food Program under section 17 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), the Summer Food Service Program for Children under section 13 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), or the school breakfast program

under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

SEC. 743. For school year 2026–2027, only a school food authority that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2025, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches in accordance with section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(p)).

SEC. 744. Any funds made available by this or any other Act that the Secretary withholds pursuant to section 1668(g)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921(g)(2)), as amended, shall be available for grants for biotechnology risk assessment research: *Provided*, That the Secretary may transfer such funds among appropriations of the Department of Agriculture for purposes of making such grants.

SEC. 745. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department of Agriculture may be used to move any staff office or any agency from the mission area in which it was located on August 1, 2018, to any other mission area or office within the Department in the absence of the enactment of specific legislation affirming such move.

SEC. 746. The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, may use funds appropriated under this Act or any other Act for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program carried out pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program carried out pursuant to section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) to provide technical services for such programs pursuant to section 1252(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(a)(1)), notwithstanding subsection (c) of such section.

SEC. 747. In administering the pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), the Secretary of Agriculture may, for purposes of determining entities eligible to receive assistance, consider those communities which are “Areas Rural in Character”: *Provided*, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under the heading “Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program” for the purposes of the pilot program established by section 779 of Public Law 115–141 may be used for this purpose.

SEC. 748. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by this Act and notwithstanding the last sentence of 16 U.S.C. 1310, there is appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to implement non-renewable agreements on eligible lands, including flooded agricultural lands, as determined by the Secretary, under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301–1311).

SEC. 749. A bank referenced in 12 U.S.C. 2128 may make and participate in loans and commitments and provide technical and other financial assistance to cooperatives and any other public or private entity (except for the Federal Government) for the purpose of installing, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating facilities in a rural area as defined in 12 U.S.C. 2128(f) for the processing or disposal of waste from any source, provision of telecommunication services, and producing electricity from any source for use or sale by the borrower.

SEC. 750. The Secretary shall set aside for Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones, until August 15, 2026, an amount of funds made available in title III under the headings of Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account, Mutual and Self-Help

Housing Grants, Rural Housing Assistance Grants, Rural Community Facilities Program Account, Rural Business Program Account, Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account, and Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account, equal to the amount obligated in REAP Zones with respect to funds provided under such headings in the most recent fiscal year any such funds were obligated under such headings for REAP Zones, excluding the funding provided through any Community Project Funding/ Congressionally Directed Spending.

SEC. 751. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 758 of division B of Public Law 118–42, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

SEC. 752. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue or promote any new guidelines or regulations applicable to food manufacturers of low risk ready-to-eat (RTE) foods for Listeria monocytogenes (Lm) until the FDA considers the available new science in developing the Compliance Policy Guide (CPG), Guidance for FDA Staff, section 555.320 Listeria monocytogenes regarding Lm in low-risk foods, meaning foods that do not support the growth of Lm.

SEC. 753. For necessary expenses associated with cotton classing activities pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 55, to include equipment and facility upgrades, and in addition to any other funds made available for this purpose, there is appropriated, \$4,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That amounts made available in this section shall be treated as funds collected by fees authorized under March 4, 1923, ch. 288, section 5, 42 Stat. 1518, as amended (7 U.S.C. 55).

SEC. 754. For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, \$700,000, for the Office of Tribal Relations to cover costs incurred for the slaughtering, processing, and voluntary meat inspection fees, notwithstanding the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622 et seq.) and 9 CFR part 352, for bison owned by Tribal governments (as defined by the List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131)), Tribal entities (including Tribal organizations and corporations), and Tribal members that slaughter and process bison at establishments that receive USDA voluntary inspection or state inspection.

SEC. 755. If services performed by APHIS employees are determined by the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to be in response to an animal disease or plant health emergency outbreak, any premium pay that is funded, either directly or through reimbursement, shall be exempted from the aggregate of basic pay and premium pay calculated under section 5547(b)(1) and (2) of title 5, United States Code, and any other provision of law limiting the aggregate amount of premium pay payable on a biweekly or calendar year basis.

SEC. 756. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);

(2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104–127); or

(3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

SEC. 757. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 2103 of Public Law 115–334: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall prioritize the wetland compliance needs of areas with significant numbers of

individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests.

SEC. 758. There is appropriated \$3,000,000 for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program established under section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127).

SEC. 759. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) were tasked with providing findings and recommendations on alcohol consumption for the purposes of inclusion in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans as required by section 772 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328): *Provided*, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture shall only consider the findings and recommendations of the NASEM report in the development of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and further, both Secretaries shall ensure that the alcohol consumption recommendations in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans shall be based on the preponderance of scientific and medical knowledge consistent with section 5341 of title 7 of United States Code.

SEC. 760. (a) Section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2(a)), shall be applied for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter until the specified funding has been expended as if the following were inserted after the final period: “In addition, the Secretary shall use \$9,465,000 of the funds available to carry out this section in fiscal year 2024 for an additional amount for the same purpose and under the same terms and conditions as the Rural Business Development Grants authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c))”.

(b) Section 780 of division B of Public Law 118–42 and such section as continued in effect as an authority and condition under section 1101(a)(1) of Public Law 119–4 shall no longer apply.

SEC. 761. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the acceptable market name of any engineered animal approved prior to the effective date of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (February 19, 2019) shall include the words “genetically engineered” prior to the existing acceptable market name.

SEC. 762. For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, \$5,250,000, to remain available until expended, to continue the Institute for Rural Partnerships as established in section 778 of Public Law 117–103: *Provided*, That the Institute for Rural Partnerships shall continue to dedicate resources to researching the causes and conditions of challenges facing rural areas, and develop community partnerships to address such challenges: *Provided further*, That administrative or other fees shall not exceed one percent: *Provided further*, That such partnership shall coordinate and publish an annual report.

SEC. 763. There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 to carry out the duties of the working group established under section 770 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–6; 133 Stat. 89).

SEC. 764. The agencies and offices of the Department of Agriculture may reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), out

of the funds provided in this Act, for costs incurred by OGC in providing services to such agencies or offices under time-limited agreements entered into with such agencies and offices: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

SEC. 765. Section 363 of the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 (12 U.S.C. 3702) is amended at paragraph (2)—

- (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and”;
- (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
- (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) section 514 or 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485).”

SEC. 766. The last proviso in the second paragraph under the heading “Rural Community Facilities Program Account” in division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42) shall be amended to read as follows: “*Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading and in section 778(1).”.

SEC. 767. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for conservation activities under the heading “Natural Resources Conservation Service—Conservation Operations”, \$30,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 768. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for the “National Institute of Food and Agriculture—Research and Education Activities”, \$22,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 769. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under the heading “Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program” for the cost to continue a broadband loan and grant pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), \$20,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 770. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available in the “Working Capital Fund”, \$78,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 771. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture in this or any other Act may be used to close or consolidate the resources or locations of any existing Agricultural Research Service laboratories and facilities without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 772. (a) Of the amounts made available in this Act under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Food and

Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses” that are derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, not less than \$200,000,000 shall be used by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs for enforcement activities related to e-cigarettes, vapes, and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (in this section referred to as “ENDS”), including activities under section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)): *Provided*, That not less than \$2,000,000 of such amount shall be used to continue the activities of the Federal multi-agency task force led by the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and the FDA to further work to bring all available criminal and civil tools to bear against the illegal manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes, vapes, and other ENDS products from the Republic of China and other foreign countries.

(b) Not later than 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall update the FDA document titled “Enforcement Priorities for Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) and Other Deemed Products on the Market Without Premarket Authorization”, published in January 2020 and updated in April 2020, to expand FDA’s prioritized enforcement to flavored disposable ENDS products in addition to cartridge-based products and to define the term “disposable ENDS product.”

(c) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall submit a semi-annual written report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the progress that the Center for Tobacco Products is making in removing all illegal ENDS products from the market: *Provided*, That the initial report shall be submitted not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) Section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended by striking “drug or device” each place it appears in the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth sentences and inserting “drug, device, or tobacco product”.

(e) Within 180 days the FDA shall submit a report to the Committee of Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing the Agency’s activities to educate retailers in determining which products are legal for sale.

SEC. 773. (a) Fees derived from amounts assessed and collected for fiscal year 2026, credited under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses”, and made available for expenditure under such heading must comply with each provision contained in current user fee authorizations, appropriations Acts, and commitment letters, as transmitted from the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives regarding reauthorization of such current user fee authorizations: *Provided*, That the term current user fee authorizations means those user fees authorized at 21 U.S.C. 379h, 21 U.S.C. 379j, 21 U.S.C. 379j-42, 21 U.S.C. 379j-52, 21 U.S.C. 379j-12, 21 U.S.C. 379j-21, 21 U.S.C. 387s, 42 U.S.C. 263b, 21 U.S.C. 381, 21 U.S.C. 360n and 360ff, 21 U.S.C. 379-j31, 21 U.S.C. 379j-62, 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), 21 U.S.C. 360eee-3(c)(1), 21 U.S.C. 384d(c)(8), 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4a, and 21 U.S.C. 379j-72.

(b)(1) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Food and Drug Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that includes obligation and outlay estimates and

full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel staffing estimates for fiscal year 2026 for each Food and Drug Administration program that uses both general fund appropriations and funds derived from user fees: *Provided*, That such report shall include a table with separate columns for general fund appropriations and funds derived from user fees for such obligations, outlays and FTE personnel staffing: *Provided further*, That such report shall be certified by the Ombudsman of the Food and Drug Administration.

(2) The report in paragraph (1) shall be updated, certified by the Ombudsman of the Food and Drug Administration, and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after each fiscal quarter until all such funds are expended: *Provided*, That a plan for such ongoing quarterly reporting shall be submitted with the report required by subsection (b)(1).

SEC. 774. (a) Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

(b) Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106-78) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

SEC. 775. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration to develop, issue, promote, or advance any final guidelines or new regulations applicable to food manufacturers for long-term population-wide sodium reduction actions until an assessment is completed on the impact of the short-term sodium reduction targets.

SEC. 776. There is hereby appropriated \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a new pilot program to support on-the-ground local Energy Circuit Riders who provide professional support to rural communities for the purpose of undertaking projects that save energy and reduce emissions: *Provided*, That for the purpose of the new pilot program, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Rural Development, shall have the authority to provide amounts, including in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and other financial assistance, to States, Indian Tribes, cooperative extension services, institutions of higher education, cooperatives and cooperative organizations, regional planning commissions or other public entities serving two or more rural areas: *Provided further*, That the period of performance under this pilot program shall be more than 3 but not more than 6 years: *Provided further*, That the Federal share shall not be more than 75 percent: *Provided further*, That an eligible entity using funds provided under the pilot program shall offer assistance with energy planning, energy audits, applicable Federal funding opportunities, tax incentives, project financing, grant writing, community-based capacity building, or applicable State, local, and utility-based incentives, including, as appropriate, coordinating with relevant State energy offices.

SEC. 777. For purposes of applying the Federal Food Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), within 30 days of enactment of this Act, the Food and Drug Administration is directed to engage with industry stakeholders to update the acceptable market name for the following fishes: *Sebastes alutus*, *Sebastes borealis*, *Sebastes ciliatus*, *Sebastes crameri*, *Sebastes entomelas*, *Sebastes flavidus*, *Sebastes goodei*, *Sebastes levis*, *Sebastes melanops*, *Sebastes miniatus*, *Sebastes ovalis*, *Sebastes paucispinis*, *Sebastes pinniger*, *Sebastes proriger*, *Sebastes reedi*, *Sebastes ruberrimus*, *Sebastes rufus*, and *Sebastes serranoides*:

Provided, That within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Food and Drug Administration is directed to provide industry stakeholders with new marketing name proposals and is directed to update its Fish and Fishery Products Hazards and Controls Guidance and any other relevant guidance to reflect the new market name once a new marketing name is agreed to expeditiously.

SEC. 778. For purposes of applying the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), Hawaii grown or produced coffee shall contain at least 51 percent of coffee grown in Kona, Kau, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, or other areas of the State of Hawaii: *Provided*, That based on the region it is produced or grown, the common or usual names shall be Kona Coffee, Kau Coffee, Maui Coffee, Oahu Coffee, Kauai Coffee, or Hawaii Coffee.

SEC. 779. None of the funds made available for any department or agency in this or any other appropriations Acts, including prior year Acts, shall be used to close Natural Resources Conservation Service or Rural Development mission area field offices or to permanently relocate any field-based employees of those agencies that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 780. No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to administer or enforce the “Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods”, published on November 21, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 70910), or any other rule promulgated in accordance with section 204 of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (21 U.S.C. 2223), prior to July 20, 2028. Further, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall:

(1) Engage quarterly with the regulated entities, including farms, restaurants, retail food establishments, and warehouses distributing to retail food establishments and restaurants, to identify and implement, as appropriate, additional flexibilities for satisfying the rule’s lot-level tracking requirement, as appropriate, such that regulated entities can comply with the November 21, 2022, rule consistent with section 204(d)(1)(L)(iii), which prohibits the agency from requiring product tracking to the case level.

(2) Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Food and Drug Administration is directed to provide industry stakeholders with recommendations for these additional flexibilities satisfying the rule’s lot-level tracking requirement, as appropriate.

(3) The FDA shall provide assistance to industry regarding how to handle food waste recovery, reclamation, intra-company transfers, customer returns under the rule and initiate a series of hypothetical data intake exercises to test the capabilities of the FDA’s Product Tracing System and, upon request and as resources allow, the covered entity systems and identify any technical difficulties prior to full implementation.

SEC. 781. Effective 365 days after the enactment of this Act, Section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639o) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively; and

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) HEMP.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘hemp’ means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a total tetrahydrocannabinols concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.

“(B) INCLUSION.—Such term includes industrial hemp.

“(C) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include—

“(i) any viable seeds from a *Cannabis sativa* L. plant that exceeds a total tetrahydrocannabinols concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of 0.3 percent in the plant on a dry weight basis; or

“(ii) any intermediate hemp-derived cannabinoid products containing—

“(I) cannabinoids that are not capable of being naturally produced by a *Cannabis sativa* L. plant;

“(II) cannabinoids that—

“(aa) are capable of being naturally produced by a *Cannabis sativa* L. plant; and

“(bb) were synthesized or manufactured outside the plant; or

“(III) more than 0.3 percent combined total of—

“(aa) total tetrahydrocannabinols (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid); and

“(bb) any other cannabinoids that have similar effects (or are marketed to have similar effects) on humans or animals as a tetrahydrocannabinol (as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services); or

“(iii) any intermediate hemp-derived cannabinoid products which are marketed or sold as a final product or directly to an end consumer for personal or household use; or

“(iv) any final hemp-derived cannabinoid products containing—

“(I) cannabinoids that are not capable of being naturally produced by a *Cannabis sativa* L. plant;

“(II) cannabinoids that—

“(aa) are capable of being naturally produced by a *Cannabis sativa* L. plant; and

“(bb) were synthesized or manufactured outside the plant; or

“(III) greater than 0.4 milligrams combined total per container of—

“(aa) total tetrahydrocannabinols (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid); and

“(bb) any other cannabinoids that have similar effects (or are marketed to have similar effects) on humans or animals as a tetrahydrocannabinol (as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services).

“(2) INDUSTRIAL HEMP.—The term ‘industrial hemp’ means hemp—

“(A) grown for the use of the stalk of the plant, fiber produced from such a stalk, or any other non-cannabinoid derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of such a stalk;

“(B) grown for the use of the whole grain, oil, cake, nut, hull, or any other non-cannabinoid compound, derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of the seeds of such plant;

“(C) grown for purposes of producing microgreens or other edible hemp leaf products intended for human consumption that are derived from an immature hemp plant that is grown from seeds that do not exceed the threshold for total tetrahydrocannabinols concentration specified in paragraph (1)(C)(i);

“(D) that is a plant that does not enter the stream of commerce and is intended to support hemp research at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) or an independent research institute; or

“(E) grown for the use of a viable seed of the plant produced solely for the production or manufacture of any material described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

“(3) HEMP-DERIVED CANNABINOID PRODUCT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘hemp-derived cannabinoid product’ means any intermediate or final product derived from hemp (other than industrial hemp), that—

“(i) contains cannabinoids in any form; and

“(ii) is intended for human or animal use through any means of application or administration, such as inhalation, ingestion, or topical application.

“(B) The term ‘intermediate hemp-derived cannabinoid product’ means a hemp-derived cannabinoid product which—

“(i) is not yet in the final form or preparation marketed or intended to be used or consumed by a human or animal; or

“(ii) is a powder, liquid, tablet, oil, or other product form which is intended or marketed to be mixed, dissolved, formulated, or otherwise added to or prepared with or into any other substance prior to administration or consumption.

