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No. 194

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

November 18, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID J. TAYLOR, to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

HONORING DR. THOMAS A. PARHAM

(Ms. BARRAGÁN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Thomas A. Parham, president of California State University, Dominguez Hills, as he retires after an extraordinary career in higher education.

Affectionately known as Dr. P, he has been a visionary at Cal State Dominguez Hills since 2018, elevating academic excellence, expanding oppor-

tunity, and strengthening community partnerships across the South Bay and beyond.

Dr. Parham has inspired generations of students through his commitment to equity, empowerment, and educational success. Under his leadership, California State University, Dominguez Hills, has become more than a university. It has been a launching pad for dreams, empowering students to succeed academically and personally.

As Dr. Parham embarks on his well-deserved retirement, his legacy will continue to uplift the Toro community and the broader higher education landscape for years to come.

On behalf of California's 44th District, I congratulate Dr. Parham and wish him continued success, happiness, and fulfillment in this next chapter.

REMEMBERING JESSE MARQUEZ

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of an environmental champion in my district, Jesse Marquez.

Jesse was a passionate leader who fought tirelessly for environmental justice. As a student at Banning High School in Wilmington, California, he was a record-setting track athlete.

Tragically, disaster struck his neighborhood when explosions occurred at a refinery across the street from his family's home. Fortunately, Jesse survived the fatal incident, which injured over 150 neighbors. It led him to establish the Coalition For A Safe Environment in 2021, a community-based organization that successfully advocated for stronger rules to protect residents from pollution and chemical disasters.

Jesse also established the first community-led air monitor network in Wilmington, California, and he successfully prevented the expansion of highways and rail yards next to homes and schools.

I thank Jesse for his tireless advocacy for safer, healthier communities.

Rest in power.

PAYOUTS TO GOP SENATORS

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Congress shut the government down for 43 days to avoid spending a dollar on healthcare for hard-working Americans.

When they finally voted for a partisan spending bill, it lined the pockets of eight Republican Senators with millions of dollars in taxpayer funds.

This is corruption, plain and simple. If anyone else in government gave themselves millions of dollars in taxpayer money, they would go to prison.

It also speaks to the misplaced priorities of Republicans who cannot be bothered to support affordable healthcare for Americans, but they can find money to reward Senators over taxpayers.

Senators may not like to be treated like everybody else, but subpoenas and nondisclosure orders are a routine part of grand jury investigations. No one has an absolute right to be notified that their call records have been subpoenaed. No Senator should have a guaranteed right to self-deal themselves a million dollars if a lawful search happens.

Now, the American people may hear House Republicans say they will pass a bill this week to undo what they voted for last week, but talk is cheap. They could have stopped this corrupt provision before it became law, and they didn't. That was the action they took. It is now the law, and unless the Senate is going to take up whatever the House passes, if it does, the vote this week will have all been for show.

It is to save face, but it doesn't save taxpayers a dime from the payday coming to Senate Republicans. The Republican Senator from South Carolina said he is already preparing to sue so he can cash in.

Republicans did this at the same time they threw Americans off their healthcare. Imagine that, doing this at the very same time.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H4709

While Republicans take away the lifesaving care you need and deserve, they are getting rich with your hard-earned tax dollars.

House Democrats will keep fighting to protect your healthcare and make life more affordable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the Senate or individual Members of the Senate.

RECOGNIZING LISA YANNEY ROSKENS

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lisa Yanney Roskens, a true leader whose vision, dedication, and compassion have touched the lives of tens of thousands of military families and veterans across our Nation.

As the chief executive officer of Burlington Capital, Lisa has spearheaded initiatives focused on affordable housing for veterans, contributing to programs designed to help individuals break the cycle of poverty and lead healthy, productive lives.

Lisa embodies what it means to lead with both intellect and heart. A proud graduate of Stanford University, where she earned her bachelor's degree and juris doctorate, Lisa brings not only deep business acumen but also a strong sense of service and purpose.

Lisa has guided Burlington Capital to become a national model for purpose-driven investment. This company demonstrates that you can achieve financial success while positively impacting communities and transforming lives.

Under Lisa's leadership, Burlington Capital has made an extraordinary commitment to those who serve the United States of America, both Active-Duty servicemembers and the veterans who have sacrificed for our freedom.

Lisa's belief has always been simple yet powerful: The people who defend our Nation deserve quality homes, supportive communities, and a true sense of belonging.

One of the most outstanding examples of this commitment is at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. There, Burlington Capital partnered with the United States Air Force to redevelop and manage the base's military family housing community. Through a long-term public-private partnership, Lisa and her team delivered \$240 million in redevelopment that transformed outdated housing into modern neighborhoods where military families can thrive.

The results speak for themselves. Nearly 2,000 obsolete units were replaced, and hundreds more were renovated. New homes were built to meet the needs of today's airmen and their families.

The community now known as Rising View was recognized for its strong

partnership, its service to tens of thousands of families, and its unwavering commitment to quality of life for those in uniform.

Lisa's impact doesn't end there. She saw another pressing need in our community, the need to provide housing and stability for our Nation's veterans, especially those who have faced homelessness.

In 2013, Lisa and Burlington Capital partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to create Victory I Apartments, a community built on part of the former St. Joseph Hospital site. It provides 90 permanent, supportive housing units for formerly homeless veterans. This project was more than a renovation. It was the creation of a lifeline for men and women who once protected our Nation but returned home to uncertainty.

Building on that success, Lisa led the charge for Victory II Apartments, which opened in 2020. This second phase added 60 more apartment homes dedicated to veterans and their families who earn at or below 50 percent of this area's median income. These homes are designed with dignity in mind, paired with access to health, wellness, and job readiness services.

Together, Victory I and II provide 150 safe, stable homes for men and women who once wore our Nation's uniform. The apartments offer not only a safe place to live but also access to onsite supportive services from the VA and local agencies, helping veterans rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.

Victory Apartments earned national recognition, receiving the Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award for outstanding affordable housing that serves special needs populations. Just as importantly, it has become a model for how public, private, and nonprofit sectors can come together to change lives.

Lisa expanded that vision even further with the creation of Victory Park in Lincoln, Nebraska. On the VA campus, Burlington Capital developed 70 new apartments for veterans and partnered with the VA to deliver a new community-based outpatient clinic for Lincoln's veteran population. Victory Park combines housing, healthcare, and supportive services in one location, a community that restores independence, connection, and pride for those who once served our Nation.

Through efforts like these, Lisa Roskens has demonstrated what it means to not only be a successful business leader but also somebody who is deeply committed to making a difference in the communities where her organization operates.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR COUNTLESS CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, after 9 months of delay, I rise today to rec-

ognize an important victory for the United States and for thousands of children around the world who have a new chance at life.

Finally, after months of advocacy and struggle, funding has been restored for global emergency food aid for children. You see, malnutrition is the number one cause of death for children under 5 globally, and when children are on the brink of starvation, their organs break down, and they cannot even digest food if it is given to them.

There is a proven treatment: ready-to-use therapeutic food, also known as Plumpy'Nut, a shelf-stable peanut paste. It does not need to be refrigerated. You don't need to add water. It has the nutrients that children need to survive and grow back from the brink of starvation.

Edesia Nutrition in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, is one of the two organizations that manufacture Plumpy'Nut. Since their founding, they have saved over 25 million lives.

Earlier this year, in January, funding for Plumpy'Nut was cut off by President Trump's DOGE initiative. New Federal orders were halted. Production ground to a halt. Boxes of lifesaving food aid sat in warehouses while children starved to death.

This was not just cruel. It was shortsighted.

America's reputation as a global leader suffers when we fail to deliver international aid. Our adversaries—China, Russia, terrorist organizations—fill the abyss when the United States pulls out.

A broad coalition of Americans fought back. In April, I made a commitment that I would speak on this floor every legislative day until funding was restored. I ended up speaking here 42 times in total to demand that emergency food aid for children be restored.

I wasn't alone. My colleague from Rhode Island, Representative AMO, made his voice heard on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Representative AUSTIN SCOTT from Georgia, whose district hosts the other organization that manufactures Plumpy'Nut, was a vital partner. Of course, Navyn Salem, the CEO of Edesia, never gave up her mission to help starving kids in need.

Last month, the administration finally listened, and the program was restored. A few weeks ago, Edesia was able to resume regular shipments. I was there at the loading dock in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, when the first new shipments went outbound for children whose small bodies were struggling on the edge of starvation and who now have a chance to survive and grow. I will never forget that moment.

This is proof that, even in these challenging times, it is possible to get good things done. This victory wouldn't have happened if it weren't for the advocacy of people at all levels, all across the country, making their voices heard. It is a monumental step toward

restoring the moral standing of the United States abroad and saving countless lives.

While I am very glad that this program is restored, that Edesia is up and running again, and that funding for food aid is back, none of this should have ever happened.

Make no mistake, children died needlessly because President Trump and an unelected tech billionaire cut off their supply of food before eventually reversing course. This is a lesson in the devastating consequences of the chaotic slash-and-burn style of government that we have seen too much of over the last year.

Nevertheless, today is a day for celebration, as Americans came together to do the right thing, to advocate for those who couldn't advocate for themselves, and to deliver a victory for countless children around the world who now have a chance to grow and thrive.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROCCO J. DIINA

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with both gratitude and a heavy heart to honor the extraordinary life of a dear friend, a devoted public servant, and a guardian of our community, former Buffalo Police Commissioner Rocco J. Diina, who passed away on October 5 at the age of 75.

Commissioner Diina was a pillar of western New York, a man whose leadership, character, and compassion shaped our great city. His legacy is etched in the lives he protected, the hope he restored, the community he made safer each and every day, and the family and friends that he loved.

Rocco grew up on Tacoma Avenue in north Buffalo, the middle of three brothers, in a proud, hardworking family rooted in faith, service, and devotion to community. Those values guided his life and charted the course of his calling.

At just 18 years old, he walked through the doors of the Buffalo Police Department as a cadet. He wasn't drawn to the badge for prestige or distinction. He answered the call out of duty, earning a reputation for trust and honesty.

After two decades in uniform and a distinguished career of serving and protecting the great City of Good Neighbors, Rocco retired, though anyone who knew him knew he would not stay away for long.

In 1994, his lifelong friend, Mayor Anthony Masiello, called him back to serve, this time as deputy police commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years later, he became the city of Buffalo's police commissioner. In that role, Commissioner

Diina didn't just lead the department; he transformed it. He brought innovation and modernization to the department and streamlined precinct operations. He opened doors once closed, appointing the city's first African-American woman to serve as deputy commissioner, an act of leadership that strengthened both the department and our city.

Among his proudest achievements was reopening the Buffalo Police Athletic League, a program built on the belief that trust is forged not through authority but through relationships.

Through sports, mentorship, and guidance, PAL created a bridge between law enforcement and young people who were yearning for opportunity and connection. Today, it serves more than 20,000 children each year, a living testament to the enduring impact of Rocco's vision.

For Commissioner Diina, public safety was about restoring hope, investing in youth, and strengthening the bond between community and those sworn to serve it.

Beyond every title and every professional achievement stood the role he cherished most: that of husband, father, and grandfather. He met the love of his life, Anna Marie, at a hot dog stand at Crystal Beach, and the rest was history.

For more than 50 years, they built a family grounded in love, laughter, and loyalty. Together, they raised two exceptional children, Rebecca and Rocco Jr., and delighted in the joy of five grandchildren, the light of their lives and the pride of their hearts.

Rocco was a steadfast leader who was tough when duty demanded it and compassionate when humanity required it. Even after stepping out of public office, his mission never changed. Rocco founded RJD Security, growing it from a small startup into one of western New York's most trusted security firms. In doing so, he continued to do what had always driven him: protecting people, supporting local businesses, and safeguarding the places that make community possible.

We honor Commissioner Rocco Diina for the department he strengthened, the neighborhoods and the city that he made safer, and for reminding us what true leadership looks like: service before self, strength without ego, and kindness without hesitation.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his remarkable life. We offer our deepest condolences to the Diina family, who shared him so generously with all of us.

May we strive to emulate his leadership with integrity, his service with humility, and his love and unwavering devotion to our community.

On behalf of the grateful city of Buffalo, the western New York community, and the Nation, may Commissioner Rocco J. Diina rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SIDNEY DAVIDOFF

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sidney Davidoff, a towering figure in New York's political life and a true son of the great city of New York, who passed away Sunday at the age of 86.

Born in Brooklyn, Sid served 7 years as administrative assistant to Mayor John Lindsay. He went on to become one of New York's most respected government affairs attorneys.

As founder of Davidoff Hatcher & Citron, he built a firm whose 50 years of work stands as part of his extraordinary legacy. A frequent lecturer at Yale and NYU and board member on countless city initiatives, Sid earned the distinction few can claim: He was respected on both sides of the aisle.

Beyond the title, Sid Davidoff was a true New Yorker: brilliant, tough, generous, and kind. He worked right up to the end, always thinking about what more he could do for the city and State he loved.

Today, we mourn his loss and celebrate his life. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Linda; his family; and to all who knew and loved him, especially his colleagues at Davidoff Hatcher & Citron.

CELEBRATING RETIREMENT OF GEORGE GAINES

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the outstanding career of George Gaines, a dedicated educator, mentor, and longtime boys' basketball coach at Tappan Zee High School in Orangeburg, who recently announced his retirement after an extraordinary 22 years of leading the Dutchmen.

During his tenure, Coach Gaines built one of the most respected basketball programs in the region, guiding his teams to an impressive 301-47 record, four section I titles, two Rockland County championships, and the 2023 New York State Class A crown. His leadership, discipline, and passion for the game inspired not only his players but the entire Tappan Zee community.

In addition to his success as a coach, Coach Gaines served as a physical education teacher at Tappan Zee, shaping generations of students with his commitment to excellence, integrity, and personal growth.

May we commend Coach Gaines for his years of service, mentorship, and dedication to young people. May his next chapter be as fulfilling as the impact he left on his players, his school, and his community.

CELEBRATING RETIREMENT OF TIM IDONI

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tim Idoni of New Rochelle on his retirement after more than 40 years of extraordinary public service to Westchester County.

Tim's career has been defined by a deep commitment to his community.

As mayor of New Rochelle, he led the city in revitalization projects, creating thousands of jobs and breathing new life into the downtown.

Over the last two decades as Westchester County clerk, Tim modernized the office in ways that have saved taxpayers millions of dollars, made local government more efficient, and improved services for countless families.

Beyond titles and offices, Tim has been a tireless advocate for affordable housing, open space, and community organizations throughout Westchester. His service leaves a lasting mark not just on New Rochelle but on all of Westchester County.

I thank Tim for his decades of dedication and his commitment to public service. He was a great colleague in government, and I congratulate him on his retirement. I wish him and his family continued health and happiness in the years ahead.

HONORING LIFE OF TERRY MARTIN HEKKER

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Terry Martin Hekker, who passed away in her home on October 20, just weeks before her 93rd birthday.

A Brooklyn native, Terry grew up with the lively spirit of two large Irish families. Her father's work brought the family to the Bear Mountain Inn, where Terry's earliest encounters included visiting athletes and politicians, like Jackie Robinson.

A graduate of Pratt Institute, Terry married and eventually settled in Nyack, New York, where she raised five children. Terry authored two best-selling novels, which brought her national recognition and led her to a long career in local politics.

Terry served on various boards, including the Nyack Chamber of Commerce and as village trustee, before making history as the first female mayor of the village of Nyack, one of her proudest achievements being advocating for the creation of the Nyack Community Center.

May God bless the memory of Terry Hekker and continue to comfort her family and friends during this time of loss. Our community will miss her.

HONORING LIFE OF JOHN FARLEY

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Farley of Pearl River, who passed away this summer at the age of 84.

John grew up in Rockland County. He served our Nation proudly in the United States Navy and built a career as a member of Steamfitters Local 638 in New York City. To those who knew him best, he was simply "Pop."

John had a quick wit, a love of sports, and a gift for coaching. More than that, he had a way of seeing the best in people and encouraging them to see it in themselves. That is the mark he left on his family, his friends, and his community.

John's legacy lives on in his children and grandchildren and in the many lives he touched in Pearl River and beyond. May his memory be a blessing,

and may we honor him by carrying forward the kindness and generosity he showed every day.

CELEBRATING REVEREND TROY DECOHEN'S 25TH YEAR OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the celebration of the Reverend Troy DeCohen, senior pastor of the Mount Vernon Heights Congregational Church, in this year completing his 25th year of pastoral leadership.

Reverend DeCohen has a distinguished clerical career. He was called to the ministry in 1988, was active in churches in New Jersey and New York, and is now approaching his fourth decade.

He holds master's degrees from Fordham University and Mercy University, and he has shown a skill and achievement in dealing with real-world congregational problems: substance abuse issues, conflict resolution, homelessness, HIV and AIDS, and mental illness.

Complementing his pastoral service, he serves as director of housing operations for the Westchester County Department of Social Services. He has been recognized with awards by Governors, county executives, State and Federal legislators, and organizations across the spectrum.

Along with his wife, Reverend Viviana DeCohen, he has led his home congregation in worship, Bible study, and community outreach to those in need in the Mount Vernon and surrounding communities. He serves as president and chair of the United Black Clergy of Westchester County.

He is living Matthew 25's spiritual direction every day to show faith in the Lord by doing good for his people, including for the least of his brothers.

I congratulate Reverend DeCohen.

RAISING CONCERN FOR HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern over recent changes to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program.

This program is one of the largest sources of resources, including 900 units of housing in my district, that is involved with funding to combat homelessness, especially for seniors, domestic violence victims, and people with disabilities. There are nearly 700 units of permanent housing involved in this program.

In 2024, Congress approved a 2-year funding cycle to promote greater program stability. However, last week, HUD announced a new funding competition with substantial changes that could delay funding awards for months. The announcement also slashes how much funding may be used for permanent housing.

Such drastic changes could result in a significant reduction in services, forcing local partners to cease operations and reexpose hundreds of my constituents to homelessness.

As this majority continues to pursue drastic cuts to affordable food and healthcare, it is critical that we protect access to housing.

I urge the administration to immediately reconsider this decision and prevent a new wave of homelessness across the counties of Westchester, the Bronx, and elsewhere.

FOCUSING ON RESULTS

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, we are nearing 1 week since the end of the needless, 43-day-long Democrat government shutdown. That shutdown was a monumental waste of time that hurt a lot of people across the country.

I am grateful that the families in eastern Washington can now breathe easier knowing their paychecks, benefits, and livelihoods are no longer being used as political bargaining chips.

□ 1030

The House passed three appropriations bills providing full-year funding for agriculture, the FDA, military construction, and the legislative branch.

I am especially proud that three priorities I fought for were included in the agriculture appropriations bill: \$1 million for Washington State University's ARS building project, \$2 million for NEW Health's Chewelah expansion and regional workforce center, and \$1 million for TriState Health's Family Medicine Residency program.

These are meaningful wins for eastern Washington families and our rural economy.

Our budget also delivered more than \$13 million for Fairchild Air Force Base, strengthening mission support and fueling operations to keep our Nation secure. Had the vote gone differently and the Democrats succeeded in pandering to their radical base, we might still be in a government shutdown and these critical victories for eastern Washington and the Nation might never have happened.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad we are getting back to what matters: delivering results for the people we serve.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERAN JOHN GILMAN

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, few moments as a Member of Congress are more meaningful than helping a hero receive long-overdue recognition. Recently, my office had the privilege of assisting Vietnam veteran John Gilman in securing the Silver Star Medal he earned more than 50 years ago, an honor long delayed but deeply deserved.

On Veterans Day, I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Gilman at the Heroes Awards night in Spokane. The event,

hosted by Heroes Homestead, was a remarkable celebration of service, honoring not only those who wore the uniform but those who continue to serve our communities today.

Surrounded by his family, friends, and fellow veterans, Mr. Gilman finally received the medal that reflected his courage and selflessness in Vietnam.

Mr. Gilman of Airway Heights served valiantly in the American Division during the 1969 Tet Offensive. Amid intense combat near Phuoc Hoa, South Vietnam, his company was ordered to relieve a friendly unit under fire. Though wounded in action, Mr. Gilman refused to fall back. He steadfastly manned his M60 machine gun and continued providing suppressive fire, even while receiving medical treatment. Thanks to his courage under fire, his unit closed with and ultimately destroyed the insurgent force. For these extraordinary acts, the Army approved Mr. Gilman for his Silver Star. Yet despite that honor, he was never officially presented the award.

Earlier this year, Mr. Gilman contacted my office. Through the persistent efforts of my staff working hand in hand with Army Personnel Command, we confirmed that his Silver Star had been authorized decades ago but never delivered.

Last Tuesday night, more than 50 years after his acts of valor, Brigadier General Paul Sellars, Commanding General of the Washington Army National Guard, had the honor of presenting the Silver Star to Mr. Gilman.

The Silver Star is the Army's third-highest award for gallantry in combat, given only to those who display extraordinary heroism under fire.

Mr. Gilman's story is a powerful reminder of the courage that defines our veterans and our Nation's sacred duty to ensure their service is never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John Gilman and thank him for his bravery, his sacrifice, and his continued example to us all. As we approach America's 250th birthday, let us honor veterans like John Gilman not only with medals but through our daily commitment to live up to the freedom they fought to defend.

HIGHER COSTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, as families in Ohio's 13th Congressional District get ready for the holiday season, I will talk about something that is weighing on many of them.

The cost of everyday life keeps going up and people feel it every time they shop for groceries, pay their utility bills, fill up their gas tanks, or try to plan for the weeks ahead.

Across Ohio's 13th District, people are telling me the same thing: Their paychecks are not stretching the way they used to and they are working harder and getting less in return.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, food costs have increased nearly 3 percent over the past year and the cost of meat, poultry, fish, and coffee grew more than 5 percent.

The Department of Agriculture expects grocery prices to rise again this year. These cost increases amount to grocery bills that are hundreds of dollars higher for less food. This is compounded by the SNAP cuts in the one big, ugly bill and cuts to food banks all across this country.

However, it is not just food and groceries. Families are feeling the squeeze in multiple ways. Healthcare premiums, copays, and prescription costs have climbed, leaving families with difficult choices about their care. Energy bills from heating homes in winter to cooling them in summer are also rising, stretching budgets even further.

These are not small inconveniences. They shape every decision families make about what they can afford. As people question whether they can cover the basics, it affects how they plan their days, care for one another, and participate in their communities. Something as simple as sitting down together for a meal or planning a gathering can become harder to manage.

These costs do not rise in a vacuum. The decisions made here in Washington shape the choices people face at home. When policies put pressure on working families instead of supporting them, the impact shows up in higher bills and tighter budgets. A strong economy is one that gives families the confidence to meet their needs and build toward the future. It starts with people who feel secure enough to gather, share a meal, and look ahead with some peace of mind.

That is why I continue to fight for policies that put people first. I am working to lower healthcare costs. I am working to bring down everyday expenses, including energy, utilities, and food costs. I am committed to supporting the creation of good-paying jobs so families in Ohio's 13th District and all across the country can worry a little less and hope a lot more.

As we enter this holiday season, we should remember what keeps our communities strong: fairness, opportunity, and support for one another. Let us, as Members of Congress, make choices that help families meet their needs and stay connected.

CHAMPION OF THE WEEK: AARIT KOUL

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Aarit Koul as the champion of the week for Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Aarit, a freshman at Jackson High School, recently won the 2025 National Civics Bee. He competed against finalists from 38 other States in five rounds, including one in which he presented a societal problem and offered his suggestions for solving it.

Aarit discussed the healthcare system in the United States, timely and appropriate, especially considering our current state of affairs.

With this win comes a \$100,000 college fund, which will go a long way to help him attend his dream school, Yale University. Aarit aspires to become a lawyer and ultimately land an appointment as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time I have come to the floor to recognize Aarit's talents, nor is it the second. This is actually the third time Aarit has been recognized before this body.

In 2023, he was the Congressional App Challenge Winner for Ohio's 13th District when he was in middle school. His app, Care Civics, was designed to encourage young people to become civically engaged. He was inspired by his time studying for the Ohio Civics Bee, which he went on to win in 2024. Now, just a high school freshman, he has come out on top at the national level, and I could not be more proud.

Mr. Speaker, I also had the honor of first meeting Aarit at Jackson Memorial Middle School when he served as the Speaker of the Little Congress. Aarit is a shining example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the birthplace of champions.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to all that he accomplishes in the future, and I thank Aarit for his dedication to civics in the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERA ROANOKE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Opera Roanoke on the momentous occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1976 as the Southwest Virginia Opera Society by a group of dedicated volunteers, the company staged its first production of "The Consul" in 1978, and in 1991, became the fully professional organization we now know as Opera Roanoke.

For five decades, it has been a cornerstone of cultural life in Roanoke and across Virginia's Blue Ridge, presenting compelling performances and fostering a broader appreciation for opera in western Virginia.

Over the years, the company has benefited from remarkable artistic leadership and the guidance of legendary mentors, such as Eleanor Steber and Irene Dalis. A special thank you to the board of trustees, who have contributed to the success of the opera: John Johnson, President; Krista Vannoy, Immediate Past President; Frank Giannini, Treasurer; Jim Dubinsky, Secretary; Isabel Ditzel; and Eric Monday.

This anniversary season opened with "Love and Sacrifice: A tribute to the Heart of Opera Roanoke," which also marked the retirement of Maestro Steven White, whose more than 20 years of service have profoundly shaped the company's artistic excellence.

As Opera Roanoke looks ahead to its 50th anniversary season and upcoming

production of "Hansel and Gretel," I congratulate the organization, its artists, its leadership, and its supporters on five decades of achievement. May the next 50 be just as inspiring.

CELEBRATING ROBERT HOLLAND'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert Holland of Roanoke, Virginia, who will celebrate his 100th birthday this Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2025.

Mr. Holland is a proud World War II veteran who enlisted in the United States Army at just 18 years old. He spent his 19th birthday in France, serving as a Staff Sergeant with the 381st Battery. He worked as a powder man and also served in supply operations, roles vital to our mission's success in Europe.

After the war, Mr. Holland returned to his home State of West Virginia before settling in the Hollins area of Roanoke County in 1950 to be near family. He went on to enjoy a long and honorable career with the General Electric Company and has been a valued member of the Roanoke community ever since.

Mr. Speaker, as he marks a century of life, service, and devotion to family and country, I am proud to join his loved ones and neighbors in wishing Mr. Robert Holland a very happy 100th birthday and thanking him for his steadfast service to our Nation.

CONGRATULATING WARREN COUNTY MIDDLE
SCHOOL FFA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in Warren County's history, a middle school FFA chapter has earned the highest honor possible from the National FFA Organization. Receiving the National Chapter Award with a gold three-star rating places Warren County Middle School's FFA among the very best agricultural education programs in the Nation.

A testament to the hard work, leadership, and community spirit of our students, these young people are not only learning about agriculture but also taking initiative to serve their neighbors, strengthen their school, and build a brighter future.

Led by adviser Lynne Phillips and officers Harlie Brooks, Madison Ballard, Bella Kaplan, Allie Englert, Camberlee Lockhart, Cadence Flint, Alexis Clark, Silas Dutton, and Lex Flores, alongside all other members, planned and carried out projects that range from food drives to environmental cleanups, demonstrating that middle school students, when given the tools and the trust, can rise to extraordinary heights.

Mr. Speaker, fewer than 10 percent of FFA chapters nationwide receive this distinction. Warren County's students have set a new standard of excellence, and they remind us that the seeds of leadership, once planted, can grow into something that lifts up an entire community. I am proud to honor them today.

DENOUNCING SOCIALISM IN AMERICA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, socialism has left a long trail of suffering across

the globe. Wherever it has taken root, it has brought economic collapse, political oppression, and the deterioration of freedom.

Despite this record, we are seeing a troubling rise in socialist rhetoric here at home, especially among younger Americans and in major cities like New York City where these ideas are becoming increasingly mainstream. At the same time, support for the free-market principles that built our Nation has declined. This shift endangers the core values handed down by our Founding Fathers: liberty, personal responsibility, and limited government.

We cannot ignore these warning signs. We cannot allow the failures of socialist systems abroad or here in the United States to be rewritten, dismissed, or forgotten. That is why House Republicans are set to vote on a resolution that firmly rejects socialism in all its forms and reaffirms our commitment to the American ideals of freedom and self-governance.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know where their elected officials stand. House Republicans will choose freedom, and we will stand for the principles that are the foundation of this great Nation.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS HERE

(Ms. RIVAS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, we are at a unique moment in our history. A technology straight out of science fiction is now becoming an increasingly ubiquitous aspect of daily life.

Artificial intelligence is here, and it is reshaping nearly every aspect of modern life: how we work, how we learn, and how we communicate.

AI-generated content is becoming more prevalent in healthcare, housing, education, entertainment, and even public service. If we do not have a standardized plan to become proficient in AI literacy today, we will not be ready to handle the challenges that AI can pose in the future.

This is why I am introducing the AI for ALL Act. The AI for ALL Act develops a national strategy for the Federal Government to improve AI literacy in education. By understanding how AI has evolved and is expected to evolve, we can be better prepared to embrace the opportunities AI presents and address the challenges that can and will arise in the future.

As lawmakers, we have a duty to ensure emerging technologies like AI are used responsibly, safely, and effectively so it does not harm public safety or infringe on our rights. The AI for ALL Act allows us to fulfill those duties and ensure that the United States will continue to be a global leader in AI.

With strong AI literacy and education guidelines, we can lead with clarity, govern with integrity, and en-

sure the innovative breakthroughs AI brings can continue serving the public good.

BENJAMIN GUERRERO-CRUZ DETAINED BY ICE

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, 3 months ago, I shared the story of Benjamin Guerrero-Cruz, a senior at Reseda High School, who was detained by ICE while walking his dog.

Benjamin is an older brother, a loving son, and a valued member of the community. He is a child. For the past 3 months, Benjamin has been in ICE detention at the Adelanto Detention Facility. ICE has been forcing his family to live a nightmare. Benjamin was transferred between two States and three detention facilities in 24 hours without his family knowing. If that was happening to Benjamin, imagine who else it is happening to.

That is why I introduced the INFORM Act. My bill holds ICE accountable for the nightmare they are forcing families like Benjamin's to live through.

Many immigrant families in my district do not know the whereabouts of their loved ones after they are detained by ICE. I have been urging ICE leadership to answer for their chaotic, inconsistent, and cruel decisionmaking policies that have torn apart families across the country. My bill respects the dignity of immigrant families and promotes government transparency.

I will continue showing up to detention facilities and working with my colleagues to hold ICE accountable, promote government transparency, and respect the dignity of immigrant families.

□ 1045

HONORING SERGEANT WILLIAM HEIMANN

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Scott William Heimann, a loyal husband, a devoted father, a beloved son, and an invaluable member of the Hays, Kansas, community. Scott paid the ultimate price, sacrificing his life for the community he loved and served.

On Sunday, September 28, 2025, Scott's watch ended far too soon. He was shot and killed while responding to a domestic violence call. On behalf of Kansans in the Big First District, I thank Scott for his service.

Scott served with the Hays Police Department for 9 years. Throughout his time, he served on the Special Situation Response Team, High-Tech Crime Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and the Honor Guard.

Scott took pride in wearing the Hays Police Department uniform. He was never above serving the community he lived in, whether his task was reading books to students at the library or responding to the most dangerous threats that posed a risk to his neighbors. There was no task too big or too small in his eyes.

Audrey and I mourn with the Hays community, and I continue to pray for them as they come to terms with this tragedy. We especially pray for Scott's wife, Beth; his beautiful children, Victoria and Patrick; and all his loved ones who he left behind.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 34 that the Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. As the reality of Scott's untimely passing sets in, I ask that the Lord be close to his family, wrap His arms around this grieving community, and provide comfort.

I say well done to Sergeant Heimann. May he rest in peace. I thank him for his service and for giving the ultimate sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MONTH

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday, America will celebrate National Rural Health Day. As a Representative of 60 primarily rural counties and the congressional district with the most critical access hospitals than any other district in the country, I understand full well the importance of adequate, quality healthcare for all communities.

Earlier this year, I proudly supported the working families tax cut, which established the Rural Health Transformation Program. This legislation made the single largest investment into rural healthcare in nearly two decades and will be life-changing for the men and women who call rural communities like the ones I represent home.

The \$50 billion in the Rural Health Transformation Program will better position rural healthcare facilities to embrace innovative technologies while improving the way healthcare is delivered, strengthening health outcomes, and ensuring the health of rural Americans reaches its full potential. The quality of care that Americans receive should not and cannot depend on their ZIP Code.