“(C) The term ‘container’ means the innermost wrapping, packaging, or vessel in direct contact with a final hemp-derived cannabinoid product in which the final hemp-derived cannabinoid product is enclosed for retail sale to consumers, such as a jar, bottle, bag, box, packet, can, carton, or cartridge.

“(D) The term ‘container’ excludes bulk shipping containers or outer wrappings that are not essential for the final retail delivery or sale to an end consumer for personal or household use.

“(E) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not include a drug that is the subject of an application approved under subsection (c) or (j) of section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355).”

(3) Within 90 days of the enactment of this act, the Food and Drug Administration, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, shall publish—

(A) a list of all cannabinoids known to FDA to be capable of being naturally produced by a *Cannabis sativa* L. plant, as reflected in peer reviewed literature;

(B) a list of all tetrahydrocannabinol class cannabinoids known to the agency to be naturally occurring in the plant;

(C) a list of all other known cannabinoids with similar effects to, or marketed to have similar effects to, tetrahydrocannabinol class cannabinoids; and

(D) additional information and specificity about the term “container”, as defined in paragraph (3)(C).

SEC. 782. In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program established pursuant to section 1001(b)(4) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2) to award grants to processors of invasive, wild-caught catfish.

SEC. 783. (a) During the period beginning on the effective date of the final rule entitled “Food Labeling: Nutrient Content Claims; Definition of Term ‘Healthy’” published in the Federal Register by the Food and Drug Administration on December 27, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 106064 et seq.) and ending on the compliance date specified in such final rule (referred to in this section as the “compliance period”), a manufacturer may also continue to comply with the requirements in effect on the day before such effective date relating to an implied nutrient content claim of “healthy” made with respect to a food.

(b) In the case of a food that bears labeling making an implied nutrition content claim that the food is “healthy” during the compliance period, the manufacturer of the food shall not be directly or indirectly subject to any State law requirement relating to labeling making an implied nutrient content claim that a food is “healthy” during such period that is not identical to either—

(1) the Federal requirements for labeling to make an implied nutrition content claim that a food is “healthy” that were in effect

on the day before the effective date of such final rule; or

(2) the updated Federal requirements specified in the final rule for such a claim.

SEC. 784. Of the unobligated balances available in the Department of the Treasury, Treasury Forfeiture Fund, established by section 9703 of title 31, United States Code, \$350,000,000 shall be permanently rescinded not later than September 30, 2026.

SEC. 785. The Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration shall develop a report to determine the cost and any implications associated with efforts to issue a proposed rule and implement FDA guidance and enforcement for setting standards for pet and animal food labeling and ingredient regulation: *Provided*, That the report shall—

(1) cover intent for harmonization across state and Federal regulatory bodies for pet and animal food labeling and ingredients;

(2) include timelines for developing guidelines, proposed regulations, resource and personnel needs to implement such standards, and where FDA would need additional authority to implement any proposed changes; and be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 120 days of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 786. Any remaining unobligated balances from amounts made available by section 743 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) may be used, in addition to any funds otherwise made available for such purposes, for plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2268a.

SEC. 787. For fiscal year 2026, the maximum monthly allowances of fluid milk for the following food packages described in section 246.10(e) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, are:

- (1) For Food Package IV, 16 quarts.
- (2) For Food Package V, 22 quarts.
- (3) For Food Package VI, 16 quarts.
- (4) For Food Package VII, 24 quarts.

(5) For Food Package III, the maximum monthly allowances of fluid milk should conform to the changes made to food packages IV, V, VI, and VII in this section.

SEC. 788. The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) conduct a study to determine the feasibility of applying the Buy American requirement (as described in section 201.21(d) of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2022)) to the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, and the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), including the impact applying such requirement would have on the agricultural economy of the United States; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the results of such study to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Agriculture Committee, and the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

SEC. 789. (a) The Secretary shall prepare a report by account that details the status of all projects specified in the table titled “Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending” in the explanatory statements accompanying prior year Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts, as described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of such Acts: *Provided*, That such report shall include a breakout showing the subset of

projects for which funds have not yet been obligated, or for which funds have been deobligated, an explanation for each such project’s obligation status, the fiscal year in which funds were originally made available for such project, and the period of availability of such funds.

(b) The Secretary shall submit the report described in subsection (a) to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on whichever of the following first occurs—

(1) concurrent with the department’s budget request for fiscal year 2027.

(2) February 15, 2026.

SEC. 790. The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide written notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no fewer than 3 business days in advance of termination of any grant, cooperative agreement, or contract award totaling \$1,000,000 or more issued from funds made available in this Act or any previous Act: *Provided*, That such notification shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a detailed justification for the termination.

This division may be cited as the “Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026”.

### DIVISION C—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

#### TITLE I LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SENATE EXPENSE ALLOWANCES

For expense allowances of the Vice President, \$20,000; the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, \$40,000; Majority Leader of the Senate, \$40,000; Minority Leader of the Senate, \$40,000; Majority Whip of the Senate, \$10,000; Minority Whip of the Senate, \$10,000; President Pro Tempore Emeritus, \$15,000; Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Conference Committees, \$5,000 for each Chairman; and Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Policy Committees, \$5,000 for each Chairman; in all, \$195,000.

For representation allowances of the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, \$15,000 for each such Leader; in all, \$30,000.

#### SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For compensation of officers, employees, and others as authorized by law, including agency contributions, \$311,543,000, which shall be paid from this appropriation as follows:

##### OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

For the Office of the Vice President, \$3,210,000.

##### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

For the Office of the President Pro Tempore, \$904,000.

##### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS

For the Office of the President Pro Tempore Emeritus, \$392,000.

##### OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders, \$6,710,000.

##### OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY WHIPS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips, \$4,212,000.

##### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries of the Committee on Appropriations, \$22,710,000.

##### CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

For the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, at rates of com-

pensation to be fixed by the Chairman of each such committee, \$2,049,000 for each such committee; in all, \$4,098,000.

#### OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE MAJORITY AND THE CONFERENCE OF THE MINORITY

For Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, \$1,022,000.

#### POLICY COMMITTEES

For salaries of the Majority Policy Committee and the Minority Policy Committee, \$2,093,000 for each such committee; in all, \$4,186,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

For Office of the Chaplain, \$699,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Office of the Secretary, \$35,695,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER

For Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, \$130,353,000.

#### OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY

For Offices of the Secretary for the Majority and the Secretary for the Minority, \$2,785,000.

#### AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS AND RELATED EXPENSES

For agency contributions for employee benefits, as authorized by law, and related expenses, \$94,567,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE SENATE

For salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate, \$9,401,000.

#### OFFICE OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Senate Legal Counsel, \$1,431,000.

#### EXPENSE ALLOWANCES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE, AND SECRETARIES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY OF THE SENATE

For expense allowances of the Secretary of the Senate, \$7,500; Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, \$7,500; Secretary for the Majority of the Senate, \$7,500; Secretary for the Minority of the Senate, \$7,500; in all, \$30,000.

#### CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE

##### INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses of inquiries and investigations ordered by the Senate, or conducted under paragraph 1 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, section 112 of the Supplemental Appropriations and Rescission Act, 1980 (Public Law 96-304), and Senate Resolution 281, 96th Congress, agreed to March 11, 1980, \$222,416,000, of which \$22,242,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

#### U.S. SENATE CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

For expenses of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, \$613,000.

#### SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

For expenses of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, \$17,852,000, of which \$13,274,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$4,578,000 shall remain available until expended.

#### SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

For expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, \$229,845,000, of which \$219,345,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of

which \$10,500,000 shall remain available until expended.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

For miscellaneous items, \$28,052,000 which shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

#### SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT

For Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account, \$645,431,000, of which \$32,272,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which \$7,000,000 shall be allocated solely for the purpose of providing financial compensation to Senate interns.

#### OFFICIAL MAIL COSTS

For expenses necessary for official mail costs of the Senate, \$300,000.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

#### REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT TO BE USED FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT

SEC. 101. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act under the heading "SENATE—CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE—SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT" shall be available for obligation only during the fiscal year or fiscal years for which such amounts are made available. Any unexpended balances under such allowances remaining after the end of the period of availability shall be returned to the Treasury in accordance with the undesignated paragraph under the center heading "GENERAL PROVISION" under chapter XI of the Third Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1957 (2 U.S.C. 4107) and used for deficit reduction (or, if there is no Federal budget deficit after all such payments have been made, for reducing the Federal debt, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

#### DELEGATION AUTHORITY

SEC. 102. Section 104 of division I of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (2 U.S.C. 6154 note) shall be amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by adding the following after "118th" and before "Congress": "and any subsequent";

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by striking "and ending on January 7, 2025"; and

(3) in subsection (b), by striking "on or after January 3, 2023".

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the House of Representatives, \$2,083,055,000, as follows:

##### HOUSE LEADERSHIP OFFICES

For salaries and expenses, as authorized by law, \$36,560,000, including: Office of the Speaker, \$10,499,000, including \$35,000 for official expenses of the Speaker; Office of the Majority Floor Leader, \$3,730,000, including \$15,000 for official expenses of the Majority Leader; Office of the Minority Floor Leader, \$10,499,000, including \$17,500 for official expenses of the Minority Leader; Office of the Majority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Majority Whip, \$3,099,000, including \$5,000 for official expenses of the Majority Whip; Office of the Minority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Minority Whip, \$2,809,000, including \$5,000 for official expenses of the Minority Whip; Republican Conference, \$2,962,000; Democratic Caucus, \$2,962,000: *Provided*, That such amount for salaries and expenses shall remain available from January 3, 2026 until January 2, 2027.

#### MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES INCLUDING MEMBERS' CLERK HIRE, OFFICIAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS, AND OFFICIAL MAIL

For Members' representational allowances, including Members' clerk hire, official expenses, and official mail, \$850,000,000.

#### ALLOWANCE FOR COMPENSATION OF INTERNS IN MEMBER OFFICES

For the allowance established under section 120 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2019 (2 U.S.C. 5322a) for the compensation of interns who serve in the offices of Members of the House of Representatives, \$20,638,800, to remain available from January 3, 2026 until January 2, 2027: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 120(b) of such Act, an office of a Member of the House of Representatives may use not more than \$46,800 of the allowance available under this heading during legislative year 2026.

#### ALLOWANCE FOR COMPENSATION OF INTERNS IN HOUSE LEADERSHIP OFFICES

For the allowance established under section 113 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2020 (2 U.S.C. 5106) for the compensation of interns who serve in House leadership offices, \$586,000, to remain available from January 3, 2026 until January 2, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$322,300 shall be available for the compensation of interns who serve in House leadership offices of the majority, to be allocated among such offices by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and \$263,700 shall be available for the compensation of interns who serve in House leadership offices of the minority, to be allocated among such offices by the Minority Floor Leader.

#### ALLOWANCE FOR COMPENSATION OF INTERNS IN HOUSE STANDING, SPECIAL AND SELECT COMMITTEE OFFICES

For the allowance established under section 113(a)(1) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103) for the compensation of interns who serve in offices of standing, special, and select committees (other than the Committee on Appropriations), \$2,600,000, to remain available from January 3, 2026 until January 2, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,300,000 shall be available for the compensation of interns who serve in offices of the majority, and \$1,300,000 shall be available for the compensation of interns who serve in offices of the minority, to be allocated among such offices by the Chair, in consultation with the ranking minority member, of the Committee on House Administration.

#### ALLOWANCE FOR COMPENSATION OF INTERNS IN HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OFFICES

For the allowance established under section 113(a)(2) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103) for the compensation of interns who serve in offices of the Committee on Appropriations, \$463,000: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$231,500 shall be available for the compensation of interns who serve in offices of the majority, and \$231,500 shall be available for the compensation of interns who serve in offices of the minority, to be allocated among such offices by the Chair, in consultation with the ranking minority member, of the Committee on Appropriations.

#### COMMITTEE EMPLOYEES

##### STANDING COMMITTEES, SPECIAL AND SELECT

For salaries and expenses of standing committees, special and select, authorized by House resolutions, \$184,787,000: *Provided*, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31,

2026, except that \$10,000,000 of such amount shall remain available until expended for committee room upgrading.

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries and expenses of the Committee on Appropriations, \$31,294,000, including studies and examinations of executive agencies and temporary personal services for such committee, to be expended in accordance with section 202(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and to be available for reimbursement to agencies for services performed: *Provided*, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2026.

#### SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For compensation and expenses of officers and employees, as authorized by law, \$460,603,000, including: for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Clerk, including the positions of the Chaplain and the Historian, and including not more than \$25,000 for official representation and reception expenses, of which not more than \$20,000 is for the Family Room and not more than \$2,000 is for the Office of the Chaplain, \$48,992,000, of which \$10,791,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, including the position of Superintendent of Garages and the Office of Emergency Management, and including not more than \$3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$140,606,000, of which \$118,013,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer including not more than \$3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$233,248,000, of which \$39,772,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds, \$1,250,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Inspector General, \$6,227,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of General Counsel, \$2,079,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Parliamentarian, including the Parliamentarian, \$2,000 for preparing the Digest of Rules, and not more than \$1,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$2,404,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House, \$4,998,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House, \$18,740,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, \$994,000; for other authorized employees, \$1,065,000: *Provided*, That of the amount made available until expended to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms under this heading, \$100,000,000 shall be for activities associated with providing security for Members of the House of Representatives, including Delegates and the Resident Commissioner to the Congress, their immediate families, and other security purposes.

#### ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

For allowances and expenses as authorized by House resolution or law, \$491,523,200, including: supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims, \$1,555,000; official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House, \$190,000; Government contributions for health, retirement, Social Security, contractor support for actuarial projections, and other applicable employee benefits, \$444,155,200, to remain available until March 31, 2027, except that \$37,000,000 of such amount shall remain available until expended; salaries and expenses for Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery, \$28,951,000, of which \$6,000,000 shall remain available until expended; transition activities for new members and staff, \$9,740,000, to

remain available until expended; Green and Gold Congressional Aide Program, \$4,122,000, to remain available until expended; Office of Congressional Conduct, \$1,810,000; and miscellaneous items including purchase, exchange, maintenance, repair and operation of House motor vehicles, interparliamentary receptions, and gratuities to heirs of deceased employees of the House, \$1,000,000.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MODERNIZATION INITIATIVES ACCOUNT

For the House of Representatives Modernization Initiatives Account established under section 115 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2021 (2 U.S.C. 5513), \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That disbursement from this account is subject to approval of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives: *Provided further*, That funds provided in this account shall only be used for initiatives approved by the Committee on House Administration.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES TO BE USED FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT

SEC. 110. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act for "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—SALARIES AND EXPENSES—MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES" shall be available only for fiscal year 2026. Any amount remaining after all payments are made under such allowances for fiscal year 2026 shall be deposited in the Treasury and used for deficit reduction (or, if there is no Federal budget deficit after all such payments have been made, for reducing the Federal debt, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

(b) The Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall have authority to prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(c) As used in this section, the term "Member of the House of Representatives" means a Representative in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

LIMITATION ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO LEASE VEHICLES

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to make any payments from any Members' Representational Allowance for the leasing of a vehicle, excluding mobile district offices, in an aggregate amount that exceeds \$1,000 for the vehicle in any month.

CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEC. 112. The head of any Federal entity that provides assistance to the House of Representatives in the House's efforts to deter, prevent, mitigate, or remediate cybersecurity risks to, and incidents involving, the information systems of the House shall take all necessary steps to ensure the constitutional integrity of the separate branches of the government at all stages of providing the assistance, including applying minimization procedures to limit the spread or sharing of privileged House and Member information.

LONG TERM LEASE REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 113. (a) Section 303(f) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13212(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (C);

(2) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "branch, except that it does not include the House of Representatives with respect to an acquisition described in paragraph (2)(C)." and inserting "branch.;" and

(3) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C).

(b) The amendments made by this section apply to fiscal year 2026 and each succeeding fiscal year.

USE OF CHILD CARE CENTER REVOLVING FUND

SEC. 114. (a) Section 312(d)(3) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1992 (2 U.S.C. 2062(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

"(C) The payment of telecommunications expenses for the Center, to include voicemail boxes, land lines, and cell phones for Center employees, in connection with the provision of child care services and as needed for critical and emergent communications.;"

(b) Section 312(d)(3)(A) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 2062(d)(3)(A)) is amended by inserting "and assistant directors" after "director".