By investing in the Rural Health Transformation Program and putting safeguards around the Medicaid program to guarantee it serves the vulnerable patients it was intended to serve, this Republican majority has taken historic strides to strengthen rural healthcare. Rural communities are the backbone of America, and I am proud that I have supported this legislation to ensure that they have access to the highest quality care.

This National Rural Health Month, I recognize and thank the dedicated rural healthcare providers, hospitals, service providers, clinics, and community health centers that serve as pillars in providing health services and lifesaving care to Kansans in rural America and work to ensure that they receive the care that they deserve.

I ask that they keep up the hard work, and I thank them again for all that they do for their neighbors in rural America. Happy National Rural Health Month.

DEFENDING THE ARCTIC REFUGE

(Mr. VASQUEZ of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the frontier spirit that is core to the American identity.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote "no" on S.J. Res. 80 and H.J. Res. 131, two proposals that would forever alter the Coastal Plain of the Arctic refuge and the special areas of the western Arctic in the great State of Alaska.

Let me tell you a little bit about this special place, a place in which I have had the privilege to spend time. The Arctic refuge, the homeland of Gwich'in and the Inupiat people, offers unmatched, truly wild fishing and hunting opportunities for all Americans.

It is the only national wildlife refuge that protects an entire Arctic ecosystem, and it stands as a profound source of pride for this Nation.

These lands, the birthing and calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd, have been at the center of national debate for more than a century, ever since Republican President Theodore Roosevelt established the National Wildlife Refuge System and dedicated himself to protecting wild places and the wildlife that depend on them.

These lands are where Americans hunt caribou, grizzly bear, and Dall sheep, where Americans trap wolverines, and where anglers can catch their first Arctic char.

Most importantly, these lands have provided sustenance to the Gwich'in and Inupiat peoples since time immemorial.

For the last century, bipartisan lawmakers, including both Republican and Democratic Presidents, have agreed to protect this place, safeguarding it from destructive development with a firm resolve and a desire to leave something behind for the next generation.

That same commitment to conservation has been carried on by bipartisan leaders in Congress for generations. Today, this tradition of conservation is being threatened by a careless proposal to roll back established protections for our wildlife, our waters, and our public lands, threatening indigenous livelihoods and sovereignty, the recreational and scientific value of these lands, and an iconic symbol of American wilderness.

I believe that, in this body, we must preach hope and possibility and that we must defend our values and the American way of life that has been meticulously built over centuries, and both parties must work together to protect the things we love.

These two proposals before you are misguided. This Chamber should not deepen the chaos it has already created. Instead, we should be working together to pass legislation that resolves land management conflicts and restores stability to our public lands planning system. We should also ade-

quately fund our land management agencies.

That is why, as a hunter, an angler, and someone who cares deeply about our Nation's incomparable system of public lands and wildlife habitat, I can't support the reckless destruction of the Arctic tundra and the Coastal Plain.

For the many private interests that have sought to exploit these sacred lands, it would be much easier if these species and Tribes never existed. It would be much easier for them if the last remaining musk ox hadn't survived the Ice Age or if the Porcupine caribou herd simply went extinct, just to add a few dollars to their pockets today without giving a damn about tomorrow.

The truth is, in my district back home in New Mexico, the Permian Basin is a domestic energy powerhouse, fueling America's energy independence and bolstering New Mexico's economy, but there are some places that ought to be left alone because their quality, history, and identity to us as Americans is far too valuable to be measured on a balance sheet.

Now, much to my dismay, this administration has already issued an executive order to rescind the Coastal Plain leasing program, and the Department of the Interior has already done just that.

Given that the administration has already taken action to overturn responsible management plans, these bills only make it more challenging to manage these special lands. It will also expose any future decisions related to oil and gas in the refuge to significant legal uncertainty.

This is a losing proposal. Simply put, it is bad legislation, no matter what side of the issue you stand on.

If, like me, you still believe in bipartisanship and revere the greats like Teddy Roosevelt, who fought to protect special places like America's Arctic, and you dream that someday you or one of your children can hunt wild ptarmigan on the Coastal Plain, catch an Arctic char on the Canning River, or harvest caribou in the Brooks Range, you should vote against these bills and honor the voices of the indigenous communities and American citizens who depend on this land for survival.

From New Mexico to the Arctic, people who live in small communities take care of themselves, and they want to keep it that way. Surely, anyone who represents a rural district in this Congress can appreciate that.

I encourage my colleagues to look at this landscape and examine these bills and their impacts before voting, to see the value of the Arctic and its worth to all Americans, not to simply brush this off as a party-line vote.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.J. Res. 131.

HONORING BRADLEY DAVID SCHENCK

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Bradley Schenck, a devoted husband, father, marine, master sergeant in the Air National Guard, and law enforcement officer.

Brad served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps and the Air National Guard and dedicated 16 years to law enforcement, including a decade on the Red River Valley SWAT Team. His colleagues knew him for his courage, integrity, and commitment to keeping his community safe.

Nine years ago, Brad faced brain cancer with extraordinary resilience. He turned his struggle into inspiration, sharing his journey in his memoir "No Easy Way Out."

Above all, Brad was a family man. He leaves behind his wife, Sara; their three children, Colby, Bentley, and Mackenzie; his parents and siblings; and his entire military and law enforcement families who carry on his legacy of strength and hope.

Brad's life was defined by service, resilience, and joy. I honor his memory today and extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and community.

HONORING ED DE LA HUNT

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ed De La Hunt, a pioneering broadcaster whose voice and vision shaped northern Minnesota for nearly seven decades.

Ed and his wife, Carol, founded KPRM Radio in Park Rapids in 1962. His familiar voice on the program "Coffee Time" and his Sunday night music shows became part of daily life for countless listeners.

Beyond the microphone, Ed was an engineer, mentor, and builder. He trained and inspired generations of broadcasters. His dedication to local radio, his commitment to technical excellence, and his belief in the power of community storytelling left an incredible mark on Minnesota broadcasting. Ed leaves behind a legacy of service through the airways and through his family.

Today, I honor his career and the joy he brought to listeners across Minnesota.

CONGRATULATING HAWLEY NUGGETS GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Hawley girls' volleyball team on being the 2025 AA State champions.

The Nuggets came back from a two-set deficit to win 3-2. This year's win sealed back-to-back championships for this team.

On behalf of the Seventh District of Minnesota, I congratulate them and am very proud of this team.

RECOGNIZING MARSHALL GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marshall

girls' volleyball team on being the 2025 AAA State champions.

This is Marshall's 10th championship, the most in State history, and the first program in Minnesota to win double-digit championships.

I congratulate the players and coaches on this huge accomplishment.

□ 1100

STANDING WITH TRUTH AND JUSTICE

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with truth and justice, to stand with every survivor of sexual assault, and to demand the release of the Epstein files now. I say to the one man on planet Earth who has the power to do so, Mr. President, it is time to release the files.

Today, we vote on a resolution to release these files, but we have already subpoenaed them, and the President has refused to comply, engaged in a monthslong coverup right before our very eyes, threatening and pressuring Members of Congress, and even calling his own allies traitors, and this legislation a hostile act.

Well, Mr. President, the irony is not lost on us that such desperate attempts to evade accountability are at the heart of the matter itself, as the Epstein case is, at its core—its dirty, rotten core—about rich and powerful men who abuse the system to avoid accountability and who engaged in unspeakable crimes and believed that they could do anything to any woman or any little girl and get away with it because they knew their friends in powerful places would protect them or they could simply buy their way out of the justice system.

Well, we are here today to stand up with the survivors and say: Time is up. We demand accountability.

Now, it is also not lost on me that I am standing in this Chamber, in this seat of power from which wars have been launched and the fates of millions have hung, a Chamber where in the nearly 250 years of this great Nation, only 3 percent of the people who have ever stood here on this floor have been women. That is why we must stand up, why we must demand accountability, why we are not saying "pretty please." We are engaged in a criminal investigation of criminal behavior in a justice system that has failed women and girls who were raped and who were abused and of the powerful people who never were held to account.

We are not, Mr. President, as you have asked us, just going to move on. We will continue to pursue justice to the end.

Let me tell you about this investigation, about the evidence that has come in just in the last week from documents produced by the Epstein estate, including over 1,600 mentions of you,

Mr. President. There are emails, court documents, and statements about a lawsuit by a woman accusing Donald Trump of rape at Jeffrey Epstein's house, whether it happened or not. There is a sexual assault suit against Epstein in which Donald Trump appears to have been subpoenaed, served, and deposed. There are sworn statements and court documents from a 16-year-old who was recruited at Mar-a-Lago and then raped and groomed, not only by Jeffrey Epstein, but his rich and powerful friends.

There were statements from Epstein himself, who said Trump knew about the girls. In fact, Trump, by his own admission, knew that Epstein and Maxwell were recruiting young girls from Mar-a-Lago. There were also statements that Trump was at Epstein's house, including with girls, in which Epstein bragged about having pictures and passing a woman to Trump, and noted that Trump spent hours with one of the victims and was the "dog that hasn't barked."

These files also include financial transactions between Epstein and Trump. There are discussions of financial affairs, potential money laundering, including in real estate deals. There was also an admission by Jeffrey Epstein himself that he was facing a mandatory minimum of 10 years in Federal prison, yet the DOJ failed to prosecute him. There are statements by Epstein that he believes that Donald Trump was involved in the case.

I say to the American people: There is a mountain of evidence in front of your very eyes. Believe your eyes. It is right there in front of us.

Mr. President, let me say this to you: You can run, but you cannot hide because the survivors know what happened.

To every woman and little girl who has wept or felt shame or believed that you were alone or that the system had failed you, to every parent who has feared the absolute worst, and to every survivor who believed the system was rigged against them, know that you are not alone. We see you. We are fighting for you, and we will not stop.

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

Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair rather than a perceived viewing audience and to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Almighty Lord, You who shakes the heavens and causes the Earth to tremble, You who causes the sea to roar and the dry land to shudder, shake us from our falseness and rekindle our desire to love and to serve You in faithfulness and truth.

You own all that we value. You own the silver and the gold, the cravings of our hearts, and the successes we achieve: all those things that we are inclined to place before our allegiance to You and deem more important than our obligation to steward this abundant wealth for the benefit of Your creation.

Fill this place with Your spirit. With the might of Your Word, speak to us of Your power and purpose, that there will be no doubt in our minds that You alone are our desire. Everything we want, that we need, and that we are given has been given by Your hand, that we would turn our hearts and minds to You and dedicate our efforts to ensure that all the people we serve—Your people—would have the assurance of Your provision, even when the world around them trembles and the upheaval of these times threatens their well-being.

Lord of the whole Earth, sea, and sky, to You may we give our whole selves, that what we do on this day would reveal Your power and provision for the children of Your creation, the very people You have entrusted to our care.

In Your mighty name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TLAIB led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

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

SCHUMER SHUTDOWN HURT AMERICANS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Schumer shutdown was proven irresponsible, achieving nothing and hurting American families.

Last week, I joined with Republican colleagues in voting to open the government, as Republicans originally voted in September to keep it open.

Now that the 43-day Democrat shutdown, the longest in history, is over, the government can get back to work on behalf of the American people.

The Democrat shutdown caused the loss of paychecks, destroyed jobs, delayed services to our military, and included the inconvenience of delayed and canceled flights worldwide.

I am grateful for the leadership of President Donald Trump and Speaker MIKE JOHNSON for promoting families first over failed political stunts.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and yesterday attacking a Turkish-flagged tanker, causing evacuation in Romania, both NATO allies that we so value.

Our prayers for the recovery of South Carolina native Jesse Jackson.

EPSTEIN REMARKS

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have to decide if they are going to protect pedophiles or seek justice for survivors of sex trafficking and abuse.

I sat across from survivors—some of them were as young as 13 and 14 at the time—and they told us over and over again to follow the money.

The Treasury Department, Mr. Speaker, is sitting on suspicious activity reports on Epstein's financial network, detailing thousands of transactions totaling more than \$1.5 billion. In fact, J.P. Morgan knew about these suspicious transactions for more than a decade. He had 134 accounts with J.P. Morgan, but they chose to look the other way and continue to profit.

The corrupt administration would rather protect the rich and powerful, their billionaire donors, and stop the truth from coming out.

Survivors of this horrific and systematic sexual abuse deserve justice, and the public deserves to know the full truth.

Don't be fooled. President Trump has the power to release the full, unredacted files right now without congressional action and end the coverup today.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL RIC TRIMILLOS

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Ric Trimillos for his extraordinary dedication and service as Scoutmaster of Troop 66 in Colorado Springs.

For years, Ric has served as a mentor and a role model to the Scouts of Troop 66. His commitment to the principles of scouting has created a nurturing environment where Scouts are encouraged to grow into responsible, competent leaders.

Ric's ability to connect with youth, guide them through challenges, and celebrate their achievements is a testament to his deep compassion and unwavering dedication.

Under his guidance, Troop 66 has thrived. Ric has led countless campouts, service projects, and leadership training events, always with a focus on building resilience, teamwork, and respect.

His mentorship has helped many Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout and, more importantly, has instilled in them a lifelong commitment to service and integrity.

On behalf of all of those whose lives he has touched, I extend my deepest gratitude and heartfelt recognition.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, under Donald Trump, America is joining the ranks of other countries in all the wrong ways. Freedom House now lists us among nations where judges and prosecutors face political attacks.

Reporters Without Borders says that our press freedom has sunk to a historic low.

Now, Trump has crossed a line that no U.S. President ever dared cross: He withheld food assistance that Americans were legally entitled to, blocking nutrition benefits not because the country can't afford them but because he thinks it helps him politically.

In my work as co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, I have seen brutal regimes use food as a weapon and leaders starve their own people to hold on to power. I never ever thought I would see a U.S. President try to rip a page from the same playbook.

What a shameful moment in our history, and I will continue to fight to end hunger now.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN "HOOTY" ADAM

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished public servant from Hancock County, Mississippi, Brian "Hooty" Adam, who will retire on December 21, 2025, after more than four decades of serving his community.

Hooty began his career in 1985 as a firefighter, answering the call when his neighbors needed him most. In 2003, he became director of Hancock Emergency Management Agency, a role he has carried with steady leadership for 22 years.

During that time, he guided the county through countless emergencies; destructive storms; and, most notably, the unimaginable challenges of Hurricane Katrina. Through every crisis, Hooty was a source of strength—calm, prepared, and fully committed to protecting the people of Hancock County, Mississippi. His leadership saved lives, strengthened emergency response across our region, and set a standard of service that we should all admire.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Hooty Adam for his extraordinary dedication and in wishing him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

□ 1210

HONORING PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR: TIELA SCHURMAN

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

Ms. McDONALD RIVET. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Midland High School principal Tiela Schurman for being named the Michigan 2026 High School Principal of the Year.

Principal Schurman's compassionate and hands-on leadership sets an example for schools across the country. She is an extraordinarily gifted leader who inspires those around her to stand up for every child in all of our communities.

It is her passion for education and her fervent belief in every child's potential that guides the work she does every day. She encourages collaboration and teamwork among educators, making Midland High School a safe space that uplifts everyone under its roof.

Principal Schurman pushes her students to dream big, asking them every single week, "Chemicals, you determine your legacy. What will be it?"

There are years ahead in her leadership journey in education. I have no doubt that she will leave a legacy of educational excellence, deep caring, and a spark of hope for every student she encounters.

Go Chemicals.

USMC HELICOPTER SUPPORT IN VIETNAM

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we recently celebrated veterans across the country, H.R. 5939, the USMC Helicopter Support in Vietnam Congressional Gold Medal Act, would award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Vietnam-era Marine Corps and Navy veterans who performed vital helicopter support missions.

These flight crews executed incredibly risky and dangerous operations. They successfully carried out lifesaving medical evacuations, transporting approximately 189,000 servicemembers.

Recognizing those who put their lives in harm's way to help out our wounded is long overdue. With the enactment of this bill, Congress can and must take the crucial step toward finally giving these brave veterans the hero's welcome they so deserve.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I want to sincerely thank the Committee for its graciousness in allowing me to waive onto the Committee on Natural Resources earlier this year. It has been a privilege to serve and to help advance environmental justice policies for the people in New York's Seventh District and in Puerto Rico.

Thank you for the privilege of holding three committees over the past few years. I will continue to remain on Small Business and Financial Services. Effective this week, I will remove myself from the Committee on Natural Resources to make room for another member who wishes to take the opening.

It has been an honor to contribute to the committee's mission, and I look forward to continuing to advance our shared priorities in other capacities.

Sincerely,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 886

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Fong.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 887

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Conaway.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE: Mrs. Grijalva.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Walkinshaw (to rank immediately after Ms. Pou).

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Mrs. Grijalva (to rank immediately after Ms. Rivas).

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

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 80, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN RECORD OF DECISION"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 130, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE RECORD OF DECISION AND APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 131, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 58, DENOUNCING THE HORRORS OF SOCIALISM; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1949, UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3109, RESEARCHING EFFICIENT FEDERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR NECESSARY ENERGY REFINING ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5107, COMMON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN DC ACT OF 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5214, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up

House Resolution 879 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 879

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House any joint resolution specified in section 2 of this resolution. All points of order against consideration of each such joint resolution are waived. Each such joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in each such joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on each such joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit (or commit, as the case may be).

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

(a) The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 80) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision".

(b) The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 130) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment".

(c) The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision".

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 58) denouncing the horrors of socialism. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees.

SEC. 4. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1949) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3109) to require the Secretary of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a report with respect to petrochemical refineries in the United States, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived.

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

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5107) to repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 enacted by the District of Columbia Council. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5214) to require mandatory pretrial and post conviction detention for crimes of violence and dangerous crimes and require mandatory cash bail for certain offenses that pose a threat to public safety or order in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 8. Upon transmission to the Senate of a message that the House has passed H.R. 4405, House Resolution 581 shall be laid on the table.

□ 1220

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Yesterday, the Rules Committee met and produced a rule, H. Res. 879, providing for the House's consideration of eight separate measures.

The rule provides closed rules for consideration of S.J. Res. 80, H.J. Res. 130, H.J. Res. 131 with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources, or their respective designees, for each joint resolution. The rule provides each such joint resolution one motion to recommit.

Further, the rule provides closed rules for the consideration of H.R. 1949 and H.R. 3109 with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, or their respective designees, for each bill. The rule provides each bill with a motion to recommit.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 58 under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services, or their respective designees.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 5214 and H.R. 5107 under closed rules with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, or their respective designees, on each bill. The rule provides for one motion to recommit for each bill.

Finally, the rule tables H. Res. 581 upon the transmission of a message to the Senate that the House has passed H.R. 4405.

Mr. Speaker, after over 40 days of the Democrat government shutdown, the House has returned to regular order, and this majority is continuing to push forward with the America First agenda, the American people's agenda.

All of these pieces of legislation we are considering today are in alignment with the American people's demand and President Trump's executive orders that we maintain a robust posture of American energy dominance.

You know, Mr. Speaker, our Democrat colleagues have developed a strong proclivity to thumb their noses at the development of energy that comes from American soil. One must wonder why they choose to do that. They pay lip service to environmental protections and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but it is just a fact that American oil and American natural gas are cleaner and more environmentally friendly than any from our global competitors.

Why would they cede our dominance on the global stage in favor of hostile actors who lack even the most basic environmental protections?

We are blessed as a nation to have vast repositories of natural resources that we can draw from and utilize accordingly. When we ignore the opportunities to harness these resources for our benefit, we deny ourselves the opportunity to grow more self-sufficient.

H.R. 5214 and H.R. 5107, two measures reported from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, focus on restoring law and order in our Nation's Capital City, a city that ought to be a model for the rest of the Nation to follow.

H.R. 5214 would revoke cashless bail in the District of Columbia and would require mandatory pretrial and postconviction detention for crimes of violence and other dangerous crimes.

H.R. 5107 would repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 enacted by the District of Columbia Council. This act targeted police officers in D.C. for simply doing their duties, and it led to over 1,600 officers being removed from the city's force.

Thanks to President Trump's efforts, the streets in D.C. are safer, and we have the opportunity through these two measures to add to that progress.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we have H. Con. Res. 58, a resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism. Most of us here in this body recognize how dangerous the plague of socialism really is. We understand its history of failure and oppression. Throughout history, this ideology has collapsed into the most brutal of dictatorships, communist regimes, and outright totalitarian rule.

Many are quick to avert their eyes and cover their ears when presented with facts about the horrors of socialism, how many individuals across the world have suffered and died because of it. This resolution will put everyone in this body on record. The American people will see who espouses this caustic ideology and those who reject it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Americans are working more and more for less and less.

Almost every day, I speak with young people who can't afford to start a family, can't buy a house, and can't get ahead. I hear it from seniors who are struggling to survive on fixed incomes. I see it with my own eyes. Moms and dads are putting items back on the shelves in the grocery store because they can't afford them. Parents can't go back to work because they can't afford childcare. People's health insurance premiums are doubling and tripling because this majority has failed to act.

During election season, we heard from Trump and Republicans who swore up and down they would bring down prices. They promised the Amer-

ican people they would reverse inflation and focus like a laser on affordability. They have broken that promise. They have betrayed the American people.

If you want more evidence of that, look at the bills on the floor today: more garbage, more culture war crap, more bills written by this Republican majority of, by, and for the billionaire class.

Republicans moved Heaven and Earth to give tax breaks to the rich and powerful. That got done in a nanosecond.

If you are a regular person staring down next year's healthcare premium hikes and deciding whether to pay a thousand bucks more or put food on the table, the answer you get back from the Republicans is: Let them eat cake.

We are barreling toward another shutdown at the end of January. We could have spent the last 2 months working on passing the nine appropriations bills Republicans still need to pass to stop another shutdown. Instead, they went on a taxpayer-funded paid vacation for 8 weeks.

Let me just say, because we are debating a rule to consider these eight bills, this rule sucks. There are eight closed rules, no amendments, no changes allowed on the floor, take it or leave it. If you are keeping count at home, that is 80 completely closed rules this Congress, the most ever in a year.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I want to correct the gentlewoman because last night in the Rules Committee she said that five of these bills didn't receive any amendments. That is because she didn't ask for any. When you don't send an amendment deadline, everyone knows you are doing a closed rule.

My Republican colleagues have been complicit in these 80 closed rules. Nearly 9 out of 10 times, the majority party has not been allowed to bring amendments to the floor. They are getting blocked by their own leadership time and time again. How does that feel?

Again, this is a terrible rule, and I urge a "no" vote. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, while it is true there have been 80 closed measures, this number needs context. Twelve of the closed rules were in the rules package, which passed 2 weeks before the 119th Rules Committee even organized to begin meeting. Additionally, 25 measures were CRAs. They don't allow for an amendment. Sixteen were bills that received no amendments, meaning 41 measures were closed by definition. It is also important that four of the closed rules are duplicates from a previous failed rule. In reality, only 27 measures have been closed by discretion of the Committee.

Additionally, the Rules Committee under Republican control has simply

been more productive, producing more total rules than our colleagues ever did. For example, during the most recent Democratic-controlled Congresses, the Rules Committee produced 127 total rules in the 116th Congress and 163 in the 117th Congress. Contrast this to the 200 total rules in the Republican-led 118th Congress. For the 119th, we are on pace to once again produce nearly 200 rules for the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we are doing our job. We are not closing out debate. We are having plenty of debate. There are plenty of opportunities for our colleagues to offer amendments. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, those are a lot of words to justify the most closed Congress in history, the most authoritarian Congress in history. It would make Putin blush.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 6074, which would extend the Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credits for 3 years, through 2028.

We are in the midst of a healthcare crisis. More than 20 million Americans who get their healthcare on the ACA exchanges are going to see their premiums skyrocket next year. That includes 250,000 people in my home State of Massachusetts, who are paying lower premiums and copays due to these tax credits, which Democrats created in 2021 and which are set to expire at the end of the year.

Let me read you some of the stories from folks in my district: I just received my letter, and my monthly costs have gone from \$1,287 to \$3,026 for next year. As a working family with a daughter who has an autoimmune disease, we are struggling, and I am working 50-plus hours a week just to pay the insurance.

Here is another one: With the Health Connector, I was paying \$264 per month, acceptable seeing that I am healthy but not young. Without the advanced premium tax credit, my monthly premium will be just over \$800 per month. I can't and I won't pay that. I will go without.

This is happening across the country, and for the sake of millions of Americans and their healthcare, I urge my Republican colleagues to support this bill and vote "no" on the previous question.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chairwoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, after blatant obstruction and prolonged delay on the part of congressional Democrats for over 40 days, the House has returned to regular order. It is good to be back, and it is about time.

Today, we are here to advance eight separate measures that meet the demands of the American people and strengthen President Trump's successful America First agenda.

My constituents voted for the dissolution of the Biden bureaucratic barge and for safety in their communities. From bolstering American energy dominance to upholding law and order, strengthening the criminal justice system in our Nation's Capital to rejecting the failed ideology of socialism, House Republicans continue to deliver measurable and substantive progress.

I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the eight underlying pieces of legislation. Let's continue delivering wins for the American people.

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

Mr. Speaker, shortly on the floor, Republicans are about to finally bring up the Massie-Khanna bill to release the Epstein files. We had to drag this leadership here kicking and screaming.

I appreciate their sudden and stunning change of heart on this issue, but I state for the record that the Republican leadership has tried to block this day for months and months and months.

I also want to state for the record that Donald Trump could release these files on his own, today, right now, right this very second. He doesn't need to wait for Congress to pass the bill. He could release the files himself, but he won't. That is why we are here, because he refuses to act.

Meanwhile, the Republican majority has blocked transparency at every turn. They stonewalled in committee. The gentlewoman from North Carolina and every Republican on the Rules Committee voted nine times to block my amendment to release the Epstein files, nine times.

Republicans were so afraid of my amendment that Speaker JOHNSON shut down the Rules Committee and sent us home early in July, and then he refused to swear in a new Member of Congress for weeks because she promised to be the 218th signature to force this bill forward. Only four Republicans signed the discharge petition. Every single Democrat signed on.

In a few moments, I am going to yield time to Representative MASSIE, who has been the Republican leader of this effort alongside Representative KHANNA on the Democratic side. Here is why I am doing that: This bill should be getting a full hour of debate on the floor, but Speaker JOHNSON, I guess at Donald Trump's direction, is throwing every procedural gimmick at the wall to see what sticks, and he is trying to

limit debate on the floor because for some reason he is very, very afraid of talking about this. That is why I am donating a significant chunk of my time to Members who have been silenced by the Speaker for the terrible crime of demanding truth and transparency.

If I had to guess, most Republicans will probably vote in favor of releasing the files, but they are not voting "yes" because their conscience changed. They are voting "yes" because Donald Trump tells most of them how to vote, and he realized he has lost on this one.

He says that people who support this bill "betrayed the entire Republican Party." Really, really? How is accountability for a pedophile, something Donald Trump campaigned on, how is that now a betrayal? This was his issue, his idea. He ran on releasing the files.

By the way, to those who say that Biden should have released these files, let me just address that right now. You are right, he should have, but he didn't make it his number one issue, and he is not the President right now. Donald Trump is. He could have released the files at any point over the last 11 months, but he has not.

Republicans have had months to sign the discharge petition. They had months to bring this bill to the floor, but this leadership has chosen obstruction. They don't want to pass this bill. They don't even want to talk about it on the House floor, and so that is why debate matters.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear: Republicans don't oppose the full transparency of the Epstein files. We embrace the Oversight Committee's task of doing just that. We embrace Representative MASSIE's legislation here today by putting it up for a vote under suspension. I will be voting for it.

We already have a House investigation that carries the full force of law, and there is no opposition to respecting the majority's wishes to get this codified into law. Let's get to it. Let's get to the vote and end these false debates, straw man arguments, and non sequiturs.

We tried to pass this bill last week, but Democrats wouldn't agree to doing so. Let's vote now. Democrats should stop, listen, and take yes for an answer.

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

□ 1240

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman doesn't oppose this? Boy, she has a funny way of showing it. I gave the gentlewoman nine opportunities in the Committee on Rules to bring this measure to the floor. I gave her nine opportunities. Every time I brought up an amendment, she voted it down. There were nine opportunities. To say that somehow this is always

what they wanted, I don't know, but that doesn't pass the smell test.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership over the last 5 months to make sure that this bill came to the floor. I thank also Don Sisson for his leadership and understanding of all the rules to make this possible.

As we are here today, I saw on CNN that the President is meeting with the Saudi prince. What does America First mean to me? How about meeting with the survivors? How about making sure that America's girls are not being raped? That is what it means to be America First. It doesn't mean going and meeting with Saudi princes.

I am so honored to be here and to work together with Congressman THOMAS MASSIE, who has shown so much courage and principle. I am so honored to be here next to Congresswoman MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE and Congresswoman NANCY MACE.

Someone ask me what I learned through this process. I said that sometimes we have to see people not just through their caricature. I had caricatures of Representative GREENE, Representative MASSIE, and Representative MACE.

What I saw was they cared as Americans and human beings. They stood with courage. They looked at this not from politics, but they looked at this as what is right. I am proud today to be a Member of Congress. I am proud to work with them. I am proud of what we are showing this country is possible.

If we actually care about American values, maybe we can overcome some of the bitter divides in this country. If we didn't care about just getting the credit and maybe worked together, we could actually care about forgotten and abandoned Americans like the survivors that testified today. I was so moved by their testimony.

How can we hear their testimony, as all of us have heard, see their tears, see them hold up photos at the age of 14, and think they are not telling the truth? This is not politics. This is humanity.

Sometimes we get into these Chambers, and we forget what happened. We forget how we grew up. When most of us grew up, we went to barbecues. We went to Little League games. We went to church or temple. We didn't fly around in private jets and go to a rape island. We didn't buy off politicians and tell them to keep quiet. We didn't think that it was normal to abuse or rape young girls.

Then they say they don't know if they were 18 or 22. Come on. It is rotten. Then they say to just care about the price of eggs. Care about the price of healthcare. What is more important than that? American values are more important. These rich, greedy men abused American values. They abused what is sacred about this country. They abused what built this country.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from California.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, it is time. They are going to have a reckoning. The Epstein class is going to go. The reason they are going to go is because the progressive left and the MAGA right and everyone in between is finally waking up against this rotten system.

When people are united and when people work across the aisle, amazing things can happen because the American people are kind and good and decent.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have worked with Congressman MASSIE. I particularly salute the courage of Representatives MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, LAUREN BOEBERT, and NANCY MACE. None of this would have been possible without their courage in standing up on the petition and for what they did.

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

At the top of this page, I have written: "Democrat hypocrisy on Epstein." Mr. Speaker, that is what we are hearing today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. I am proud to have supported the full investigation into the Epstein files on that committee.

Furthermore, I am proud to have supported formalizing that investigation by taking the decisive step in directing that investigation by a special rule provided by the Rules Committee. This gave the Oversight Committee's investigation the full weight of the House of Representatives behind the committee's existing subpoena power. It is very important in this debate.

Mr. Speaker, let's get things straight here. In just a matter of hours, we will vote on the Massie bill. That won't preclude the existing House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's investigation in any way. That is a great thing because that investigation is yielding results.

We now know that one of Jeffrey Epstein's closest confidantes was apparently Larry Summers, a Cabinet member in the Clinton administration. We now know that a Democrat Member in this body, STACEY PLASKETT, was colluding with Jeffrey Epstein in real time during a hearing. The subject matter was how to take down President Trump. We can't make this stuff up.

We now know that Epstein himself hated President Trump. It is in black and white. We now know that one of the chief Epstein victims stated that President Trump never acted inappropriately.

Don't forget that oversight investigations specifically subpoenaed Bill and Hillary Clinton for their ties to Jeffrey Epstein. They haven't been quick to

step into the breach and exonerate themselves, have they?

The truth will continue to come out, as it has, because of Republicans and a current Republican-led House Oversight and Government Reform Committee investigation, one that already carries the full force of law. Let's see where that leads.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman says that we should just trust her and Republican leadership. After what I saw unfold over these last several months, I can't. There was obstruction and the use of every maneuver possible to avoid this moment we have here today.

I say for the record: It doesn't matter whether there are Republicans, Democrats, or Independents implicated in these files. We believe in accountability for everybody who abuses young women. We believe in justice. That is kind of what is uniting many of us on this side of the aisle here today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative KHANNA for his leadership. I thank Representative MASSIE, Representative GREENE, and Representative MACE for their courage and for their willingness to stand up for what is right. We don't agree on very much, but we do agree there ought to be accountability when young women are abused. That is what this is about.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) to control the time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 17 minutes remaining.

□ 1250

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, today is an extraordinary day in this Chamber.

If my colleagues will vote for this measure, then we will see justice triumph over politics. Truth will triumph over deception and obfuscation. Transparency will triumph over dark money. Partisanship will fall away to bipartisanship, and grass-roots, the people, will reclaim the people's House with this vote.

It is going to be a victory for survivors; not just survivors of the Epstein sex trafficking scandal, but the 1,000 survivors who exist. Some of them are victims. They are no longer alive, and some have committed suicide. They share one thing in common: Their youth was robbed from them, and much of their lives were robbed from them. But they are claiming it back. We are going to help them claim that back.

However, it is not just a victory today if this vote prevails for those survivors. It is a victory for every person, man or woman, boy or girl, who has been victimized sexually in this country. Anybody who has been a vic-

tim of sexual assault, or maybe they have been victimized by a family member, maybe it is not a billionaire, but they are all waiting and watching to see what we do today.

They are wondering: If I go to mom or dad, will anything happen?

If I go to the sheriff, will anything happen?

We have a chance today to make something happen, something that has not happened, something that should have happened decades ago, and that is to get justice for these victims and survivors, and transparency for America.

That is what this vote is about today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in a bipartisan effort to release the Epstein files finally after five administrations have covered it up.

Earlier today, I attended the press conference where the survivors—they are not victims—the survivors of Jeffrey Epstein's sexual abuse and sex trafficking told their stories. They told stories about how it started back in 1991 and 1996, and they continued on through the decades. They told stories about how they told someone and tried to get help. They told the FBI, and they weren't listened to. They told law enforcement, and no one did anything.

These women don't just number a few. These women number around 1,000 women, and they are victims of something that is unthinkable. This should have never, ever happened. This was the biggest fight I think I have seen in Washington, D.C. This is my fifth year here, and this was a fight that we should have never had to wage.

It should have been the easiest thing for every single Member of Congress. It should have been the easiest thing for the Speaker of the House. It should have been the easiest thing for the President of the United States to release all the information, every single file, on behalf of these American women.

These American women aren't rich and powerful elites. They do not have someone paying for their airline tickets or paying for their trips or paying for their expenses every time they try to do something to get this information out. These are your average Americans.

Mr. Speaker, do you want to know what the Epstein files represent, the coverup represents, to average Americans?

It represents the failures of the Federal Government in Congress to the American people, and that is what people rose up about in 2024. They wanted and demanded transparency from their government and for Americans; finally, to be put first.

Today, with this vote, we are finally putting these victims and these survivors of Jeffrey Epstein first and the cabal of rich and powerful elites that expands not just here in the United

States of America but to other countries as well, we are putting them last. That is exactly what Americans want.

You see, Mr. Speaker, for far too long, Americans have been put last, and they are sick of it. They are sick and tired of it. This is why they don't trust Congress. This is why they don't trust the government.

Here is the problem: All of these women are women who have suffered in shame for years and years and years. These are women who were terrified, women who were intimidated, and women who were threatened just like Virginia Giuffre, and now she is dead. These women should have never faced that for this information to come out.

We, especially the four Republican Members of the House of Representatives, should have never faced intimidation and threats for us to get this vote to come to the floor.

Never forget there were four: THOMAS MASSIE, myself, NANCY MACE, and LAUREN BOEBERT. We had to sign a discharge petition. We had to fight through intimidation, and we had to endure it for months to push that discharge petition finally to 218 to get this vote to come out.

This is what the American people are sick of, and rightfully so.

Now where does this go from here?

The question will remain: Will the Department of Justice release all the information?

Will the judge in New York release the information?

Will the CIA release the information?

Will foreign governments release their information?

Or will this continue after this vote today to be a coverup, a coverup of the rich and powerful elites who bond together in sex and human trafficking abuse and all types of global business that enriches them but never serves Americans?

The American people will know, and the victims—actually the survivors—of Jeffrey Epstein will know, because they know the list of names. I remain dedicated to my promise to read those names here on the House floor if those women ever find themselves in a place where it needs to be done.

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the generosity of Representative JIM MCGOVERN for granting us this time.

I am embarrassed for my own party today. I am embarrassed we withheld swearing in a duly-elected Representative of the people for 49 days just to avoid this vote that is finally going to happen today.

I am embarrassed that my own party isn't going to yield me time to debate this. Even though they say they support it and I authored it, they don't even want to yield me time to debate this during the bill debate.

However, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you whom I am thankful to: these

three brave women, MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, NANCY MACE, and LAUREN BOEBERT. They have been threatened, and they have been intimidated physically and politically—it is disgusting—not by the far left. They have been intimidated by people in our own party.

For what?

It is for seeking justice for these victims.

So my hat is off. I congratulate them for standing strong.

I have always wondered: Where were the Republican men during this battle?

We have taken 5 months. These three women and I have had to drag our party to this floor today to even vote on this.

RO KHANNA is the most to be thanked here. In an extraordinary display of bipartisanship, he did not hesitate when I asked if we wanted to bring this bill to the floor together, if he would stand in the trenches with me. He said yes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we need to get facts straight here. President Trump's Department of Justice in his first term arrested and prosecuted Jeffrey Epstein. We, on our side, want justice to prevail in this case and in every case.

Speaker JOHNSON has always been clear that if the discharge petition reached the necessary signatures, then the House would consider the legislation, and that is what we are providing for in our rule today.

In fact, as soon as the petition hit 218 votes last Wednesday, House Republicans offered a unanimous consent request to pass the legislation then.

However, the Democratic leader would not give consent to do that last week.

Why?

It is because they are not really interested in this. They are interested in some other things.

Mr. Speaker, I have to correct the RECORD.

Mr. MASSIE did not request time from me. I am the person who controls the time on the Republican side. He did not request time from me. I would have given him time.

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

□ 1300

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE).

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. KHANNA, today for the time, for the 5 minutes on the floor to speak about an issue that is not political for me. Helping the survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and his horrific, gruesome, brutal sex trafficking ring is deeply personal. While we often have many disagreements about a lot of issues, maybe most issues, today, they are allowing us to speak on the floor. My colleagues, Con-

gressman MASSIE, MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, and LAUREN BOEBERT, the four of us, we are making history today over the discharge petition and delivering justice for those who have desperately fought for it for, in some cases, almost 30 years.

I wore white today because I wanted to reflect on the innocence of the young women who had their innocence stolen by a demon named Jeffrey Epstein, from demons, friends of his, rich and powerful people who stole their innocence at as young as 14 years old. It was taken from them, and they have never gotten it back.

I am also wearing white today to recognize the courage that it takes for women to come forward, the sacrifices of them personally, professionally, and financially. There is embarrassment, humiliation, and shame that we still deliver on the backs of women who have been brutalized, who have been raped, and who have been assaulted. There is shame that the media pours over their heads. Their colleagues, their friends, their neighbors, their loved ones—because you come forward and because you talk about sexual assault, you are not a slut. It is not because of what you wore. You are not a whore. That is how women are treated. You are not lying.

I want every woman to know, every Epstein survivor to know, every woman across the country who is a survivor, who is a victim of assault, that today, we see you. This fight and this vote tonight, I see it is about the Epstein victims, but it is about much more than the Epstein victims. This is about the powerless taking power away from the very powerful. This is about giving women who never had a voice a voice, giving a voice to the voiceless.

This is about their sacrifice. This is about having and recognizing their courage. This is about justice for the Epstein victims, but it is also about hope.

Earlier this year, I gave a speech right here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives detailing trauma that I experienced, endured, and am a survivor of that I accidentally uncovered 2 years ago, almost to the day. Today, I still don't have justice, like millions of women across the country.

When I spoke out, I got attacked. When I spoke out, I was shamed. When I spoke out, I was defamed and smeared. That goes on today, right now, in the present.

God sure has a funny way of working through us. Like many of the Epstein survivors and many other survivors across the country, I don't think I will ever heal from the destruction that abuser did to me. I can heal by being a vessel and being a voice for all those who need it, and that is why we are here today. That is why I will never abandon a single survivor ever, and I will never waver.

I spent my morning talking to law enforcement and others about another

potential Jane Doe, Jane Doe No. 5, who may be another sexual assault victim in the case that I uncovered 2 years ago. It is very difficult for us to come forward, but I thank the women who have, the Epstein victims, and the victims in the case that I have uncovered. I thank all of them for being a voice, for giving me hope that maybe one day I, too, can get justice.

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

Our colleagues want Americans to believe that this discharge petition and underlying legislation are the be-all and end-all in this investigation. However, it is House Republicans who have worked tirelessly to achieve true justice for victims.

To date, the significant information that has come out has come from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee as a result of it issuing 13 subpoenas. We have released 65,000 pages of documents from the Department of Justice; the Epstein estate, which was not mentioned in the underlying legislation; the former U.S. attorney; and others.

Let me say it again. The unanimous-consent request to pass the legislation immediately last week was blocked by the minority leader, full stop. If Democrats truly cared about finding justice immediately for victims, this legislation would have been passed last week. Instead, they want political theater to capitalize on.

House Republicans, on the other hand, remain focused on truth, accountability, and delivering real justice for Epstein's victims, not political points.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, all that is necessary for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing, and we have had a lot of good men doing a lot of nothing on the other side of the aisle until we did something. Three brave women, myself, and the Democratic Caucus, we did something. Then, what did they do? They have opposed us every step of the way. They have lied about the legislation.

Let me tell you some of the lies they have told. They have said that it doesn't protect victims. Well, if that is so, why were dozens of victims with us today at a press conference, urging this body to pass this legislation? It is because this legislation specifically protects victims.

They have said this legislation does not prevent the release of child pornography. Of course it does. We have a specific provision in our legislation to prevent that.

They have said so many falsehoods about this legislation, but now they are going to vote for it—hopefully en-

thusiastically. Really, they have been drug to this.

Our judicial system is broken. If it were working, there wouldn't be a thousand victims who haven't seen justice yet. They are victims of the Epstein class.

I begrudge nobody's success if they become a billionaire, but if you think being a billionaire or buying politicians keeps you out of the judicial system, lets you rape young women, lets you traffic women, you have another thing coming when this bill passes.

Do not let the Senate muck this up. There have already been efforts to derail our discharge petition. The Oversight Committee has released thousands, tens of thousands of documents. That is fine. Keep working. How many names have they released? Zero.

They are still protecting, or the DOJ is protecting, pedophiles and sex traffickers. The time for that to stop is now.

Our Speaker says: Oh, this bill needs to be amended in the Senate, and specifically, he is trying to create a loophole. He is trying to categorize the pedophiles as victims. He is saying: Oh, we don't want to embarrass the people who went to the rape island. We should protect those names against unreliable accusations. Is he calling all of these victims unreliable?

□ 1310

They have testified to the FBI. The FBI has these names in their possession.

I asked the FBI Director in a hearing: Have you looked at the documents?

No. He trusts everybody who has been there for decades.

That is wrong. Do not let the Senate muck this bill up. If Senators are a party to that in the Senate, they are part of this coverup that we are trying to expose. I am sorry if one of their billionaire donors is going to get embarrassed because he went to rape island.

That is what they have coming. In fact, they need to be on the other side of bars, a lot of them. Some of them will be embarrassed, but some of them need to go to prison, and the survivors know that.

Mr. Speaker, how will we know if this bill has been successful? We will know when there are men, rich men, in handcuffs being perp-walked to the jail. Until then, this is still a coverup.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Senate colleagues: Do not muck up this bill.

The President has already said that he will sign it. That means that he will sign the bill that we have here today.

Do not change this bill. He is ready to sign it. Give it to him. Put it on his desk. Let's get justice for these victims.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

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

Mr. Speaker, first, let me say how much I admire the courage of my Republican colleagues who are beside me here today.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, this is not about us, and it is not about politics. This is about the survivors, young girls who were exploited by powerful men. These were men who used money and power to take advantage of girls, some as young as 11 years old.

The President of the United States calls it all a hoax. Can you imagine that? What an evil and disgusting thing to say. These young girls, now women, the survivors, what happened to them was horrific. They were sexually abused, many of them for years, and the President of the United States calls it all a hoax.

What kind of messed up, sick-in-the-head, immoral person says something like that? This bill is about making sure that powerful men are held accountable. It is about demanding truth and transparency for the American people.

Republican leaders in this House lost control of the story. They lost the ability to hide behind procedure, and they lost the luxury of pretending that they were ever on the right side. The American people see it. Survivors see it, and history will see it.

Listening to the Speaker of the House's press conference today, it sounds like he basically wants to kill this whole thing. He is trying to obstruct and derail the process.

Why the hell is he fighting so hard to do the opposite of what the survivors want? What an awful, awful thing to do.

Let us release the files. Let's give survivors the transparency they have long been denied. Let us take back power from the rich, billionaire elites who think that they can do whatever they want with no justice or accountability. Let's remember exactly who had to be dragged here under duress and who stood up from day one to demand the truth.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, those of us who did not sign the discharge petition are just as concerned about the victims or, as some are calling them, survivors as our colleagues who signed the discharge petition.

We share contempt for anyone who abused anyone else. I have stood on this floor many times, Mr. Speaker, to speak out for victims and survivors of people who have been abused and against anyone who breaks the law or takes advantage of an innocent person.

We will not be characterized as insensitive to that, but House Republicans

who didn't sign the discharge petition remain focused on truth, accountability, and delivering real justice for Epstein victims.

Again, I will point out that it was under President Trump's Department of Justice that Jeffrey Epstein was arrested and tried. We have not tried to avoid this situation. We want things done the right way. We want maximum justice for these victims and survivors.

Our rule today simply expedites consideration of the Massie-Khanna legislation. As I said, we would have liked to have seen it pass last week when we gave an opportunity for it, but it was blocked by the Democratic minority leader.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for support for this rule and the underlying legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on the rule.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 879 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 9. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 6074) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 10. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 6074.

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

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

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

EPSTEIN FILES TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4405) to require the Attorney General to release all documents and records in possession of the Department of Justice relating to Jeffrey Epstein, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4405

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Epstein Files Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO JEFFREY EPSTEIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall, subject to subsection (b), make publicly available in a searchable and downloadable format all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in the possession of the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Attorneys' Offices, that relate to:

(1) Jeffrey Epstein including all investigations, prosecutions, or custodial matters.

(2) Ghislaine Maxwell.

(3) Flight logs or travel records, including but not limited to manifests, itineraries, pilot records, and customs or immigration documentation, for any aircraft, vessel, or vehicle owned, operated, or used by Jeffrey Epstein or any related entity.

(4) Individuals, including government officials, named or referenced in connection with Epstein's criminal activities, civil settlements, immunity or plea agreements, or investigatory proceedings.

(5) Entities (corporate, nonprofit, academic, or governmental) with known or alleged ties to Epstein's trafficking or financial networks.

(6) Any immunity deals, non-prosecution agreements, plea bargains, or sealed settlements involving Epstein or his associates.

(7) Internal DOJ communications, including emails, memos, meeting notes, concerning decisions to charge, not charge, investigate, or decline to investigate Epstein or his associates.

(8) All communications, memoranda, directives, logs, or metadata concerning the destruction, deletion, alteration, misplacement, or concealment of documents, recordings, or electronic data related to Epstein, his associates, his detention and death, or any investigative files.

(9) Documentation of Epstein's detention or death, including incident reports, witness interviews, medical examiner files, autopsy reports, and written records detailing the circumstances and cause of death.

(b) PROHIBITED GROUNDS FOR WITH- HOLDING.—

(1) No record shall be withheld, delayed, or redacted on the basis of embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary.

(c) PERMITTED WITHHOLDINGS.—

(1) The Attorney general may withhold or redact the segregable portions of records that—

(A) contain personally identifiable information of victims or victims' personal and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(B) depict or contain child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) as defined under 18 U.S.C. 2256 and prohibited under 18 U.S.C. 2252–2252A;

(C) would jeopardize an active federal investigation or ongoing prosecution, provided that such withholding is narrowly tailored and temporary;

(D) depict or contain images of death, physical abuse, or injury of any person; or

(E) contain information specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order.

(2) All redactions must be accompanied by a written justification published in the Federal Register and submitted to Congress.

(3) To the extent that any covered information would otherwise be redacted or withheld as classified information under this section, the Attorney General shall declassify that classified information to the maximum extent possible.

(A) If the Attorney General makes a determination that covered information may not be declassified and made available in a manner that protects the national security of the United States, including methods or sources related to national security, the Attorney General shall release an unclassified summary for each of the redacted or withheld classified information.

(4) All decisions to classify any covered information after July 1, 2025 shall be published in the Federal Register and submitted to Congress, including the date of classification, the identity of the classifying authority, and an unclassified summary of the justification.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Within 15 days of completion of the release required under Section 2, the Attorney General shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary a report listing:

(1) All categories of records released and withheld.

(2) A summary of redactions made, including legal basis.

(3) A list of all government officials and politically exposed persons named or referenced in the released materials, with no redactions permitted under subsection (b)(1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4405.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we all support holding bad guys accountable, and we are all going to vote for this resolution, but I think a little perspective is important.

Democrats have spent 6 months talking about Epstein, even though they had 4 years to do something about it.

Mr. Speaker, why would they do that? Why would they do that? Maybe

it is to go after President Trump. Never forget that they shut down the government for 43 days. They said: Don't worry about our military. Don't worry about air traffic controllers. Don't worry about our economy. Don't worry about American families. No, no, no. Close the government for 1½ months because it might hurt the President.

□ 1320

For the past decade, there has been one constant for Democrats: Go after Trump.

They spied on his campaign. Then it was Mueller. Then it was impeachment one. Then it was impeachment two. Then it was all the lawfare: Alvin Bragg, Fani Willis, Letitia James. Then it was the Arctic Frost investigation at the Justice Department, surveilling United States Senators and Congressmen and a whole host of other Americans. Then it was Jack Smith and his gag orders and his raiding President Trump's home. Then it was a 43-day shutdown. Now it is Epstein.

By the way, the same party that did all that, they were also the ones who were texting with Mr. Epstein during a hearing where Michael Cohen was their witness in another effort to go after the President.

Americans see through it all and, frankly, it is actually kind of sad. This obsession, this syndrome, this mindset that says, we have to go after President Trump no matter what that they have.

Actually, when I think about it, I think it is because President Trump and Republicans have accomplished so much that they told the voters they were going to accomplish in the 2024 election. We are actually doing what we said we are going to do.

President Trump said he was going to cut taxes, and he did. President Trump said he would secure the border, and he did. President Trump said he would get men out of women's sports, and he did. President Trump said he would make sure Iran doesn't have nuclear capability, and he did. President Trump said he would get the hostages out of Gaza and back into Israel, and he did. He did this all in 9 months. I don't know what causes this mindset, this syndrome that the left has, but I know one thing: It is real.

Which brings me to last week.

Let's think about what the Democrats did last week. The Democrats released an email that the Oversight Committee had obtained from the estate, an email from Mr. Epstein to Ms. Maxwell. When the Democrats released it, they redacted the victim's name. That is something we all support, something everyone supports, except in this case, no court had ordered that name redacted. No agency had redacted it. The estate didn't redact it. The victim had already went public, so why black out a name? Why black out a name? Mr. Speaker, because she had said in her book and had testified

under oath that she never saw any wrongdoing by President Trump.

Let's think about what they did. In an email between two criminals, Mr. Epstein and Ms. Maxwell, they hide the name of an individual who had went public and exonerated the President, and we know why: to distort and twist the message because they thought it might harm the President.

Their position: Cover up the names of people who are already public, but don't worry about other innocent people who the court said should remain private.

Again, I think the American people see through it. They see through what the Democrats are doing. The American people know what this is. They know Democrats have nothing else to run on because of the success of this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I say let's vote "yes" on this resolution, and then let's get focused on making sure we are doing what the American families elected us to do.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today, 4 months and 3 days after Mr. KHANNA and Mr. MASSIE introduced their discharge petition, perhaps the most famous discharge petition in American history, the people's House unites across party lines to draw a moral line. We draw a line against the rape and sexual violation of children. We draw a line against the global criminal trafficking of girls and young women to service the pleasure of rich and powerful men who believe they are beyond all law and all morality. We draw a line to put the voices of the victims and the survivors first.

We ask the Senate to join us without changes rather than obstruct this bill with dilatory amendments, legislative graffiti, and self-dealing, million-dollar jackpot provisions for lucky Senators.

Just pass the bill.

We are finally voting today because a bipartisan discharge petition, led by Representatives MASSIE and KHANNA and signed by 218 of us, overthrew the determined obstruction of the Speaker. This forced vote means the House will no longer acquiesce in this astonishing real-time coverup of a multibillion-dollar global sex trafficking and child rape ring that has ravaged the lives of more than a thousand girls and young women.

We are here today because these victims, these survivors, these citizens, these inspiring women who have come to Washington are demanding nothing less than justice and the complete truth about who is responsible for their vicious abuse, including those responsible for enabling it, ignoring it, bankrolling it, and covering it up.

We join them today in rejecting any more dangerous lies about the crimes they suffered. No, child sex abuse is not a hoax. It is a crime. Human trafficking is not a hoax. It is a crime.

These crimes are a curse on children and young people across America, in universities and elementary schools, in churches and mosques and synagogues, in Boy Scout troops and college sports teams, in summer camps, anywhere the powerful and the rich believe they have the opportunity and the impunity to exploit the young, the poor, the powerless, and the vulnerable.

We must face the truth and find the coconspirators still at large in one of America's most extensive and sophisticated sex trafficking and child abuse rings in history.

Release of the file will expose the role of everybody who facilitated and covered up these crimes like JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Deutsche Bank, and Bank of New York Mellon, which executed billions of dollars in transactions related to these offenses, as well as any bank executives who participated in the sexual abuse of girls and young women.

We must expose everyone who covered up these crimes like Alex Acosta, the former U.S. attorney in Miami, Donald Trump's Labor Secretary, who gave Jeffrey Epstein an unbelievable sweetheart plea deal, immunized unnamed conspirators, and killed an investigation into Epstein's financial crimes that could have brought down the entire criminal network.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), the distinguished chair of the House Oversight Committee.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Oversight Committee, I have always believed that sunshine is the best disinfectant. For years, the American people have demanded transparency about Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's horrific crimes and about the Federal Government's failure to protect the victims.

The House Oversight Committee is conducting a thorough review of the Federal Government's investigation into Epstein. Our work goes far beyond the legislation before us today. We are committed to accountability, transparency, and justice for the American people and for the survivors of these appalling crimes.

To date, the Oversight Committee has released more than 65,000 pages of documents, issued 13 subpoenas, and conducted interviews with two key witnesses, both of whom were Republicans.

The Trump administration has provided us with Department of Justice materials and access to suspicious activity reports. Unfortunately, throughout this investigation, Democrats have chosen to manufacture yet another anti-Trump hoax instead of pursuing justice. They have mischaracterized witness testimony and selectively released documents, complete with targeted redactions in an effort to smear President Trump.

For example, former U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr, who oversaw the 2019 Epstein investigation, stated clearly under oath that the prosecution team found no evidence that President Trump committed wrongdoing.

Despite this simple and straightforward fact, Ranking Member ROBERT GARCIA moments after that deposition, tiptoed out and publicly claimed that “Barr could not clear Trump of wrongdoing.”

That was a lie, and we have the transcript to prove it. I invite the media to read the transcript.

When the Oversight Committee interviewed former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Alex Acosta, Democrats whipped themselves into a frenzy trying to manufacture a “gotcha” moment, but they failed.

Mr. Acosta dismantled the Democrats’ narrative. His testimony confirmed there was no contact between President Trump and Mr. Acosta and no connection between President Trump in the Epstein case.

□ 1330

Next, Democrats resorted to selective leaks and doctored documents to mislead the American people.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Republicans have posted 65,000 pages of documents we have received to date. Democrats, by contrast, have released fewer than one dozen.

In their latest selective leak, Democrats released just 3 of the 23,000 pages of documents from the Epstein estate, and they made redactions to two of those emails that changed both the context and meaning of the three pages they released.

When CNN called them out for their deceptive redactions, Representatives STANSBURY and CROCKETT tried to blame Republicans for their own edits, for the Democrat Committee on Oversight and Government Reform edits.

After Democrats released only 3 emails, Republicans released over 23,000 pages. What did Democrats say in response when we released every single document that we got? They claimed full transparency was meant to “disorient” or “distract” from their manufactured narrative. These are the same Democrats who chanted “release the files” every day—until the files contradict the story they want to tell. That is the definition of hypocrisy.

In contrast, full transparency exposed how Epstein appears to be TDS Patient Zero. The emails reveal that a journalist coached Epstein to blackmail then-Presidential candidate Donald Trump.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, the files also show that a House Democrat colluded with Epstein during the 2019 Committee on Oversight and Govern-

ment Reform hearing with a discredited witness with a vendetta against President Trump. Unsurprisingly, Democrats have been silent about their colleague’s coordination with Epstein.

Another email shows Democrat fundraisers invited Epstein to an event or to meet privately with HAKEEM JEFFRIES as part of their 2013 effort to win a majority. HAKEEM JEFFRIES’ campaign solicited money from Jeffrey Epstein. That is what we found in the last document batch.

The files underscore why former President Bill Clinton must appear for his deposition. We have subpoenaed him. To date, the Democrats have done nothing to help us secure his appearance.

I support full transparency. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will continue to work to get the truth to the American people and to get justice for the victims. That is our goal of this investigation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I should just point out that we have heard now from the two distinguished chairmen of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and they have spoken almost exclusively to denounce Democrats.

We have a bipartisan coalition here demanding the truth about the largest child sex abuse and trafficking ring perhaps in American history, certainly in this century, and they want to just throw stones at the Democrats. What a remarkable failure of leadership we are seeing from the other side.

I imagine that the chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will follow up his spectacular failure in trying to impeach President Biden with his spectacular failure in trying to block the resolution we brought to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCIA), the very distinguished minority leader on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to hear Republicans, and certainly the chairman of our committee, finally want transparency on this issue. It is time to end this White House coverup now.

We know that Donald Trump has tried everything to kill our Jeffrey Epstein investigation. He has failed, and now he is panicking. He is about to lose this Epstein vote to force the Department of Justice to release the files.

Let’s be crystal clear. Trump has the power to release the files today. He does not even need a vote. He continues to defy the subpoena of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to release all the files. What is Donald Trump hiding? What is Pam Bondi, the Attorney General, hiding? Why won’t they release the Epstein files right now?

He must explain to the public why he moved sex trafficker and monster

Ghislaine Maxwell to a cushy, low-security prison after her interview with Trump’s personal lawyer. He should declare, and every Republican should say, that she does not deserve a pardon or commutation.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, we don’t care how much money you have, what party you are in, or how powerful you are. We should get justice for the survivors of Jeffrey Epstein.

Our work on the committee is not over. Next steps are the bank and financial records to follow and expose Epstein’s network.

Today, there should be a unanimous vote on releasing the files, and we will get justice.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY), a member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I have consistently called for the maximum possible level of transparency when it comes to the heinous crimes of Jeffrey Epstein. That is why I have consistently said that I am inclined to vote for this bill, and it is why I will be doing so today.

The victims deserve the truth. They deserve justice. They deserve closure.

For months, they have had to wake up every day to see the name of their tormentor on the front page of every newspaper, on every TV channel, as has the broader American public.

This issue has been so politicized by so many people in so many ways, which is deeply unfortunate when we are talking about matters of the highest sensitivity and untold suffering.

It is my hope that the passage of this resolution today, together with the work of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, will lead to the expeditious release of all pertinent material so that we can move on.

Let’s get accountability. Let’s get answers. Let’s get this over with.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), a member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, thousands of girls, children, were abused by Jeffrey Epstein and his massive and powerful ring of pedophiles and protectors of pedophiles. We can’t say all their names here. We don’t have time. Let’s at least bring a few of the courageous survivors and their names onto the House floor right here as we debate this: Haley Robson, Jena-Lisa Jones, Michelle Licata, Ashley Rubright, Annie Farmer, Marina Lacerda, and Rachel Benavidez.

These women have carried a burden that they never should have had to bear. Today, they demand, we demand, and the American people demand that we answer their clarion call to justice.

Today, despite all the giant coverup attempts by this administration and this Speaker of the House, we will vote to release all the Epstein files.

To be clear, there is no protection for pedophiles, no protection for the rich and powerful men of either party who participated, who turned a blind eye, and who winked and grinned while witnessing the horrific abuses of young children. Release all the damn files now.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT), a member of our committee.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I have been very supportive of this effort, specifically to bring justice to the victims of this horrific series of crimes. However, I have worked behind the scenes to raise concerns with this petition as it is currently drafted.

Specifically, I believe that there is a grave risk of harming innocent people, and I repeat, harming innocent people. When innocent people are harmed, that is not furthering justice.

With an investigation of this size and a file that is as large as the Epstein files and as poorly defined as that is in this petition, there will invariably be people who are released, pursuant to this discharge petition, who had nothing to do with criminal activity. Imagine, if you will, a bellman, a waiter, some type of doorman, a mere social attendee who had no impact whatsoever on the criminal activities of Jeffrey Epstein, no participation. Their lives are forever ruined.

I am reading specifically from the petition's language that "prohibited grounds for withholding" information in this file are "embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity."

I would just submit that if you were going to be embarrassed, if you were going to suffer social harm, and that is all the encompassed activity that you were a part of, you will be named in this petition.

I resent that. Innocent people should not be harmed when we are pursuing justice.

I understand the political nature of this petition. I resent the fact that there was not room for good faith amendments, and I urge the Senate to protect innocent people.

□ 1340

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE).

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, one in three women and girls around the world are physically and sexually assaulted each year. Of the 152 women in this body, that means 51 women. It includes your daughters, your sisters, your nieces, your mothers.

With the Epstein files, we have a chance to change that. However, real talk: The administration doesn't need

a discharge petition. It has not complied with the subpoena, and it has the power to release the files today.

Instead, the man in the most powerful position in the world has used the full weight of the government to block, obfuscate, and deflect the full release of the files. It is the same person who intimidated female Members of Congress to withdraw their names from the petition, who responded "Quiet, piggy" to a female reporter who asked about the files, and who nominated an alleged sexual predator to be our AG. It is the same person whose name appears more than any other in the Epstein emails.

In the pantheon of violence, a sexual predator is the worst of the worst, so why protect him? It is also curious that the Judiciary Committee is managing this debate and has not even had this come before the committee. I wonder why. Release the files now.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), chairman of the Constitution and Limited Government Subcommittee.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, today a united Republican Party and a bipartisan supermajority is going to pass a bill to increase transparency regarding the egregious abuses by Jeffrey Epstein, a goal that anyone of conscience desires. That is in totality an important statement to check the rich and powerful.

Remember how we got here. After decades, it was President Trump's Department of Justice that indicted Jeffrey Epstein in July 2019. It was President Trump's DOJ that arrested and indicted Ms. Maxwell. It was the Republican-led Oversight Committee, through 13 subpoenas, that has released 65,000 pages of files in just 10 months.

Meanwhile, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have largely ignored this issue. It was Democrats who redacted an email to mislead the American people about the truth of a witness that exonerated President Trump. It was a Democrat, Representative PLASKETT, who literally texted with Jeffrey Epstein as we questioned Michael Cohen. It was Democrats who shut down the government, resulting in the delay of swearing in of Members.

As we vote to pass this legislation—and it will pass—it is impossible, however, to avoid problems with its politicization. One colleague has offensively gone so far as to say that to oppose this bill means you support pedophiles. Yet, I know good public servants, former law enforcement, and former prosecutors who never knew Epstein and never knew any visitors to his criminal enterprise who have genuine concerns about supporting this bill out of fear of creating new victims or harming existing victims or both.

That is what we have reduced Congress to, inserting itself into the prosecutorial process for political motivations, driven heavily by hatred of President Trump.

We should be concerned about victim privacy, risking disclosure of noncred-

ible allegations of child sexual abuse materials, and future investigations. However, here is the deal: The leaders of this Nation must expose abuses by the rich and powerful. That is why President Trump and the House have been working for full transparency, but we should be motivated by truth and justice for all, not politics.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the minority whip.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this should be an easy vote. This is about justice for the victims and survivors of Jeffrey Epstein. This is about every victim of trafficking and sexual abuse, monstrous crimes that thrive in secrecy and fear.

Yet, instead of shining a light on that darkness, just moments ago, Donald Trump defended the continued obstruction of releasing these files. Even as House Republicans prepared to vote "yes" today, Speaker JOHNSON is calling this a show vote. He is calling it dangerous. He is signaling the U.S. Senate to block it.