(c) The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2026 and each succeeding fiscal year.

PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 115. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for a Member, committee, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives may be obligated, awarded, or expended to procure or purchase covered information technology equipment in cases where the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, or any subsidiary or parent entity of the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, of the equipment is an entity or parent company of an entity listed on any of the following:

(1) The Chinese Military Company List of the Department of Defense.

(2) The Non-SDN Chinese Military Industrial Complex Companies List of the Department of the Treasury.

(3) The Denied Persons List, Entity List, or Military End User List of the Department of Commerce, if the entity is—

(A) an agency or instrumentality of the People's Republic of China;

(B) an entity headquartered in the People's Republic of China; or

(C) directly or indirectly owned or controlled by an agency, instrumentality, or entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(4) The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List of the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) The prohibition under subsection (a) shall apply to a case in which a Member, committee, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives has entered into a contract with another entity for the procurement or purchase of, or the expenditure of funds on, covered information technology equipment.

(c) In this section, the term "covered information technology equipment"—

(1) means a computer, printer, or interoperable videoconferencing equipment for direct use by a Member, committee, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives in an office environment; and

(2) does not include services that use such equipment, including cloud services.

LIMITATION ON TREATMENT AS FIDUCIARY RELATIONSHIP

SEC. 116. (a) Section 13144 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) LIMITATION ON TREATMENT AS FIDUCIARY RELATIONSHIP.—For purposes of this section, the relationship between a Member who is a Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress and who is providing care directly to a patient in the form of medical services or dental services and the patient to whom such care is

provided shall not be considered a fiduciary relationship."

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to compensation received in fiscal year 2026 or any succeeding fiscal year.

MEMBER SECURITY

SEC. 117. (a) The Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives may use funds made available for providing security for the residences of Members of the House to make essential security improvements if the improvements are included in a category established and updated as necessary by the Sergeant at Arms and approved and regulated by the Committee on House Administration.

(b) This section shall apply with respect to funds made available for fiscal year 2026 and each succeeding fiscal year.

JOINT ITEMS

For Joint Committees, as follows:

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Economic Committee, \$4,283,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Committee on Taxation, \$14,000,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

For other joint items, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

For medical supplies, equipment, and contingent expenses of the emergency rooms, and for the Attending Physician and their assistants, including:

(1) an allowance of \$3,500 per month to the Attending Physician;

(2) an allowance of \$2,500 per month to the Senior Medical Officer;

(3) an allowance of \$900 per month each to three medical officers while on duty in the Office of the Attending Physician;

(4) an allowance of \$900 per month to 2 assistants and \$900 per month each not to exceed 11 assistants on the basis heretofore provided for such assistants; and

(5) \$3,388,000 for reimbursement to the Department of the Navy for expenses incurred for staff and equipment assigned to the Office of the Attending Physician, which shall be advanced and credited to the applicable appropriation or appropriations from which such salaries, allowances, and other expenses are payable and shall be available for all the purposes thereof, \$4,856,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, \$1,819,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

CAPITOL POLICE

SALARIES

For salaries of employees of the Capitol Police, including overtime, hazardous duty pay, and Government contributions for health, retirement, social security, professional liability insurance, tuition reimbursement, recruitment and retention bonuses, and other applicable employee benefits, \$653,422,000, of which overtime shall not exceed \$80,067,000 unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate are notified, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or a duly authorized designee.

GENERAL EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Capitol Police, including motor vehicles, communications and other equipment, security equipment and installation, uniforms, weapons,

supplies, materials, training, medical services, forensic services, Member protection-related activities and equipment, stenographic services, personal and professional services, the employee assistance program, the awards program, postage, communication services, travel advances, relocation of instructor and liaison personnel for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, and not more than \$7,500 to be expended on the certification of the Chief of the Capitol Police in connection with official representation and reception expenses, \$198,928,000, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or a duly authorized designee: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cost of basic training for the Capitol Police at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers for fiscal year 2026 shall be paid by the Secretary of Homeland Security from funds available to the Department of Homeland Security: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading may be used to purchase a drone manufactured in the People's Republic of China or by a business affiliated with the People's Republic of China except for national security purposes.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

##### AUTHORIZATIONS REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

SEC. 118. (a) Section 4120 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) An employee of the Capitol Police may receive training under this section outside of the United States only with the prior approval of the Capitol Police Board. In this subsection, the term ‘United States’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States.”.

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2026 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### MUTUAL AID TRANSFER AUTHORITY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 119. Of the amounts made available under the heading “Capitol Police” in this Act, up to \$10,000,000 may be transferred to “Capitol Police—United States Capitol Police Mutual Aid Reimbursements” on September 30, 2026, and, once transferred, shall remain available until September 30, 2030, to be used for reimbursements for mutual aid and related training, including mutual aid and training provided under the agreements described in section 7302 of Public Law 108-458: *Provided*, That obligation of the funds transferred pursuant to this section shall be subject to notification to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on House Administration of the amount and purpose of the expense within 15 days of obligation.

#### OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for the operation of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, \$8,350,000, of which not more than \$1,000 may be expended on the certification of the Executive Director in connection with official representation and reception expenses.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for operation of the Congressional Budget Office, including not more than \$6,000 to be expended on the certification of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses.

tion with official representation and reception expenses, \$74,750,000, of which not less than \$7,100,000 shall be for cyber-security related expenses: *Provided*, That the Director shall use not less than \$500,000 of the amount made available under this heading for (1) improving technical systems, processes, and models for the purpose of improving the transparency of estimates of budgetary effects to Members of Congress, employees of Members of Congress, and the public, and (2) to increase the availability of models, economic assumptions, and data for Members of Congress, employees of Members of Congress, and the public: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading for cyber-security related expenses, \$2,750,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

#### ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

##### CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS

For salaries for the Architect of the Capitol, and other personal services, at rates of pay provided by law; for all necessary expenses for surveys and studies, construction, operation, and general and administrative support in connection with facilities and activities under the care of the Architect of the Capitol, including the Botanic Garden, Senate and House office buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol; for furnishings and office equipment; for official reception and representation expenses of not more than \$5,000, to be expended as the Architect of the Capitol may approve; for purchase or exchange, maintenance, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, \$159,450,000.

#### CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, \$74,460,000, of which \$40,099,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

#### CAPITOL GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, \$19,385,000, of which \$3,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

#### SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of Senate office buildings; and furniture and furnishings to be expended under the control and supervision of the Architect of the Capitol, \$122,635,000, of which \$16,900,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$20,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

#### HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care, and operation of the House office buildings, \$111,887,000, of which \$24,390,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$10,000,000 shall remain available until expended for a payment to the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Fund.

#### CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; and all electrical substations of the Capitol; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate garage, and air conditioning refrigeration not supplied from plants in any of such buildings; heating the Government Publishing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilled water for air conditioning for

the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed upon request of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, \$141,007,000, of which \$22,600,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That not more than \$10,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation as herein provided shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2026.

#### LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings and grounds, \$56,563,000, of which \$18,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

#### CAPITOL POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND SECURITY

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computing Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, \$75,069,000, of which \$12,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading may be used to purchase a drone manufactured in the People's Republic of China or by a business affiliated with the People's Republic of China except for national security purposes.

#### BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle; all under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, \$21,559,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading, the Architect of the Capitol may obligate and expend such sums as may be necessary for the maintenance, care and operation of the National Garden established under section 307E of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2 U.S.C. 2146), upon vouchers approved by the Architect of the Capitol or a duly authorized designee.

#### CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

For all necessary expenses for the operation of the Capitol Visitor Center, \$29,901,000.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS NO BONUSES FOR CONTRACTORS BEHIND SCHEDULE OR OVER BUDGET

SEC. 120. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Architect of the Capitol may be used to make incentive or award payments to contractors for work on contracts or programs for which the contractor is behind schedule or over budget, unless the Architect of the Capitol, or agency-employed designee, determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC OUTREACH AND SERVICES FOR CAPITOL GROUNDS AND ARBORETUM

SEC. 121. For this fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, the Architect of the Capitol, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives, may enter into cooperative agreements with entities under such terms as the Architect determines advisable, in order to support the Capitol

Grounds and Arboretum in carrying out its duties, authorities and mission, and may engage in plant material exchanges between the Capitol Grounds and Arboretum and other entities including Federal, State, or local government agencies, botanic gardens, arboreta, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, municipal parks, and gardens.

**EXTENSION OF AVAILABILITY FOR LIQUIDATION OF VALID OBLIGATIONS**

SEC. 122. Funds previously made available in title III of the Emergency Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 117-31) under the heading ‘‘Legislative Branch—Architect of the Capitol—Capitol Police Buildings, Grounds and Security’’ that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2023 for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the first proviso under such heading are to remain available through fiscal year 2023 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated as 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.

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For all necessary expenses of the Library of Congress not otherwise provided for, including development and maintenance of the Library’s catalogs; custody and custodial care of the Library buildings; information technology services provided centrally; special clothing; cleaning, laundering and repair of uniforms; preservation of motion pictures in the custody of the Library; operation and maintenance of the American Folklife Center in the Library; preparation and distribution of catalog records and other publications of the Library; hire or purchase of one passenger motor vehicle; and expenses of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board not properly chargeable to the income of any trust fund held by the Board, \$592,411,000, and, in addition, amounts credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2026 under the Act of June 28, 1902 (chapter 1301; 32 Stat. 480; 2 U.S.C. 150), shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Library of Congress may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under the Act of June 28, 1902, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not more than \$18,000 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses, including for the Overseas Field Offices: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, no less than \$17,500,000 shall remain available until expended for the Teaching with Primary Sources program, the Lewis-Houghton Civics and Democracy Initiative, the Veterans History Project, the Surplus Books Program, upgrades of the Legislative Branch Financial Management System, and data storage and migration efforts.

**COPYRIGHT OFFICE**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For all necessary expenses of the Copyright Office, \$102,386,000, of which not more than \$37,025,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from collections

credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2026 under sections 708(d) and 1316 of title 17, United States Code: *Provided*, That the Copyright Office may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under such section in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That not more than \$7,824,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2026 under sections 111(d)(2), 119(b)(3), 803(e), and 1005 of such title: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than \$44,849,000: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not less than \$10,300,000 is for modernization initiatives, of which \$9,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That not more than \$100,000 of the amount appropriated is available for the maintenance of an ‘‘International Copyright Institute’’ in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress for the purpose of training nationals of developing countries in intellectual property laws and policies: *Provided further*, That not more than \$6,500 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for activities of the International Copyright Institute and for copyright delegations, visitors, and seminars: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any provision of chapter 8 of title 17, United States Code, any amounts made available under this heading which are attributable to royalty fees and payments received by the Copyright Office pursuant to sections 111, 119, and chapter 10 of such title may be used for the costs incurred in the administration of the Copyright Royalty Judges program, with the exception of the costs of salaries and benefits for the Copyright Royalty Judges and staff under section 802(e).

**CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For all necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 203 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166) and to revise and extend the Annotated Constitution of the United States of America, \$136,080,000: *Provided*, That no part of such amount may be used to pay any salary or expense in connection with any publication, or preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate: *Provided further*, That this prohibition does not apply to publication of non-confidential Congressional Research Service (CRS) products: *Provided further*, That a non-confidential CRS product includes any written product containing research or analysis that is currently available for general congressional access on the CRS Congressional Intranet, or that would be made available on the CRS Congressional Intranet in the normal course of business and does not include material prepared in response to Congressional requests for confidential analysis or research.

**NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND  
AND PRINT DISABLED  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For all necessary expenses to carry out the Act of March 3, 1931 (chapter 400; 46 Stat. 1487; 2 U.S.C. 135a), \$66,130,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$650,000 shall be available to contract to provide newspapers to blind and print disabled residents at no cost to the individual.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION  
REIMBURSABLE AND REVOLVING FUND  
ACTIVITIES**

SEC. 123. (a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2026, the obligational authority of the Library of Congress for the activities described in subsection (b) may not exceed \$342,285,000.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are reimbursable and revolving fund activities that are funded from sources other than appropriations to the Library in appropriations Acts for the legislative branch.

**GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE  
CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For authorized publishing of congressional information and the distribution of congressional information in any format; publishing of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed to Members of Congress; and publishing, and distribution of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed without charge to the recipient, \$80,000,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall not be available for paper copies of the permanent edition of the Congressional Record for individual Representatives, Resident Commissioners or Delegates authorized under section 906 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred under the appropriations for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the 2-year limitation under section 718 of title 44, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated or made available under this Act or any other Act for printing and binding and related services provided to Congress under chapter 7 of title 44, United States Code, may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the 27-month period beginning on the date that such document, report, or publication is authorized by Congress to be printed, unless Congress reauthorizes such printing in accordance with section 718 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That unobligated or unexpended balances of expired discretionary funds made available under this heading in this Act for this fiscal year may be transferred to, and merged with, funds under the heading ‘‘GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND’’ no later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated, to be available for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for publishing congressionally mandated reports under the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (subtitle D of title LXXII of division G of Public Law 117-263): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding sections 901, 902, and 906 of title 44, United States Code, this appropriation may be used to prepare indexes to the Congressional Record on only a monthly and session basis.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For expenses of the public information programs of the Office of Superintendent of Documents necessary to provide for the cataloging and indexing of Government publications in any format, and their distribution to the public, Members of Congress, other Government agencies, and designated depository and international exchange libraries as authorized by law, \$42,852,000: *Provided*, That

amounts of not more than \$2,000,000 from current year appropriations are authorized for producing and disseminating Congressional serial sets and other related publications for the preceding two fiscal years to depository and other designated libraries: *Provided further*, That unobligated or unexpended balances of expired discretionary funds made available under this heading in this Act for this fiscal year may be transferred to, and merged with, funds under the heading “GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND” no later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated, to be available for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

#### GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND

For payment to the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund, \$9,148,000, to remain available until expended, for information technology development and facilities repair: *Provided*, That the Government Publishing Office is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds available and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs and purposes set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund: *Provided further*, That not more than \$7,500 may be expended on the certification of the Director of the Government Publishing Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than 12 passenger motor vehicles: *Provided further*, That expenditures in connection with travel expenses of the advisory councils to the Director of the Government Publishing Office shall be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title: *Provided further*, That activities financed through the Business Operations Revolving Fund may provide information in any format: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund and the funds provided under the heading “PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS” may not be used for contracted security services at Government Publishing Office’s passport facility in the District of Columbia.

#### GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Government Accountability Office, including not more than \$12,500 to be expended on the certification of the Comptroller General of the United States in connection with official representation and reception expenses; temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title; hire of one passenger motor vehicle; advance

payments in foreign countries in accordance with section 3324 of title 31, United States Code; benefits comparable to those payable under sections 901(5), (6), and (8) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081(5), (6), and (8)); and under regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States, rental of living quarters in foreign countries, \$811,894,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, in addition, \$35,424,000 of payments received under sections 782, 791, 3521, and 9105 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That this appropriation and appropriations for administrative expenses of any other department or agency which is a member of the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum or a Regional Intergovernmental Audit Forum shall be available to finance an appropriate share of either Forum’s costs as determined by the respective Forum, including necessary travel expenses of non-Federal participants: *Provided further*, That payments hereunder to the Forum may be credited as reimbursements to any appropriation from which costs involved are initially financed: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available to cover costs incurred by the Tiny Findings Child Development Center, in such amount and for such purposes as determined by the Comptroller General, subject to prior notification provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

#### CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP FUND

For a payment to the Congressional Office for International Leadership Fund for financing activities of the Congressional Office for International Leadership under section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), \$6,000,000: *Provided*, That funds made available to support Russian participants shall only be used for those engaging in free market development, humanitarian activities, and civic engagement, and shall not be used for officials of the central government of Russia.

#### JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

For payment to the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund established under section 116 of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1105), \$430,000.

#### TITLE II

##### GENERAL PROVISIONS

###### MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES

SEC. 201. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be used for the maintenance or care of private vehicles, except for emergency assistance and cleaning as may be provided under regulations relating to parking facilities for the House of Representatives issued by the Committee on House Administration and for the Senate issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

###### FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION

SEC. 202. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond fiscal year 2026 unless expressly so provided in this Act.