Republicans continue to use their power to shield rich pedophiles from justice. If you can't stand up for these survivors, how can anyone trust you to stand up for them?

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

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

Just very quickly, what happened under the Biden administration? Well, under the Biden administration, Ghislaine Maxwell was prosecuted for conspiring to sexually abuse and traffic girls in 2020. In 2021, she was convicted, in December of 2021, after a month-long trial in Judge Nathan's courtroom. In 2022, Maxwell was sentenced to 20 years in prison under the Biden administration for sex trafficking and sexual abuse of minors.

When President Trump took office in January of 2025, they killed the investigation. They assembled all the materials, they got all the prosecutors together, and they terminated the investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY).

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support to release the Epstein files. First, this issue is beyond party. It is a question of justice. Survivors have waited too long. Stop the delay. This is not a hoax. Release the files.

Second, we must face a hard truth. Silence that shields the powerful is a betrayal of those they hurt. Congress must reject any attempt, including a Presidential pardon or any form of clemency for Ghislaine Maxwell. This cannot be done. This would be a cover-up. We cannot allow clemency of any kind for Maxwell, not now, not ever.

Survivors deserve justice. I urge a strong "yes" vote.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his eloquent remarks. Pardons are for people who are

contrite. Pardons are for people who are repentant. Pardons are not for people who lie. Every Member of this body should immediately, verbally, vocally denounce the idea of clemency, commutation, or pardon for Ghislaine Maxwell.

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

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ).

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, there were thousands of girls and young women abused, trafficked, and used by Epstein and the elite and the powerful who believed they could get away with it.

Epstein told the young victims that he controlled the banks and the government.

Those women refused to be silenced. Today, they have pierced the dark with their light.

Anytime any girl is trafficked, molested, or abused, the world must stand up. Today, the House proves Jeffrey Epstein wrong. The Senate must do the same tomorrow.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, a minute and a half or an hour, the words would still have to be the same. We have all said that this will pass the House, perhaps unanimously, today.

I think all of us who have looked at the details of this particular bill know that it is flawed and that before it goes to the President's desk it has to be amended, as it can be amended in the Senate. We call on the Senate to amend it so that we protect the innocent, so that we have the provisions that were intended, perhaps, to be in this bill but are not properly written.

With that, President Trump has said get it to his desk, and he will sign it. President Trump has said he will do it. However, I am going to say to all of us: It is also important that we remember that Epstein is dead, but people live on, people who were innocent, people who, in fact, should not be named.

We are not talking about the rich and the powerful. We are talking about the very victims. That is what we need to make sure is amended before it goes to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his time. I think no more needs to be said. This body will vote for it all. But let's not kid ourselves, it has to be changed so that it properly protects both the tradition of the grand jury and, clearly, those innocent people that would otherwise be swept up.

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

This whole bill is about protecting the innocent. Mr. Speaker, the Senate must pass the bill, as we are passing it today and as the President has said he would sign it, after changing his position on the bill over the weekend when

he could see the tidal wave of public opinion moving against him. Let's pass this bill. Pass it in the Senate. Sign the bill, and let's go ahead and release the complete file.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI).

□ 1350

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, the walls are closing in on Donald Trump and his rich and powerful friends who either abused or raped children or who were enabling and complicit in these heinous crimes for decades.

This vote today matters, but here is the truth: Donald Trump could direct the Department of Justice to release the files today. He is choosing not to. Led by Oversight and Government Reform Democrats, they are already under subpoena and have refused. This is an ongoing cover-up by the Trump White House. MIKE JOHNSON and the White House have been complicit.

Mr. Speaker, what is Trump hiding? Why not release the files today? Release the files today.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about hypocrisy. Let me be clear. I was a cosponsor of this very bill from the beginning, from jump start, because we should never protect pedophiles.

For months, my Democratic colleagues have done what they think is politically convenient through all the yelling, through all the tears, and through all the sadness.

They say releasing the Epstein list is of grave concern to them. If that was true, where were they during the 4 years of the Biden Presidency? Why didn't they demand the release of these files from jump start in year one? Mr. Speaker, why didn't they ask for them in year two? If that wasn't good enough, why didn't they ask for them maybe in year three? They had control. They didn't even ask in his final year of office.

Other than a single letter the ranking member wrote in 2019, a single letter, not one Democrat on the committee spoke out about Epstein or his victims of this very terrible tragedy, other than to say he didn't like the plea deal.

Mr. Speaker, let me say this: When they stand here today, insisting how badly they want these files released, why didn't they do it? Yet they stayed silent for year after year after year under Joe Biden.

It is impossible. Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to see that as genuine. What I see is a group more focused on scoring political points and drama than protecting abused children.

Mr. Speaker, the record is clear. Under Republicans, far more information has been released in the last 6 months than was done during all 4

years of the previous Presidency under Joe Biden. We have actually been the party of transparency. We have released the information. We have told the truth. Unfortunately, and I am sad to say it, they have been the party of hypocrisy.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have never heard a more defensive presentation in my life than we are hearing from over there. The gentleman should spend a little less time pointing out hypocrisy and a little more time trying to ferret out cruelty, humiliation, and rape. That is what we are working on.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. MIN).

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind my colleagues we are all here voting on the bill because President Trump, who has the power to release the Epstein files at any time, has refused to do so. He called this a hoax.

We are here because Speaker MIKE JOHNSON and President Trump have gone to extraordinary lengths to try to kill and delay the discharge petition, including refusing to seat ADELITA GRIJALVA for over 40 days and threatening House Republicans who signed on.

Several of my Republican colleagues have accused us who support justice here of having Trump derangement syndrome. They suffer from something much worse, which is pedophile protection syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stop protecting pedophiles. Release the Epstein files. The victims deserve justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WALKINSHAW).

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, for years, we have watched dangerous conspiracies like Pizzagate and QAnon shape our political landscape. They helped fuel the rise of President Trump and were built on baseless claims about secret pedophile rings, while the real documented case of child sex trafficking involving Jeffrey Epstein remains shrouded in secrecy because President Trump refuses to release the files.

Mr. Speaker, what is President Trump hiding? Why won't he release the files? The House finally has the opportunity to act. Release the files, and let the American people see the truth.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the very distinguished gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. GRIJALVA), who is finally with us, the Representative from Arizona's Seventh Congressional District.

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the survivors, family members, and advocates who are here today and have never given up.

The legislation in front of us at its core is about something very simple. The survivors deserve justice. The American people deserve the truth.

To every survivor watching, their courage is inspiring. They are the reason why this vote is happening today. Protecting women and children from pedophiles should not be a Democratic issue. It should not be a Republican issue. It should be a human rights issue and a matter of justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Epstein File Transparency Act.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, they are here as honored guests of the House. We are delighted they are here.

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

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL).

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, the survivors of Jeffrey Epstein's abuse were failed by a justice system that minimized their suffering and prosecutors who treated young girls as if they were criminals. That was wrong.

I am here with my colleagues to promise that we will get to the bottom of why the Epstein survivors were treated so badly, who made those decisions, and who they were protecting. There will be no more secrecy and no more excuses.

Mr. Speaker, we all deserve the truth, and I thank the survivors for their courage and perseverance. Their voices are being heard.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for doing such an extraordinary job on all of this.

Mr. Speaker, for 43 long days, the Democrats held this House and the entire country hostage. Finally, with the lights back on, this body is returning to our regular legislative session. We have a lot of work to do.

My colleagues on this side of the Chamber are ready and eager to get back to our urgent legislative work we promised the American people we would do.

Just to name a few of those priorities, we have to continue lowering the cost of healthcare. We have to bring down prices for American families. We

have to finish the regular appropriations process.

I wish I could say that our first order of business would be to get to those urgent priorities. However, of course, we are spending time on the floor about something else. This is something we could have resolved last week when we brought a unanimous consent to pass this discharge with the full support of the body.

Mr. Speaker, our friends over here, who are arguing today, stalled that. They objected to it. They wanted to have this exercise instead. That is why we say that this is a "show" vote. That is what this is. They are making a show of it, and it really is a shame.

Mr. Speaker, we have some heroic women in the Chamber today. I met with many of them a while back. They are here in the gallery. They have come forward. They have shown their faces. They have used their names to share the unspeakable tragedies that many of them were subjected to, some of them when they were very young. It is a heroic service to the country.

They are seeking justice, and justice has been delayed for too long. The Department of Justice many years ago should have brought these charges. It took too long to do it.

□ 1400

Now we are in this process of making sure all the American people get the information, but we have to do it in the right way.

After 4 years of Democratic control under President Biden, they were not truthful with us about a lot of things. The Democrats insisted the border was secure. We knew it wasn't. They insisted that inflation was transitory. We knew it wouldn't be. They misled the American people about the obvious mental and physical decline of the previous Commander in Chief. Now those same Democrats are demanding transparency. Suddenly transparency is their new word.

Out of nowhere, they have taken a curious concern in the Epstein investigation, all in the name of transparency.

However, the question has been asked here many times during the debate on the floor and everybody is questioning why it is that the Democrats have done this right now. We have to look at the obvious facts.

The Democrats had all the Epstein files in their possession for 4 long years under the Biden Presidency. The Biden Department of Justice had these files, and no one on this side, who is breathless today about the urgency of this release, ever said a word about it. It was the Democrats who could have urged President Biden's Department of Justice to go beyond prosecuting just Epstein and Gislaine Maxwell, but they didn't do it. It is a fair question to ask today: Why now? Why the sudden urgent interest in Jeffrey Epstein?

We know why. It is because the Democrats were never interested in

transparency or executing justice or protecting the victims of this unspeakable tragedy before. The simple truth is obvious for everybody to see. This is a political exercise for Democrats. It pains me to say it. I wish that was not the truth, but it is, and it is undeniable. This is as deceitful and dishonest as their pointless stunt was to shut the government down.

Democrats are using the Epstein tragedy, the unspeakable evils that this guy committed with his trafficking ring and all of the abuses that they made these young women go through, they are using that as a political weapon to try to distract from their failures as a party and to try their best to try to tie President Trump somehow into this wretched scandal.

The President had nothing to do with it. He has been very clear. He has nothing to hide. That is why he endorsed the vote today. I suspect this vote will be probably unanimous.

Here is the important point that everybody needs to understand: We have been advocates of maximum transparency, but we have also insisted that the victims be carefully protected. The Oversight Committee has been doing extraordinary work. We have got some of the most vigorous advocates on the Republican and Democrat side on the Oversight Committee. They have been working in earnest to deliver transparency for the American people and to do it in a responsible manner.

What do we mean by that?

The bipartisan effort over there is already producing all the results that the discharge petition seeks and much, much more. Chairman COMER and all of these advocates over there have been releasing thousands of documents, for example, from the Epstein estate. By the way, in my view, that has been the greatest treasure trove of information because it has yielded for us Epstein's own personal flight logs, his financial records, his daily calendars, and so much more.

Importantly, none of that was addressed or is addressed in the legislation that is being voted on today. The estate files wouldn't even have been encompassed in that. It goes to show that the Oversight Committee is doing it in the right way.

From the very beginning, we have been insistent that this matter be handled carefully and with the utmost caution and care for the people who have been harmed. They should not be made to suffer any longer.

We are talking about real people's lives at stake here and young victims who don't want to be dragged into this political game who could get hurt further. However, the Democrats are rushing to release the thousands of unsubstantiated documents that may be included in this that may be in the public domain with the passage of this bill.

There are serious deficiencies in the legislation that I have noted at length,

and Republicans have to work to address those deficiencies in the Senate if and when this legislation is advanced.

I stood before the American public today at our press conference, and I explained in detail the dangers of the discharge petition. We have posted it at my website, speaker.gov, a summary that the legal counsel, a small army of lawyers, have put together. I used to be a Federal Court litigator. Many of my colleagues who have spoken today were. We understand the dangers of how this was haphazardly drawn up.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a document titled “How the Flaws of H.R. 4405 Could Revictimize Epstein’s Victims, Create New Victims, and Damage the Judicial System”.

NOVEMBER 18, 2025.

HOW THE FLAWS OF H.R. 4405 COULD REVICTIMIZE EPSTEIN’S VICTIMS, CREATE NEW VICTIMS, AND DAMAGE THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM BACKGROUND. On November 12, 2025, a motion to discharge in relation to H. Res. 581 was filed and assigned to the Discharge Calendar. Accordingly, the House is poised to consider H.R. 4405, compelling the Department of Justice (DOJ) to release its files related to Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell. While Republicans fully support transparency and the release of the names of those who conspired with and aided Epstein and Maxwell, the bill the House will consider is flawed.

ANALYSIS. The flaws in H.R. 4405 include the following.

1. Fails to Fully Protect Victim Privacy. While H.R. 4405 permits the Attorney General to withhold “personally identifiable information of [Epstein’s] victims” and “personal and medical files and similar files,” this authority is limited to disclosures that “constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” Protections for Epstein’s victims should go further. Congress should give the Attorney General broader authority to redact all victim information. This would prevent the release of information that could be used to unmask victims who have chosen to remain anonymous. Anything less risks revictimizing those who were trafficked and exploited. The courts have recognized this concern. On August 20, 2025, Judge Richard Berman (SDNY) issued an order denying DOJ’s request to release Epstein grand jury materials, noting “names and identifying information [of victims] appear in the subject materials.” Judge Berman quoted a letter related to victims’ concerns, which stated: “[T]ransparency cannot come at the expense of the very people whom the justice system is sworn to protect . . .” and he quoted a letter from a victim, Jane Doe 2, which stated: “I beg the court to make sure it is the upmost [sic] priority that in any sort of release ALL and EVERY detail that could possibly reveal our identities be redacted.”

2. Could Create New Victims. H.R. 4405 requires DOJ to release information, even in cases where DOJ or the FBI has determined it was false. Congress should avoid mandating this kind of release. Doing so could ruin the reputations of innocent persons, such as those who may have known Epstein but knew nothing of his crimes, or whose names Epstein exploited and used in order to get close to his intended victims. Releasing information containing the names of innocent people would subject the innocents to a guilt by association, creating a new group of victims who have no means to clear their names. To avoid this, the Attorney General should be given additional authority to re-

dact information the FBI has previously deemed was false or not credible.

3. Potentially Jeopardizes Grand Jury Secrecy. Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure prohibits the release of grand jury materials. An unauthorized release can be prosecuted as a criminal offense, including obstruction of justice. This secrecy exists to protect the individual. Grand juries are not adversarial. There is no opportunity for the subject of a grand jury inquiry to cross-examine, disprove testimony, or challenge the evidence. If Congress compels release of grand jury materials, it raises a risk that the grand jury process will become politicized in the future. Imagine how a malicious prosecutor could abuse and weaponize the grand jury process by inducing testimony about a political adversary, testimony the prosecutor knows is false and which could not be contested, with the hopes a future Congress would later compel disclosure. H.R. 4405 is ambiguous as to whether it requires DOJ to release grand jury materials from the Maxwell and Epstein cases. As such, as written, the current text of H.R. 4405 creates a conflict of laws. Congress can clear up any ambiguity by requiring the Attorney General to redact grand jury materials.

4. Fails to Prohibit Release of Child Sexual Abuse Materials. H.R. 4405 allows the Attorney General to redact portions of records that “depicts or contains child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) as defined under 18 U.S.C. 2256 . . .” It necessarily follows that the redaction authority is limited by whatever CSAM definition is found in 18 U.S.C. 2256. Unfortunately, Sec. 2256 does not contain any CSAM definition, which means that H.R. 4405 bestows no real legal authority on the Attorney General to redact those materials. The bill should be amended to clearly prohibit release of any CSAM.

5. Jeopardizes Future Federal Investigations. H.R. 4405 allows the Attorney General to redact “portions of records that . . . would jeopardize an active federal investigation or ongoing prosecution” but only if “narrowly tailored and temporary.” This standard ignores the impact disclosure might have on future investigations. Release of this information could publicly identify individuals who were promised confidentiality, such as a whistleblower or confidential informant, in exchange for agreeing to share information in the Epstein case. Violating confidentiality would have a chilling effect, deterring future whistleblowers and informants. Release could also publicly reveal the identity of undercover law enforcement officers, preventing them from working in future operations. In order to properly protect whistleblowers, informants, and undercover officers, the Attorney General should be given additional authorities to redact information related to these types of individuals (if any), provided they were not complicit in Epstein’s crimes.

6. National Security Concerns. H.R. 4405 requires the Attorney General to complete the release of information within 30 days, including to declassify “classified information to the maximum extent possible.” This raises two concerns. First, it may not be feasible to properly undertake such an extensive review in such a short period of time. Second, it ignores the principle that declassification should rest with the agency that originated the intelligence so as to protect sources and methods. It is incredibly unwise to demand that DOJ declassify materials originated by other agencies. H.R. 4405 should be amended to direct relevant intelligence agencies to work with the Attorney General to declassify in a reasonable time frame.

CONCLUSION. Republicans support transparency, especially when it comes to disclosing the names of those who conspired

with and aided Jeffrey Epstein. Before H.R. 4405 becomes law, each of the above concerns should be addressed, with particular attention paid to ensuring the highest protection for victims.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. It is dated today.

It summarizes just five or six of the major concerns.

Among them, it fails to fully protect victim privacy. It could create new categories of victims. It potentially jeopardizes grand jury secrecy.

It fails to prohibit release of child sexual abuse materials that are not appropriately defined in the legislation. It jeopardizes future Federal investigations. Moreover, we have national security concerns regarding classified information.

We will put this in the RECORD because we need the legislative RECORD to reflect what is the legislative intent behind this vote. I used to litigate cases. We used to litigate Federal statutes and whether or not they could survive, and legislative intent is important.

We need to state clearly for the record, and as Speaker of the House, I am saying to you this legislation that will pass today is flawed, and it must be amended.

The question is: Why didn’t we amend it here before we passed it?

It is because the authors won’t allow it.

It is because under the rules of the House under a discharge petition, they have to agree to consent for the legislation to be amended, and they are not doing that. Now we rely on our partners in the other Chamber to get that done, and they need to do that.

The victims deserve our utmost respect. In fact, they should be saluted for their courage. The young women who have not come forward, and some of them are middle-aged women who have not come forward, also deserve our respect, and they deserve to be protected.

Republicans support transparency. We want maximum transparency, especially when it comes to disclosing the names of anybody who had anything to do with these evils, anybody who conspired with or aided in any way Jeffrey Epstein must be brought to justice.

We want the bill to be amended so it doesn’t at the same time violate victim privacy, create new victims, disclose the names of any whistleblower or informant, cause the release of grand jury materials or child sexual abuse materials, or undermine our national security. If and when the Senate takes this up, we will work with our colleagues over there to make sure that these things are corrected.

I will just close with this simple thought.

We have been at this a while, and it has dragged on for a while, but it is time for this to come to light.

I expect that this will be a unanimous vote, and it will reflect what I think every Member in this Chamber—

and I will say this—now, at least in recent days, every Member of the Chamber, on the Democrat side, didn't say anything for 4 years, but they are for maximum transparency now, and so is this side. But we want to do it in a respectful and careful manner so that we don't subject innocent people to further harm. That has been the whole thing.

I told all my Members today I will be voting "yes" on this, and I suspect almost everyone will. We will send it to the Senate, and I hope it is corrected.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ) for the purpose of making a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask a point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GOMEZ. Is this an appropriate time to point out that the Republicans named children's savings accounts in their so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act after Donald Trump, someone connected to—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a parliamentary inquiry. The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman is no longer recognized.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I have no more speakers on my side, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. May I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio has 30 seconds remaining. The gentleman from Maryland has 6¼ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I take the opportunity of the Speaker's presence to respond to some of the things that he said. In the very presence of the victims and the survivors who have come to join us today, the Speaker said that now would be the time we should be working on urgent legislative work.

Mr. Speaker, justice is urgent legislative work. The truth is urgent legislative work.

The Speaker says: Why now? Why now?

Mr. Speaker, you were the one who refused to swear in ADELITA GRIJALVA for 50 days. We would have done it 50 days ago, but she provided the 218th signature on the discharge petition.

So why now?

It was because of your dilatory tactics, your delay, your postponement of it.

Now the gentleman says that there are not sufficient protections. There are protections in the bill for the victims to make sure that their names will be redacted. Yet, we hear even the Speaker of the House of Representatives openly inviting the U.S. Senate to start finger painting on this bill which we have waited more than 5 months to bring to the floor.

The Senate should pass the bill exactly as it is written. The President should sign it exactly as he said he would when he finally changed his mind, and the Epstein file must be released. Moreover, if the President is serious about what he is saying, he has got the power to release the Epstein file right now. Nobody is stopping him. It is within his possession. It is within his control. He can release the whole thing, and he can redact the names of the victims and others who are innocent in this process.

Mr. Speaker, Speaker JOHNSON said that these are unspeakable evils. However, because of the bravery and the invincible courage of the women who joined us today, they are no longer unspeakable.

□ 1410

They are spoken. They are articulated. The cat is out of the bag. We know what has been going on for decades. It has been a double standard of justice going all the way back to Alex Acosta, who got later rewarded with a Cabinet appointment in the Trump administration.

Alex Acosta had a 60-count Federal indictment ready to go against all kinds of people for an interstate sex trafficking conspiracy, with solicitation, child sex abuse, all of it. He traded that 60-count Federal indictment for 1 count in State court.

Jeffrey Epstein ended up getting the sweetest of sweetheart deals ever on the plea bargain front. He was free from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to do whatever he wanted in continuing to perpetrate his crimes and run his conspiracy. Then he would come and would watch TV and spend the night in jail. It was over in about a year. This was after the rape and sexual abuse of hundreds and hundreds of girls. He kept going, and he kept at it.

We want the whole truth to come out.

This is the United States of America. Even the British monarchy wouldn't put up with this. How about the American democracy? How about we say: No way. We are not going to allow this coverup to go on for 1 day more.

I am glad the President changed his mind after pulling out all the stops to try to get one of our Republican colleagues to change their mind, to remove their name from the discharge petition. He gave up.

I want to salute the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) for having the courage to stand her ground in the Situation Room in the White House and say, no, she wasn't going to be bullied.

I am glad the President changed his mind, but let's be clear: Mr. President, you have the power today to release the entire file. That is what you called for. That is what Pam Bondi called for. That is what Kash Patel called for. We don't need anybody calling for the Senate to slow things down for more weeks and more months.

The American people have had it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair and not to their colleagues.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS).

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Party, with help from the dishonest media, used the Epstein files not to seek justice for the victims but to smear President Trump, and it is sickening, quite sickening.

The Democrats have used the Epstein files to distract the American people from the wins President Trump and his administration have delivered for the American people for the last 11 months.

I am proud to work with my Republican colleagues on the House Oversight Committee, in coordination with the Justice Department. Mr. Speaker, 65,000 pages of documents related to Epstein have been released.

What have my Democrat colleagues done? They have selectively leaked and altered documents to mislead the American people.

As President Trump has stated, we have nothing to hide, nothing to hide here. I am voting to release the files so that we can move on from this smear campaign the Democrats have manufactured. God bless Donald J. Trump.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 2 minutes remaining.

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

I thank all of America for tuning in to this. I thank Representatives MASSIE, KHANNA, and GREENE and all of those who have insisted upon bringing the truth forward and a reckoning with the reality of one of the worst international child sex trafficking rings ever to exist in the United States and the coverup attendant to it.

We have the opportunity today to do justice for the victims, for the survivors who have come forward to say that the voice of the victims and the survivors must be put at the very center of our deliberations, not shunted off to the side, not submerged, not subordinated, but put at the very center. We must hear from the people who themselves were victimized by this nightmare.

Now, our colleagues across the aisle seem to want to make this into some sort of partisan contest. I haven't heard so much talk about the Democrats since the Democratic National Convention. All that we have done here is to say we want to bring the truth forward, along with a bipartisan group. We don't want the Senate monkeying around with this in order to slow things down. We want it passed in the Senate. We want it signed.

Before that, if the President is true to his word, and he wants to see all of this come to light, he can release it now instead of fighting, kicking and screaming every step along the way. I am glad he has changed his mind, and I hope he maintains the momentum he has to stick with the vast majority of the American people who want to see that the truth is done here. While he is at it, the administration could reconsider their terrible policies gutting Federal offices and programs designed to combat violence against women.

The DOJ terminated hundreds of grants to police departments, defunding the police when it comes to investigating violent sex crimes and to support victims. His DOGE destroyed programs to combat international human trafficking rings. Let's get back on the side of the women.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, Speaker JOHNSON said it right: Why now after 4 years of doing nothing? It is because going after President Trump is an obsession with these guys.

The best example is that John Brennan testified in front of our committee under oath and said he was not involved with the dossier. The only problem is, Tulsi Gabbard declassified a report, released that report, and it said exactly the opposite. She related a story in there where a CIA official went up to Mr. Brennan and said: We shouldn't include this in the report. John Brennan's response was: Yeah, but doesn't it ring true? Forget the facts. Forget the truth. Go after Trump. Put it in. The same dynamic is at work here.

We are all for protecting innocent victims. We are all for exposing the bad guys who did bad things, but this is an obsession with the left. For 10 years, they have been going after President Trump.

Vote "yes" to make sure the bad guys are held accountable. We all want to do that. Speaker JOHNSON is right. I think it is going to be unanimous, but understand what they are doing because they had 4 years and didn't do a darn thing.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4405.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules will be followed by 5-minutes votes on:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 879;

Adoption of House Resolution 879, if ordered; and

Adoption of H. Res. 878.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 427, noes 1, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 289]

AYES—427

Adams	Comer	Gillen
Aderholt	Conaway	Gimenez
Agullar	Correa	Golden (ME)
Alford	Costa	Goldman (NY)
Allen	Courtney	Goldman (TX)
Amo	Craig	Gomez
Amodei (NV)	Crane	Gonzales, Tony
Ansari	Crank	Gonzalez, V.
Arrington	Crawford	Gooden
Auchincloss	Crenshaw	Goodlander
Babin	Crockett	Gosar
Bacon	Crow	Gottheimer
Baird	Cuellar	Graves
Balderson	Daids (KS)	Gray
Balint	Davidson	Green, Al (TX)
Barr	Davis (IL)	Greene (GA)
Barragan	Davis (NC)	Griffith
Barrett	De La Cruz	Grijalva
Baumgartner	Dean (PA)	Grothman
Bean (FL)	DeGette	Guest
Beatty	DeLauro	Guthrie
Begich	DelBene	Hageman
Bell	Deluzio	Hamadeh (AZ)
Bentz	DeSaulnier	Harder (CA)
Bera	DesJarlais	Haridopolos
Bergman	Dexter	Harrigan
Bice	Diaz-Balart	Harris (MD)
Biggs (AZ)	Dingell	Harris (NC)
Biggs (SC)	Doggett	Harshbarger
Bilirakis	Donalds	Hayes
Bishop	Downing	Hern (OK)
Boebert	Dunn (FL)	Hill (AR)
Bonamici	Edwards	Himes
Bost	Elfreth	Hinson
Boyle (PA)	Ellzey	Horsford
Brecheen	Emmer	Houchin
Bresnahan	Escobar	Houlahan
Brown	Espallat	Hoyer
Brownley	Estes	Hoyle (OR)
Buchanan	Evans (CO)	Hudson
Budzinski	Evans (PA)	Huffman
Burchett	Ezell	Huizenga
Burlison	Fallon	Hunt
Bynum	Fedorchak	Hurd (CO)
Calvert	Feenstra	Issa
Cammack	Fields	Ivey
Carbajal	Figures	Jack
Carey	Fine	Jackson (IL)
Carson	Finstad	Jackson (TX)
Carter (GA)	Fischbach	Jacobs
Carter (LA)	Fitzgerald	James
Carter (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Jayapal
Case	Fleischmann	Jeffries
Casten	Fletcher	Johnson (GA)
Castro (FL)	Flood	Johnson (LA)
Castro (TX)	Fong	Johnson (SD)
Cheffins-	Foster	Johnson (TX)
McCormick	Foushee	Jordan
Chu	Fox	Joyce (OH)
Ciscomani	Frankel, Lois	Joyce (PA)
Cisneros	Franklin, Scott	Kamlager-Dove
Clark (MA)	Friedman	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Frost	Kean
Cleaver	Fry	Keating
Cline	Fulcher	Kelly (IL)
Cloud	Garamendi	Kelly (MS)
Clyburn	Garbarino	Kelly (PA)
Clyde	Garcia (CA)	Kennedy (NY)
Cohen	Garcia (IL)	Kennedy (UT)
Cole	Garcia (TX)	Khanna
Collins	Gill (TX)	Kiggans (VA)

Kiley (CA)	Moran	Shreve
Kim	Morelle	Simon
Knott	Morrison	Simpson
Krishnamoorthi	Moskowitz	Smith (MO)
Kustoff	Moulton	Smith (NE)
LaHood	Mrvan	Smith (NJ)
LaLota	Mullin	Smith (WA)
LaMalfa	Murphy	Smucker
Landman	Nadler	Sorensen
Langworthy	Neal	Soto
Larsen (WA)	Neguse	Spartz
Larson (CT)	Nehls	Stansbury
Latimer	Newhouse	Stanton
Latta	Norcross	Stauber
Lawler	Norman	Stefanik
Lee (FL)	Nunn (IA)	Steil
Lee (NV)	Obernolte	Steube
Lee (PA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Stevens
Leger Fernandez	Ogles	Strickland
Letlow	Olzewski	Strong
Levin	Omar	Stutzman
Liccardo	Onder	Subramanyam
Lieu	Owens	Suozy
Lofgren	Pallone	Swalwell
Loudermilk	Palmer	Sykes
Lucas	Panetta	Takano
Luna	Pappas	Taylor
Luttrell	Patronis	Tenney
Lynch	Pelosi	Thanedar
Mace	Perez	Thompson (CA)
Mackenzie	Perry	Thompson (MS)
Magaziner	Peters	Thompson (PA)
Malliotakis	Pettersen	Tiffany
Maloy	Pfluger	Timmons
Mann	Pingree	Titus
Mannion	Pocan	Tlaib
Massie	Pou	Tokuda
Mast	Pressley	Tonko
Matsui	Quigley	Torres (CA)
McBath	Ramirez	Torres (NY)
McBride	Randall	Trahan
McCaul	Raskin	Tran
McClain	Reschenthaler	Turner (OH)
McClain Delaney	Riley (NY)	Underwood
McClellan	Rivas	Valadao
McClintock	Rogers (AL)	Van Drew
McCollum	Rogers (KY)	Van Dyne
McCormick	Rose	Van Orman
McDonald Rivet	Ross	Vargas
McDowell	Rouzer	Vasquez
McGarvey	Roy	Veasey
McGovern	Ruiz	Velázquez
McGuire	Rutherford	Vindman
McIver	Ryan	Wagner
Meeks	Salazar	Walberg
Menendez	Salinas	Walkinshaw
Meng	Sánchez	Wasserman
Messmer	Scalise	Schultz
Meuser	Scanlon	Waters
Mfume	Schakowsky	Watson Coleman
Miller (IL)	Schmidt	Weber (TX)
Miller (OH)	Schneider	Webster (FL)
Miller (WV)	Scholten	Westerman
Miller-Meeks	Schrier	Whitesides
Mills	Schweikert	Wied
Min	Scott (VA)	Williams (GA)
Moolenaar	Scott, Austin	Williams (TX)
Moore (AL)	Scott, David	Wilson (FL)
Moore (NC)	Self	Wilson (SC)
Moore (UT)	Sessions	Wittman
Moore (WI)	Sewell	Yakym
Moore (WV)	Sherman	Zinke

NOES—1

Higgins (LA)

NOT VOTING—5

Beyer	Rulli	Womack
Casar	Sherrill	

□ 1443

Messrs. JACKSON of Texas and DAVIS of Illinois changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 80, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO “NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN RECORD OF DECISION”; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 130, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO “BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE RECORD OF DECISION AND APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT”; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 131, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO “COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION”; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 58, DENOUNCING THE HORRORS OF SOCIALISM; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1949, UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3109, RESEARCHING EFFICIENT FEDERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR NECESSARY ENERGY REFINING ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5107, COMMON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN DC ACT OF 2025; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5214, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 879) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 80) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision”; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 130) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment”; providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 58) denouncing the horrors of socialism; pro-

viding for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1949) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3109) to require the Secretary of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a report with respect to petrochemical refineries in the United States, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5107) to repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 enacted by the District of Columbia Council; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5214) to require mandatory pretrial and post conviction detention for crimes of violence and dangerous crimes and require mandatory cash bail for certain offenses that pose a threat to public safety or order in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 211, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 290]

YEAS—217

Aderholt	Evans (CO)	Joyce (PA)
Alford	Ezell	Kean
Allen	Fallon	Kelly (MS)
Amodei (NV)	Fedorchak	Kelly (PA)
Arrington	Feenstra	Kennedy (UT)
Babin	Fine	Kiggans (VA)
Bacon	Finstad	Kiley (CA)
Baird	Fischbach	Kim
Balderson	Fitzgerald	Knott
Barr	Fitzpatrick	Kustoff
Barrett	Fleischmann	LaHood
Baumgartner	Flood	LaLota
Bean (FL)	Fong	LaMalfa
Begich	Fox	Langworthy
Bentz	Franklin, Scott	Latta
Bergman	Fry	Lawler
Bice	Fulcher	Lee (FL)
Biggs (AZ)	Garbarino	Letlow
Biggs (SC)	Gill (TX)	Loudermilk
Bilirakis	Gimenez	Lucas
Boebert	Goldman (TX)	Luna
Bost	Gonzales, Tony	Luttrell
Brecheen	Gooden	Mace
Bresnahan	Gosar	Mackenzie
Buchanan	Graves	Malliotakis
Burchett	Greene (GA)	Maloy
Burlison	Griffith	Mann
Calvert	Grothman	Massie
Cammack	Guest	Mast
Carey	Guthrie	McCauley
Carter (GA)	Hageman	McClain
Carter (TX)	Hamadeh (AZ)	McClintock
Ciscomani	Haridopolos	McCormick
Cline	Harrigan	McDowell
Cloud	Harris (MD)	McGuire
Clyde	Harris (NC)	Messmer
Cole	Harshbarger	Meuser
Collins	Hern (OK)	Miller (IL)
Comer	Higgins (LA)	Miller (OH)
Crane	Hill (AR)	Miller (WV)
Crank	Hinson	Miller-Meeks
Crawford	Houchin	Mills
Crenshaw	Hudson	Moolenaar
Davidson	Huizenga	Moore (AL)
De La Cruz	Hunt	Moore (NC)
DesJarlais	Hurd (CO)	Moore (UT)
Diaz-Balart	Issa	Moore (WV)
Donalds	Jack	Moran
Downing	Jackson (TX)	Murphy
Dunn (FL)	James	Nehls
Edwards	Johnson (LA)	Newhouse
Ellzey	Johnson (SD)	Norman
Emmer	Jordan	Nunn (IA)
Estes	Joyce (OH)	Oberholte

Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin

Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany

Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—211

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

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

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

NOT VOTING—5

Beyer
Casar

Rulli
Sherrill

Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1452

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

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

FAREWELL TO BRETT HORTON

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a man whose dedication, steadiness, and wisdom have shaped not only my work in this Chamber but the work of this institution itself. I am talking about my chief of staff, Brett Horton.

There are few people who know Capitol Hill more intimately than Brett. For 15 years, he has been by my side. He began as my counsel in 2010 and worked his way through some of the most demanding, consequential roles in the House: policy director at the Republican Study Committee, floor director in the majority whip's office, and for the last decade, my chief of staff in both the whip's office and the leader's office.

To me and to countless Members of Congress and staff, Brett Horton has been far more than a colleague. He has been a trusted adviser, steady in his approach, wise in his counsel, and deliberate in his words and actions.

When the stakes were the highest, Brett's voice was the one you wanted in the room. His fingerprints are on every major Republican policy victory we have achieved in the past decade, but perhaps more importantly, he has been by my side through tough personal and professional challenges that extend far beyond legislating.

In the aftermath of the congressional baseball shooting, an event that shook my family, my staff, and this entire Conference and Congress, Brett's leadership and friendship were unwavering. He helped carry us through one of the most difficult and unprecedented challenges we ever faced.

Mr. Speaker, public service at this level demands trust, character, and unwavering duty for the institution that is this United States Congress. Brett Horton embodies all of these qualities. I am profoundly grateful for his years of service to me personally, to this House, and to our country.

As Brett begins his next chapter, I have no doubt he will continue to serve with the same excellence that has defined his entire career. The United States House of Representatives is a stronger institution because of Brett Horton's distinguished service here.

I wish Brett all the best in his future endeavors, and I thank Brett for his personal friendship and for his service to this great United States of America and this great Congress. Thank you to Brett Horton.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 80, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN RECORD OF DECISION"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 130, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE RECORD OF DECISION AND APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 131, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 58, DENOUNCING THE HORRORS OF SOCIALISM; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1949, UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3109, RESEARCHING EFFICIENT FEDERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR NECESSARY ENERGY REFINING ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5107, COMMON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN DC ACT OF 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5214, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 879) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 80) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision"; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 130) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of

Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment"; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision"; providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 58) denouncing the horrors of socialism; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1949) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3109) to require the Secretary of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a report with respect to petrochemical refineries in the United States, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5107) to repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 enacted by the District of Columbia Council; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5214) to require mandatory pretrial and post conviction detention for crimes of violence and dangerous crimes and require mandatory cash bail for certain offenses that pose a threat to public safety or order in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; and for other purposes, on which a recorded vote was ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 217, noes 210, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 291]

AYES—217

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

Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy (UT)
 Kiggans (VA)
 Kiley (CA)
 Kim
 Knott
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 LaMalfa
 Langworthy
 Latta
 Lawler
 Lee (FL)
 Letlow
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luna
 Luttrell
 Mace
 Mackenzie
 Malliotakis
 Maloy
 Mann
 Massie
 Mast
 McCaul
 McClain
 McClintock
 McCormick
 McDowell
 McGuire
 Messmer
 Meuser
 Miller (IL)

Miller (OH)
 Miller (WV)
 Miller-Meeks
 Mills
 Moolenaar
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (NC)
 Moore (UT)
 Moore (WV)
 Moran
 Murphy
 Nehls
 Newhouse
 Norman
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Ogles
 Onder
 Owens
 Palmer
 Patronis
 Perry
 Pfluger
 Reschenthaler
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rutherford
 Salazar
 Scalise
 Schmidt
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Self

Sessions
 Shreve
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Spartz
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Strong
 Taylor
 Tenney
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany
 Timmons
 Turner (OH)
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Dwyne
 Van Orden
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Westerman
 Wied
 Williams (TX)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Yakym
 Zinke

NOES—210

Adams
 Aguilar
 Amo
 Ansari
 Auchincloss
 Balint
 Barragán
 Beatty
 Bell
 Bera
 Bishop
 Bonamici
 Boyle (PA)
 Brown
 Brownley
 Budzinski
 Bynum
 Carbajal
 Carson
 Carter (LA)
 Case
 Himes
 Casten
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Cherfilus-McCormick
 Chu
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Conaway
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Craig
 Crockett
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Davids (KS)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis (NC)
 Dean (PA)
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deluzio
 DeSaulnier
 Dexter
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Elfreth
 Escobar
 Espallat
 Evans (PA)
 Fields
 Figures
 Fletcher
 Foster

Foushee
 Frankel, Lois
 Friedman
 Frost
 Garamendi
 Garcia (CA)
 Garcia (IL)
 Garcia (TX)
 Gillen
 Golden (ME)
 Goldman (NY)
 Gomez
 Gonzalez, V.
 Goodlander
 Gottheimer
 Gray
 Green, Al (TX)
 Grijalva
 Harder (CA)
 Hayes
 Himes
 Horsford
 Houlihan
 Hoyer
 Hoyle (OR)
 Huffman
 Ivey
 Jackson (IL)
 Jacobs
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (TX)
 Kamlager-Dove
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy (NY)
 Khanna
 Krishnamoorthi
 Landsman
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latimer
 Lee (NV)
 Lee (PA)
 Leger Fernandez
 Levin
 Liccardo
 Lieu
 Lofgren
 Lynch
 Magaziner
 Mannion
 Matsui
 McBath
 McBride
 McClain Delaney
 McClellan
 McCollum
 McDonald Rivet
 McGarvey

McGovern
 McIver
 Meeks
 Menendez
 Meng
 Mfume
 Min
 Moore (WI)
 Morelle
 Morrison
 Moskowitz
 Moulton
 Mrvan
 Mullin
 Nadler
 Neal
 Neguse
 Norcross
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Olszewski
 Omar
 Pallone
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Pelosi
 Perez
 Peters
 Pettersen
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Pou
 Pressley
 Quigley
 Ramirez
 Randall
 Raskin
 Riley (NY)
 Rivas
 Ross
 Ruiz
 Ryan
 Salinas
 Sánchez
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schneider
 Scholten
 Schrier
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Simon
 Smith (WA)
 Sorensen
 Soto
 Stansbury
 Stanton
 Stevens
 Strickland
 Subramanyam

Suoizzi
 Swalwell
 Sykes
 Takano
 Thanedar
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tokuda

Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres (NY)
 Trahan
 Tran
 Underwood
 Vargas
 Vasquez
 Veasey
 Velázquez

NOT VOTING—6

Beyer
 Casar

Rulli
 Sherrill

Stutzman
 Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1504

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISAPPROVING THE BEHAVIOR OF REPRESENTATIVE JESÚS G. “CHUY” GARCÍA OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 878) disapproving the behavior of Representative JESÚS G. “CHUY” GARCÍA of Illinois, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 236, nays 183, answered “present” 4, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 292]

YEAS—236

Aderholt
 Alford
 Allen
 Amodei (NV)
 Arrington
 Auchincloss
 Babin
 Bacon
 Baird
 Balderson
 Barr
 Barrett
 Baumgartner
 Bean (FL)
 Begich
 Bentz
 Bera
 Bergman
 Bice
 Biggs (AZ)
 Biggs (SC)
 Bilirakis
 Boebert
 Bost
 Brecheen
 Bresnahan
 Buchanan
 Burchett
 Burlison
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Carey
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Castor (FL)
 Ciscamani
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyde

Collins
 Comer
 Craig
 Crane
 Crank
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Davids (KS)
 De La Cruz
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Donalds
 Downing
 Dunn (FL)
 Edwards
 Ellzey
 Emmer
 Estes
 Evans (CO)
 Ezell
 Fallon
 Feenstra
 Fine
 Finstad
 Fischbach
 Fitzgerald
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Flood
 Fong
 Foster
 Foxx
 Franklin, Scott
 Fry
 Fulcher
 Garbarino
 Gill (TX)
 Gillen
 Gimenez

Golden (ME)
 Goldman (TX)
 Gooden
 Goodlander
 Gosar
 Graves
 Gray
 Greene (GA)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Hamadeh (AZ)
 Haridopolos
 Harrigan
 Harris (MD)
 Harris (NC)
 Harshbarger
 Hern (OK)
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill (AR)
 Hinson
 Houchin
 Hudson
 Huizenga
 Hunt
 Hurd (CO)
 Issa
 Jack
 Jackson (TX)
 James
 Johnson (LA)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kean
 Kelly (MS)

Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy (UT)
 Kiggans (VA)
 Kiley (CA)
 Kim
 Knott
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 LaMalfa
 Landsman
 Langworthy
 Latta
 Lawler
 Lee (FL)
 Lee (NV)
 Letlow
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luna
 Luttrell
 Lynch
 Mace
 Mackenzie
 Malliotakis
 Maloy
 Mann
 Massie
 Mast
 McCaul
 McClain
 McClintock
 McCormick
 McDonald Rivet
 McDowell
 McGuire
 Messmer
 Meuser
 Miller (IL)
 Miller (OH)

Miller (WV)
 Miller-Meeks
 Mills
 Moolenaar
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (NC)
 Moore (UT)
 Moore (WV)
 Moran
 Moulton
 Murphy
 Nehls
 Newhouse
 Norman
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Ogles
 Onder
 Owens
 Palmer
 Pappas
 Patronis
 Perez
 Perry
 Peters
 Pfluger
 Reschenthaler
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rutherford
 Ryan
 Salazar
 Scalise
 Schmidt
 Schrier
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin

Self
 Sessions
 Shreve
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Sorensen
 Spartz
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Stevens
 Strong
 Stutzman
 Taylor
 Tenney
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany
 Timmons
 Timmons (OH)
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Dwyne
 Van Orden
 Vindman
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Westerman
 Wied
 Williams (TX)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Yakym
 Zinke

NAYS—183

Adams
 Aguilar
 Amo
 Ansari
 Balint
 Barragán
 Beatty
 Bell
 Bishop
 Bonamici
 Boyle (PA)
 Brown
 Brownley
 Budzinski
 Bynum
 Carbajal
 Carson
 Carter (LA)
 Case
 Ivey
 Casten
 Castro (TX)
 Cherfilus-McCormick
 Chu
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Conaway
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crockett
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Davis (IL)
 Davis (NC)
 Dean (PA)
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deluzio
 DeSaulnier
 Dexter
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Elfreth
 Escobar
 Espallat
 Evans (PA)
 Fields
 Figures
 Fletcher
 Foushee
 Friedman

Frost
 Garamendi
 Garcia (CA)
 Garcia (IL)
 Garcia (TX)
 Goldman (NY)
 Gomez
 Gonzalez, V.
 Gottheimer
 Green, Al (TX)
 Grijalva
 Harder (CA)
 Hayes
 Himes
 Horsford
 Hoyer
 Hoyle (OR)
 Huffman
 Ivey
 Jackson (IL)
 Jacobs
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (TX)
 Kamlager-Dove
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy (NY)
 Khanna
 Krishnamoorthi
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latimer
 Lee (PA)
 Leger Fernandez
 Levin
 Liccardo
 Lieu
 Lofgren
 Magaziner
 Mannion
 Matsui
 McBath
 McBride
 McClain Delaney
 McClellan
 McCollum
 McGarvey
 McIver
 Meeks
 Menendez
 Meng
 Mfume
 Min
 Moore (WI)
 Morelle

Morrison
 Moskowitz
 Mrvan
 Mullin
 Nadler
 Neal
 Neguse
 Norcross
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Olszewski
 Omar
 Pallone
 Panetta
 Pocan
 Pou
 Pressley
 Quigley
 Ramirez
 Randall
 Raskin
 Riley (NY)
 Rivas
 Ross
 Ruiz
 Salinas
 Sánchez
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schneider
 Scholten
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Simon
 Smith (WA)
 Soto
 Stansbury
 Stanton
 Strickland
 Suozzi
 Swalwell
 Sykes
 Takano
 Thanedar
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Meng
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres (NY)
 Trahan

Tran	Velázquez	Watson Coleman
Underwood	Walkinshaw	Whitesides
Vargas	Wasserman	Williams (GA)
Vasquez	Schultz	Wilson (FL)
Veasey	Waters	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—4

Davidson	Kaptur	Subramanyam
Houlahan		

NOT VOTING—10

Beyer	Frankel, Lois	Sherrill
Casar	Gonzales, Tony	Womack
Cole	McGovern	
Fedorchak	Rulli	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1511

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

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

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Censuring and condemning Delegate STACEY PLASKETT and removing her from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for conduct that reflects discreditably on the House of Representatives for colluding with convicted felony sex offender Jeffrey Epstein during a congressional hearing.

Whereas STACEY PLASKETT, the Delegate representing the United States Virgin Islands in the House of Representatives, inappropriately coordinated with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein in a congressional hearing in February 2019;

Whereas Delegate PLASKETT was actively coached by Epstein during the hearing, received instructions on specific lines of questioning, and was congratulated afterwards with the message "Good work";

Whereas Jeffrey Epstein was a known, convicted felony sex offender, having pled guilty and been convicted for procuring a child for prostitution and of soliciting a prostitute in a plea deal in 2008, and served a 13 month sentence;

Whereas in the course of that investigation, the FBI compiled reports on dozens of confirmed minors who credibly alleged sexual abuse by Epstein;

Whereas Epstein was under further Federal investigation beginning in November 2018, two months before Delegate PLASKETT's recently revealed text exchange during a congressional hearing, following investigative reporting by the Miami Herald detailing Epstein's controversial 2008 plea deal and highlighting accounts of his victims;

Whereas Epstein was arrested in July 2019 and charged with one count of sex trafficking of minors and one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors, and he was later found dead in the New York Metropolitan Correctional Center;

Whereas according to documents released from Epstein's estate, during a House Committee on Oversight and Reform hearing featuring testimony from Michael Cohen, disgraced former attorney to President Donald J. Trump, Delegate PLASKETT coordinated her line of questioning with Jeffrey Epstein in real-time over text message while the hearing was underway;

Whereas Delegate PLASKETT, who previously served as an assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division, is known to have had extensive political, personal and professional connections with Epstein after his conviction as a sex offender up to the time of his arrest and then death in 2019;

Whereas Delegate PLASKETT's relationship with Epstein stands in stark contrast to the public image she has curated for herself as a defender of justice and accountability while secretly collaborating with an individual whose crimes against vulnerable women and children shocked the nation;

Whereas Delegate PLASKETT's willingness to receive instructions on official congressional proceedings from Epstein, a convicted felony sex offender with deeply concerning international associations, is especially alarming and inappropriate given her own past service in the U.S. Department of Justice and her current role on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and raises serious questions about Delegate PLASKETT's judgement, integrity, and fitness to serve; and

Whereas such associations erode public trust in Congress, particularly when they involve using input from a sex offender to advance partisan attacks during official proceedings: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

Section 1. Censure of Delegate STACEY PLASKETT.

The House of Representatives—

(1) censures and condemns Delegate STACEY PLASKETT for inappropriate coordination with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein during a Congressional Hearing, which reflects discreditably on the House of Representatives; and

(2) directs the Committee on Ethics to conduct a full investigation into the extent of PLASKETT's ties to Epstein and any potential further improprieties.

SEC. 2. Removal from House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The following named Member be, and is hereby, removed from the following committee of the House of Representatives:

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Ms. PLASKETT.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now recognize the gentleman

from South Carolina to offer the resolution just noticed.

Does the gentleman from South Carolina offer the resolution?

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I do.

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

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 888

Whereas Stacey Plaskett, the Delegate representing the United States Virgin Islands in the House of Representatives, inappropriately coordinated with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein in a congressional hearing in February 2019;

Whereas Delegate Plaskett was actively coached by Epstein during the hearing, received instructions on specific lines of questioning, and was congratulated afterwards with the message "Good work";

Whereas Jeffrey Epstein was a known, convicted felony sex offender, having pled guilty and been convicted for procuring a child for prostitution and of soliciting a prostitute in a plea deal in 2008, and served a 13 month sentence;

Whereas in the course of that investigation, the FBI compiled reports on dozens of confirmed minors who credibly alleged sexual abuse by Epstein;

Whereas Epstein was under further Federal investigation beginning in November 2018, two months before Delegate Plaskett's recently revealed text exchange during a congressional hearing, following investigative reporting by the Miami Herald detailing Epstein's controversial 2008 plea deal and highlighting accounts of his victims;

Whereas Epstein was arrested in July 2019 and charged with one count of sex trafficking of minors and one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors, and he was later found dead in the New York Metropolitan Correctional Center;

Whereas according to documents released from Epstein's estate, during a House Committee on Oversight and Reform hearing featuring testimony from Michael Cohen, disgraced former attorney to President Donald J. Trump, Delegate Plaskett coordinated her line of questioning with Jeffrey Epstein in real-time over text message while the hearing was underway;

Whereas Delegate Plaskett, who previously served as an assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division, is known to have had extensive political, personal and professional connections with Epstein after his conviction as a sex offender up to the time of his arrest and then death in 2019;

Whereas Delegate Plaskett's relationship with Epstein stands in stark contrast to the public image she has curated for herself as a defender of justice and accountability while secretly collaborating with an individual whose crimes against vulnerable women and children shocked the nation;

Whereas Delegate Plaskett's willingness to receive instructions on official congressional proceedings from Epstein, a convicted felony sex offender with deeply concerning international associations, is especially alarming and inappropriate given her own past service in the U.S. Department of Justice and her current role on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and raises serious questions about Delegate Plaskett's judgement, integrity, and fitness to serve; and

Whereas such associations erode public trust in Congress, particularly when they involve using input from a sex offender to advance partisan attacks during official proceedings: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. CENSURE OF DELEGATE STACEY PLASKETT.

The House of Representatives—

(1) censures and condemns Delegate Stacey Plaskett for inappropriate coordination with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein during a Congressional Hearing, which reflects discreditably on the House of Representatives; and

(2) directs the Committee on Ethics to conduct a full investigation into the extent of Plaskett's ties to Epstein and any potential further improprieties.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL FROM HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE.

The following named Member be, and is hereby, removed from the following committee of the House of Representatives:

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Ms. Plaskett.

□ 1520

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO REFER

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts moves to refer the resolution to the Committee on Ethics.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, we have finally taken a vote that recognizes the need for the survivors and victims of Jeffrey Epstein to have justice and transparency. Not minutes later, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) is filing yet another partisan resolution.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this motion to refer this to the Ethics Committee.

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

The previous question was ordered.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 213, nays 214, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 293]

YEAS—213

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

Cleaver	Jeffries	Pocan	Joyce (PA)	Miller (IL)	Sessions
Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Pou	Kean	Miller (OH)	Shreve
Cohen	Johnson (TX)	Pressley	Kelly (MS)	Miller (WV)	Simpson
Conaway	Joyce (OH)	Quigley	Kelly (PA)	Miller-Meeks	Smith (MO)
Correa	Kamlaager-Dove	Ramirez	Kennedy (UT)	Mills	Smith (NE)
Costa	Kaptur	Randall	Kiggans (VA)	Moolenaar	Smith (NJ)
Courtney	Keating	Raskin	Kiley (CA)	Moore (AL)	Smucker
Craig	Kelly (IL)	Riley (NY)	Kim	Moore (NC)	Spartz
Crockett	Kennedy (NY)	Rivas	Knott	Moore (UT)	Stauber
Crow	Khan	Ross	Kustoff	Moore (WV)	Stefanik
Cuellar	Krishnamoorthi	Ruiz	LaHood	Moran	Steil
Davids (KS)	Landsman	Ryan	LaLota	Murphy	Steube
Davis (IL)	Larsen (WA)	Salinas	LaMalfa	Nehls	Strong
Davis (NC)	Larson (CT)	Sánchez	Langworthy	Newhouse	Stutzman
Dean (PA)	Latimer	Scanlon	Latta	Norman	Taylor
DeGette	Lee (NV)	Schakowsky	Lawler	Nunn (IA)	Tenney
DeLauro	Lee (PA)	Schneider	Lee (FL)	Obernolte	Thompson (PA)
DeBene	Leger Fernandez	Scholten	Letlow	Ogles	Tiffany
Deluzio	Levin	Schrier	Loudermilk	Onder	Timmons
DeSaulnier	Liccardo	Scott (VA)	Lucas	Owens	Turner (OH)
Dexter	Lieu	Scott, David	Luna	Palmer	Valadao
Dingell	Lofgren	Sewell	Luttrell	Patronis	Van Drew
Doggett	Lynch	Sherman	Mace	Perry	Van Dyne
Elfreth	Magaziner	Simon	Mackenzie	Pfluger	Van Orden
Escobar	Mannion	Smith (WA)	Malliotakis	Reschenthaler	Wagner
Españolat	Matsui	Sorensen	Maloy	Rogers (AL)	Walberg
Evans (PA)	McBath	Soto	Mann	Rogers (KY)	Weber (TX)
Fields	McBride	Stansbury	Massie	Rose	Webster (FL)
Figures	McClain Delaney	Stanton	Mast	Rouzer	Westerman
Fletcher	McClellan	Stevens	McCaul	Roy	Wied
Foster	McCollum	Strickland	McClain	Rutherford	Williams (TX)
Foushee	McDonald Rivet	Subramanyam	McClintock	Salazar	Wilson (SC)
Frankel, Lois	McGarvey	Suozzi	McCormick	Scalise	Wittman
Friedman	McGovern	Swalwell	McDowell	Schmidt	Yakym
Frost	McIver	Sykes	McGuire	Schweikert	Zinke
Garamendi	Meeks	Takano	Messmer	Scott, Austin	
Garcia (CA)	Menendez	Thanedar	Meuser	Self	
Garcia (IL)	Meng	Thompson (CA)			
Garcia (TX)	Mfume	Thompson (MS)			
Gillen	Min	Titus	Beyer	Garbarino	Sherrill
Golden (ME)	Moore (WI)	Tlaib	Casar	Rulli	Womack
Goldman (NY)	Morelle	Tokuda			
Gomez	Morrison	Tonko			
Gonzalez, V.	Moskowitz	Torres (CA)			
Gooden	Moulton	Torres (NY)			
Goodlander	Mrvan	Trahan			
Gottheimer	Mullin	Tran			
Gray	Nadler	Underwood			
Green, Al (TX)	Neal	Vargas			
Grijalva	Neguse	Vasquez			
Harder (CA)	Norcross	Veasey			
Hayes	Ocasio-Cortez	Velazquez			
Himes	Olshewski	Vindman			
Horsford	Omar	Walkinshaw			
Houlahan	Pallone	Wasserman			
Hoyer	Panetta	Schultz			
Hoyle (OR)	Pappas	Waters			
Huffman	Pelosi	Watson Coleman			
Ivey	Perez	Whitesides			
Jackson (IL)	Peters	Williams (GA)			
Jacobs	Pettersen	Wilson (FL)			
Jayapal	Pingree				

NAYS—214

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

NOT VOTING—6

□ 1531

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to refer was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 289, AYE on Roll Call No. 290, AYE on Roll Call No. 291, AYE on Roll Call No. 292, and NAY on Roll Call No. 293.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the House of Representatives has a responsibility and a duty to protect the integrity of this institution. What we learned from the documents released by Jeffrey Epstein's estate is nothing short of alarming.

Those documents show that Delegate STACEY PLASKETT, a sitting Member of Congress, coordinated her questioning during an official oversight hearing with a man who is a convicted sex offender, a man whose crimes against minors shocked this entire Nation.

Let me be clear: This was not just casual contact. There were deliberate communications, and they shaped her official line of questioning in a congressional hearing.

The American people expect honesty. The American people expect integrity

and judgment from their elected officials. They expect Members of Congress to conduct themselves with one word—decency—not to seek advice from a predator who exploited minor children.

This resolution does not accuse. It acknowledges what is documented. It censures Delegate PLASKETT for her conduct; removes her from the Intelligence Committee, where her judgment is paramount; and directs a full investigation into the extent of her relationship with Mr. Epstein.

Some will try to spin this as politics, but protecting the honor of this body is not partisan. It is not Democrat. It is not Republican. Standing against a convicted predator's influence in our proceedings is not partisan. It is basic decency.

We cannot pretend this didn't happen. The American people deserve better.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. We are here today on the floor to support the complete disclosure of information related to Jeffrey Epstein and his billion-dollar, international child sex-trafficking ring. Our side of the aisle, at least, supports the release of information relating to anybody who had anything to do with it, whether they are a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what have you, period. We insist on complete, full disclosure.

This resolution has nothing to do with that. This seems to me to be one more pathetic effort to distract and divert attention from the fact that the President's name appeared more than 1,000 times already in the small fraction of material released on Epstein and from the failure of the majority to move to disclose this information.

It is this bipartisan group that we have had behind the discharge resolution, which has insisted on bringing this to the floor, and we have gotten nothing but obstruction, opposition, resistance, evasion, distraction, and diversion from the other side, and now we get one more resolution like this.

The resolution actually proposes a disciplinary censure against Representative STACEY PLASKETT but, amazingly, alleges no misconduct. It does not allege a violation of the Constitution. It does not allege the violation of a Federal law or a State law or a local law. It does not even allege a violation of the ethics rules of the House of Representatives. Yet, they want to censure her and throw her off of her committee—this, a distinguished former Federal prosecutor, diligent public servant, and Representative of the people of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, criminal justice has two parts to it. One is insisting upon legal accountability for people who do wrong. The other part of it is due process, which may be the two most beau-

tiful words in the English language, certainly the two most beautiful words in the Constitution of the United States. It is due process that protects all of our freedoms and our rights against the arbitrary power of government and the will to just punish somebody without any process at all.

That is exactly what is going on here. Think about it. Ghislaine Maxwell had due process. She had a right to counsel. She had a right to hearings. She had a right to hear the evidence against her. She had a right to put on her case. She had a right to cross-examine. She had a right to a neutral, impartial tribunal. She had a right to a unanimous verdict of a jury.

All of that she had, and she was found guilty. That is why she was sentenced to jail for 20 years, even though Donald Trump has transferred her from a real prison to a prison camp, where she has gotten very special, pampered treatment, like she is in a Trump hotel. She gets room service to her cell. She gets gym privileges that other inmates don't get. She gets to use the warden as a go-between with people outside of the institution.

Mr. Speaker, she had due process. Donald Trump had due process. He was convicted on 34 felonies, but he had the right to counsel. He had the presumption of innocence. He had a unanimous jury trial. They had a right to cross-examine everybody and put their own witnesses on.

Mr. Speaker, now they want to take a former United States prosecutor, the Representative of the people of the Virgin Islands, and without even going to the Ethics Committee, much less a court, they want to arraign her on some charges based on a newspaper article that she did something lawful. However ill-advised it may have been, she took a phone call from one of her constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think it is the position of the very distinguished gentleman that, if we find Jeffrey Epstein on the phone with Donald Trump, he should be impeached for it, or is that his position? Is his position that anytime Jeffrey Epstein got somebody on the phone—and he got a lot of people on the phone—that person is suddenly guilty? That sounds like guilt by association. That sounds like collective guilt.

Our minority whip introduced a perfectly reasonable amendment to say: Let's refer this to an Ethics Committee. Let's have a real hearing. They didn't want to have a real hearing. They want to rush to judgment. Why? It is so there can be some headline that will please Donald Trump tomorrow instead of a unanimous statement—or forgive me, I think the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana may have dissented, but an otherwise unanimous verdict of the House of Representatives that the American people want all the files open.

We have had enough of the coverup. We want all of the truth. We want the

survivors and the victims to have the possibility of accountability. Well, they want to give them another headline, which is that they have arraigned a Democratic Member for taking a phone call from her constituent, Jeffrey Epstein, in the middle of a hearing, and, of course, I don't think there is any rule here against taking phone calls in a hearing.

□ 1540

Now if you want to actually give her the chance to explain what happened, then we would take it to the Ethics Committee. I still don't see what the charge is. Where is the ethical transgression? Where is the legal transgression? Are you saying anybody on your side of the aisle who had a phone call with Jeffrey Epstein should be censured?

Be careful of your answer there because there is a lot more that is about to come out, right? You should think about what is the principle behind this rush to judgment.

Mr. Speaker, I will close just with this thought because I know there were a lot of people in the Chamber who were here when this happened and a lot who weren't.

There was a move to expel George Santos. He was a Republican Member of the House from New York. It was the same kind of rush to judgment, absolute political frenzy. I looked at it for about 60 seconds.

I was a professor of constitutional law, so call me a legal nerd, but I said, wait. This guy has not been convicted of anything. Well, he is a Republican. I know he is a Republican. He was not convicted in criminal court, to my knowledge. He had not been arraigned yet or convicted of anything in the Ethics disciplinary process. They just said, well, there is bad press. We want to get rid of him.

Beware of what you wish for. Is that the rule that you want here in the House of Representatives, that you can just draw up a Member of Congress in 24 hours or 48 hours because there is a bad newspaper article without asking any questions, without giving that person any due process at all? Is that what it has come to at this point?

All we are asking for in the Epstein files is, release the materials so we can check it out. They want to go ahead and censure and remove from a committee a distinguished Member of the House of Representatives with no due process at all.

Mr. Speaker, I reject this. I hope the whole body will reject this just like I voted and spoke against removing George Santos, a Republican on the other side of the aisle, because he had gotten no due process. I hope all our colleagues will reject this absurd rush to judgment in an attempt to change the subject.

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, before I yield time to my good friend from Louisiana, to Representative RASKIN, I will

be careful in my remarks. You need to be careful with your facts. You have an 11-year veteran of this body who should know better. You have an 11-year Member of this body who took money. It wasn't a newspaper article. It was a fact. She took money from Jeffrey Epstein.

It is ironic that you are taking up by defending Ms. PLASKETT, which is going to the Ethics Committee, but she has lost her willingness or lost her ability to serve because she got irrational judgment by taking money from a convicted pedophile of young children. It is unfathomable that you are taking the position that you are. These are facts.

You mentioned Ghislaine Maxwell. She is not a sitting Member of Congress.

She, as a sitting Member of Congress, has relinquished any sense of duty to serve on these committees.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members to avoid engaging in personalities and to direct all comments to the Chair.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for yielding, and I thank my colleague Mr. RASKIN for the salient points that he has brought to this debate.