###### RATES OF COMPENSATION AND DESIGNATION

SEC. 203. Whenever in this Act any office or position not specifically established by the Legislative Pay Act of 1929 (46 Stat. 32 et seq.) is appropriated for or the rate of compensation or designation of any office or position appropriated for is different from that specifically established by such Act, the rate of compensation and the designation in this Act shall be the permanent law with respect thereto: *Provided*, That the provisions in this

Act for the various items of official expenses of Members, officers, and committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, and clerk hire for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall be the permanent law with respect thereto.

##### CONSULTING SERVICES

SEC. 204. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued under existing law.

##### COSTS OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH FINANCIAL MANAGERS COUNCIL

SEC. 205. Amounts available for administrative expenses of any legislative branch entity which participates in the Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council (LBFMC) established by charter on March 26, 1996, shall be available to finance an appropriate share of LBFMC costs as determined by the LBFMC, except that the total LBFMC costs to be shared among all participating legislative branch entities (in such allocations among the entities as the entities may determine) may not exceed \$2,000.

##### LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS

SEC. 206. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

##### GUIDED TOURS OF THE CAPITOL

SEC. 207. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available to the Architect of the Capitol in this Act may be used to eliminate or restrict guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns of offices of Members of Congress and other offices of the House of Representatives and Senate, unless through regulations as authorized by section 402(b)(8) of the Capitol Visitor Center Act of 2008 (2 U.S.C. 2242(b)(8)).

(b) At the direction of the Capitol Police Board, or at the direction of the Architect of the Capitol with the approval of the Capitol Police Board, guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns described in subsection (a) may be suspended temporarily or otherwise subject to restriction for security or related reasons to the same extent as guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by the Architect of the Capitol.

##### LIMITATION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS OR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT

SEC. 208. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire telecommunications or video surveillance equipment produced by—

(1) Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities); or

(2) any entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a foreign adversary.

(b) The term “foreign adversary” has the meaning given the term “covered nation” in section 4872(f) of title 10, United States Code.

## PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

SEC. 209. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities or other official government activities.

## LIMITATION ON COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR MEMBERS

SEC. 210. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2026.

## EXTENSION OF PUMP ACT PROTECTIONS TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

SEC. 211. Section 203(a)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1313(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and section 12(c)” and inserting “section 12(c), and section 18D”; and

(2) by inserting “, 218d” after “212(c)”.

## MEMBER PROTECTION

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. (a) For an additional amount for “SENATE—CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE—SENATORS’ OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT”, \$75,000,000, which shall be allocated to each personal office in an equal amount, for payments for security enhancements and services under section 4 of Senate Resolution 294 (96th Congress), agreed to April 29, 1980, as amended by S. Res. 413 (119th Congress), agreed to September 18, 2025: *Provided*, That unobligated balances of funds appropriated pursuant to this subsection at the end of fiscal year 2026 not needed for fiscal year 2026 shall be transferred to “SENATE—CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE—MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS”, and shall remain available until expended, for the purposes of such account, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That amounts transferred pursuant to this subsection may not be obligated without the prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(b) For an additional amount for “SENATE—CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE—SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE”, \$18,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$5,000,000 shall be for coordination and support of Member security programs, \$10,000,000 shall be for security-related activities for State offices, and \$3,500,000 shall be for the residential security system program: *Provided*, That amounts made available pursuant to this subsection may be transferred to “SENATE—SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES—OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER” and “SENATE—CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE—SERGEANT AT ARMS BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY FUND”: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided pursuant to the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available pursuant to this subsection, such sums as necessary may be used to restore amounts, either directly, through reimbursement, or through the transfer authority in the first proviso, for obligations incurred for the same purposes by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of

the Senate prior to the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That amounts made available pursuant to this subsection shall be allocated in accordance with a spending plan submitted to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(c) For an additional amount for “SENATE—CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE—MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be for security, continuity and other purposes: *Provided*, That amounts made available pursuant to this subsection may not be obligated without the prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(d) None of the funds provided under the heading “SENATE” in this or any prior Act that are used to provide personal protective services to a Senator shall result in the designation or deputization of individuals as agents of the Federal government.

## REQUIRING SENATE NOTIFICATION FOR DISCLOSURE OF SENATE DATA

SEC. 213. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005 (2 U.S.C. 6628) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (7) as paragraphs (5) through (9), respectively;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) the term ‘covered data’ means any electronic mail or other electronic or data communication, other data (including metadata), or other information;”;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3), as so redesignated, the following:

“(4) the term ‘legal process’ does not include a subpoena issued in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate;”;

(E) by striking paragraph (8), as so redesigned, and inserting the following:

“(8) the term ‘Senate data’, with respect to a Senate office

“(A) means covered data of the Senate office; and

“(B) with respect to an individual described in paragraph (9) acting in a personal capacity, only means covered data that is transmitted, processed, or stored through the use of an electronic system established, maintained, or operated, or the use of electronic services provided, by—

“(i) a provider for the Senate office, if the Senate office or the Office of the SAA has notified the provider for a Senate office that the applicable device or account is a device or account of the Senate office; or

“(ii) the Office of the SAA or an officer, employee, or agent of the Office of the SAA, if the Senate office has notified the Office of the SAA that the applicable device or account is a device or account of the Senate office;”;

(F) in paragraph (9), as so redesigned—

(i) by inserting “(without regard to whether the Senator is acting in his or her official capacity, including acting in a personal capacity and acting through his or her campaign for elected office)” after “a Senator”;

(ii) by inserting “(whether acting in his or her personal or official capacity)” after “an officer of the Senate”; and

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “(whether acting in his or her personal or official capacity); and”; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) the term ‘target of a criminal investigation’ means a person—

“(A) as to whom the prosecutor or the grand jury has substantial evidence linking that person to the commission of a crime;

“(B) who, in the judgment of the prosecutor, is a putative defendant; and

“(C) whom the prosecutor, before the date of the acquisition, subpoena, search, accessing, or disclosure of the Senate data at issue, has formally designated as a target in official records, which shall not include any such designation that was made after such date that purports to be retroactive.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h) as subsections (e) through (i), respectively; and

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(C) NOTIFICATION.—

“(1) BY PROVIDERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If any provider for a Senate office receives any legal process seeking disclosure of Senate data of the Senate office that is transmitted, processed, or stored (whether temporarily or otherwise) through the use of an electronic system established, maintained, or operated, or the use of electronic services provided, in whole or in part, by the provider for a Senate office, the provider for a Senate office shall notify the Senate office and, unless specified otherwise by the Senate office, the Office of the SAA in writing.

“(B) NO LIMITATIONS ON NOTICE.—A provider for a Senate office shall not be barred from providing notice to a Senate office and the Office of the SAA under subparagraph (A) by operation of any court order, any statutory provision, any other provision of law, any rule of civil or criminal procedure, or any other rule, regulation, or policy.

“(C) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—A provider for a Senate office shall not be liable under any criminal or civil law for providing notice to a Senate office or the Office of the SAA under this paragraph.

“(2) BY SAA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Office of the SAA or any officer, employee, or agent of the Office of the SAA receives any legal process seeking disclosure of Senate data of a Senate office that is transmitted, processed, or stored (whether temporarily or otherwise) through the use of an electronic system established, maintained, or operated, or the use of electronic services provided, in whole or in part, by the Office of the SAA or the officer, employee, or agent of the Office of the SAA, the Office of the SAA or the officer, employee, or agent of the Office of the SAA shall notify a Senate office in writing.

“(B) NO LIMITATIONS ON NOTICE.—The Office of the SAA and any officer, employee, or agent of the Office of the SAA shall not be barred from providing notice to a Senate office under subparagraph (A) by operation of any court order, any statutory provision, any other provision of law, any rule of civil or criminal procedure, or any other rule, regulation, or policy.

“(C) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—The Office of the SAA and any officer, employee, or agent of the Office of the SAA shall not be liable under any criminal or civil law for providing notice to a Senate office under this paragraph.

“(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR TARGET AND NON-TARGET INVESTIGATIONS.—

“(A) TARGET INVESTIGATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If a Senator is a target of a criminal investigation, a court may, upon application by the United States, issue an order delaying the notice required under this subsection with respect to an acquisition, subpoena, search, accessing, or disclosure of Senate data in connection with such investigation for a period of not more than 60 days if the court determines that there is reason to believe that providing notice would—

“(I) endanger the life or physical safety of any person;

“(II) result in flight from prosecution;

“(III) result in destruction of or tampering with evidence;

“(IV) result in intimidation of potential witnesses; or

“(V) otherwise seriously jeopardize an investigation or unduly delay a trial.

“(ii) RENEWAL.—The court may renew such an order for additional periods of not more than 60 days each, if the court makes a renewed determination under clause (i).

“(B) ALL OTHER INVESTIGATIONS.—For any investigation in which a Senator is not a target of a criminal investigation, the notice requirements under this subsection shall apply without delay.

“(d) PRIVATE CAUSE OF ACTION.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) INSTANCE.—The term ‘instance’, with respect to a violation of this section, means each discrete act constituting a violation of this section, including each individual—

“(i) device, account, record, or communication channel subject to collection in a manner in violation of this section;

“(ii) nondisclosure order or judicial sealing order sought, maintained, or obtained; or

“(iii) search conducted.

“(B) VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.—The term ‘violation of this section’ means—

“(i) the seeking, maintaining, or obtaining of a nondisclosure order or judicial sealing order to prevent notification of a Senator, a Senate office, or the Office of the SAA as required under subsection (c); or

“(ii) Senate data was acquired, subpoenaed, searched, accessed, or disclosed pursuant to a search, seizure, or demand for information without notice being provided as required under subsection (c).

“(2) CAUSE OF ACTION.—Any Senator whose Senate data, or the Senate data of whose Senate office, has been acquired, subpoenaed, searched, accessed, or disclosed in violation of this section may bring a civil action against the United States if the violation was committed by an officer, employee, or agent of the United States or of any Federal department or agency.

“(3) RELIEF.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a Senator prevails on a claim under this subsection, the court shall award—

“(i) for each instance of a violation of this section, the greater of statutory damages of \$500,000 or the amount of actual damages;

“(ii) reasonable attorney’s fees and costs of litigation; and

“(iii) such injunctive or declaratory relief as may be appropriate.

“(B) PRELIMINARY RELIEF.—Upon motion by a Senator, a court may award such preliminary injunctive relief as the court determines appropriate with respect to a claim under this subsection.

“(4) LIMITATIONS AND IMMUNITY.—

“(A) PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS.—A civil action under this subsection may not be commenced later than 5 years after the applicable Senator first obtains actual notice of the violation of this section.

“(B) NO IMMUNITY DEFENSE.—No officer, employee, or agent of the United States or of any Federal department or agency shall be entitled to assert any form of absolute or qualified immunity as a defense to liability under this subsection.

“(5) WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.—The United States expressly waives sovereign immunity with respect to actions brought under this subsection.

“(6) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE FOR TARGET INVESTIGATIONS.—It shall be an affirmative defense to an action under this subsection if the United States establishes that each of the following requirements are met:

“(A) At the time the Senate data was acquired, subpoenaed, searched, accessed, or disclosed, the Senator bringing the action was a target of a criminal investigation.

“(B) A Federal judge issued an order authorizing a delay of notice to the Senator under subsection (c)(3)(A), based on written findings meeting the requirements of such subsection.

“(C) The United States complied with the order described in subparagraph (B), including that the delay of notice did not exceed the period authorized by the court.

“(D) Any related subpoena of, warrant relating to, or access to Senate data was carried out strictly within the temporal and subject-matter scope authorized by the order, if any, authorizing the subpoena, warrant, or access.

“(7) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

“(A) limit or impair the constitutional protections afforded to Members of Congress, including to protections under article I, section 6, clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States (commonly known as the ‘Speech or Debate Clause’); or

“(B) restrict the authority of the Senate or any Senate office to intervene in or defend against any legal process seeking disclosure of Senate data.”

(b) LIMITED RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any acquisition, subpoena, search, accessing, or disclosure of Senate data (as defined in section 10(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005 (2 U.S.C. 6628(a)), as amended by this section), and to any failure to disclose such an acquisition, subpoena, search, accessing, or disclosure, occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

(2) PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS.—

(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term “violation of section 10” has the meaning given the term “violation of this section” in subsection (d) of section 10 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005 (2 U.S.C. 6628), as added by this section.

(B) PERIOD.—With respect to any violation of section 10 with respect to which the applicable Senator first obtained actual notice of the violation of section 10 before the date of enactment of this Act, a civil action under subsection (d) of section 10 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005 (2 U.S.C. 6628), as added by this section, may not be commenced later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

This division may be cited as the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026”.

#### DIVISION D—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

##### TITLE I

###### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$2,381,909,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$415,688,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$361,800,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Air Force” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Army” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

###### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$5,725,724,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$629,088,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$290,690,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

###### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Department of the Air Force when designated by the Secretary of Defense to direct and supervise Military Construction projects in accordance with section 2851 of title 10, United States Code, and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$3,926,273,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$646,573,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$361,800,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Air Force” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

###### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$3,784,301,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for

military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$226,301,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$82,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Defense-Wide" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$272,930,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$80,080,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$112,050,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Army National Guard" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$292,546,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$73,646,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$95,900,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Air National Guard" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE**

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities

for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$92,239,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$6,013,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$50,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Army Reserve" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE**

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$52,255,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$2,255,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$50,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Navy Reserve" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE**

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$116,468,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$7,170,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$56,010,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Air Force Reserve" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM**

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international

military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$481,832,000, to remain available until expended.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT**

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$465,161,000, to remain available until expended.

**FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY**

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$228,558,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

**FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY**

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$388,418,000.

**FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS**

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$177,597,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

**FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS**

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$384,108,000.

**FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE**

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$274,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

**FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE**

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$369,765,000.

**FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE**

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$53,374,000.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND**

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$8,315,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND**

For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund,

\$497,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense

pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than \$35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 122. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of April 2021, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 124. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$144,000,000;

“Military Construction, Army National Guard”, \$15,500,000;

“Military Construction, Air National Guard”, \$11,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Army Reserve”, \$15,000,000;

*Provided*, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction and cost to complete projects identified in the respective military department’s unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2025 or 2026 submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 125. All amounts appropriated to the “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army”, “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force”, and “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Defense-Wide” accounts pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in a National Defense Authorization Act specified for fiscal year 2026 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the full scope of authorized projects.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 116 of this Act, funds made available in this Act or any available unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be obligated before October 1, 2027 for fiscal year 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 military construction projects for which project authorization has not lapsed or for which authorization is extended for fiscal year 2026 by a National Defense Authorization Act: *Provided*, That no amounts may be obligated pursuant to this section from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 127. For the purposes of this Act, the term “congressional defense committees” means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 128. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for design for child development centers, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$5,000,000;

“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$5,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$5,000,000:

*Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 129. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for de-

sign for barracks, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$5,000,000;

“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$5,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$5,000,000:

*Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 130. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for unspecified minor construction for demolition, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$10,000,000;

“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$25,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$10,000,000:

*Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 131. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 132. Notwithstanding limitations in this and prior Acts on the obligation or expenditure of military construction appropriations for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery, unobligated funds available to the Department of the Army for military construction projects may be obligated for access road projects at Arlington National Cemetery that have been authorized in accordance with section 210 of title 23, United States Code.

## TITLE II

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

##### COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers’ retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$5,850,000,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2025, to remain available until expended; and, in addition,

\$246,630,525,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$29,454,647 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2027 under this heading shall be reimbursed to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Information Technology Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for

which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

#### READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$4,877,886,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2025, to remain available until expended; and, in addition, \$24,703,528,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

#### VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen’s indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21 of title 38, United States Code, \$97,893,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended.

#### VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That, during fiscal year 2026, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$266,736,842.

#### VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM

##### ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$45,428, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,394,442.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$507,254, which may be paid to the appropriation for “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$6,865,235, as authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$75,000,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$5,845,241.

## GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$3,881,000,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), monthly assistance allowances authorized by section 322(d) of title 38, United States Code, grants authorized by section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and administrative expenses necessary to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; \$59,858,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided further*, That of the \$75,039,000,000 that became available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under this heading in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$15,889,000,000 is hereby rescinded: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That

the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: *Provided further*, That nothing in section 2044(e) of title 38, United States Code, may be construed as limiting amounts that may be made available under this heading for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 in this or prior Acts.

## MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, \$38,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

## MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$12,000,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, \$350,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided further*, That, of the \$12,700,000,000 that became available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under this heading in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$610,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

## MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; \$145,917,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2025; and, in addition, \$11,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, \$500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

## MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$945,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic re-

search specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

## NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$498,500,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

## DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$429,000,000, which shall be for the offices and in the amounts specified under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which not to exceed 10 percent for each such office shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

## BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$280,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$5,919,000,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That \$1,422,916,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed 3 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That \$3,917,921,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which \$118,900,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, for the purpose of facility activations related to projects funded by the "Construction, Major Projects", "Construction, Minor Projects", "Medical Facilities", "National Cemetery Administration", "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", and "General Administration" accounts: *Provided further*, That \$578,163,000 shall be for information technology systems development, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both

Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the “Information Technology Systems” account for development may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$3,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

#### VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

For activities related to implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a Veterans Electronic Health Record system, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and salaries and expenses of employees hired under titles 5 and 38, United States Code, \$3,400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing obligations, expenditures, and deployment implementation by facility, including any changes from the deployment plan or schedule: *Provided further*, That the funds provided in this account shall only be available to the Office of the Deputy Secretary, to be administered by that Office: *Provided further*, That 30 percent of the funds made available under this heading shall not be available until July 1, 2026, and are contingent upon the Secretary of Veterans Affairs providing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a plan by June 1, 2026, containing the following:

(1) an updated life-cycle cost estimate for the EHRM program based on the Department’s acceleration of deployments announced in March 2025;

(2) an updated facility-by-facility deployment schedule for all facilities to receive the EHRM program;

(3) a certification that all VA facilities using the new EHR on or before April 1, 2024, have exceeded or met certain health care performance baseline metrics indicating they have returned to their service delivery levels in place prior to the deployment of the new EHR;

(4) a description of the projected Federal VA staffing levels, contract support, and other relevant activities required, and the resources required to fund those activities, to meet the deployment goal as outlined in (2), including target Federal and contracted staffing levels at VA Central Office and, each local VA medical center with a slated deployment in 2026 and 2027, as well as contract support to provide technical and other change management support to carry out the deployments; and

(5) a certification that the Department has achieved at least four consecutive successful site deployments without any incidents of a delay in care or patient harm which must be disclosed under Veterans Health Administration Directive 1004.08 which are attributable to EHR systems.

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), \$296,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

#### CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or

for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$350,000,000, of which \$231,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$119,000,000 shall remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous “Construction, Minor Projects” appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

ices, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$1,394,000,000, of which \$621,615,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$772,385,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and planning, cost estimating, and design for major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, staffing expenses, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration and the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided further*, That funds provided for the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item shall be only for projects included on the five year development plan notified to Congress through the budgetary process: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be necessary shall be available to reimburse the “General Administration” account for payment of salaries and expenses of all Office of Construction and Facilities Management employees to support the full range of capital infrastructure services provided, including minor construction and leasing services: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2026, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2026; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing seismic projects of the Department.

#### CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering serv-

ices, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$1,394,000,000, of which \$621,615,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$772,385,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and planning, cost estimating, and design for major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, staffing expenses, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration and the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided further*, That funds provided for the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item shall be only for projects included on the five year development plan notified to Congress through the budgetary process: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be necessary shall be available to reimburse the “General Administration” account for payment of salaries and expenses of all Office of Construction and Facilities Management employees to support the full range of capital infrastructure services provided, including minor construction and leasing services: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2026, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2026; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing seismic projects of the Department.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$275,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### COST OF WAR TOXIC EXPOSURES FUND

For investment in the delivery of veterans’ health care associated with exposure to environmental hazards, the expenses incident to the delivery of veterans’ health care and benefits associated with exposure to environmental hazards, as authorized by section 324 of title 38, United States Code, and in addition to the amounts otherwise available for such purposes in the appropriations provided in this or prior Acts, including the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118-5), \$52,676,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2026 for “Compensation and Pensions”, “Readjustment Benefits”, and “Veterans Insurance and Indemnities” may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Not to exceed 1 percent of amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, in this or any other Act, including prior Acts, under the “Medical Services”, “Medical

Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities" accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That no such account shall be increased by more than 1 percent, in this or any other Act, by any such transfer: *Provided further*, That amounts may be transferred pursuant to this section only upon written notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects") shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the "Medical Services" account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for "Compensation and Pensions", "Re-adjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from "Compensation and Pensions".

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2026 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement

shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2026 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services shall be available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management, the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$134,342,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, \$7,607,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and \$7,586,000 for the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the "General Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects".

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under "Medical Services" are available—

- (1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and
- (2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United

States Code, may be transferred to the "Medical Services" and "Medical Community Care" accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term "rural Alaska" shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited into the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled "Quarterly reporting", under the heading "General Administration" in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", "Board of Veterans Appeals", "General Administration", and "National Cemetery Administration" accounts for fiscal year 2026 may be transferred to or from the "Information Technology Systems" account: *Provided*, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the "Information Technology Systems" account: *Provided further*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "Construction, Minor Projects", and "Information Technology Systems", up to \$654,954,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility

Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That section 220 of title II of division A of Public Law 118-42, as continued by section 1101(a)(10) of division A of Public Law 119-4, is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2026, for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, up to \$739,918,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*; That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*; That, notwithstanding section 1704(b)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), amounts transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund shall remain available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 224. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid

savings in a major construction project that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 225. None of the funds made available for “Construction, Major Projects” may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 226. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled “Disability claims backlog”, under the heading “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223: *Provided further*, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$1,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 229. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the “Medical Services” account not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2026 in this title (except the appropriation made to the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” account) or not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including not to exceed 1 percent of those appropriated for fiscal year 2026, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: *Provided further*, That, upon determination that all or part of the

funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: *Provided further*, That before a transfer may take place pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must provide written notification of the amount and purpose of the transfer to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 230. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, under the “Board of Veterans Appeals” and the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 231. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed a cumulative \$7,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 232. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing an individual to occupy a vacant civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

(2) In this subsection—

(A) the term “civil service” has the meaning given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the term “Executive action” includes—

(i) any Executive order, Presidential memorandum, or other action by the President; and

(ii) any agency policy, order, or other directive.

(c)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of the hotline specified in subsection (a) during the 5-year period beginning on January 1, 2016, based on an analysis of national suicide data and data collected from such hotline.

(2) At a minimum, the study required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline specified in subsection (a) and who receive follow up services from the hotline or mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs thereafter;

(B) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline who are not referred to, or do not continue receiving, mental health care who commit suicide; and

(C) determine the number of veterans described in subparagraph (A) who commit or attempt suicide.

SEC. 233. Effective during the period beginning on October 1, 2018, and ending on January 1, 2027, none of the funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the “Veterans

Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration's Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance" published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 234. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the "Medical Services" account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term "service-connected" has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term "covered veteran" means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term "assisted reproductive technology" means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of "Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members" issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member except that—

(A) the time periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(B) such term includes embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

(4) The term "adoption reimbursement" means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141).

SEC. 235. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 236. Section 842 of Public Law 109-115 shall not apply to conversion of an activity or function of the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, or National Cemetery Administration to contractor performance by a business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more Indian Tribes as defined in section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, or one

or more Native Hawaiian Organizations as defined in section 637(a)(15) of title 15, United States Code.

SEC. 237. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, shall discontinue collecting and using Social Security account numbers to authenticate individuals in all information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs for all individuals not later than September 30, 2026.

(b) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may collect and use a Social Security account number to identify an individual, in accordance with section 552a of title 5, United States Code, in an information system of the Department of Veterans Affairs if and only if the use of such number is necessary to:

(1) obtain or provide information the Secretary requires from an information system that is not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary;

(2) comply with a law, regulation, or court order;

(3) perform anti-fraud activities; or

(4) identify a specific individual where no adequate substitute is available.

(c) The matter in subsections (a) and (b) shall supersede section 237 of division A of Public Law 118-42.

SEC. 238. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027 for "Medical Services", section 239 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 239. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 240. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 for "Medical Services", funds may be used in each year to carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 241. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to Members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 242. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027, section 258 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 243. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), or to prevent or impede the access of the Inspector General to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to such Inspector General and expressly limits the right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General access to all records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that

Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives within 5 calendar days of any failure by any department or agency covered by this section to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 244. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in a manner that would increase wait times for veterans who seek care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 245. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to the Veterans Health Administration may be used in fiscal year 2026 to convert any program which received specific purpose funds in fiscal year 2025 to a general purpose funded program unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits written notification of any such proposal to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to any such action and an approval is issued by the Committees.

SEC. 246. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027, section 248 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 247. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to conduct research commencing on or after July 1, 2025, that uses any canine, feline, or non-human primate unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approves such research specifically and in writing pursuant to subsection (b).

(b) (1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve the conduct of research commencing on or after July 1, 2025, using canines, felines, or non-human primates if the Secretary certifies that—

(A) the scientific objectives of the research can only be met by using such canines, felines, or non-human primates and cannot be met using other animal models, in vitro models, computational models, human clinical studies, or other research alternatives;

(B) such scientific objectives are necessary to advance research benefiting veterans and are directly related to an illness or injury that is combat-related as defined by 10 U.S.C. 1413(e);

(C) the research is consistent with the revised Department of Veterans Affairs canine research policy document dated December 15, 2017, including any subsequent revisions to such document; and

(D) ethical considerations regarding minimizing the harm experienced by canines, felines, or non-human primates are included in evaluating the scientific necessity of the research.

(2) The Secretary may not delegate the authority under this subsection.

(c) If the Secretary approves any new research pursuant to subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the commencement of such research, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the nature of the research to be conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(2) the date on which the Secretary approved the research;

(3) the USDA pain category on the approved use;

(4) the justification for the determination of the Secretary that the scientific objectives of such research could only be met using canines, felines, or non-human primates, and methods used to make such determination;

(5) the frequency and duration of such research; and

(6) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of the research, and animal welfare.

(d) Not later than December 31, 2025, and biannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any research being conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs using canines, felines, or non-human primates as of the date of the submittal of the report;

(2) the circumstances under which such research was conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(3) the justification for using canines, felines, or non-human primates to conduct such research;

(4) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of such research; and

(5) the development and adoption of alternatives to canines, felines, or non-human primate research.

(e) Not later than December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Department of Veterans Affairs must submit to voluntary U.S. Department of Agriculture inspections of canine, feline, and non-human primate research facilities.

(f) Not later than December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, or other Department of Veterans Affairs policies related to oversight of animal research found during that quarter in VA research facilities;

(2) immediate corrective actions taken; and

(3) specific actions taken to prevent their recurrence.

(g) The Department shall implement a plan under which the Secretary will eliminate the research conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates by not later than September 20, 2026.

SEC. 248. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 249. Amounts made available for the “Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care” account in this or any other Act for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 may be used for expenses that would otherwise be payable from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, as amended (38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

SEC. 250. Obligations and expenditures applicable to the “Medical Services” account in fiscal years 2017 through 2019 for aid to state homes (as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code) shall remain in the “Medical Community Care” account for such fiscal years.

SEC. 251. Of the amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for

fiscal year 2026, in this or any other Act, under the “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities”, and “Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund” accounts, \$1,429,181,000 shall be made available for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for women veterans; \$698,000,000 shall be made available for suicide prevention outreach programs; \$3,500,000,000 shall be made available for the Caregivers program; \$42,000,000 shall be made available for the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; \$80,000,000 shall be made available for the Neurology Centers of Excellence; \$342,455,000 shall be made available for rural health care; \$3,459,121,000 shall be made available for veterans’ homelessness programs; \$6,356,000,000 shall be made available for telehealth for veterans; \$709,573,000 shall be made available for opioid prevention and treatment programs; and, \$31,997,000 shall be made available for the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program.

SEC. 252. Of the unobligated balances available in fiscal year 2026 in the “Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund” established in section 243 of division J of Public Law 114-113, and in addition to any funds otherwise made available for such purposes in this, prior, or subsequent fiscal years, \$900,000,000 shall be available for constructing, altering, extending, and improving medical facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, including all supporting activities and required contingencies, during the period of availability of the Fund: *Provided*, That prior to obligation of any of the funds provided in this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must provide a plan for the execution of the funds appropriated in this section to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 253. Of the \$75,039,000,000 that became available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under the heading “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services” in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$2,030,000,000 shall be transferred to “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities”.

SEC. 254. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds made available in this Act and any available unobligated balances from prior Acts, including the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118-5), for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund: *Provided*, That the budget resource categories supporting the Veterans Health Administration shall be reported by the subcategories “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical and Prosthetic Research”: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary shall submit a quarterly report on the status of the funds, including, at a minimum, an update on obligations by program, project or activity.

SEC. 255. Any amounts transferred to the Secretary and administered by a corporation referred to in section 7364(b) of title 38, United States Code, between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018 for purposes of carrying out an order placed with the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, that are

available for obligation pursuant to section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, are to remain available for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred by such corporation during the period of performance of such order, provided that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that such amounts need to remain available for such liquidation.

SEC. 256. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities as part of a planned realignment of services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a Department medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care.

SEC. 257. Unobligated balances available under the headings “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” may be obligated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a facility pursuant to section 2(e)(1) of the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-294; 38 U.S.C. 8103 note), as amended, to provide additional funds or to fund an escalation clause under such section of such Act: *Provided*, That before such unobligated balances are obligated pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to obligate such unobligated balances and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That the request to obligate such unobligated balances must provide Congress notice that the entity described in section 2(a)(2) of Public Law 114-294, as amended, has exhausted available cost containment approaches as set forth in the agreement under section 2(c) of such Public Law.

SEC. 258. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated, awarded, or expended to procure or purchase covered information technology equipment in cases where the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, or any subsidiary or parent entity of the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, of the equipment is an entity, or parent company of an entity listed on any of the following:

(1) the Department of Defense’s Chinese Military Company List;

(2) the Department of the Treasury’s Non-SDN Chinese Military Industrial Complex Companies List;

(3) the Department of Commerce’s Denied Persons List, Entity List, or Military End User List, if the entity is—

(A) an agency or instrumentality of the People’s Republic of China;

(B) an entity headquartered in the People’s Republic of China; or

(C) directly or indirectly owned or controlled by an agency, instrumentality, or entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(4) the Department of Homeland Security’s Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List.

(b) **APPLICABILITY TO THIRD PARTIES.**—The prohibition in subsection (a) also applies in cases in which the Secretary has contracted with a third party for the procurement, purchase, or expenditure of funds on any of the equipment and software described in such subsection.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “covered information technology equipment” shall mean the following equipment used in an office environment: computers, printers, or interoperable videoconferencing equipment used in or by the Department of Veterans Affairs directly. “Covered information technology equipment” shall not refer to services that use such equipment, including cloud services.

SEC. 259. During the period beginning on October 1, 2025 and ending on September 30, 2026, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer, implement, or enforce the final rule issued by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to “Change in Rates VA Pays for Special Modes of Transportation” (88 Fed. Reg. 10032) and published on February 16, 2023.

SEC. 260. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractors whose performance has been judged to be below satisfactory, behind schedule, over budget, or has failed to meet the basic requirements of a contract, unless the Agency determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program and unless such awards or incentive fees are consistent with section 16.401(e)(2) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

SEC. 261. The Department is directed to maintain staffing levels to facilitate the Department’s own goals, including that benefits claims are adjudicated according to the 125 day goal, and that healthcare appointments and service are provided in the timeframes required by statute and regulation.

SEC. 262. The Department is directed to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the status of implementation of the provisions in Public Law 118-42 related to veterans in the Freely Associated States (FAS) in a way that is consistent with Congressional intent, including engagement with FAS governments, a projected timeline for veterans in the FAS to receive hospital care and medical services, and an estimate of the cost of implementation.

SEC. 263. None of the amounts appropriated by this title may be obligated or expended to cancel a contract with a value that exceeds \$10,000,000 until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an advance notification and written explanation of contingency plans to replace the relevant service being cancelled, including any necessary change in the Department’s staffing levels.

SEC. 264. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to reduce the staffing, hours of operation, or services of the Veterans Crisis Line or any other suicide prevention program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### TITLE III

#### RELATED AGENCIES

##### AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$15,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official

motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$110,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

##### UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$49,000,000, of which \$3,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That \$4,256,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102-229.

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

###### CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$2,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$118,780,450, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the “Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies” account.

##### ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

###### TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$80,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which \$2,072,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$27,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

##### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 301. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 7727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

##### TITLE IV

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment,

the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of “E-Commerce” technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 404. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 405. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 406. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 407. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 408. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 411. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 101(e)(8) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 412. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 413. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5502 of title 38, United States Code, in any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under such title, to report a person who is deemed mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, or to be experiencing an extended loss of consciousness as a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.

SEC. 414. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matter pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 415. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the policies and requirements described in the transmittal sheet of the Veterans Health Administration published on August 8, 2019, titled “Smoke-Free Policy for Employees at VA Health Care Facilities (VHA Directive 1085.01)” remain in effect.

SEC. 416. (a) Each department or agency funded in this or any other appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026 shall, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on funds that are allotted and available for obligation as of the end of the reporting period and on obligations as of the end of the reporting period: *Provided*, That such report shall be delineated by: (1) program, project, and activity level; (2) public law making such funds available; and (3) period of availability: *Provided further*, That such reports shall be transmitted to the Committees monthly thereafter, on the fifteenth of each such month, during the period of availability of the relevant funds.

(b) The term “reporting period” as used in this section means the month that precedes the date on which the department or agency transmits the report to the Committees.

This division may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026”.

#### DIVISION E—EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

##### SEC. 5001. UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT EXTENSION.

(a) Sections 7(j)(5), 7A(l)(4), and 21(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(j)(5), 79a(l)(4), 87j(e)) shall be applied by substituting “January 30, 2026” for “September 30, 2025” each place it appears.

(b) Sections 7D and 19(a) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79d, 87h(a)) shall be applied by substituting “2026” for “2025” each place it appears.

##### SEC. 5002. EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section and the amendments made by this section, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authorities (including any limitations on such authorities) provided by each provision of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334; 132 Stat. 4490) and each provision of law amended by that Act (and for mandatory programs at such funding levels) as in effect (including pursuant to section 4101 of division D of the American Relief Act, 2025 (Public Law 118-158; 138 Stat. 1767)) on September 30, 2025, shall continue and be carried out until the date specified in paragraph (2).

(2) DATE SPECIFIED.—With respect to an authority described in paragraph (1), the date specified in this paragraph is the later of—

(A) September 30, 2026;

(B) the date specified with respect to such authority in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334; 132 Stat. 4490) or a provision of law amended by that Act (Public Law 115-334; 132 Stat. 4490), including any amendments made to such provisions by—

(i) titles I and V of Public Law 119-21 (139 Stat. 80, 137);

(ii) the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act (Public Law 118-234; 138 Stat. 2836); and

(iii) any other provisions of law enacted after the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334; 132 Stat. 4490); and

(C) the date in effect with respect to such authority pursuant to section 4101 of division D of the American Relief Act, 2025 (Public Law 118-158; 138 Stat. 1767)).

(b) DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS.—Programs carried out using the authorities described in subsection (a)(1) that are funded by discretionary appropriations (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c))) shall be subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) COMMODITY PROGRAMS.—

(1) DAIRY FORWARD PRICING PROGRAM.—Section 1502(e)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8772(e)(2)) is amended by striking “2028” and inserting “2029”.

(2) SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT AUTHORITIES.—The provisions of law specified in—

(A) subsections (a) and (b) of section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9092)—

(i) shall not be applicable to the 2026 crops of covered commodities (as defined in section 1111 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9011)), cotton, and sugar; and

(ii) shall not be applicable to milk through December 31, 2026; and

(B) section 1602(c) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9092(c)) shall not be applicable to the crops of wheat planted for harvest in calendar year 2026.

(d) OTHER PROGRAMS.—

(1) TRADE.—Section 302(h)(2) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1(h)(2)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(2) GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.—Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246; 122 Stat. 2019; 132 Stat. 4817; 138 Stat. 1769) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

(3) ENERGY.—Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended in paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) by striking “2025” each place it appears and inserting “2026”.

(e) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) COMMODITIES.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding

under section 1614(c)(4) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9097(c)(4)).

(2) CONSERVATION.—

(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law:

(i) Section 1240O(b)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-2(b)(3)).

(ii) Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 1241(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)(1)) for fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to limitations under the following provisions of law:

(i) Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-7).

(ii) Section 1240L(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-24(f)).

(3) RURAL DEVELOPMENT.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under section 313B(e)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c-2(e)(2)).

(4) RESEARCH.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law:

(A) Section 1446(b)(1) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222a(b)(1)).

(B) Section 7601(g)(1)(A) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5939(g)(1)(A)).

(5) ENERGY.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law:

(A) Section 9002(k)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102(k)(1)).

(B) Section 9003(g)(1)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103(g)(1)(A)).

(6) HORTICULTURE.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under the following provisions of law:

(A) Section 2123(c)(4) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(c)(4)).

(B) Section 10109(c)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334).

(7) MISCELLANEOUS.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to mandatory funding under section 209(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627a(c)).

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), any requirement under a provision of law described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) to submit a report on a recurring basis, and the final report under which was required to be submitted during fiscal year 2025, shall continue, and the requirement shall be carried out, on the same recurring basis, until the later of the dates specified in paragraph (2) of that subsection.

(2) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—If discretionary appropriations (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c))) are required to carry out a reporting requirement described in paragraph (1), the application of that paragraph to that reporting requirement shall be subject to the availability of appropriations.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall be applied and administered as if this section and those amendments had been enacted on September 30, 2025.

**DIVISION F—HEALTH EXTENDERS****TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENDERS****SEC. 6101. EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GME PROGRAMS.**

(a) EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 10503(b)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(K) \$1,423,890,411 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026; and”.

(b) EXTENSION FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—Section 10503(b)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (J), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (K), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(L) \$115,315,068 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026.”.

(c) TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section 340H(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) \$58,493,151 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026.”.

(d) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by this section shall be subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 117–328 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.).

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3014(h)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “and section 2101(d) of division B of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” and inserting “section 2101(d) of division B of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, and section 6101(d) of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026”.

**SEC. 6102. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS.**

(a) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.—Section 330B(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) \$53,145,205 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026, to remain available until expended.”.

(b) EXTENDING FUNDING FOR SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.—Section 330C(c)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–3(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) \$53,145,205 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026, to remain available until expended.”.

**SEC. 6103. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY EXTENSIONS.**

(a) Section 319(e)(8) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(e)(8)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “January 30, 2026”.

(b) Section 319L(e)(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–7(e)(1)(D)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “January 30, 2026”.

(c) Section 319L–1(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–7f(b)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “January 30, 2026”.

(d)(1) Section 2811A(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10b(g)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “January 30, 2026”.

(2) Section 2811B(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10c(g)(1)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “January 30, 2026”.

(3) Section 2811C(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10d(g)(1)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “January 30, 2026”.

(e) Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “January 30, 2026”.

**TITLE II—MEDICARE****SEC. 6201. EXTENSION OF INCREASED INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN LOW-VOLUME HOSPITALS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “in fiscal year 2026” and inserting “during the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on January 31, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2026, and in fiscal year 2027”;

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (I)—

(i) by inserting “or portion of a fiscal year” after “for a fiscal year”; and

(ii) by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026” after “through 2025”;

(B) in subparagraph (III), by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026” after “through 2025”; and

(C) in subparagraph (IV), by striking “fiscal year 2026” and inserting “the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on January 31, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2026, and fiscal year 2027”; and

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (I), by inserting “or during the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026” after “through 2025”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026” after “through 2025”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section by program instruction or otherwise.

**SEC. 6202. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “January 31, 2026”; and

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “January 31, 2026”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “January 31, 2026”; and

(B) in clause (iv), by inserting “and the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026” after “through fiscal year 2025”.

(2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by inserting “, or the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026” after “through fiscal year 2025”.

**SEC. 6203. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENDORSEMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION.**

Section 1890(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “and \$14,030,000” and inserting “\$14,030,000”; and

(B) by inserting the following before the period at the end: “, and \$13,300,000 for fiscal year 2026”; and

(2) in the third sentence, by striking “and 2024 and the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2025,” and inserting “2024, 2025, and 2026”.

**SEC. 6204. EXTENDING ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME WAIVER AUTHORITIES.**

Section 1866G(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc–7(a)(1)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “January 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 6205. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR MEDICARE HOSPICE SURVEYS.**

Section 3(a)(2) of the IMPACT Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–185) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) \$2,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026.”.

**SEC. 6206. EXTENSION OF ADD-ON PAYMENTS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES.**

Section 1834(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12)(A), by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “January 31, 2026”; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking “October 1, 2025” each place it appears and inserting “January 31, 2026” in each such place.

**SEC. 6207. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR.**

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “January 31, 2026”.

**SEC. 6208. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN TELEHEALTH FLEXIBILITIES.**

(a) REMOVING GEOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS AND EXPANDING ORIGINATING SITES FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by striking “ending September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending January 30, 2026”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(C)(iii), by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on January 30, 2026”.

(b) EXPANDING PRACTITIONERS ELIGIBLE TO FURNISH TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(4)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)(E)) is amended by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on January 30, 2026”.

(c) EXTENDING TELEHEALTH SERVICES FOR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS AND

**RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.**—Section 1834(m)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(8)(A)) is amended by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on January 30, 2026”.

(d) DELAYING THE IN-PERSON REQUIREMENTS UNDER MEDICARE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) DELAY IN REQUIREMENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH.—Section 1834(m)(7)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(7)(B)(i)) is amended, in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “on or after October 1, 2025” and inserting “on or after January 31, 2026”.

(2) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section 1834(y)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(y)(2)) is amended by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “January 31, 2026”.

(3) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 1834(o)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “October 1, 2025” and inserting “January 31, 2026”.

(e) ALLOWING FOR THE FURNISHING OF AUDIO-ONLY TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(9)) is amended by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on January 30, 2026”.

(f) EXTENDING USE OF TELEHEALTH TO CONDUCT FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER PRIOR TO RECERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPICE CARE.—Section 1814(a)(7)(D)(i)(II) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)(7)(D)(i)(II)) is amended by striking “ending on September 30, 2025” and inserting “ending on January 30, 2026”.

(g) PROGRAM INSTRUCTION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section through program instruction or otherwise.

**SEC. 6209. REVISING PHASE-IN OF MEDICARE CLINICAL LABORATORY TEST PAYMENT CHANGES.**

(a) REVISED PHASE-IN OF REDUCTIONS FROM PRIVATE PAYOR RATE IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 1834A(b)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m-1(b)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by inserting “and for the period beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on January 30, 2026” after “2025”; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking “for each of 2026 through 2028” and inserting “for the period beginning on January 31, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2026, and for each of 2027 and 2028”.

(b) REVISED REPORTING PERIOD FOR REPORTING OF PRIVATE SECTOR PAYMENT RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICARE PAYMENT RATES.—Section 1834A(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m-1(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “January 31, 2026”; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “January 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2026” and inserting “February 1, 2026, and ending April 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 6210. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.**

(a) STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note) is amended—

(1) in clause (xiii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (xiv), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after clause (xiv) the following new clause:

“(xv) for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026, \$5,013,699.”.

(b) AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.—Subsection (b)(1)(B) of such section 119 is amended—

(1) in clause (xiii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (xiv), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after clause (xiv) the following new clause:

“(xv) for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026, \$5,013,699.”.

(c) AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS.—Subsection (c)(1)(B) of such section 119 is amended—

(1) in clause (xiii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (xiv), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after clause (xiv) the following new clause:

“(xv) for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026, \$1,671,233.”.

(d) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO INFORM OLDER AMERICANS ABOUT BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (d)(2) of such section 119 is amended—

(1) in clause (xiii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (xiv), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after clause (xiv) the following new clause:

“(xv) for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026, \$5,013,699.”.

**SEC. 6211. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCLUSION OF AUTHORIZED ORAL ANTIVIRAL DRUGS AS COVERED PART D DRUGS.**

Section 1860D-2(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102(e)(1)(C)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “January 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 6212. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.**

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ii(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “fiscal year 2026” and inserting “fiscal year 2027”; and

(2) by striking “\$1,804,000,000” and inserting “\$1,403,000,000”.

**SEC. 6213. MEDICARE SEQUESTRATION.**

Section 251A(6)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(6)(D)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “10 months” and inserting “11 months”; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “2 months” and inserting “1 month”.

**TITLE III—HUMAN SERVICES**

**SEC. 6301. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION EXTENSION.**

Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “2023, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, and for fiscal year 2025” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026”;

(ii) by striking “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “fiscal year 2026”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “through 2023” and inserting “through 2025”;

(II) by striking “fiscal year 2024 or 2025” and inserting “fiscal year 2026”; and

(III) by inserting “(or, with respect to the applicable period, for fiscal year 2026)” after “an application for the fiscal year”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “2024 or 2025” and inserting “2026”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1) by striking “2023, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on September 30, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2025, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, and for for fiscal year 2025, an amount equal to the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2024” and inserting “2025, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026”;

**SEC. 6302. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION EXTENSION.**

Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2023, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, and for fiscal year 2025” and inserting “2025, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, and for fiscal year 2025” and inserting “the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, and for fiscal year 2025”;

(2) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “2024 or 2025” and inserting “2026”; and

(3) in subsection (f), by striking “2023, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, for the period beginning on March 9, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023, and for fiscal year 2025, an amount equal to the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2024 for fiscal year 2024” and inserting “2025, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026”;

ending on January 30, 2026, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2025”.

**SEC. 6303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.**

Section 501(c)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (vii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (viii), by adding “; and” at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ix) for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2025.”.

**TITLE IV—MEDICAID**

**SEC. 6401. MODIFYING CERTAIN DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL ALLOTMENTS.**

(a) EXTENDING TENNESSEE DSH ALLOTMENTS.—Section 1923(f)(6)(A)(vi) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)(6)(A)(vi)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “AND A PORTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2026” after “2025”; and

(2) by inserting “, and the DSH allotment for Tennessee for the portion of fiscal year 2026 beginning October 1, 2025, and ending January 30, 2026, shall be \$17,748,493, which may be claimed as fiscal year 2026 uncompensated care costs” before the period.

(b) DELAYING DSH ALLOTMENT REDUCTIONS.—Section 1923(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(A)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “For each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028” and inserting “For the period beginning January 31, 2026, and ending September 30, 2026, and for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028”;

(ii) in subclause (I), by inserting “or period” after “the fiscal year”; and

(iii) in subclause (II), by inserting “or period” after “in the fiscal year”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028” and inserting “for the period beginning January 31, 2026, and ending September 30, 2026, and for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028”; and

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking “2027” and inserting “2028”.

**TITLE V—FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

**SEC. 6501. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Amendments”.

**SEC. 6502. FINDING.**

Congress finds that the fees authorized by the amendments made in this title will be dedicated to over-the-counter (OTC) monograph drug activities, as set forth in the goals identified for purposes of part 10 of subchapter C of chapter VII of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71 et seq.), in the letters from the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, as set forth in the Congressional Record.

**SEC. 6503. DEFINITIONS.**

Section 744L(9)(A) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71(9)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in clause (vi)—

(A) by striking “addition” and inserting “the addition”; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) the addition or modification of a testing procedure applicable to one or more OTC monograph drugs, provided that such additional or modified testing procedure reflects a voluntary consensus standard with respect to pharmaceutical quality that is—

“(I) established by a national or international standards development organization; and

“(II) recognized by the Secretary through a process described in guidance for industry, initially published in July 2023, or any successor guidance, publicly available on the website of the Food and Drug Administration, which addresses voluntary consensus standards for pharmaceutical quality.”.

**SEC. 6504. AUTHORITY TO ASSESS AND USE OTC MONOGRAPH FEES.**

(a) TYPES OF FEES.—Section 744M(a)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-72(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “on December 31 of the fiscal year or at any time during the preceding 12-month period” and inserting “at any time during the applicable period specified in clause (ii) for a fiscal year”;

(B) by striking “Each person” and inserting the following:

“(i) ASSESSMENT OF FEES.—Each person”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—For purposes of clause (i), the applicable period is—

“(I) for fiscal year 2026, the 12-month period ending on December 31, 2025;

“(II) for fiscal year 2027, the 9-month period ending on September 30, 2026; and

“(III) for fiscal year 2028 and each subsequent fiscal year, the 12-month period ending on September 30 of the preceding fiscal year.”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by amending subclause (I) to read as follows:

“(I) has ceased all activities related to OTC monograph drugs prior to—

“(aa) for purposes of fiscal year 2026, January 1, 2025;

“(bb) for purposes of fiscal year 2027, January 1, 2026; and

“(cc) for purposes of fiscal year 2028 and each subsequent fiscal year, October 1 of the preceding fiscal year; and”; and

(3) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) DUE DATE.—

(i) FISCAL YEAR 2026.—For fiscal year 2026, the facility fees required under subparagraph (A) shall be due on the later of—

“(I) the first business day of June of such year; or

“(II) the first business day after the enactment of an appropriations Act providing for the collection and obligation of fees under this section for such year.