Mr. Speaker, I also defended George Santos on this floor and opposed the means by which he was expelled. I think it was beyond the pale. A responsibility that we bear in this body is to determine the means by which our colleagues shall be reprimanded or disciplined.

The Constitution is clear on this. My friend Mr. RASKIN knows full well that this body controls the means by which and the rules by which the Members of Congress shall be disciplined.

We have had variances of opinions regarding the exact disciplinary actions that should be embraced or rejected Member by Member. Let me say that, in this case, Ms. PLASKETT's receiving text messages—this was so alarming to me. When I saw this and read it, I didn't believe it. I say to my friend, I thought perhaps it was media from a satirical site. It couldn't possibly be true because we all know that a text message, a text exchange, is rather intimate in the realm of communications. To pierce into an actual congressional hearing, for a Member of Congress to receive and respond to a text message during a hearing, that is quite familiar, is it not?

This was shocking to me that a Member of Congress would be exchanging text messages directly with Jeffrey Epstein in 2019, at which time he was being prosecuted, federally, by the first Trump administration. He had received some nature of a sweetheart deal back in 2007 and avoided Federal prosecution by pleading no contest to some level of State prosecution where he was sen-

tenced, Mr. Speaker, to 13 months. My understanding is, he did 11 months and at the easiest time that could be done. He walked every day during the day on the work-release program.

That sweetheart deal, let me say, should be looked at. Now, to my horror, who has come to light that should be looked at, what was their involvement? Was there some involvement then? She is a good lady from the Virgin Islands. Where did Jeffrey Epstein live? In the Virgin Islands. He was a constituent in 2019. Was she a friend in 2007 during her service to the DOJ, which my friend has brought up? Was there any interactions?

These are the questions we have. The good lady from the Virgin Islands has crossed the threshold of reasonable suspicion and, therefore, she should be investigated by Ethics, by DOJ, and I would recommend by the Oversight and Judiciary Committees. Meanwhile, she should absolutely be removed from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This, Mr. Speaker, is my position. I present it without note for the betterment of the debate of this body.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to hear from my friend from Louisiana.

Both of the Republican speakers have said this demands an Ethics investigation. I think Mr. HIGGINS just said it should be investigated by Oversight and by Judiciary, as well as by Ethics and others.

This resolution censures her and punishes her before there has been one day of investigation. There has been no investigation at all. That was the whole burden of the minority whip's amendment. It was to say let's have an investigation, refer it to the Ethics Committee.

That is why the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana and I both voted against, and we got a majority to vote against censuring, or expelling even, George Santos without any ruling by our Ethics disciplinary body.

Isn't that putting the cart before the horse? I don't get it. I wish one of you could explain that to us why we should censure her before there has been one day of actual investigation. If being on the phone with one of our constituents, even an evil sinister force like Jeffrey Epstein—and, of course, he has said that he considered Donald Trump the most evil person he ever met, without a redeeming bone in his body.

I agree people can say different things, but Jeffrey Epstein, to me, disgraced himself. In any event, people want to know what were the contents of that conversation. Why was Ms. PLASKETT doing that? I am sure she has a good explanation. We are talking about a distinguished lawyer and Federal prosecutor who was in the middle of a hearing, which is something that Members do all the time is to talk to people in hearings about different things.

Let me ask, if it is now the standard that just to be on a phone call with

somebody establishes guilt by association, what about all of the Members of this body or of the U.S. Senate who were on the phone with January 6 insurrectionists and President Trump and his associates who were trying to block the certification of the election as people were chanting, "Hang Mike Pence." There were a lot of phone calls, a lot of traffic going on.

In fact, that is why our Republican colleagues dealt themselves a million-dollar cash payoff bonanza provision in the most recent Republican spending bill.

□ 1550

They put that in there because their phone records had been subpoenaed lawfully by a grand jury. They were treated like every other American citizen because their names came up as potentially being involved in that conspiracy to somehow shut down proceedings in the House and the Senate.

Now, are we saying just because they were on a phone call that they are guilty of something, that we should strip them of their committee assignments, that we should censure them? Have we gotten to that point? I mean, come on. This is the House of Representatives of the United States of America. Let's stick by the Constitution. Let's stick by due process. Let's go through the rules.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to speak today about Jeffrey Epstein or January 6. I am going to confine my remarks to two things that I know about.

I am going to take a deep breath right now because to stand here and have to listen to the gentleman from Louisiana, in the guise of just asking questions, besmirch one of the finest Members I have had the honor of serving with, I think, would offend the sensibility of anybody in this Chamber.

I am going to limit my remarks to two things I know very well: number one, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and what we need to do to preserve that very special environment; and, number two, the character of Delegate STACEY PLASKETT. On HPSCI, I have served for 10 years, and with Chairman TURNER and now with Chairman CRAWFORD, we have fought for that decade to keep the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence immunized from the sewage that flows through this Chamber, the partisan attacks, the hideousness. By and large, we have been pretty successful, with one exception, when that committee got involved in the political investigation around Ukraine in the first Trump administration.

Every single day, the leaders of that committee work hard, establish friendships, and do the work we need to do to make sure that the toxicity and the sewage that we are hearing right now

don't impinge the critical work of making sure that our intelligence communities are keeping Americans safe, not violating civil liberties, and not doing things inconsistent with the desires and character of the American people.

This effort put forward by a bunch of people who haven't served on that committee and who have no idea the comity and the grace with which that committee serves, you, sirs, will hurt this committee badly.

I expect every Republican on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—and I will say it again—I expect every Republican on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence who knows Ms. PLASKETT and knows the committee to vote “no” on the idea that, without evidence and without due process, Ms. PLASKETT should be removed from that very special committee.

This resolution would strike a devastating blow to HPSCI's ability to work effectively. By removing a member in good standing based on a newspaper article about texts—no due process, no evidence, nothing offered other than a newspaper article which has moved the gentleman from South Carolina—a member who has consistently engaged in a bipartisan and productive way with the committee's work, to make some unrelated political statement will do profound damage to this essential committee.

Now, let me just talk for a moment about Ms. PLASKETT. I have served in this institution for 17 years, longer, I think, than most people in this Chamber. I have not had the honor of serving with somebody with the integrity, the commitment, and the hardworking bona fides as Ms. PLASKETT.

We can argue about the wisdom or the judgment associated with those texts. I am told that, apparently, Mr. Epstein was a constituent.

For any one of us, on our worst day, our biggest misjudgment is not to be judged without any due process, especially in the context of this superb Member, this critical, critical member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The result of this resolution, if it were to pass, will be to undo the efforts of the Republican Speaker and the Republican chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Mr. CRAWFORD, to restore the committee to what it was intended to be.

While the bill for that decision won't come due immediately, it will come due over time in the form of a less accountable and less effective intelligence community with less effective oversight for Congress.

I don't expect the gentlemen who have offered this up to back down now, but I do expect every single member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, that elect, those few who understand what it is we need to do, to close the door on the flow of partisan sewage, which we see now threatening the critical work that we do.

Vote “no” on this appalling resolution.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire about how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina has 22½ minutes left.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, let me just say for my good friends on the left, you know, we are hearing words. That is all this is, words. You are taking the side of a young lady who should have known better. She served for 11 years. She disparaged herself. She did it to herself.

This is not smoke and mirrors. These are actual texts that pretty well indict Ms. PLASKETT. Would she probably take it back? Yes, but it is too late now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), my good friend.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina. I thank him for bringing forward this important resolution before the body.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to say that I appreciate the gentleman from Maryland, his commentary about the vote on removal, and his considered judgment with respect to Santos. I agreed with him at the time and made the same points.

I want to align myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Louisiana, but I want to note in doing so—and I think the gentleman from Maryland has shown respect to, I think, the judgment of the gentleman from Louisiana about his being the sole vote on the issue before this body before with respect to what we are making public because of the gentleman's, I think, very real concerns about what it might mean for victims.

We had that debate and a colloquy back and forth in the Committee on the Judiciary a few hours ago, about what we can do to ensure victims are protected and so forth, as we all go forward on what I believe is a unanimous view that we should go seek out truth and justice here with respect to Epstein and anybody associated with him, and them, and the nefarious affairs involving Jeffrey Epstein.

The reason that I support this resolution is—and I would note that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle could have tabled this resolution. They chose not to table it. They chose to refer it, which would suggest to me that there is a recognition that something here is not particularly good; that we have a sitting Member, in this case, a Delegate from the U.S. Virgin Islands, who was sitting in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform—and I actually have particular interest here because I was the one doing the questioning. Apparently my questioning was so riveting that she was engaging in text messages back and forth at that moment. While I was questioning Mr. Cohen, the gentleman was engaging in this back-and-

forth on text messages with Jeffrey Epstein.

Again, I have listened for months as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle disparage and try to impugn the character of the President of the United States and other members of the administration in connection to an investigation of Jeffrey Epstein, which the President's administration in 2019 indicted Epstein. They actually moved forward and federally indicted him in 2019. Ghislaine Maxwell was arrested by the Trump administration.

I know the gentleman from Maryland will go on to say that the Biden administration then carried forward that arrest, indictment, and prosecution. True, but it was, in fact, the Trump administration that did what had not been done for a long period of time by taking forward that indictment.

I have been listening to all the preaching by my friends on the other side of the aisle about how any association, anything to do with Jeffrey Epstein, is somehow the dispositive moment here in terms of determining the character of this administration or what they are doing or not doing when they are leaning in to try to seek the truth.

□ 1600

Tens of thousands of pages have been released by Jamie Comer, and 13 subpoenas have all been put out.

Now the House just voted to have greater transparency. Time will tell what that means in terms of what the court does and how they deal with the grand jury secrecy and what they do to continue to redact and protect victims' names under existing laws and how the courts treat that. That is going to be a process, as the gentleman likely knows. This is going to be determined as to what gets released and how.

Here we have the gentlewoman sitting in the Oversight Committee texting with a known convicted felon, a convicted pedophile, that was very public and known, had served jail time, and is engaging not just in texts that were trivial, but texts involving advice about her questioning of Michael Cohen, all designed to figure out how to get Michael Cohen to be able to somehow go after Trump or Trump's advisers or people around the President.

That, to me, is what we talk about with censure, which is contemplated, of course, in our rules and in the structure. The gentleman talked about the Constitution. We are not removing her. We are simply saying censure. We are saying it is censurable conduct to say that this individual sitting on a committee taking advice from a known convicted pedophile, convicted felon, that that is conduct unbecoming of a Member of the United States Congress, engaging in real time, taking advice from someone that we have been listening to—being lectured to as someone deserving of all of the scorn of the entire world. He is. That is why we are here.

If my colleagues didn't think this was a concern, they would have simply made a motion to table, but my colleagues decided to refer it to committee because they know this is a problem. They know this is not the kind of conduct you want in a Member of this body.

I think that the gentleman from South Carolina is right to have brought this forward. I think that the body should hear this debate and that we should vote tonight to censure and refer to the Ethics Committee for further consideration.

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

I thank my friend from Texas for those remarks. I am afraid all of them dance around the central issue, which is the good Congressman knows how due process works in America. There are facts that are adduced first. There is an opportunity to be heard on both sides. There is due process. There is consideration. Then there is judgment.

The gentleman has flipped the whole thing on its head. He has said we are going to judge her guilty before anybody has an opportunity even to hear what the charges are, much less answer the charges, much less do any kind of analysis.

I am sorry to hear that the text exchange that seems to be at the heart of people's consternation here took place during the distinguished gentleman's questioning, but that is not a Federal offense nor is it an ethical violation in the House of Representatives. You don't get to have the undivided attention of all of your colleagues.

The gentleman says that he thinks that our position is that any association with Jeffrey Epstein is a dispositive moment of judgment for people. That is not the position we have advanced.

We have taken the position with the survivors that we want to end the coverup of what happened and then let the chips fall where they may. If there are people who were actually engaged in crime, as Ghislaine Maxwell was, as Epstein was, then they should be charged with every element of due process.

If they happen to be a waiter or a waitress who worked at an event, they are not guilty of anything. That is what due process is, we are able to sift through and figure it out.

However, your rush to judgment isn't even giving anybody a chance to know what the charges are here. It is the most extraordinary thing I have ever seen.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. CROCKETT).

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, this is a distraction to take away from the fact that the guardians of pedophiles is literally trying to protect pedophiles. The President is a convicted felon and an accused sex offender.

STACEY PLASKETT hasn't been accused of either.

What are we actually here talking about? Trump and Epstein were besties. We have all seen the pictures of them. We saw the birthday book. So why are y'all more interested in talking about STACEY PLASKETT than Trump's relationship with the man?

When did y'all become so moral? I can remember when y'all wouldn't sign the discharge petition. All of a sudden, everybody wanted to vote for this, but you wouldn't sign the discharge petition.

Until we decide that we are going to go after the actual rapists and pedophiles, miss me with your moral high ground.

Folks who also took money from somebody named Jeffrey Epstein, as I had my team dig in very quickly: Mitt Romney, the NRCC, Lee Zeldin, George Bush, WinRed, McCain-Palin, Rick Lazio.

I just want to be clear: If this is the standard that we are going to make, just know we are going to expose it all, and just know that the FEC filings are available for everybody to review.

This is absolutely ridiculous. You decide that you want to punish a sitting Member of Congress because you are concerned about her text messages. Well, maybe you should be more concerned about those sex tapes that we still haven't gotten access to. Maybe you should be more concerned with the fact that the President's name is mentioned in the files way more than STACEY PLASKETT's name.

Listen, I am not saying that anything is right or wrong. But if you are trying to figure out what is going on with somebody that is a criminal, then maybe you need to talk to their associates. That is exactly why maybe she was getting text messages. I am not saying she was or wasn't, but considering the fact that they were talking to another associate of the President's, and maybe she needed intel, you would have to go talk to somebody who maybe knows what he is up to.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). The gentleman from South Carolina has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. NORMAN for raising this issue.

To me, this is an interesting issue because I am hearing the argument that is coming at us, and it says, well, there is no due process.

Well, debate is a part of due process. A part of due process is to have this debate. You get to stand up and defend, and you get to raise your issues. The Democrats chose to take it back to committee, which as Mr. ROY said, that kind of indicates that maybe you know that there is something that is not great about this.

I am looking at this, and here is at least one of the exchanges that seems

to have taken place. Maybe we will hear some comment about it. That would be good. They can make some comment about it.

In this exchange, Mr. Epstein sent a text message to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands. This is the quote: He brings up Rhona, keeper of the secrets.

Who is he referring to? Rhona Graff. That is a Trump assistant.

Plaskett responds: Rhona? Quick, I am up next. Is that an acronym?

She wants to know what Mr. Epstein wants her to talk about. Don't you find that interesting? I find that really intriguing, especially since we know what Mr. Epstein was.

Mr. Epstein responds: That is his assistant.

He doesn't really say much more than that.

Then Plaskett starts questioning Mr. Cohen and asks about Graff. Not only was she texting, having this communication with Mr. Epstein, she is asking Mr. Cohen what Mr. Epstein wants her to ask.

Another text from Epstein says: Good work.

That is after she wraps it up.

All of this seems to be very interesting. I am sorry that I don't breathe the rarefied air of the Intelligence Committee. I don't. I am just a regular guy and a Member of the House, that is all, so I don't know about that rarefied air.

I guess I am part of the sewage that Mr. HIMES said. Yeah. Thanks for agreeing with me, Ms. PLASKETT. She has got us down. Unless you are in the Intelligence Committee, you are crap. That is what the Intel Committee says.

But here is the deal: When you are sitting there in a sitting committee, and you are having communications with a convicted sex offender, and you are taking their advice on how to ask questions, maybe you have a problem. Maybe your problem is that you brought disrepute on the House.

This isn't from the articles. This is from the 10,000 pages or so released last week from the Oversight Committee that they received from the Epstein estate. This isn't fishing around. This is coming from real evidence.

□ 1610

Mr. Speaker, I sit here, and I listen: Oh, she is the finest Member that ever walked the planet.

That is what we heard. The bottom line is she is sitting there, seeking advice and counsel on how to ask questions from Jeffrey Epstein, who this entire body, save one, just condemned. We want all of the evidence. It is a shame to be here but for one thing, which is: She made the choice.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone in this body to support Mr. NORMAN's resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Before I recognize the gentleman from Maryland, please remind yourself,

as well as the Members, to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to remark that yet one more Member says we should go ahead and censure her and we then should do a complete investigation. I think any fifth grader in America knows that is the exact opposite of what due process means in America. We don't punish people before we have an investigation and an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. RASKIN, my former professor in law school.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address the body. I first want to give my colleagues a sense of what was happening that day. Everyone knows at that hearing in February the entire country was watching as Michael Cohen decided he was going to finally give up information about what was happening in the Trump world, the Trump enterprise.

At the beginning of that hearing, Ranking Member JIM JORDAN disrespected Elijah Cummings—may he rest in peace and his name be a memory—after not allowing Mr. JORDAN to shut the committee hearing down.

I turned to Mr. JORDAN and told him to have respect for the chair and to basically shut up. That moment went viral. I began to get innumerable texts from friends, from foes, and from constituents about what was happening in that hearing.

Mr. Speaker, I got a text from Jeffrey Epstein who at the time was my constituent, who it was not public knowledge at that time he was under Federal investigation, and who was sharing information with me.

Mr. Speaker, I heard recently from someone that I was seeking advice from him. Let me say something. I don't need to get advice from any individual on how to question anybody. I have been a lawyer for 30 years. I have been a narcotics prosecutor in New York City. I have had the honor of being a political appointee at the Justice Department after September 11, as a Republican appointee in the Bush administration.

I know how to question individuals. I know how to seek information. I have sought information from confidential informants, from murderers, and from other individuals because I want the truth and not because I need them to tell me what to say.

If my colleagues look at the transcript, they will see that I questioned Michael Cohen for 5 minutes. The Washington Post only shows you 30 seconds and took from it one individual's name that I got from Jeffrey Epstein and didn't know who the individual was. I put that individual with a host of other individuals that I felt the committee should subpoena. They have

never been subpoenaed. They have never been questioned.

At the end of the day, I know that in the Trump administration, and with my colleagues over there, it is not about sexual assault. It is not about support of victims. It is about money.

Mr. Speaker, I have consistently stood against sexual violence and the exploitation of women and children in previous years, as well as here in this body. We all know that Jeffrey Epstein's actions were absolutely reprehensible.

As a constituent, as an individual who gave donations to me, when I learned of the extent of his actions after his investigation, I gave that money to women's organizations in my community. I didn't give it back to him but to women in the community who needed that support. That is what I think should have been done, and that is what I did.

Mr. Speaker, they have taken a text exchange, which shows no participation, no assistance, no involvement in any illegal activity, and weaponized it for political theater. That is what this is.

This has been reviewed by Federal courts. Victims who initially brought charges and a case against me dismissed it on their own without prejudice.

My colleagues don't want to talk about what is really happening here. They don't want to discuss their attacks on working families and their protection of powerful predators and corporate criminals. If my colleagues want to talk about texting and texting felons, how often do my colleagues text Donald J. Trump? That is the individual we should be concerned about.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, let me say this. I am not going to support the wealthy and connected who continue to exploit workers and evade taxes, powerful figures with credible allegations who face no consequences, and corporate interests profiting from human suffering, while families struggle.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell the people of the Virgin Islands—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, the point of order is you may not call the President of the United States a felon. That is a violation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order is under consideration, and we are not going to lose order here either.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, may I continue?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain, as mentioned a little while ago, from making personality commentary toward the President.

The point of order is not timely.

The gentlewoman is recognized.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I feel sorry for my colleagues and for what is happening here. I feel sorry for this body. I see Members coming in and speaking against me, and I have never even had a conversation with them. They don't know me. They don't know the work that I have done. They don't know the support that I have given to families and to individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I worked a full-time job with children under the age of 5 while going to law school at night. Do my colleagues think I would risk my law degree for any individual, never mind a reprehensible individual like Jeffrey Epstein? I would not. What I am about is the truth.

Let me tell the people of the Virgin Islands. This attempt at intimidation will pass. We in the Virgin Islands do not back down from a fight. That is how we won our freedom, and that is how we will continue to grow our equality.

If my colleagues censure me or take away a committee, I will still do the work. I am here to support people and to support this great Constitution, which I have sworn numerous times to uphold.

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

Mr. Speaker, before I recognize Mr. CLYDE, let me just say I don't know Ms. PLASKETT. My overall impression of her has been good. She gives these words about protecting families and children. Where is that demonstrated when she took money from a convicted pedophile that had served time? Where was that?

The words are beyond believability. I think she is a nice person, but she missed the boat. She lost her—I don't know the word to describe it. For what she has done, she deserves to come off of the committees.

□ 1620

Let me remind you, we want to go to the Ethics Committee. To those listening, the Ethics Committee is five Democrats and five Republicans. Let them find it, but in the meantime, you do not deserve to serve on a committee, a national committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will be reminded, again, to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. NORMAN from South Carolina, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution censuring and condemning Delegate STACEY PLASKETT from the U.S. Virgin Islands for inappropriate coordination with convicted

sex offender Jeffrey Epstein during a congressional hearing and removing Delegate PLASKETT from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and referring her to the Ethics Committee for further investigation.

After 4 years of silence on this matter, there was not a peep during the entire Biden Administration. Let me repeat that. After 4 years of silence on this matter about Jeffrey Epstein, House Democrats are now demanding transparency and accountability surrounding Jeffrey Epstein and his associates.

While their fake outrage is clearly just another disgusting attempt to smear President Trump, House Republicans are taking this matter seriously and are working toward delivering the much-needed transparency and accountability that the American people deserve.

This resolution is accountability page 1. During the House Oversight Committee's ongoing investigation into Jeffrey Epstein, emails obtained by a congressional subpoena—that is right, it was a congressional subpoena—by the House Oversight Committee, not the discharge petition that just got voted on, but this is the Oversight Committee's congressional subpoena—has brought to light that in 2019, Delegate STACEY PLASKETT coordinated her line of questioning with Jeffrey Epstein in real time over text messages during an Oversight Committee hearing featuring testimony from Michael Cohen.

Now, who is Michael Cohen?

Michael Cohen was the disgraced former attorney of President Donald Trump.

She was asking input from Jeffrey Epstein on how to best question Cohen, and Cohen was himself at that time a convicted felon from 2018.

So now that Republicans are exposing Democrat ties to Jeffrey Epstein and his vile crimes, the other side of the aisle has flipped. They apparently no longer want transparency or accountability.

Why?

It is because they don't want the truth. They want to weaponize a serious matter into a distraction all in an attempt to take down President Trump and to hurt his administration and what he is doing to Make America Great Again.

The actions taken by Delegate PLASKETT reflect poorly on the House, and this body needs to hold her accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote to adopt this resolution to show the American people that those who colluded with Mr. Epstein, including Members of the House, will be held accountable, and this resolution is the beginning of that.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, my good

friend from the great State of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition.

This resolution, this effort to censure Delegate PLASKETT and to rip away her membership on the Intel Committee, is nothing more than a political stunt by a desperate, failed candidate for Governor trying to pander to the people back in South Carolina. It is nothing more than that.

You want to make the statement about who has brought disgrace to the House. The actions of this House Republican majority have brought disgrace to the House of Representatives from day one of this Presidency.

The reality is, if you want to talk about fealty to the Constitution and things of that nature, the House is a separate and coequal branch of government. You don't seem to understand that.

You have functioned from the very beginning of your so-called majority, Mr. Speaker, not as a check and balance on an out-of-control administration, but as a reckless rubber stamp for Donald Trump's extreme agenda, and you are failing the American people.

You failed to keep your core promise. Your core promise to the American people was that you were going to lower costs on day one. Costs haven't gone down here in the United States of America. Costs have gone up.

The Trump economy is a complete and total failure. It is a disaster. The American people are hurting, and so every week, you come to the House floor now that you have returned from your 7-week, taxpayer-funded vacation and come up with another stunt to try to distract the American people. Or perhaps you were ordered by your puppet master, Donald Trump, who wants to distract the American people today.

That is because his effort to suppress the Jeffrey Epstein files has failed spectacularly.

We believe in transparency, we believe in accountability, and we believe in due process. That is the opposite of what is happening on the floor today.

Let me be very clear about STACEY PLASKETT. She is a woman of great intelligence and a woman of great integrity, and she deserves better than what she is receiving from House Republican extremists. She deserves the opportunity to be heard. She deserves due process. She deserves the ability to make her case, not to be prosecuted by pettifoggers playing lawyer on the floor of the House of Representatives. Google that if you don't know what it means.

The so-called Freedom Caucus wants to lecture us about proceeding at this moment.

The actions that you continue to engage in will have consequences: consequences today, consequences tomorrow, consequences next year, and certainly consequences when the American people

throw this House Republican majority out in the aftermath of the election next November. Be very careful about the extreme actions that you continue to engage in.

Now, it is extraordinary to me week after week, censure after censure, and I wonder: Is it just coincidence that the last three censures we have had on the House floor happened to involve—first you tried to censure LAMONICA McIVER, and then, Mr. Speaker, Republicans tried to censure ILHAN OMAR. Now we are on the floor, and you are trying to censure STACEY PLASKETT.

What is it exactly that those three individuals have in common?

House Republicans are going to have to answer for the extreme things that you continue to do.

The American people know this is a phony majority. It is a fake majority. It is not a real majority.

Republicans aren't doing anything to make life better for the American people, and that is why we are on the floor right now. There is nothing that House Republicans can do to disgrace STACEY PLASKETT because House Republicans continue to disgrace themselves. So whatever happens later on this evening, the American people will hear from Delegate PLASKETT beyond this making her case. The people of the Virgin Islands, I am confident, will continue to stand behind her.

We will never be lectured on issues related to accountability, transparency, principle, and ethics from this group of extreme House Republicans who continue to visit a national nightmare on the American people, bending the knee to a wannabe king and doing real harm in real time. At the end of the day, your time is coming as well.

□ 1630

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina has 3½ minutes remaining.

All Members are again reminded, including the minority leader, to direct their comments to the Chair.

All Members are again instructed, including the minority leader, to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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

I find it interesting that the minority leader mentioned that we aren't really a majority. I will tell you, 77 million people are a majority. They rendered the consequences to elect the President that has revived this country from a disaster, 4 years under the Biden administration.

Let's go back into a little bit of history here about the hearing. The messages show that PLASKETT texted Epstein before the hearing that started that day, at 7:55. She texted him, the sex offender, the predator on the children she says she protects. They had comments like he told Ms. PLASKETT to

talk about his grades. He mentioned that she had a great-looking outfit. This is from Mr. Epstein.

At 10:40, a broadcast feed cut to Ms. PLASKETT, showing her moving her mouth as if she was chewing something.

Ms. PLASKETT mentioned that she had multiple, multiple texts. According to the records—and I don't know how many of her texts came from those convicted of felonies, but at 2:25, minutes before PLASKETT began questioning Cohen at 2:28, Epstein messaged back "Good work" at 2:34, 1 minute after PLASKETT finished her questioning of Cohen. So the whole 5 minutes was pretty much conducted under the direction of a convicted pedophile.

Ms. PLASKETT was reached by phone Thursday. PLASKETT declined to answer questions about the text messages and directed all inquiries to her congressional staff. PLASKETT's chief of staff said Thursday she was "not in a position to confirm or not" whether the Congresswoman was texting with Mr. Epstein at the hearing. She did not respond to follow-up questions.

Bottom line, these are facts. These are text messages. This wasn't smoke and mirrors, so it is interesting that they are taking that tact.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina has 6½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, the conscience of the Congress, in strong opposition to this resolution. This resolution is a blatantly partisan, shameless attack.

As we sit here today, Donald Trump is still the single person in this country with the authority and the ability to deliver justice to survivors and truth to the American people by just releasing the files. So instead of answering why Donald Trump chooses every single day not to release the Epstein files, they are pointing fingers at this side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, unlike the President, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT has committed no crime, violated no rule, and broken no promises.

There has been no investigation, no due process, no inquiry into whether the Congresswoman had any connection whatsoever to Epstein's despicable and disgusting criminal conduct.

This resolution would have us remove a capable and hardworking member of one of the most serious working committees in this body on the basis of a conversation from more than 6 years ago, which broke no rules, broke no laws, and has no connection to any criminal activity.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this partisan resolution, this sham.

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

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

I want to start by addressing the young people who appear to be in the audience this evening because I am afraid some of my arguments are lost on some of our colleagues across the aisle suffering from Trump derangement syndrome. It seems to have completely warped their minds today, and they are not thinking clearly about the Constitution or the rule of law.

The young people here will recognize, if they read this resolution, immediately what is wrong with it because it is replete with phrases like this, that this one incident that they are referring to raises serious questions about the judgment and the integrity and the fitness to serve. Well, I think that is absurd, but in any event, if you think it raises serious questions, presumably you would want the answers to those questions. You don't get answers by rushing to judgment and turning the whole process upside down.

This resolution starts by saying that we censure her, that we remove her from committee. The very next component of it says that we direct the Committee on Ethics to conduct an investigation. That is the opposite of due process, and I hope at least future generations will understand that is not how we hold people accountable, whether it is under criminal law, under civil law, or under an ethics process, which they purport to want to be launching here.

Again, go back to the George Santos standard. The reason we voted against just hanging him out to dry, censuring him, and expelling him is because the process hadn't happened yet. Democrats and Republicans together did it, but they are thinking in solely partisan terms.

Even Matt Gaetz, accused of having sex with a 17-year-old, was never censured by the House of Representatives. Even with Speaker McCarthy and others condemning him for what he did, we did not censure him.

Think about what you are doing to the precedents of this body by trying to attack Ms. PLASKETT.

Let me just close with a personal thought. I wasn't going to bring it up because I didn't want to embarrass her, but she was one of the three finest students I ever had in constitutional law. She was a straight-A student in the early 1990s. She is a straight-A student in the 21st century. I am proud not only that she was my student but that she is my friend and that she is my colleague. She doesn't disgrace us in any way. She goes to work every day for the people of the Virgin Islands, and we are proud of her.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that the President is occupying the minds of my good friends on the left rent-free, and essentially, they bring him up every time. Keep doing it. Keep doing it.

This President has a record that is second to none. I hope my listeners in the audience can distinguish between just words and babbling on when they reject the facts of what has been presented. Texts don't lie. They can offer all the excuses—and I do think Ms. PLASKETT is a nice lady. She made a mistake here, a bad mistake. She took advice from a convicted pedophile. That is indefensible in this discussion here today.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to my colleagues defend the indefensible. I have heard everything from this is old news to this is just politics. Not a single person has disputed the key fact: written records in Epstein's own estate documents show Delegate PLASKETT sought his input for an official hearing.

This is the issue, that alone. Everything else is just noise.

This Chamber cannot overlook that a sitting Member of Congress coordinated with a convicted sex offender to prepare questions for an official proceeding. Imagine telling the American people that that is acceptable. Imagine explaining to parents all across this country that Congress sees no problem with relying on the counsel of a predator of our innocent children.

Some of my colleagues want to blur the edges, soften the facts, or bury this under procedural fog—noise, as I call it. Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and accountability is not optional.

□ 1640

This resolution is not excessive at all. It is appropriate. It is measured. It is necessary at this time.

The question before us is very simple: Do we uphold a minimal—a minimal—standard for ethical conduct, or do we just shrug and say: Well, maybe next time?

Mr. Speaker, the public deserves better. The House deserves better. The American people deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE RECORD OF DECISION AND APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT"

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 879, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 130) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment", and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 130

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment" (issued November 20, 2024, as a record of decision and approved resource management plan amendment, and a letter of opinion from the Government Accountability Office dated September 18, 2025, printed in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2025, on pages S6825–S6826, concluding that such record of decision and approved resource management plan is a rule under the Congressional Review Act), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 130.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 130, which would repeal the Bureau of Land Management's misguided resource management plan, or RMP, amendment for the Buffalo Field Office in Wyoming, which was finalized in the twilight hours of the Biden-Harris administration.

Wyoming's Powder River Basin currently supplies 40 percent of the Nation's coal. The RMP amendment in question effectively halted future Federal coal leasing across a region in Wyoming larger than New Jersey and located in the heart of America's coal country. Without repeal, the RMP amendment will end coal production in the region entirely by 2041 and close 12 active mines.

The RMP amendment is a death blow to America's energy security, Wyoming's workers, and the economic backbone of the State itself.

It is projected that U.S. electricity demand will grow by as much as 128 gigawatts through 2029, and global energy demand is expected to double by 2050.