(ii) FISCAL YEAR 2027.—For fiscal year 2027, the facility fees required under subparagraph (A) shall be due—

“(I) in a first installment representing 50 percent of such fee, on the later of—

“(aa) October 1, 2026; or

“(bb) the first business day after the enactment of an appropriations Act providing for the collection and obligation of fees under this section for such year; and

“(II) in a second installment representing the remaining 50 percent of such fee, on—

“(aa) February 1, 2027; or

“(bb) if an appropriations Act described in subclause (I)(bb) is not in effect on February 1, 2027, the first business day after enactment of such an appropriations Act.

(iii) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—For fiscal year 2028 and each subsequent fiscal year,

the facility fees required under subparagraph (A) shall be due on the later of—

“(I) the first business day on or after October 1 of the fiscal year; or

“(II) the first business day after the date of enactment of an appropriations Act providing for the collection and obligation of fees under this section for the fiscal year.”.

(b) FEE REVENUE AMOUNTS.—Section 744M(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-72(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) FEE REVENUE AMOUNTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2030, fees under subsection (a)(1) shall be established to generate a total facility fee revenue amount equal to the sum of—

“(A) the annual base revenue for the fiscal year (as determined under paragraph (2));

“(B) the dollar amount equal to the inflation adjustment for the fiscal year (as determined under subsection (c)(1));

“(C) the dollar amount equal to the operating reserve adjustment for the fiscal year, if applicable (as determined under subsection (c)(2));

“(D) additional direct cost adjustments (as determined under subsection (c)(3));

“(E) an additional dollar amount equal to—

“(i) \$2,373,000 for fiscal year 2026;

“(ii) \$1,233,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

“(iii) \$854,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

“(F) in the case of a fiscal year for which the Secretary applies the one-time facility fee workload adjustment under subsection (c)(4), the dollar amount equal to such adjustment.

“(2) ANNUAL BASE REVENUE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the dollar amount of the annual base revenue for a fiscal year shall be—

“(A) for fiscal year 2026, the dollar amount of the total revenue amount established for fiscal year 2025 under this subsection as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Amendments, not including any adjustments made for such fiscal year 2025 under subsection (c)(2) or (c)(3).”,

(c) ADJUSTMENTS; ANNUAL FEE SETTING.—Section 744M(c) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-72(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(i) by striking “subsection (b)(2)(B)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)(B)”;

(ii) by striking “fiscal year 2022 and each subsequent fiscal year” and inserting “each fiscal year”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “fiscal year 2022” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “a fiscal year shall be equal to the product of—

“(i) for fiscal year 2026—

“(I) the fee for fiscal year 2025 under subsection (a)(2); and

“(II) the inflation adjustment percentage under subparagraph (C); and

“(ii) for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030—

“(I) the applicable fee under subsection (a)(2) for the preceding fiscal year; and

“(II) the inflation adjustment percentage under subparagraph (C).”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “the sum of” after “is equal to”;

(ii) by striking clause (i);  
 (iii) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (ii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(iv) by striking “(ii) for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the sum of—”; and

(v) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by striking “Washington–Baltimore, DC–MD–VA–WV” and inserting “Washington–Arlington–Alexandria–DC–VA–MD–WV”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “fiscal year 2021 and subsequent fiscal years” and inserting “each fiscal year”;

(ii) by striking “subsections (b)(1)(B) and (b)(2)(C)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)(C)”; and

(iii) by striking “the number of weeks specified in subparagraph (B)” and inserting “10 weeks”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B);

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraph (4) establishing” and inserting “paragraph (5) publishing”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(D)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1)(D)”; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E) and inserting the following:

“(A) \$135,000 for fiscal year 2026;

“(B) \$300,000 for fiscal year 2027;

“(C) \$55,000 for fiscal year 2028;

“(D) \$30,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

“(E) \$0 for fiscal year 2030.”; and

(4) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) ONE-TIME FACILITY FEE WORKLOAD ADJUSTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the adjustments under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), the Secretary may further increase the fee revenues and fees through a one-time adjustment made for fiscal year 2028, 2029, or 2030, in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) ADJUSTMENT DESCRIBED.—

“(i) CONDITIONS FOR ADJUSTMENT.—An adjustment under this paragraph may be made for a fiscal year only if—

“(I) an adjustment under this paragraph had not been made for any prior fiscal year;

“(II) the average number of OTC monograph drug facilities subject to a facility fee under subsection (a)(1) over the period of the preceding 3 fiscal years exceeds 1,625; and

“(III) with respect to facilities described in subclause (II), the average number of such facilities (expressed as a percentage) that appeared on the arrears lists pursuant to subsection (e)(1)(A)(i) over the period of the preceding 3 fiscal years is less than 30 percent.

“(ii) AMOUNT OF ADJUSTMENT.—An adjustment under this paragraph for a fiscal year shall equal the product of—

“(I) the total facility revenue amount determined under subsection (b) for the fiscal year, exclusive of the adjustment under this paragraph for such fiscal year; and

“(II) the excess facility percentage described in clause (iii).

“(iii) EXCESS FACILITY PERCENTAGE.—The excess facility percentage described in this clause is—

“(I) the amount by which the average number of OTC monograph drug facilities subject to a facility fee under subsection (a)(1) over the preceding 3 fiscal years exceeds 1,625; divided by

“(II) 1,625.

“(5) ANNUAL FEE SETTING.—The Secretary shall, not later than 60 days before the first day of each fiscal year—

“(A) establish for such fiscal year, based on the revenue amounts under subsection (b) and the adjustments provided under this subsection—

“(i) OTC monograph drug facility fees under subsection (a)(1); and

“(ii) OTC monograph order request fees under subsection (a)(2); and

“(B) publish such fee revenue amounts, facility fees, and OTC monograph order request fees in the Federal Register.”.

“(D) CREDITING AND AVAILABILITY OF FEES.—Section 744M(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j–72(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(D)—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS”; and

(B) by striking “(after fiscal year 2021)”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “2021 through 2025” and inserting “2026 through 2030”.

**SEC. 6505. REAUTHORIZATION; REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) PERFORMANCE REPORT.—Section 744N of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j–73) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Beginning with fiscal year 2021, and not later than 120 calendar days after the end of each fiscal year thereafter” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 calendar days after the end of each fiscal year”;

(B) by striking “section 3861(b) of the CARES Act” and inserting “section 6502 of the Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Amendments”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Beginning with fiscal year 2026, the annual report under this subsection shall include—

“(A) the progress of the Food and Drug Administration in achieving the goals, and future plans for meeting the goals, including—

“(i) the number of Tier 1 OTC monograph order requests for which a proposed order was issued, and the number of such requests for which a final order was issued, in the previous fiscal year;

“(ii) the number of Tier 2 OTC monograph order requests for which a proposed order was issued, and the number of such requests for which a final order was issued, in the previous fiscal year;

“(iii) the number of specified safety OTC monograph order requests for which a proposed order was issued, and the number of such requests for which a final order was issued, in the previous fiscal year;

“(iv) the number of generally recognized as safe and effective finalization OTC monograph order requests for which a proposed order was issued, and the number of such requests for which a final order was issued, in the previous fiscal year;

“(v) the average timeline for processing OTC monograph order requests, in the aggregate and by submission type, in the previous fiscal year; and

“(vi) postmarket safety activities with respect to OTC monograph drugs, including—

“(I) collecting, developing, and reviewing safety information on OTC monograph drugs, including adverse event reports;

“(II) developing and using improved analytical tools, adverse event data-collection systems, including information technology systems, to assess potential safety problems, including access to external databases; and

“(III) activities under section 760;

“(B) information regarding registration of OTC monograph drug facilities and contract manufacturing organization facilities and payment of registration fees by such facilities, including—

“(i) the OTC monograph drug facilities and contract manufacturing organization facilities that were first registered under section 510(c) or 510(i) in the fiscal year; and

“(ii) for each OTC monograph drug facility and contract manufacturing organization facility that was assessed a facility fee under section 744M(a) in the fiscal year, whether the facility paid such fee;

“(C) the status of implementation of evidence and testing standards under section 505G(r) for nonprescription drugs intended for topical administration, including—

“(i) the application of evidence or testing standards; and

“(ii) the number of active ingredient requests for nonprescription drugs intended for topical administration reviewed using the standards under section 505G(b); and

“(D) the progress of the Food and Drug Administration in allowing nonclinical testing alternatives to animal testing for the consideration of sunscreen active ingredients.

“(3) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of information that is prohibited from disclosure under section 301(j) of this Act or section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or that is subject to withholding under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “fiscal year 2021 and each subsequent fiscal year” and inserting “each fiscal year”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “2025” each place it appears and inserting “2030”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) MINUTES OF NEGOTIATION MEETINGS.—

“(A) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make publicly available, on the public website of the Food and Drug Administration, robust written minutes of all negotiation meetings conducted under this subsection between the Food and Drug Administration and the regulated industry, not later than 30 days after each such negotiation meeting.

“(B) CONTENT.—The robust written minutes described under subparagraph (A) shall contain, in detail, any substantive proposal made by any party to the negotiations as well as significant controversies or differences of opinion during the negotiations and their resolution.”.

(b) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2027, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report assessing the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of—

(A) the overall stability of the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs;

(B) what information is collected by the Food and Drug Administration with respect to the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs;

(C) how the Food and Drug Administration uses information collected on the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs to inform regulatory decisions;

(D) how the Food and Drug Administration coordinates with other Federal agencies to monitor and mitigate disruptions to the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs; and

(E) the unique characteristics of the over-the-counter monograph drug marketplace and what additional authorities or information the Food and Drug Administration may need to ensure the stability of the supply chain of over-the-counter monograph drugs.

**SEC. 6506. TREATMENT OF ACTIVE INGREDIENTS FOR TOPICAL ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505G of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355h) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(r) EVIDENCE AND TESTING STANDARDS FOR ACTIVE INGREDIENTS FOR TOPICAL ADMINISTRATION.—

“(1) EVIDENCE AND TESTING STANDARDS FOR ACTIVE INGREDIENTS FOR TOPICAL ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) in evaluating the generally recognized as safe and effective status of active ingredients used in nonprescription drugs intended for topical administration for purposes of subsection (a), utilize standards that allow for the use of real world evidence (as defined in section 505F(b)), as appropriate, as part of a comprehensive evaluation of scientific evidence to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of such active ingredients, to supplement evidence from traditional clinical trials, provided that such standards allow the Secretary to evaluate whether the benefits of such active ingredients outweigh the risks; and

“(B) apply subsection (b)(6)(C) to the regulation of active ingredients used in drugs intended for topical administration.

“(2) NON-ANIMAL TESTING METHODS FOR TOPICAL ACTIVE INGREDIENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consider the types of nonclinical tests described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of the first subsection (z) of section 505 (as inserted by section 3209(a)(2) of the Health Extenders, Improving Access to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP, and Strengthening Public Health Act of 2022 (division FF of Public Law 117-328)), or any other alternative to animal testing that the Secretary determines appropriate, in the consideration of drugs intended for topical administration under this section.

“(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue new draft guidance on how sponsors can use nonclinical testing alternatives to animal testing, as appropriate, to meet safety and efficacy standards under this section for drugs intended for topical administration.

“(3) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to alter, supersede, or limit the standards for making determinations of whether a drug is generally recognized as safe and effective under section 201(p) or the standards set forth under section 505 for determining the safety and effectiveness of drugs.”.

(b) SUNSCREEN FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER.—A final administrative order on nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients issued under section 3854 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136; 21 U.S.C. 360fff-3 note) shall—

(1) account for historical data regarding the safety of sunscreen active ingredients that have previously been accepted for marketing in the United States;

(2) account for the role of broad spectrum sunscreens with a Sun Protection Factor of 15 or higher in effective skin cancer prevention; and

(3) incorporate the evidence and testing standards for sunscreen active ingredients detailed in section 505G(r) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355h) (as added by subsection (a)).

**SEC. 6507. INCREASING THE CLARITY AND PREDICTABILITY OF THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING APPLICATIONS FOR RX-TO-NONPRESCRIPTION SWITCHES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) RX-TO-NONPRESCRIPTION SWITCHES.—

“(A) MEETINGS.—Any person planning to submit an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch may submit to the Secretary a written request for a meeting, for purposes of developing a plan for such application that addresses the potential risks to public health of such switch and the evidence necessary to support such application, including the design of any necessary studies, and the format and content of the planned application. The Secretary may grant such a meeting, as appropriate, consistent with established procedures for granting meetings with, and providing written responses to, applications under this section. Each such meeting shall be documented in meeting minutes.

“(B) GUIDANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall issue guidance to increase the clarity and predictability of the process and standards for approval of applications for nonprescription drugs under this section, including in the case of applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch, especially with respect to prescription drugs with well-established safety profiles for which an applicant may seek approval for nonprescription use.

“(ii) CONTENTS.—The guidance under clause (i) shall—

“(I) describe how published reports in medical literature, any previous finding of safety or effectiveness for the drug under this section, the results of significant human experience with the drug, unpublished studies and other data, and other sources of information may be used to support an application for a nonprescription drug, including in the context of an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch;

“(II) set forth procedures for sponsors to request meetings described in subparagraph (A) and document the recommendations made in such meetings;

“(III) describe evidentiary expectations to support approval of an application for a nonprescription drug, including in the context of an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch, including how sponsors can demonstrate that consumers can appropriately self-select and use the drug and comprehend the nonprescription drug label; and

“(IV) provide recommendations for how mechanisms, in addition to the required Drug Facts Label, such as mobile applications and decisions aids, can be incorporated into the information submitted in support of an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch.

“(C) PLAN TO ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall develop and make publicly available on the website of the Food and Drug Administration a plan to engage stakeholders on steps and factors for application holders and other stakeholders to consider in identifying approved prescription drugs that may be promising candidates for applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch.

“(D) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘Rx-to-nonprescription switch’ means the approval of an application, or supplemental application, as applicable, submitted under this section by the holder of an approved application for a prescription drug seeking approval to market such drug as a nonprescription drug, including for—

“(i) a full Rx-to-nonprescription switch, under which a drug previously approved for prescription use only is—

“(I) approved for nonprescription use under the same conditions as applied to the drug when approved for prescription use; or

“(II) approved for nonprescription use subject to one or more additional conditions for nonprescription use; and

“(ii) a partial Rx-to-nonprescription switch, under which the drug is approved for nonprescription use only under certain conditions described in the approved labeling, while the drug otherwise remains approved for prescription use only.

“(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to—

“(i) supersede or modify the authority of the Secretary under section 505G with respect to the regulation of OTC monograph drugs; or

“(ii) authorize the disclosure by the Secretary of confidential commercial information or trade secrets.”.

(b) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates—

(A) the number of applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch approved during the period beginning on October 1, 2022, and ending on the date of the report;

(B) the number of drugs for which an application for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch was approved during such period subject to an additional condition for nonprescription use;

(C) among the drugs for which an application for a full or partial Rx-to-nonprescription switch was approved during such period, the average length of time from receipt by the Food and Drug Administration of the application to the approval of such application;

(D) the number of partial Rx-to-nonprescription switch applications approved during such period, and the number of applications for such a partial switch not approved;

(E) any barriers to timely and predictable review of applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch;

(F) engagement by the Food and Drug Administration with public stakeholders, including public meetings or additional activities to support review of applications for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch; and

(G) opportunities for collaboration between the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for the purpose of analyzing health insurance claims data for commonly prescribed drugs that appear to be suitable for an Rx-to-nonprescription switch.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘Rx-to-nonprescription switch’ has the meaning given such term in paragraph (7) of section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 244(b)), as added by subsection (a).

**SEC. 6508. REGULATION OF CERTAIN NON-PREScription DRUGS THAT ARE MARKETED WITHOUT AN APPROVED DRUG APPLICATION.**

(a) DEVELOPMENT ADVICE TO SPONSORS OR REQUESTORS.—Section 505G(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355h(h)) is amended by striking ‘‘sponsors or requestors’’ and inserting ‘‘sponsors, requestors, or organizations nominated by sponsors or requestors to represent their interests in a proceeding’’.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 505G(b)(2)(A)(iv)(III) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355h(b)(2)(A)(iv)(III)) is amended by striking ‘‘requestors’’ and inserting ‘‘sponsors or requestors’’.