Coal is reliable, affordable, and essential to meet the increasing power demands of the AI revolution and advanced manufacturing. The RMP amendment locked up an astonishing 48 billion short tons of coal. That is enough to meet U.S. coal demand for the next 116 years.

Mr. Speaker, 92 percent of Wyoming's coal is exported to other States, helping keep the lights on and utility prices affordable in distant places as far as Texas, Illinois, and my home State of Arkansas.

Nationwide, residential electricity prices have increased by 13 percent since 2022, and overturning misguided policies like this RMP amendment will help make the cost of living more affordable for families across America.

It is time to unleash our domestic resources to put this money back into the pockets of American families by repealing the Biden administration's anti-American energy policies. What is more, instead of working with the State, the Biden administration blatantly ignored local opposition at every stage of this process and rammed this RMP amendment through to appease environmental extremists.

The Biden administration provided a limited opportunity for public comment or engagement on this RMP amendment. Wyoming's Governor, a unified congressional delegation, locally elected officials, Tribes, and local communities all expressed strong opposition to this plan amendment. The previous administration ignored them all.

According to local representatives, it is suspect and disturbing that such a dramatic change to the current land use plan would solicit such little engagement during the public comment period. Campbell and Johnson County commissioners who represent the local communities affected by this plan stated that whatever information they provided to the BLM in this process was ignored by the Federal agency.

Overturning the RMP amendment takes power from bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., and returns it to the people of Wyoming.

The BLM also ignored Tribal input in developing this RMP amendment. The

Navajo Transitional Energy Company, which is wholly owned by the Navajo Nation, provided detailed comments opposing this amendment. They were all dismissed by the BLM.

In a letter they submitted to the agency, they stated:

"BLM consistently downplayed the reasonably foreseeable negative impacts of the mines' closures on the surrounding social justice communities. And it did not even consider the jobs lost in the downstream communities that rely on the [Powder River Basin] coal."

Energy security is national security, and Wyoming's energy industry remains indispensable to ensuring that America stays energy dominant. Wyoming's Powder River Basin, with its low-sulfur coal, produces the world's cleanest burning coal. We should be focused on exporting this abundant natural resource to our allies abroad, not burying this baseload power under layers of bureaucracy.

By passing this CRA today, we are advancing President Trump's executive orders on unleashing American energy and reinvigorating America's coal industry. We are also restoring hundreds of millions of dollars in future revenue for Wyoming's K-12 public education system and protecting more than 4,000 high-paying jobs in rural Wyoming.

In conjunction with the pro-energy policies included in the working families tax cut law, this CRA also has the potential to generate more than \$260 million for the Federal Treasury.

This CRA helps the U.S. remain energy dominant and will lower prices for families, strengthen our economy, and boost real wages for hardworking men and women. I urge my colleagues to stand with Wyoming, stand with American workers, and stand for energy security by supporting this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish Chairman WESTERMAN a happy birthday, but even that goodwill does not change the fact that this is bad legislation. So, unfortunately, I am going to have to rise in opposition to the bill while wishing the gentleman a happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, we are all grateful that the Republican shutdown is finally over, but millions of Americans are still on the cusp of losing healthcare. They are struggling to put food on the table. After their 7-week paid vacation, I can't imagine anything more disconnected than for House Republicans to come back here and make their first priority not helping working families to make ends meet but jamming through more favors for their billionaire buddies.

□ 1650

These three Congressional Review Act, or CRA, resolutions treat America's public lands like they are just lines on a balance sheet. They silence

public opinion, ignore the fires and storms that are made worse by climate change to make fossil fuel extraction the number one priority going forward for how we manage our public lands. Wildfire defense, public safety, recreation, and conservation all take a backseat now to maximizing corporate profits, even in our most fragile landscapes like America's Arctic.

Americans want clean air, clean water, and accessible public lands, not handouts to polluters. Overturning balanced, forward-looking BLM plans in Wyoming and Alaska is a colossal mistake.

Across the Federal land management agencies, plans like these are the foundation for responsible, sustainable management of our public lands. RMPs are the product of extensive public input, rigorous scientific reviews, and meaningful Tribal consultation. Balancing the activities on our public lands from energy development to recreation is what these plans do.

They reflect the needs of communities, industries, and ecosystems. They outline a clear vision for the stewardship of millions of acres of public lands.

Let's look at the Buffalo Field Office RMP targeted by this particular resolution. It was developed after a court found that the previous plan failed to address the public health and climate impacts of unfettered coal mining in the region. Importantly, the current RMP was also developed after robust Tribal consultation and public input. Are we just going to throw that all away?

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.J. Res. 130, which would repeal the current balanced RMP for BLM's Buffalo Field Office in order to prop up the coal industry in Wyoming's Powder River Valley. The plan targeted by this resolution ended new coal leasing in the region because of its harm to the climate and public health and because of decreasing demand for coal.

At the same time, the plan allowed existing mines to continue to operate through the end of their current leases. Rescinding this plan means locking us into unnecessary emissions and energy costs at a time when the planet and the American people cannot afford it. It also puts us on a treadmill of litigation and uncertainty, sending us back theoretically to a plan that was already adjudicated to be illegal. Maybe Republicans are waiting for a new plan to come forward from the Trump administration, I guess, hoping that a future court will decide that it is not substantially similar to the ones that have been thrown out with your CRA. This is something that my friends across the aisle simply haven't thought through. There is so much chaos and uncertainty when the sledgehammer of the CRA is used in this reckless manner.

House Republicans already passed, and the administration implemented, unprecedented giveaways to the coal

industry through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, including slashing the royalty rates for coal from 12 percent to 7.5 percent and opening more than 13 million acres of public lands for coal leasing.

Yet, even with these handouts, it is not enough to reverse decades of market contraction in the coal industry. The coal industry is dying. What Republicans don't mention is that BLM's coal lease sales this year have either failed to reach market value, been indefinitely canceled, or received little to no bids.

Rather than simply redoing this RMP through the well-established public process, which the Trump administration is already doing, House Republicans want to overturn it using the CRA, again an extremely blunt instrument, that will throw us into great uncertainty and litigation for sure.

This choice would lock out the perspective from previous Tribal and public engagement and ban the agency from ever again issuing a substantially similar RMP, leaving land policy frozen in time and frozen in some kind of a limbo with incredible uncertainty and chaos.

House Republicans want to permanently enshrine fossil fuel extraction as the top priority for millions of acres of public land across the country, no matter the cost. They are picking winners and losers here, blocking affordable renewable energy projects, and sacrificing our public lands in the process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject these reckless resolutions that would upend millions of acres of public land management and reject this entire familiar playbook from congressional Republicans.

They are trying to deepen our dependence on dirty fossil fuels that pollute our air, contaminate our water, and harm the public health while doing everything possible to slow, stop, or sabotage the development of affordable renewable energy. Our constituents deserve a lot better than this. We deserve clean, affordable, and reliable energy. We deserve good-paying jobs and affordable healthcare. We shouldn't sacrifice America's health, environment, and livelihoods in order to do it.

This legislation and my friends across the aisle are on the wrong side of history trying to prop up the dying coal industry. They are on the wrong side of public land management. They are on the wrong side of the American people's pocketbooks as they face rising electricity costs.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I oppose this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely appreciate the birthday wishes from my friend across the aisle. That means a lot to me.

If I had a birthday wish of my own, it would be to make energy more affordable for the American people, to help the good folks of Wyoming to have a

livelihood and to not only keep prices down, but keep good-paying jobs across this country that are in the energy industry. We know that we need more energy going forward. We need more electrons on the grid. We need a larger grid. We need to all work together to do those things, but if this resource management plan amendment by the previous administration was balanced, I would hate to see a heavy-handed resource management plan amendment by the previous administration because this took a sledgehammer to an established industry in the State of Wyoming.

I am sure my distinguished colleague from the great State of Wyoming, Representative HAGEMAN, who is the lead sponsor of this legislation, will go into detail what this would mean to Wyoming if this plan amendment stays in place.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.J. Res. 130, which utilizes the congressional disapproval procedure under the Congressional Review Act, or CRA, to restore coal leasing in Wyoming's Powder River Basin.

Many on the East Coast of America might be surprised to learn that the Federal Government owns massive amounts of the western States.

In Wyoming, the Federal Government owns about half of our surface estate and 60 percent of the subsurface estate, or our minerals. In northeast Wyoming, the Bureau of Land Management's Buffalo Field Office owns and manages over 780,000 acres of land and 4.7 million acres of our mineral estate.

Notably, this land encompasses Wyoming's share of the Powder River Basin, North America's largest coal deposit responsible for the production of 40 percent of our Nation's coal.

Wyoming is the largest coal producer in the Nation. We, in other words, are responsible for ensuring that you can turn on your lights and heat your home. The BLM manages its public lands pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which is implemented pursuant to what we refer to as resource management plans, or RMPs.

These RMPs are designed to maximize resource values for the public. The BLM is required to comply with a multiple use mandate, ensuring that these combination of uses meet current and future needs of the American people.

In its waning days, the Biden administration issued an RMP amendment for the Buffalo Field Office which pursued the no new leasing alternative, pulling 481,000 acres of America's largest coal reserves and resources offline, making 48 billion short tons of coal unavailable and ending leasing in the Powder River Basin.

Such a decision cannot be considered a legitimate or legal RMP pursuant to

FLPMA, and neither does it align with Congress' multiple use mandate.

The Biden RMP is instead very clearly a mineral withdrawal enacted by climate activists in direct violation of the law.

The Biden administration's decision to terminate mining in Wyoming's PRB is not only irresponsible and harmful but downright illegal, a mechanism used by the governing elite to inflict harm on every single citizen of this great country to further climate change lunacy.

□ 1700

If this RMPA is allowed to continue, it would risk 4,122 jobs in rural Wyoming, \$1.9 billion in labor output through 2048, and millions of dollars in State revenue used to fund public K-12 education.

This seemingly localized decision has national repercussions, as well. In 2024, Wyoming produced 191 million tons of coal, 171 million tons of which were shipped to 26 different States for producing electricity.

At these rates, Wyoming produces about 40 percent of the Nation's coal and about 80 percent of all Federal coal production.

With coal generating as much as 23 percent of America's electricity at any given time, Wyoming coal supplies as much as 9.2 percent of the electricity produced in this country.

Watching the arguments in the Committee on Rules last night and on the floor today, it is clear that "affordability" is the word of the day for my colleagues across the aisle. If utility bills for Americans are something they genuinely care about, then I encourage them to vote for H.J. Res. 130 and to not turn off the Powder River Basin coal, which accounts for so much of American energy and could generate even more if Washington, D.C., had not waged a war on coal for the last three decades.

In short, it is policies such as no new coal leasing contained in this Buffalo RMPA that reduce affordability, which my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will be supporting if they continue to oppose H.J. Res. 130.

This vote today is a vote to shore up the grid, which will have positive impacts on the utility bills of Americans. When combined with what this majority did for energy development in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, we are shoring up centuries of energy production.

We cannot survive in this country without Wyoming coal, the majority of which is produced in the Powder River Basin. Demand for Wyoming coal is only increasing, both here and abroad. If you turn out the lights on one of Wyoming's most important industries, you will also be turning out the lights on America.

The Biden administration knew this and pursued this harmful policy anyway, and they did so in violation of the law.

On September 18, 2025, the Government Accountability Office determined that the Buffalo RMP was a rule subject to the CRA on the grounds that it is an agency statement, is of future effect, and it implements, interprets, or prescribes law and policy.

This decision is in line with previous GAO decisions on similar land management plans and RMPs, several of which this body has passed in the 119th Congress.

A vote today for H.J. Res. 130 has many positive implications.

First, it would overturn this harmful plan and revert to the 2015 RMP, thereby protecting access to 481,000 acres for coal leasing.

Second, it would provide certainty to countless Wyomingites who rely on our good, clean coal for jobs and for revenue that funds the schools that our children attend.

Third, it is a vote for the millions of Americans who continue to rely on Wyoming coal—and who always will.

Fourth, it is a win for Congress, reminding the agencies that we are the primary policymaking branch of government and that we will hold the agencies responsible for bad, unlawful regulations.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of H.J. Res. 130.

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

Mr. Speaker, it occurs to me that as we are having this debate, pretty much the rest of the world is in Brazil right now for the climate conference. Of course, the Trump administration has disgracefully pulled the United States out of the Paris Agreement once again, and we have no Federal delegation at all.

As the rest of the world convenes to accept the reality of the climate crisis and to accept the related reality of coal being the biggest contributor to carbon pollution, and the entire world is talking about how to phase down our dependence on coal pollution and fossil fuel pollution, we are here in this alternate reality of the Republican majority, where my colleague from Wyoming calls it climate lunacy.

It is a sad, sad testament to, frankly, the disgraceful leadership of this Republican majority that propping up the coal industry with discounted royalties, massive subsidies, millions of acres of land giveaways, and now this misuse of the Congressional Review Act is the official policy of the Republican majority. It is just almost unthinkable, yet that is where we are.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. VASQUEZ).

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the time.

Mr. Speaker, first, coming from New Mexico, let me tell you that I have gone through the RMP process firsthand in my own Las Cruces district, the TriCounty RMP, and those are long and painful processes. They take a lot of public input and a lot of painful

meetings. Those plans are developed with the input from residents from all sides of the aisle who represent different parts of what are our public lands and that mandate to have multiple-use lands. They are not meant for just one industry. They are meant for everybody that uses those public lands.

When I served on the U.S. Federal committee to advise the Forest Service, we got all of these stakeholders together to implement the 2012 planning rule, and it was the same deal. We did it deliberately. We did it with all stakeholders at the table. These RMPs are actually developed with public input from every community, not from one single stakeholder group. That is the painful process that it takes to update these plans, many of which haven't been updated since the 1980s.

It is important that we take into account the time and effort of not just the agency staff and those folks who show up to those hard meetings and hear the public out, but the public who comes out, in my district sometimes driving 30, 40, 50 miles, just to attend one of those meetings so that they can eventually get to an RPM, knowing that that will be the law of the land.

Today, I rise in opposition to all the CRAs, but in particular, I want to talk about one very special place.

In 2017, when the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain was first officially opened to drilling, supporters promised that the sale would raise significant revenue. Instead, only three bidders emerged. The first mandated lease sale brought in less than 1 percent of the \$2.2 billion that Congress was told to expect, less than 1 percent. That burdened taxpayers with an additional \$2 billion in national debt.

Why? Well, because the Arctic is one of the most expensive places on Earth to drill, and investors in the oil industry know this. In fact, BP and Shell already abandoned their Arctic proposals, even paying to exit those leases. Financing has dried up completely, with nearly every major U.S. bank and 20 global insurance companies having publicly pledged not to finance Arctic drilling projects. Yet, here we are.

The Coastal Plain is too remote, too costly, and too risky to make drilling financially feasible, especially when we already produce record oil and gas volumes elsewhere at a far lower cost to taxpayers, including in my district, the Permian Basin.

Let's be clear, Arctic drilling will not lower gas prices. With no existing roads, pipelines, or infrastructure, any Arctic oil would take years to reach the market, if it ever does.

I know this myself because this is a picture from when I was in the Arctic.

This is also a question of what we value. The Arctic refuge is the only national wildlife refuge that protects a complete Arctic ecosystem. It is called the crown jewel of our public lands, and it is called that for a reason. I saw why firsthand when I was there last summer.

This special place offers unmatched, truly wild fishing and hunting opportunities for all Americans. When you catch your first Arctic char in the Canning River on the Coastal Plain, it is a moment you will never forget as an American. These lands have provided sustenance to the Gwich'in and the Inupiat peoples for millennia.

The bottom line, setting the unique wildlife and recreation values of America's Arctic aside, using the CRA to overturn land management plans is bad policy, bad economics, and bad land management. Truly, it is a disrespect to the constituents who showed up to those meetings to create that RPM in the first place, year over year over year.

By treating every resource management plan as a rule that is subject to the CRA, Congress is throwing the legal status of every oil and gas lease, every grazing permit, and recreational activity across the West into question.

I ask my Republican colleagues: Why pursue the CRA process when this administration has already revised the plan in question? They have already opened up the Coastal Plain, so why do this?

We should vote "no," not to score a political point, but because this proposal simply doesn't make sense and won't work.

□ 1710

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

Mr. Speaker, it has been mentioned that U.S. coal is dying. U.S. coal is being murdered. There has been an attack on it for many years, and some people will not stop until they see it gone. That would be to our own demise because we depend so much on the energy not only from coal but from natural gas.

We need more nuclear power. We need more hydropower. We need all kinds of new power, and this isn't the time to be attacking our fuel sources. We will have a debate on the Arctic Slope and the Coastal Plain, but when we are talking about Wyoming, we are talking about coal and really the backbone of our electrical generating and distribution system.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), the chairman of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this CRA resolution introduced by my good friend and colleague from Wyoming, Representative HAGEMAN. This resolution overturns the Biden administration's actions to lock up public lands in Wyoming from responsible coal development, all part of the Democrat and President Biden's agenda, which was anywhere but America, any worker but American energy agenda.

Last year, I had the opportunity to join Representative HAGEMAN on a tour

across the Powder River Basin, where we visited the coal mines and met the proud men and women who have been working there for generations.

While I visited one of these mines, I met a union electrician, third-generation miner, who raised his hand and stated: Please don't take our jobs away. I am working here, and my son just got hired here.

The passion he had for the industry and these jobs was incredible. He and now his children work in that coal mine. That gentleman told me his family's story with a lump in his throat. Like generations before him, he and now his children had access to good-paying union jobs in the coal mines across the Powder River Basin, but thanks to the Biden administration's continued war on coal, his job and his livelihood was on the line, as the mine he worked in was set to run out of coal reserves in just a few short years.

Thanks to the Biden administration's resource management plan that blocked new coal leasing, the mine wouldn't be able to access additional reserves and would have to close. In doing so, the mine would have to lay off hundreds of workers and devastate the surrounding communities that depend on the coal mining industry to drive their local economies.

With tears in his eyes, this electrician asked me to save his job and save his livelihood so he could continue to provide for his family and energy for America.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity today to do just that. By voting in favor of this CRA, we will be able to roll back the disastrous Biden administration's anti-American energy policies and keep the Powder River Basin alive. Through the CRA, we will stop future anti-American energy administrations from taking similar steps to shut down the Powder River Basin.

I thank my colleague from Wyoming for introducing this important CRA resolution on behalf of the hard-working men and women that make up Wyoming's coal industry. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is a little bit rich to hear all of this concern about jobs and the poor electrician who is going to lose a job and to hear all of this concern about the energy that we desperately need to meet projected demand increase.

What we are really hearing across the aisle is a very selective concern about some jobs and about some types of energy. At the same time as we are having this debate about a desperate scheme to try to prop up the dying coal industry, not just with this CRA but with the discounted royalties, the massive public land giveaways, and all of the other favors that have been doled out to this industry, the Trump administration is trying in every way it can to kill off the clean energy industry,

which generates far more jobs than coal. Far more people stand to lose their jobs, far more electricians, like the one my friend was just so concerned about a moment ago, stand to lose their jobs because of this war on clean energy that my friends across the aisle are just fine with.

Now, Chairman WESTERMAN said we need all types of new energy. I guess we will have a chance this week to find out if that, too, is just more happy talk, more hollow words because there will be a markup on his legislation on permitting. Democrats have been asking for meaningful changes to this war on clean energy as the first item to have a serious negotiation and discussion about. We will find out.

I hope that Mr. WESTERMAN delivers on his promise to work in good faith with Democrats and to do something about the war on clean energy. Unless and until he does and unless and until my colleagues across the aisle stop pretending that an entire industry with far more jobs than coal and far more energy that can be brought to bear to meet rising demand at far less cost, until they stop pretending that that war on clean energy is not happening, all of this, frankly, is just political theater.

Mr. Speaker, to the point about the so-called viability of coal, let's just zoom in on the coal industry in the Powder River Basin, the very place that would be impacted by this CRA. On October 6, the Bureau of Land Management held a lease sale for 167 million tons of coal on public lands on the Montana side of this specific basin. The BLM received one bid that valued each ton of coal at one-tenth of one penny.

The administration rejected that bid and canceled the lease sale because that abysmal price did not meet the requirements of fair market value outlined in the Mineral Leasing Act. That is the reason that the BLM came together to finalize the Buffalo Field Office RMP amendment, to address decreasing demand for coal, which is both the dirtiest and the most expensive form of energy.

House Republicans would give away our public lands and waters to big coal for pennies, fractions of pennies. The coin that they are phasing out as practically worthless is about as valuable as the coal they are trying to subsidize.

This resolution will do nothing to address skyrocketing energy bills in Wyoming or anywhere else. A conservative former Wyoming State representative recently penned an op-ed that really speaks to what is happening on the ground: "We need responsible legislators, who do not rely on wishful thinking, to make long-term policy decisions. It's time to take off the aluminum foil hats filled with wishful thinking, and make some real decisions based on responsible prediction."

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close and continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I strongly oppose this resolution.

Using the CRA to overturn this RMP and the others that we are debating this week will throw our public lands into chaos. It completely sidelines the input and perspectives of local communities that have spent years working with BLM on this plan. It is another reckless attempt to prop up the fossil fuel industry and line the pockets of polluters, all at the expense of affordable energy and good-paying jobs.

The Buffalo Field Office RMP allows existing coal leases to continue with reasonable safeguards to reduce emissions and protect land and water. Congress should not be overturning this plan with the sledgehammer of the CRA.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the resolution. I urge my Republican colleagues to think twice about the consequences of this action and setting this chaotic precedent.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Since my colleague mentioned the SPEED Act, which we will be marking up in committee on Thursday, even though it is not on the floor today, I will put in a shameless plug for our bipartisan legislation that is not only tech neutral, but it is agnostic to the project, the project type.

It would definitely help us produce more energy in America, and it will also help us to build things in America again, something we desperately need to do. We will debate that Thursday, and, hopefully, some day we will be out here debating it on the floor.

This particular RMPA that is on the floor today is because the Biden administration, on their way out, pushed something through by rule that they could never get passed into law. The CRA, I remind you, is so that Congress can exert its legislative authority over an administrative agency or over an administration.

I would remind future administrations not to make dumb rules when they are going out the door or somebody in Congress will be standing here maybe on the other side of the aisle doing a CRA to turn back the rule-making ability that is not lawmaking, as we are instructed to do in the Constitution as the legislative branch.

□ 1720

Mr. Speaker, in response to the actual RMPA that we are talking about, the CRA on it today, now is the time to unleash American energy. The Buffalo Field Office resource management plan would not only devastate Wyoming's energy workforce but it would raise prices nationwide.

We are in a competition. We are in a competition with China that certainly hasn't backed off on building coal-fired

plants. As a matter of fact, they are building at a rate of about one every 2 or 3 days coming online because they know they need reliable energy. They need affordable energy. They need that to establish their manufacturing dominance and to beat us in the race for AI.

Mr. Speaker, we can't allow that to happen. Even though China produces twice as much electricity as we do today, we shouldn't discriminate against any energy source. We should try to produce as much energy as we can so that we can win in that competition.

By passing this CRA, we are restoring the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mandate and preventing future administrations from locking up America's natural resources. The era of curtailing multiple uses of our Federal lands hopefully is over. It is time to usher in a golden age of unleashing our energy and mineral resources.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAN of Florida). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION"

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 879, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision", and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 131

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision" (issued December 9, 2024, as a record of decision, and a letter of opinion from the Government Accountability Office dated August 25, 2025, printed in the Congressional Record on September 2, 2025, on pages S5557-S5560, concluding that such record of decision is a rule under the Congressional Review Act), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.

The joint resolution shall be debated for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) will each control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 131.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 131 which would repeal a Biden administration-era Record of Decision, ROD, restricting oil and gas production on 1.16 million acres within the 10-02 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, also known as ANWR.

The 10-02 area of ANWR was specifically set aside by Congress for its oil and gas potential and is estimated to hold anywhere between 4.25 and 11.8 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

Prior to the passage of the Working Families Tax Cut law, which requires four lease sales to be held over a 10-year period, Congress had previously mandated energy leasing in the area, an action that has the support of local North Slope communities and Native Villages.

Last Congress, we held a bipartisan legislative hearing on H.R. 6285, "Alaska's Right to Produce Act," where we heard from Tribal representatives, including Inupiat leadership from the Native Village of Kaktovik, the only indigenous Tribal community within ANWR.

In that hearing, Doreen Leavitt, Director of Natural Resources for the Inupiat community of the Arctic Slope said:

The North Slope Inupiat live in one of the most remote areas of the country, with none of their communities connected by a permanent road system to each other or to municipalities in the State, making private and

public investment very costly. It is up to their people to seek out opportunities and partners to strengthen their regional economy.

Instead of working with Arctic Slope communities to create economic opportunities, the Biden-era ROD further limited the economic prospects available to those in the region, reducing investment and cutting off essential new infrastructure that would support resource development.

During President Trump's first administration, consistent with Federal law and local voices, the Department of the Interior finalized plans to make all 1.56 million acres of the Coastal Plain available to oil and gas leasing.

Lamentably, in 2024, the Biden administration disregarded local Tribal voices and reversed course, implementing a new Record of Decision that chose the most restrictive alternative, making available the minimal amount of acreage for energy leasing.

The Biden administration also included energy-prohibitive stipulations in the ROD designed to undermine energy lease sales in the 10-02 area. These provisions were horrifically successful, as the last lease sale held received no bids.

The Biden administration's anti-energy decisions limit economic opportunities for local Alaskans and Alaska Natives living within ANWR.

Congress must move to repeal the Biden administration-era ROD that runs counter to congressional intent and unfairly reduces economic opportunities in the region.

I thank Representative BEGICH for his work on H.J. Res. 131 so we can restore common sense to the management of ANWR's vast resources and, again, unleash American energy.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.J. Res. 131. The Congressional Review Act resolution here would overturn BLM's Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision.

My Republican colleagues are, once again, pursuing policies that expand our Nation's carbon pollution and expose our communities to future disasters. Not only would this legislation grant access to one of the most ecologically sensitive and, yes, incredibly difficult regions to drill but it would reverse significant strides that Democrats have made to protect lands that Tribal Nations have occupied since time immemorial.

This misguided bill would lock in oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an area known to the Gwich'in people as the sacred place where life begins. The Coastal Plain is the heart of the Porcupine caribou's calving grounds. It hosts nearly 200 migratory bird species annually, connecting the rest of the United States and also the world to this cradle of our natural heritage.

Equally vital, the 9,000-strong Gwich'in Nation, whose subsistence and culture depend on the caribou herd, reside along the herd's migratory route, making any disruption not only a threat to biodiversity but also an assault on indigenous livelihoods and traditions.

Let me read a quote from the Executive Director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, Kristen Moreland. She says: "It is unthinkable that our congressional decisionmakers continue to push to exploit the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge for oil and gas drilling."

She continues: "We rely on the caribou, not only spiritually and culturally, but for our survival and subsistence. This action from D.C. is an insult to the Gwich'in people and ignores those realities."

Sovereign Inupiat for a Living Arctic also oppose this proposal. They said:

Many Alaska Native communities are already facing negative health impacts from oil and gas development on their lands and are struggling to provide for their families due to impacts on the local fish and wildlife populations.

Mr. Speaker, these words remind us that the climate crisis is here, it is real, and it is exacerbated by this administration's relentless push toward fossil fuels.

In the Arctic, temperatures are rising four times faster than the global average.

□ 1730

It is the indigenous communities in northern Alaska and in the refuge that are disproportionately feeling the devastating impacts of the climate crisis. Melting permafrost and changing species migration patterns are threatening food security, cultural traditions, and their ways of life.

Mr. Speaker, you will hear my Republican colleagues argue that increased oil and gas development in the Arctic will be good for America's bottom line, but that is patently false. Let me take you back to 2017 when Republicans cut a backroom deal to help pay for Trump's billionaire tax cuts the first time around by drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

Two Arctic Refuge lease sales were included, in part, to offset the cost of those tax giveaways for the wealthy. Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration promised that these lease sales would bring in \$1.8 billion in revenue for the Federal Government and the State of Alaska.

Well, when the first lease sale finally took place in 2021, guess what happened, Mr. Speaker?

It generated less than \$15 million, that is around 2 percent, of what the CBO had estimated. In 2022, two of those lessees actually asked BLM to cancel and refund their leases.

Separately, in 2021, two development companies actually paid \$10 million to walk away from their legacy leases in the Arctic Refuge. That is about the only revenue we have been able to gen-

erate in this spectacularly difficult place to drill.

Taxpayers for Common Sense, a non-partisan group focused on deficit reduction, recently said that drilling in the refuge has never been a credible revenue offset, and it isn't now. They even found that new leasing in the area would only raise, at most, \$30 million. That is a drop in the bucket, Mr. Speaker, when you consider my Republican colleagues' big, ugly bill will cost American taxpayers \$3.4 trillion.

This resolution is the latest attack from my Republican colleagues to undercut our public lands, to prop up fossil fuel polluters, and the expensive energy sources that they peddle and leave people out of the decisionmaking process, all while driving up energy prices for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in the longstanding, bipartisan support for protecting the Arctic Refuge by opposing H.J. Res. 131, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), who is the lead sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, as the sole Representative of Alaska in the United States House, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 131, a resolution to overturn the Biden administration's 2024 Record of Decision, an action that severely restricted energy development on the coastal plain of Alaska's North Slope.

For Alaskans, this issue is foundational—economically, strategically, and culturally.

The 10-02 area of ANWR, the coastal plain, is the most studied piece of land in Alaska and one of the most resource-rich energy basins in North America. Congress set this area aside specifically because of its oil and gas potential, and Congress has twice mandated that it be leased for energy development.

Yet in December 2024, in the final days of the outgoing administration, the Department of the Interior issued a new Record of Decision that made only 400,000 acres available, a mere 25 percent of the legally designated coastal plain, effectively shutting down 1.16 million acres that Congress expressly told the Department to lease.

That Record of Decision ignored Congress. It ignored the statutory mandate in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and it ignored the voices of the people who actually live on Alaska's North Slope.

Thanks to a request from Alaska's delegation, the Government Accountability Office issued a legal opinion on August 25 confirming that this 2024 Record of Decision is a rule under the Congressional Review Act. That opinion, printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in September, triggered the CRA window that allows Congress to act today.

Congress must act because Alaskans have spoken clearly, and they have spoken loudly.

The North Slope Inupiat leadership, including the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the North Slope Borough, and the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, have consistently supported responsible development in the 10-02 area of our North Slope. For decades, they have supported balanced development because they know how vital it is to sustain their communities, maintain their way of life, and fund essential public services.

Oil and gas development on the North Slope provides 95 percent of local tax revenue, which pays for schools, clinics, utilities, public safety, and infrastructure in some of the most remote and high-cost communities in America. Without development, those services disappear.

Mr. Speaker, the law is clear. The science is clear, and the economic reality is undeniable. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the coastal plain contains 10.4 billion barrels of recoverable oil, a resource that can strengthen America's energy security at a time when geopolitical instability is rising and global energy demand is surging.

President Trump recognized this on day one, issuing executive order 14153, Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential, directing the Secretary of the Interior to restore the lawful 2020 framework.

The Bureau of Land Management is already implementing that directive, working to reinstate the 2020 Record of Decision and moving forward with the four statutorily required lease sales mandated by the American working families tax cut.

However, unless we disapprove of the 2024 ROD today, regulatory whiplash will continue, investment will remain frozen, and local communities will shoulder the burden of Federal indecision.

H.J. Res. 131 ends that uncertainty. It restores the legally compliant 2020 Record of Decision. It restores the full acreage Congress authorized for leasing, and it restores, importantly, the voice of the North Slope residents in Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, Alaska has the energy the world needs. America has the workforce to develop that energy responsibly, and Alaska's communities, from Utqiagvik to Kaktovik, have been asking for consistency, partnership, and respect from their Federal Government.

Today we can answer that call, and I urge my colleague to vote "yes," and support Alaska, support American energy security.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the CRA resolution introduced by my good friend and colleague Representative BEGICH. This resolution overturns the Biden administration's actions to prevent the

great people of Alaska from accessing and responsibly developing their abundant oil and gas resources on the North Slope.

Yet again, these actions were just another part of the Democrat and President Biden's anywhere but America, any worker but American agenda.

This was put out by the Biden administration, Mr. Speaker, on December 8, mere weeks before the transition to the Trump administration.

Last Congress I was proud to introduce the Alaska's Right to Produce Act which reversed many of these same anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration and passed the House with bipartisan support.