**SEC. 6509. SUNSET DATES.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Sections 744L and 744M of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71; 379j-72) shall cease to be effective October 1, 2030.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 744N of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-73) shall cease to be effective January 31, 2031.

**SEC. 6510. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The amendments made by this title shall take effect on October 1, 2025, or the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later, except that fees under part 10 of subchapter C of chapter VII of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71 et seq.) shall be assessed beginning October 1, 2025, regardless of the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 6511. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

Notwithstanding the amendments made by this title, part 10 of subchapter C of chapter VII of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-71 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue to be in effect with respect to assessing and collecting any fee required by such part for a fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2026.

**TITLE VI—NO SURPRISES ACT IMPLEMENTATION****SEC. 6601. EXTENDING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR NO SURPRISES ACT IMPLEMENTATION.**

Section 118(a) of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) is amended—

(1) by striking “otherwise appropriated, to the Secretary of Health and Human Services” and inserting the following: “otherwise appropriated—

“(1) to the Secretary of Health and Human Services”;

(2) in paragraph (1), as so inserted, by striking “September 30, 2025.” and inserting “January 30, 2026; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated under paragraph (1), \$14,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on January 30, 2026.”.

**DIVISION G—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXTENDERS****TITLE I—HEALTH CARE MATTERS****SEC. 7101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.**

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

Section 1710A(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7103. EXTENSION OF STAFF SERGEANT PARKER GORDON FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

Section 201(j) of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-171; 38 U.S.C. 1720F note) is amended by striking “the date that is three years after the date on which the first grant is awarded under this section” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7104. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR EXPANSION OF RURAL ACCESS NETWORK FOR GROWTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.**

Section 2(d) of the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021 (Public

Law 117-21; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

**TITLE II—BENEFITS****SEC. 7201. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS ON ADMINISTRATION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO DETERMINATIONS REGARDING PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION BASED ON TOXIC EXPOSURE.**

Section 202(b)(2) of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-168) is amended by striking “On a quarterly basis during the two-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,” and inserting “On a quarterly basis during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2026.”.

**SEC. 7202. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT RELATING TO RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF CLOSURE OR DIS-APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.**

Section 3699(c)(2)(C) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7203. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY CLARIFICATION OF LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO PERFORM MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS UNDER PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS FOR DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.**

Section 2002(a)(4) of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking “five years” and inserting “six years”.

**SEC. 7204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE IN REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES.**

Section 315(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**TITLE III—HOUSING****SEC. 7301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN RE-INTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

Section 2021A(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

**SEC. 7302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.**

(a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(b) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—Section 2033(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

Section 2044(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) \$660,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.”.

**SEC. 7304. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.**

Section 2061(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

**SEC. 7305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING FOR DISABLED VETERANS RESIDING TEMPORARILY IN HOUSING OWNED BY A FAMILY MEMBER.**

Section 2102A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM.**

Section 2108(g) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7307. IMPROVEMENTS TO PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) CLARIFICATION OF RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POWERS OF SECRETARY.—Section 3720(h) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “of subsection (a)” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “of subsection (a) in conjunction with the purchase of a loan under section 3722(a)(2) of this title unless the Secretary determines the purchase would be made consistent with section 3722(d) of this title.”.

(b) ADMINISTRATION OF PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM.—Section 3737 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “first lien guaranteed loan for such property” and inserting “amount of indebtedness under the guaranteed loan that the Secretary does not purchase”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking “120 days” and inserting “180 days”; and

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) An amount paid to the holder of a loan as a partial claim—

“(A) shall not alter the guaranty calculation specified by section 3703 of this title;

“(B) shall be included, for the purpose of a liquidation sale, in the same manner as any other advance allowed by the Secretary; and

“(C) shall not be claimed under the guaranty or increase the Secretary’s cost of acquisition of the property securing the defaulted loan.”.

(c) REQUIREMENTS OF LOAN HOLDER.—Section (d)(1) of such section is amending by inserting “and servicing the loan” after “documents”.

(d) DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an individual who” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “a borrower who defaults on a partial claim shall be liable to the Secretary for any loss suffered by the Secretary with respect to such default, and such loss may be recovered in the same manner as any other debt due the United States. The Secretary shall not restore housing loan entitlement under section 3702(b) of this title until such loss is repaid in full.”; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) The Secretary may charge administrative costs, fees, and interest, as appropriate, with respect to any default under a partial claim in a manner similar to the interest and administrative costs charged under section 5315 of this title.”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) Notwithstanding section 2410 of title 28, a non-judicial sale of real property to satisfy a loan guaranteed under this chapter shall discharge the property from a partial claim interest held by the Secretary, provided that the holder of the guaranteed loan

conducts the non-judicial sale and distributes the sale proceeds, if any, in accordance with the State or local law where such property is situated.”.

(e) GUIDANCE IN ADVANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(h) GUIDANCE IN ADVANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may, before prescribing regulations, issue administrative guidance with respect to the Partial Claim Program under this section and the loss mitigation options prescribed under section 3732(d) of this title, including any additional terms, conditions, and requirements the Secretary determines necessary.”.

**SEC. 7308. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORTS ON PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND OTHER MATTERS.**

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter until the Partial Claim Program terminates, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include, for the period covered by the report and disaggregated by quarter, the following:

(A) Key data on the performance of the Partial Claim Program, including—

(i) the number of partial claims filed and approved; and

(ii) the redefault and foreclosure rates of loans for which a partial claim was made.

(B) A comparison of the data described in subparagraph (A) with data on the performance of other loss mitigation options provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(C) The number of housing loans insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code.

(D) The number of applications for housing loan benefits under such chapter denied.

(E) The number of housing loans insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary under such chapter refinanced under section 3710(a)(8) or 3712 of title 38, United States Code.

(F) The number of veterans who owe a payment on a mortgage associated with a loan insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary under such chapter that is at least—

(i) 60 days late; and

(ii) 90 days late.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year before the Partial Claim Program terminates, the Comptroller General shall—

(A) conduct an assessment of the benefits and challenges of the Partial Claim Program; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to that assessment.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the assessment required by paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall consider the following:

(A) The characteristics of borrowers for whom a partial claim was made compared to the characteristics of borrowers provided other loss mitigation options by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) The performance of loans guaranteed under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, following various loss mitigation actions.

(C) The information the Department considered in determining whether a borrower would benefit from a partial claim compared to other loss mitigation options.

(D) The costs to taxpayers of the Partial Claim Program compared to the costs of other loss mitigation options provided by the Department.

(E) Any similarities and differences in the Department’s administration and use of the Partial Claim Program compared to the Department’s administration and use of the COVID-19 Veterans Assistance Partial Claim Payment program established under subpart F of part 36 of title 38, Code of Regulations.

(F) The information the Department learned from the COVID-19 Veterans Assistance Partial Claim Payment program and the extent to which those lessons learned were applied to the Partial Claim Program.

(G) The types of information the Department collected to monitor the performance and effectiveness of the Partial Claim Program and how the Department used that information to make any needed adjustments to the program.

(H) How the use by the Department of partial claims compares to the use of partial claims by other Federal housing agencies, including, for each partial claim program—

(i) the volume of loans for which partial claims have been made;

(ii) the results for borrowers (including re-default and foreclosure rates); and

(iii) the costs to taxpayers.

(c) PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Partial Claim Program” means the Partial Claim Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs carried out under section 3737 of title 38, United States Code.

**TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS**

**SEC. 7401. EXTENSION OF SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

Section 312(d)(7)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7402. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE RELIEF.**

Section 503(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”.

**SEC. 7403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO TRANSPORT INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM FACILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

Section 111A(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7404. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOAN PROGRAM.**

Section 3733(a)(8) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY.**

Section 8118(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

**SEC. 7406. RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The amendments made by this division, except for the amendments made by section 7307, shall take effect as if enacted on September 30, 2025.

**DIVISION H—MISCELLANEOUS**

**SEC. 8001. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division and divi-

sions E through G shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division and divisions E through G shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division and divisions E through G shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

(d) BALANCES ON THE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—Effective on the date of the adjournment of the first session of the 119th Congress, and for the purposes of the annual report issued pursuant to section 5 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 934) after such adjournment and for determining whether a sequestration order is necessary under such section, the balances on the PAYGO scorecards established pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 4(d) of such Act shall be zero.

**SA 3938.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3937 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title VII of division B, strike section 781.

**SA 3939.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

“NO PAY FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

“SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘Government shutdown’ means a lapse in appropriations for 1 or more Federal agencies or departments;

“(2) the term ‘Member of Congress’ means an individual serving in a position under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 601(a)(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501(1)); and

“(3) the term ‘payroll administrator’, with respect to a House of Congress, means—

“(A) in the case of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out the requirements of this section; and

“(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, or an employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by the Chief

Administrative Officer to carry out the requirements of this section.

“(b) REQUIRING REDUCTION OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If on any day during a pay period a Government shutdown is in effect, the payroll administrator of each House of Congress shall exclude from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to that pay period for the compensation of each Member of Congress who serves in that House of Congress an amount equal to the product of—

“(A) an amount equal to one day’s worth of pay under the annual rate of pay of the Member under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

“(B) the number of 24-hour periods during the pay period during which the Government shutdown is in effect.

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to days occurring after the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2026 (in this section referred to as the ‘pay reduction effective date’).

“(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BEFORE GENERAL ELECTION.—

“(1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If on any day before the pay reduction effective date a Government shutdown is in effect, the payroll administrator of each House of Congress shall—

“(A) withhold from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to a pay period for the compensation of each Member of Congress who serves in that House of Congress an amount equal to the product of—

“(i) an amount equal to one day’s worth of pay under the annual rate of pay applicable to the Member under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

“(ii) the number of 24-hour periods during which the Government shutdown is in effect which occur during the pay period; and

“(B) deposit in an escrow account all amounts withheld under subparagraph (A).

“(2) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the compensation of Senators or Representatives in violation of the 27th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the payroll administrator of a House of Congress shall release for payments to Members of that House of Congress any amounts remaining in any escrow account under this subsection on the pay reduction effective date.

“(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall apply with respect to days during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the pay reduction effective date.

“(d) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the payroll administrators of the Houses of Congress with such assistance as may be necessary to enable the payroll administrators to carry out this section.”

**SA 3940.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3937 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

NO PAY FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “Government shutdown” means a lapse in appropriations for 1 or more Federal agencies or departments;

(2) the term “Member of Congress” means an individual serving in a position under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 601(a)(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501(I)); and

(3) the term “payroll administrator”, with respect to a House of Congress, means—

(A) in the case of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out the requirements of this section; and

(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, or an employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out the requirements of this section.

(b) REQUIRING REDUCTION OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If on any day during a pay period a Government shutdown is in effect, the payroll administrator of each House of Congress shall exclude from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to that pay period for the compensation of each Member of Congress who serves in that House of Congress an amount equal to the product of—

(A) an amount equal to one day’s worth of pay under the annual rate of pay of the Member under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

(B) the number of 24-hour periods during the pay period during which the Government shutdown is in effect.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to days occurring after the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2026 (in this section referred to as the ‘pay reduction effective date’).

(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BEFORE GENERAL ELECTION.—

(1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If on any day before the pay reduction effective date a Government shutdown is in effect, the payroll administrator of each House of Congress shall—

(A) withhold from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to a pay period for the compensation of each Member of Congress who serves in that House of Congress an amount equal to the product of—

(i) an amount equal to one day’s worth of pay under the annual rate of pay applicable to the Member under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

(ii) the number of 24-hour periods during which the Government shutdown is in effect which occur during the pay period; and

(B) deposit in an escrow account all amounts withheld under subparagraph (A).

(2) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the compensation of Senators or Representatives in violation of the 27th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the payroll administrator of a House of Congress shall release for payments to Members of that House of Congress any amounts remaining in any escrow account under this subsection on the pay reduction effective date.

(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall apply with respect to days during the period

beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the pay reduction effective date.

(d) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the payroll administrators of the Houses of Congress with such assistance as may be necessary to enable the payroll administrators to carry out this section.

**SA 3941.** Mr. THUNE (for Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3937 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, in title VII of division B, section 781 shall have no force or effect.

**SA 3942.** Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3941 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. WYDEN)) to the amendment SA 3937 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

**SA 3943.** Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

**SA 3944.** Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3943 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

“This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment.”

**SA 3945.** Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

“This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment.”

**SA 3946.** Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3945 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “5 days” and insert “6 days”

**SA 3947.** Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3946 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the amendment SA 3945 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “6 days” and insert “7 days”

**SA 3948.** Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. PROHIBITION ON LAST-MINUTE RE-SCISSECTIONS.**

Notwithstanding any provision of the Im-  
poundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 681  
et seq.), a special message transmitted under  
section 1012 or 1013 of such Act may not pro-  
pose to rescind or defer any budget authority  
that expires on or before the date that is 90  
days after the date on which such special  
message is transmitted.

**SA 3949.** Mr. MERKLEY submitted an  
amendment intended to be proposed by  
him to the bill H.R. 5371, making con-  
tinuing appropriations and extensions  
for fiscal year 2026, and for other pur-  
poses; which was ordered to lie on the  
table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the fol-  
lowing:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_.** None of the funds appropriated  
or otherwise made available to the Depart-  
ment of Veterans Affairs by this Act may be  
used in a manner that would—

(1) interfere with the ability of a veteran  
to participate in a medicinal marijuana pro-  
gram approved by a State;

(2) deny any services from the Department  
to a veteran who is participating in such a  
program; or

(3) limit or interfere with the ability of a  
health care provider of the Department to  
make appropriate recommendations, fill out  
forms, or take steps to comply with such a  
program.

**SA 3950.** Ms. BALDWIN (for herself,  
Mr. WELCH, and Ms. SLOTKIN) sub-  
mitted an amendment intended to be  
proposed to amendment SA 3937 pro-  
posed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R.  
5371, making continuing appropriations  
and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and  
for other purposes; which was ordered  
to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the fol-  
lowing:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY EN-  
HANCED PREMIUM CREDITS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Clause (iii) of section  
36B(b)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “January 1, 2026” and in-  
serting “January 1, 2027”, and

(2) by striking “2025” in the heading and  
inserting “2026”.

(b) **TAXPAYERS WHOSE HOUSEHOLD INCOME  
EXCEEDS 400 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY**

LINE.—Section 36B(c)(1)(E) of the Internal  
Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “January 1, 2026” and in-  
serting “January 1, 2027”, and

(2) by striking “2025” in the heading and  
inserting “2026”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments  
made by this section shall apply to taxable  
years beginning after December 31, 2025.

**SIGNING AUTHORITY**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask  
unanimous consent that all Members of the  
Republican conference be authorized  
to sign duly enrolled bills or joint  
resolutions from November 11 through  
November 18.

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

**PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF  
CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND  
HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLI-  
DAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE  
PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILD-  
INGS**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask  
unanimous consent the Senate proceed  
to the consideration of S. Res. 497,  
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. 497) permitting the  
collection of clothing, toys, food, and  
housewares during the holiday season for  
charitable purposes in Senate buildings.

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

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous con-  
sent that the resolution be agreed to  
and the motion to reconsider be consid-  
ered 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. 497) was  
agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s  
RECORD under “Submitted Resolu-  
tions.”)

**RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask  
unanimous consent the Senate now  
proceed to the en bloc consideration of

the following resolutions, which are at  
the desk: S. Res. 494, S. Res. 495, S. Res.  
496, and S. Res. 498.

There being no objection, the Senate  
proceeded to consider the resolutions  
en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous con-  
sent that the resolutions be agreed to,  
the preambles be agreed to, and the  
motions to reconsider be considered  
made and laid upon the table, all en  
bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their pre-  
ambles, are printed in today’s RECORD  
under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEM-  
BER 11, 2025, THROUGH TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask  
unanimous consent that when the Senate  
completes its business today, it adjourns  
to then convene for pro forma  
session only, with no business being  
conducted, on the following dates and  
times: Thursday, November 13, at 6:30  
p.m., and Monday, November 17, at 3  
p.m.; further, that when the Senate adjourns  
on Monday, November 17, it stand adjourned  
until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18; that following the  
prayer and pledge, the morning hour be  
deemed expired, the Journal of pro-  
ceedings be approved to date, the time  
for the two leaders be reserved for their  
use later in the day, and the Senate be  
in a period of morning business, with  
Senators permitted to speak therein  
for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that  
notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture  
motions filed today ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 13, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is  
no further business to come before the  
Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned  
under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate,  
at 9:46 p.m., adjourned until Thursday,  
November 13, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.