Alaska is blessed with a tremendous wealth of natural resources. In fact, when Alaska was admitted to the Union, there was a specific condition laid out that the new State would develop these abundant natural resources for the benefit of all Alaskans and all Americans.

The Biden administration took step after step to block the Alaskan people from developing these resources. The Biden administration levied more sanctions on the State of Alaska than they did on Iran. Congress time and time again has passed laws to encourage and even require oil and gas leasing and development in the 10-02 area of ANWR. The Biden administration's Record of Decision runs completely counter to the laws that Congress has enacted, and they played games to discourage development like only offering unfavorable acreage in their lease sale.

These policies run counter to the wishes of the Alaska Natives across the North Slope of Alaska. I had the honor of leading a bipartisan delegation of my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee to the North Slope last year to visit with these Alaska Natives and see the responsible oil and gas operations firsthand.

These individuals depend on revenues from oil and gas development for their everyday lives. In fact, Alaska Natives who are enrolled shareholders of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation collect nearly \$30,000 a year thanks to responsible oil and gas development on the North Slope.

□ 1740

The Biden administration failed to properly consult with the people of the North Slope when they decided to lock up ANWR and the NPR-A. Former Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland refused request after request to meet and hear from them. This was told to us in a meeting in the Natural Resources Committee.

The CRA resolution will correct this by giving Alaska and the Alaska Natives of the North Slope the opportunity to responsibly develop the 10-02 area of ANWR, which was set aside by Congress for this direct purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for introducing this important CRA resolution on behalf of all Alaskans,

and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution. I look forward to this passing this House.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I strongly oppose this resolution. It would open up ecologically sensitive, culturally important, and incredibly remote regions of the Arctic to oil and gas drilling.

Drilling proponents have grossly overstated how much oil industry interest there is in drilling in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic refuge. The Arctic is an extremely remote and harsh environment requiring specialized equipment and infrastructure, making it one of the costliest places to drill in the entire world.

There have been multiple lease sales held in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which I want to emphasize is a wildlife refuge, and still no legitimate oil and gas company currently holds a lease there.

Even during President Trump's first term, no oil and gas company kept their leases. In fact, a recent report from Taxpayers for Common Sense outlined the lack of economic viability for any oil and gas development there, citing astronomically high costs in this remote region.

Let me be clear. House Republicans' actions today will do absolutely nothing to lower your energy bills, but it will allow for the sell-off of some of our most special and sacred public lands. That is why I oppose H.J. Res. 131 and all the CRA resolutions on the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting no, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank my colleagues for supporting this critical legislation and engaging in this meaningful discussion.

Before I close, I want to highlight another statement from Director Leavitt, which she offered during a Natural Resources Committee hearing last Congress. Mr. STAUBER, in his testimony, talked about how the locals in the area just wished someone would listen to them. Director Leavitt said this: "Had the administration acted according to the Indian Reorganization Act or its own orders, its leadership and staff would have made allowance for the fact that the ICAS [the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope], alongside many other North Slope Tribes and entities like the Native Village of Kaktovik, Voice of the Arctic Inupiat, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and more, have a long history of supporting responsible resource development projects in ANWR. The Voice of the Arctic Inupiat, of which ICAS is a member, has a standing resolution supporting the responsible exploration and

development of the 10-02 area of ANWR.”

H.J. Res. 131 responds to the wishes of the local people who call ANWR home and unleashes the region’s bountiful natural resources for the benefit of U.S. energy security and the economic well-being of local communities.

I again urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO “NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN RECORD OF DECISION”

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 879, I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 80) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 80

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision” (issued April 25, 2022, as a record of decision, and a letter of opinion from the Government Accountability Office dated July 24, 2025, printed in the Congressional Record on July 28, 2025, on pages S4768–S4770, concluding that such record of decision is a rule under the Congressional Review Act), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S.J. Res. 80.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S.J. Res. 80, which repeals the Biden administration’s 2022 Integrated Activity Plan, or IAP, for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, also known as the NPR-A.

Under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976, the approximately 23-million-acre NPR-A was designated by Congress due to its vast energy resources. In 1980, Congress amended the act and directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct “an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.”

In 2020, in President Trump’s first administration, the Bureau of Land Management released its IAP for the NPR-A. The 2020 IAP listened to local voices and opened up access to over 18.5 million acres of the NPR-A for oil and gas leasing. Over 13 million acres were made available for new infrastructure development.

Nagruk Harcharek, president of the Voice of the Arctic Inupiat, stated in a September 2023 Natural Resources Committee hearing that: “We also felt heard when BLM released an NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) in June 2020 that considered the interests of our communities, including future community infrastructure needs.”

The IAP outlining management activities for natural resources throughout the NPR-A was thoughtfully crafted by the first Trump administration, taking into account the voices of local indigenous Tribal communities.

Regrettably, in 2022, the Biden administration replaced the 2020 IAP with a new one, reducing the available acreage for oil and gas leasing by 37 percent and reducing areas available to new infrastructure by over 2.3 million acres.

In November 2023, during another hearing on the matter, we heard from Commissioner John Boyle of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources,

who expressed concerns about the Biden administration’s NPR-A rule-making process. “The process to date has been confusingly deficient as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has scheduled and canceled public meetings on short notice, avoided consultation obligations, and attempted to avoid procedural safeguards that are meant to keep rulemakings of enormous public cost and consequence from being hastily and arbitrarily implemented. Neither comprehensive environmental nor economic reviews have been completed for a proposal that will dramatically change environmental and economic management in what may be the largest Federal petroleum asset in the country.”

□ 1750

In that same hearing, Mr. Harcharek shared:

“This decision, coupled with further ‘protections’ for NPR-A, will undoubtedly shrink the economic opportunities available to the North Slope. It virtually guarantees to set us back on our journey toward self-determination by requiring further reliance on the Federal and State government to provide for the basic needs of the people on the North Slope.”

Ultimately, the Biden administration stymied energy production within the NPR-A and failed to offer leases in a manner that would boost revenue and provide economic stability to the region and the State.

The most recent lease sale in the NPR-A took place in 2019, when the BLM leased over 1 million acres, generating more than \$11 million, including roughly \$5.6 million for the State of Alaska.

Revenue from developing these resources is essential to the livelihoods of all Alaskans. For example, in fiscal year 2022, Alaskan oil and natural gas production, largely driven by the consequences of the pro-energy policies of the first Trump administration, generated \$4.5 billion in State and local revenue and supported over 69,250 direct and indirect jobs.

Alaska’s role as a leader in unleashing American energy dominance will continue. In the Working Families Tax Cut Act, Congress highlighted the importance of the NPR-A and required five lease sales to be held in the area over the next 10 years.

To ensure our energy independence, we must unleash American energy and ensure access to our own resources here at home. This legislation is an important step in doing just that.

I thank Representative BEGICH and Senator SULLIVAN for their work to bring S.J. Res. 80 to the House floor so that we can nullify yet another misguided Biden-era action and take another step to put our Nation’s energy policy back on the right track.

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

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

I oppose S.J. Res. 80, which would overturn the BLM's 2022 Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, more commonly referred to as "NPR-A."

Now the name National Petroleum Reserve is more than a little misleading. This is not some industrial sacrifice zone. It is not some untapped oil field just waiting to be developed. On the contrary, the NPR-A is the largest contiguous unit of public lands in the United States. It spans 23 million acres, and this area of the western Arctic is home to a diverse ecosystem, where iconic species like wolves, polar bears, and caribou roam. Beluga and bowhead whales shelter in its coastal waters. Millions of migratory birds rely on this intact landscape and the critical waters and wetlands that are the NPR-A.

The legislation before us today would withdraw a smart and well-thought-out plan to balance conservation and development in the NPR-A. The 2022 NPR-A plan was developed over more than a decade of engagement with a variety of stakeholders: scientists, experts, indigenous communities, NGOs, and industry.

It aimed to limit the disruption and ecological harm from existing oil and gas development while also designating special areas to protect habitat for the many species that call this amazing place home.

I respect that there are a variety of views on how to manage our Nation's public lands, but it won't be possible for future administrations to incorporate feedback and comments on proposed actions in the NPR-A if Congress approves the resolution before us today.

The CRA, as we have said several times in the course of this debate, is a blunt instrument. It would prevent BLM from ever issuing a substantially similar replacement, and so this path would strip local land managers of the ability to respond to on-the-ground changes and needs for the future of the NPR-A.

My friends across the aisle don't need to do this. There are already processes in place for administrations to propose new management decisions if they don't like this plan. The Trump administration is doing just that already: pursuing updates to the land management plans that we have been debating here using the standard, inclusive mechanisms that allow for public input.

Interior Secretary Burgum withdrew conservation protections for the NPR-A in July. Just last week, the Interior Department finalized a new rule that overturned the previous plan.

The Congressional Review Act is simply the wrong tool to address any changes to management of these lands, and it is not even necessary.

Why do my Republican colleagues need to take up our valuable floor time here debating a rule that their friends

in the administration have already rescinded? They just returned from a 53-day, taxpayer-funded vacation, canceled 5 weeks of votes, and still have a long to-do list before the end of the year. That list, I hope, includes figuring out how to avoid another government shutdown in January.

You may wonder if my colleagues are spending time on polluter giveaways to maybe distract from something; maybe something like the fact that President Trump has been mentioned more than 1,000 times in the Epstein emails.

President Trump and House Republicans continue to push their drill, baby, drill agenda even though it makes no sense for people, for the planet, or for our pocketbooks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this distraction, this S.J. Res. 80, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I point out that, while the current administration did recently rescind the 2024 rule this month, passage of a CRA is still necessary to prevent a future administration from, again, weaponizing IAPs similar to this one that ignore congressional intent. By replacing the 2022 IAP, BLM wouldn't be left in limbo. They would revert back to the initial IAP finalized under the first Trump administration, which did take into account Native Tribal voices, and it is consistent with the requirements included in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the lead sponsor of the House companion to this legislation.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S.J. Res. 80, legislation to disapprove of the Bureau of Land Management's 2022 Integrated Activity Plan for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

Let me be very clear. This is not an abstract policy debate for the people of Alaska. This is about whether the Federal Government will honor both the law and its commitments to the people who call Alaska home and whether America will choose energy independence over energy uncertainty.

The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, an area the size of Indiana, was set aside more than a century ago to ensure that the United States had a strategic domestic energy supply. Congress reaffirmed that purpose in the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, directing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an "expeditious program of competitive leasing" in the NPR-A, but the 2022 Integrated Activity Plan issued in the final stretch of the last administration turned that congressional mandate on its head.

It shut the door on 48 percent of the reserve, reducing available acreage from 18.6 million acres to just 11.8 million acres, and restricted infrastructure corridors across millions more. In effect, the plan attempted to create a wilderness area in a petroleum reserve,

and it did so without listening to the people who actually live there.

Alaska is asking us to act.

The Inupiat people who live in the area have spoken, and they could not have been clearer. Through the North Slope Regional Trilateral—the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, the North Slope Borough, and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, we have heard that the Biden administration's 2022 plan imposed "sweeping restrictions that curtail responsible development, undermine congressional intent, and disregard the well-being of the people who depend on these lands for both subsistence and livelihoods."

These communities are located in an area nearly the size of Minnesota with no highway connections, extreme transportation costs, and a cost of living among the highest in the Nation. Oil and gas development funds their schools, their public safety, their utilities, their clinics, basic services that most Americans assume that their local government can provide. On the North Slope, that stability exists because responsible development exists, and we have a duty to ensure that it continues.

Alaska's business community stands with them. The Alaska Support Industry Alliance, representing 547 companies and 35,000 Alaskan workers, warned that the 2022 plan jeopardizes the jobs and investment that their families depend on. National organizations from the National Federation of Independent Businesses to the American Exploration & Production Council to the American Petroleum Institute have also voiced their support for reversing this restrictive rule, and the administration itself has made clear that restoring access to the NPR-A is a priority.

President Trump's Executive Order No. 14153, Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential, directs the Secretary of the Interior to review and rescind the 2022 decision and reestablish a balanced framework consistent with the 2020 plan.

□ 1800

This statement of administration policy strongly supports this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Alaska is ready to power America. We are ready to help lower energy costs for families and small businesses. We are ready to strengthen national security by reducing our reliance on foreign nations. The people who live in Alaska's Far North, the people whose ancestors have called the region home for 10,000 years, are asking us to restore the balanced, lawful management framework that they helped shape.

S.J. Res. 80 does exactly that. It restores congressional intent. It restores certainty for Alaska's communities. It restores America's strategic energy reserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S.J. Res. 80, and

to stand with Alaska, with energy workers, with the Inupiat people of the North Slope, and with an American future grounded in abundant, affordable, secure energy.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, ICAS, the North Slope Borough, and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, ASRC, that specifically states BLM failed to engage in meaningful government-to-government consultation with ASRC, the Borough, and ICAS.

This admission contradicts Federal consultation requirements and disregards the voices of the very communities most affected. Our leadership has consistently raised concerns about this process and its outcome, yet those concerns were ignored.

OCTOBER 3, 2025.

Re Support for S.J. Res. 80 and H.J. Res. 124—Congressional Review Act Disapproval of the BLM NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) Record of Decision (ROD).

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAN SULLIVAN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. NICHOLAS BEGICH III,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS MURKOWSKI, SULLIVAN, AND REPRESENTATIVE BEGICH: On behalf of the North Slope Inupiat leadership—including Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC), the North Slope Borough (Borough), and the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS)—we write in strong support of S.J. Res. 80, introduced by Senators Sullivan and Murkowski, and H.J. Res. 124 in the House, each providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to the “National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision.”

BACKGROUND

The North Slope Inupiat have called the Arctic home for over 10,000 years. We are proud of our self-determination efforts to ensure future generations of Inupiat continue to reside in our communities and have access to essential services. Without a stable economy, our communities will suffer, along with our ability to fully engage in and sustain our Inupiat cultural traditions, including our vital subsistence way of life.

The North Slope of Alaska spans an area nearly the size of the state of Minnesota and, within that expansive area, there are eight Inupiat communities—Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. None of our communities are connected by a permanent road system; all supplies must be flown or barged in, making the cost of living extremely high and economic opportunities generally low.

Over fifty years ago, the Federal Government directed Alaska Native people to organize into a new structure of indigenous representation. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) was a dramatically different and transformative approach by the Federal Government to federal Indian policy. The fact that our ancestral lands were claimed by the Federal Government before our people had a right to settle aboriginal land claims should inform every decision the Federal Government makes in managing those lands.

Unlike the Lower 48 model of indigenous representation where tribal governments typically administer the delivery of services such as healthcare, public safety, education, land management, and economic development, the passage of ANCSA created a shared system of Alaska Native representation and delivery of services. Our region has a multitude of Alaska Native entities that work together to effectively serve, provide for, and enrich the lives of the North Slope Inupiat we represent. Our three regional entities, the ICAS, the Borough, and ASRC are three of those entities. While our roles differ, our constituencies overlap, which is why we work closely together to protect the cultural and economic interests of the North Slope Inupiat.

While our leaders over fifty years ago were initially wary of any development on our lands, our Inupiat leaders have spent decades prioritizing open communication and transparency in planning with industry. We have exercised true self-determination through a unique framework of Alaska Native governance—a framework that relies on our tribal governments, municipal governments, and Alaska Native corporations established by Congress to serve our indigenous constituents. For millennia, Inupiat ingenuity has transformed our relationship with industry into a partnership that has both protected our environment and our way of life and has brought significant economic benefits to the region that would have otherwise been absent. Our North Slope residents are keenly aware that advances in our communities—running water, local schools, health care, public safety, electricity, and more—have come because of the coordination and cooperation of Alaska Native leaders and entities across the region.

ICAS

Established in 1971, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope is the federally recognized regional tribal government for the North Slope and represents over 14,000 Inupiat tribal members. The mission of ICAS is to exercise its sovereign rights and powers for the benefit of tribal members, to conserve and retain tribal lands and resources including subsistence. For millennia Inupiat ingenuity has transformed our relationship with industry into a partnership that has both protected our environment and our way of life and has brought significant economic benefits to the region that would have otherwise been absent. Our North Slope residents are keenly aware that advances in our communities—running water, local schools, health care, public safety, electricity, and more—have come because of the coordination and cooperation of Alaska Native leaders and entities across the region.

Borough

The Borough is a home rule government located above the Arctic Circle that represents roughly 10,000 residents. The Borough’s jurisdiction includes the entire National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and the eight villages within it. In 1972, the North Slope Inupiat formed the Borough, in part, to ensure our communities would benefit from oil and gas development on their ancestral homelands. It was the first time Alaska Natives took control of their destiny using a regional municipal government. The Borough exercises its powers of taxation, property assessment, education, and planning and zoning services to serve our communities. Taxes levied on oil and gas infrastructure, not development, have enabled the Borough to invest in public infrastructure and utilities, support education, and provide police, fire, emergency, health, and other services. Elsewhere in rural Alaska, these services are typically provided primarily by the State or Federal Government, or both.

ASRC

ASRC is a for-profit, land-owning Alaska Native regional corporation formed pursuant to ANCSA. ASRC represents the same region as the Borough and ICAS, and the same eight villages whose residents are predominantly Inupiat, and who comprise many of our over 14,000 Alaska Native shareholders. ASRC holds the title to approximately five million acres of land on the North Slope, including both surface and subsurface lands. These lands—the ancestral lands of the North Slope Inupiat—were conveyed to ASRC by the United States pursuant to ANCSA to provide for the economic and cultural well-being of our Inupiat shareholders.

ASRC is committed to both providing sound financial returns to our shareholders, through jobs and dividends, and to preserving our Inupiat way of life, culture, and traditions, including the ability to maintain a subsistence lifestyle that supports our communities. In furtherance of this congressionally mandated mission to provide benefits to our shareholders, ASRC conducts and continues to invest in a variety of activities related to infrastructure and natural resource development and other economic initiatives.

ASRC’s perspective is based on the dual realities that our Inupiat culture and communities depend on a healthy ecosystem and subsistence resources, as well as infrastructure and resource development as the foundation of sustainable North Slope communities.

DISAPPROVAL OF THE 2022 NPR-A IAP ROD

The NPR-A lies entirely within the homelands of the North Slope Inupiat. Congress established the NPR-A with a clear purpose: to ensure energy security for the Nation while respecting the needs of Alaska Natives. Instead, the 2022 Record of Decision (ROD) issued by BLM has imposed sweeping restrictions that curtail responsible development, undermine congressional intent, and disregard the well-being of the people who depend on these lands for both subsistence and livelihoods.

The impacts of the 2022 ROD are especially severe for the North Slope. Oil and gas development in the NPR-A funds the Borough’s schools, emergency services, and infrastructure. It supports jobs for Inupiat shareholders and residents. It underwrites the continuation of our communities, even as we maintain our subsistence way of life. By arbitrarily locking away vast portions of the NPR-A, BLM’s rule threatens these essential services and imposes disproportionate burdens on our people.

Equally concerning, BLM failed to engage in meaningful government-to-government consultation with ASRC, the Borough, and ICAS. This omission contradicts federal consultation requirements and disregards the voices of the very communities most affected. Our leadership has consistently raised concerns about this process and its outcomes, yet those concerns were ignored.

The 2022 ROD ignores congressional intent under ANCSA, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), the National Petroleum Reserve Production Act of 1976 (NPRPA), and the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1980. The 2022 ROD also disregards the economic needs of North Slope communities, and creates unnecessary obstacles to infrastructure, energy, and community health across the North Slope of Alaska.

SUPPORT FOR S.J. RES 80 AND H.J. RES. 124

For these reasons, our trilateral organizations strongly support passage of S.J. Res. 80 and H.J. Res. 124 to disapprove the 2022 NPR-A IAP ROD. Overturning this rule is necessary to restore balance to federal policy,

reaffirm Congress's intent for the NPR-A, and uphold the economic, cultural, and subsistence well-being of the North Slope Iñupiat.

Our identity, resilience, and survival are deeply rooted in our traditional lands that the NPR-A boundaries encompass. We take great pride in our ongoing efforts toward self-determination, focused on securing a future where future generations of Iñupiat can continue to live in our communities with access to the essential services they need to thrive. We thank you for your leadership on this important resolution and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that federal policies in the NPR-A reflect both national priorities and the needs of the people who call the Arctic home.

Sincerely,

NICOLE WOJCIECHOWSKI,
*President, Iñupiat
Community of the
Arctic Slope.*

JOSHUA PATKOTAK,
*Mayor, North Slope
Borough.*

REX A. ROCK SR.,
*President and CEO,
Arctic Slope Re-
gional Corporation.*

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

Mr. Speaker, again, the plan that this resolution targets for disapproval is not in place. It has been rescinded by the Trump administration. If ever there is a case for a misapplication of the CRA, it would be this right here.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it is an important time for us to step back and consider why using a CRA for any, frankly, public land management plan, but certainly for one that has already been rescinded, is just a recipe for uncertainty and conflict and litigation.

Nearly a third of our Nation's land mass, 640 million acres, is managed by the Federal Government. The Forest Service manages 193 million acres. BLM manages 244 million in addition to 713 million acres of Federal minerals.

For nearly 50 years, BLM and the Forest Service have managed these lands under management plans required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Forest Management Act. These plans, known as resource management plans, or RMPs, establish safeguards for watersheds and recreation areas. They facilitate energy development and grazing and logging and other commercial activities and provide a mechanism for harmonizing the needs of local communities with our national goals and perspectives.

Now, just a few months ago, we debated some other CRA resolutions targeting management plans, and we explained at that time how unprecedented that was. We still don't know the extent of chaos that is going to result from these actions that have already been taken, but we do know this: Under the CRA rules and "rules" is a technical term of art here, normally cannot go into effect unless they are submitted for congressional review.

Here is the problem, BLM and the Forest Service have never considered

RMPs to be rules that they would submit to Congress. They have just never done that, and that has long been the case under both Democratic and Republican Presidents with precedence being set by those Presidents.

Now that Congress has decided apparently to disapprove of individual RMPs, what does that mean for every other plan that is in place that wasn't submitted to Congress? What does that mean for the small businesses, the local communities, and other public land stakeholders who depend on a stable and predictable land use planning process? If the validity of these land use plans is challenged, then leases, permits, and other authorizations that depend on those plans could be called into question.

This is already creating uncertainty and delays, making it nearly impossible for new projects to proceed on time.

Here are a couple of examples for consideration. What would happen to the White River oil and gas resource management plan in Colorado, which authorizes 15,000 oil and gas wells? What about the Rosemont Copper plan amendment for Forest Service lands in Arizona, approving a 5,000-acre open pit mine in the Coronado National Forest? What about the TransWest Express and Gateway South RMP amendments for three transmission lines through Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah?

Does Interior now need to go back and submit all of those RMP amendments to Congress for approval under this new Republican interpretation of the CRA? Is Congress prepared to take on day-to-day management of public lands and minerals, thousands of miles from Washington, D.C.?

I don't think so, but I am not the only one who has concerns about this treadmill of litigation and conflict and uncertainty that is being created here.

Let me read a quote from Kathleen Sgamma, President Trump's first nominee for director of BLM. She said: "There are some additional legal risks that can arise from the CRA. It's uncharted ground, and if not used wisely, there could be some legal risks introduced and some bad legal precedent."

Just a few months ago, the House passed several other CRA resolutions, overturning land management plans. As we said at the time, that was unprecedented. These resolutions before us continue to chart unprecedented ground, and I don't think anyone, including my colleagues across the aisle, have thought a heck of a lot about where it leads.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would submit that a recipe for disaster is when an administration goes out on their own, goes around the laws that Congress passed, and implements bad rules on their way out the door and expects no repercussions from that.

I would say a recipe for good governance is when Congress acts within their

power to disapprove of these rules, and that is exactly what we are doing with the CRA to make sure that these rules are followed.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will point out that we have heard a number of times now that more drilling is necessary in the name of energy independence. I want to remind my colleagues that the United States is already the number one producer of oil in the world and the number one producer and exporter of gas in the world, but you would sure never know it when you look at the energy bills that are facing families all over this country.

It is abundantly clear that the drill, baby, drill agenda is not working for everyday Americans. As long as we are dependent on the fossil fuel roller coaster, American consumers will be at the whim of the global oil and gas market, but if we want energy independence and if we want lower utility bills, we need to get back on track with the transition to clean energy.

It is cheaper. It is safer. It is generated entirely here at home instead of being at the mercy of global price shocks like oil and gas just inherently are. Instead, this legislation would make us more reliant on fossil fuels and more entangled with the price effects of this fossil fuel roller coaster. Plus, oil from America's Arctic will not come online for many, many years.

The Willow project, for example, won't start until 2029. Meanwhile, the Arctic is warming four times faster than the rest of the world. Even at the Willow project, developer ConocoPhillips will use artificial chillers to freeze melting permafrost before drilling for oil. That is the kind of complexity and additional cost that is inherent in drilling in these remote pristine parts of the Arctic.

The project itself will release nearly 300 million metric tons of carbon pollution into the atmosphere over its lifetime, the equivalent of at least 66 coal-fired power plants.

Again, Mr. Speaker, if we want true energy independence and security, we need to combat the climate crisis and transition to clean, renewable energy.

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

□ 1810

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I strongly oppose this resolution.

The three Congressional Review Act resolutions that we have been considering here today are going to strip local land managers of the ability to respond to future challenges, changes,

and needs in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the NPR-A, and the Powder River Basin. If these reckless resolutions pass, these places will be locked into outdated plans that fail to account for changes in community needs, industry needs, and, yes, climate-driven impacts.

These CRA resolutions are completely unnecessary because the Trump administration has already acted on their own to replace these plans.

Even oil and gas industry experts across the political spectrum agree that the use of the CRA on land use plans creates regulatory and legal ambiguity. In fact, Kathleen Sgamma, as I just told you, President Trump's former nominee to lead the BLM, recently said—and it is a quote worth repeating—“There could be some legal risks introduced and some bad legal precedent” when using CRAs in this manner. Yet, apparently, my friends across the aisle are just going to do it anyway.

Sgamma led the Western Energy Alliance, an oil and gas industry trade association. She has testified for the House Committee on Natural Resources majority many times.

This misuse of the CRA will create regulatory chaos for everyone, including the industry, so I ask my colleagues across the aisle: Why pursue it?

House Republicans are continuing to lock the American people into higher energy costs by pushing their fossil fuel playbook and sabotaging clean, renewable energy.

Our constituents deserve better. They deserve a future with clean and affordable energy, where utility bills aren't skyrocketing and where we know our lands and waters won't suffer as a result.

That is why I oppose this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting “no.”

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it has been stated that gas and energy prices won't be reduced by passing this CRA, and I contend that they will because overturning these rules would incentivize much-needed investment throughout the State or the entire North Slope.

The regional impacts of increased energy production in Alaska cannot be overstated. Refineries in the region, including California and Washington, are equipped to handle Alaskan oil, and the refinery in Kenai produces most of the State of Alaska's gasoline. The North Pole refinery provides jet fuel for our military, amongst other aviation fuels. Two other refineries located in Valdez and near Fairbanks also produce diesel and heating fuels.

Let me point out that 3 out of 10 State households in Alaska rely on fuel oil, kerosene, or propane for home heating. You may ask why they would rely on these fuels that are traditionally more expensive when Alaska has

trillions of cubic feet of natural gas. That is because that natural gas is on the North Slope, and even in the city of Anchorage, they are running out of natural gas because they can't move the gas from the North Slope and can't develop infrastructure. Not only can they not meet their own needs with that gas, they certainly can't export it to our allies.

As many have shared, the NPR-A is essential to unleashing American energy dominance and sustaining economies throughout Alaska.

Congress must also act to undo the harm that the previous administration imposed, and we must work to unlock the estimated 8.7 billion barrels of oil and 25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas the NPR-A holds.

By repealing this decision, we can help uphold Tribal voices and revert to the 2020 IAP that considered their meaningful input.

Letting these plans to shut down energy production in the NPR-A linger would be devastating to Alaskans, especially the Native communities on the North Slope. Without jobs, people may leave these communities, jeopardizing the culture and social fabric of the region. We cannot afford to let this happen. We must pass S.J. Res. 80.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

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

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

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Censuring Representative CORY MILLS.

Whereas Representative CORY MILLS has on several occasions conducted

himself in a manner that reflects discredit upon the House of Representatives;

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

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

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

Whereas NBC4 Washington also reported that the Metropolitan Police Department identified Representative CORY MILLS as the significant other of the alleged victim of assault—which alleged victim was a 27-year-old woman who was not the wife of Representative CORY MILLS—and that the alleged victim “let officers hear Subject 1 [now identified by MPD as MILLS] instruct her to lie about the origin of her bruises . . . Eventually, Subject 1 made contact with police and admitted that the situation escalated from verbal to physical, but it was severe enough to create bruising”;

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

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

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

Whereas on October 14, 2025, the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit in Columbia County, Florida, issued a Final Judgment of Injunction for Protection Against Dating Violence against Representative CORY MILLS, based on a finding that his former romantic partner was a victim of dating violence or had reasonable cause to believe she was in imminent danger of becoming a victim of an act of dating violence;

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

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

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

Whereas five people who served with Representative CORY MILLS, including two men who were reported as having been personally saved by Representative CORY MILLS at great risk to his own life as a basis for the recommendation for his Bronze Star in the Depart-

ment of the Army Form 638, disputed that Representative CORY MILLS was involved in their rescue or provided life-saving care;

Whereas one Private First Class cited as having been involved in one of the listed achievements on Representative CORY MILLS's Army Form 638 recommending him for a Bronze Star denied that Representative CORY MILLS provided him any aid and also denied that his injuries were life threatening;

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

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

Resolved, That—

(1) Representative CORY MILLS be censured;

(2) Representative CORY MILLS forthwith present himself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure;

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

(4) Representative CORY MILLS is hereby removed from the following standing committee of the House of Representatives: the Committee on Armed Services.

□ 1820

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

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution by the gentlewoman from New York will appear in the RECORD at this point.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2016

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 8 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.

REQUESTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO AUTHORIZE UNIQUE AND ONE-TIME DISPLAYS ON THE NATIONAL MALL AND WASHINGTON MONUMENT BEGINNING DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND ENDING JANUARY 5, 2026

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 133) requesting the Secretary of the Interior to authorize unique and one-time arrangements for displays on the National Mall and the Washington Monument during the period beginning on December 31, 2025, and ending on January 5, 2026, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 133

Whereas the Second Continental Congress unanimously agreed to adopt the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, in which the Second Continental Congress declared a complete break with Britain and the king and claimed the powers of an independent country;

Whereas the founding of the United States represented a historic world event that has improved the lives of the people of the United States and the people of other nations in profound ways for centuries;

Whereas the ideas of the founding fathers, including representative government, guaranteed rights, and national sovereignty, inspire all people of the United States to this day;

Whereas, on July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of the independence and founding of the United States will be commemorated and celebrated;

Whereas Congress enacted the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (36 U.S.C. note prec. 101; Public Law 114-196) to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the history of the United States leading up to the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States;

Whereas the United States Semiquincentennial Commission has planned, coordinated, and inspired celebrations of the 250th anniversary across the United States to mark the occasion;

Whereas New Year's Eve in 2025 marks the boundary between the 249th and 250th year of the United States, will bring the people of the United States together, and will be a fitting date to initiate celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the United States in earnest;

Whereas Congress explored lighting the Washington Monument and other capital monuments at night during calendar year 1976 to celebrate the bicentennial of the United States;

Whereas the National Mall hosted the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Apollo 11 lunar landing in 2019, which included the display of NASA and Smithsonian artifacts on the National Mall for 5 days and concluded each night with an inspiring video program that projected footage from the Apollo 11 program on the Washington Monument;

Whereas the commemoration of the Apollo 11 lunar landing was attended by over 500,000 people from all over the United States who gathered over a period of 5 days to celebrate the historic achievements of the Apollo program and watched the video program centered on the Washington Monument;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of people of the United States visit Washington, DC, each holiday season and attend outdoor exhibits;

Whereas Washington, DC, is uniquely suitable to host the people of the United States for inaugural United States semiquincentennial festivities; and

Whereas the Washington Monument is central to the Washington, DC, landscape and commemorates one of the most prominent figures in the founding of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—

(1) requests the Secretary of the Interior to authorize unique and one-time arrangements for the display of United States semiquincentennial materials and other significant artifacts, digital content, film footage, and associated audio and imagery in and around the vicinity of the National Mall, including projected onto the surface of the Washington Monument for 5 nights of public display, during the period beginning on December 31, 2025, and ending on January 5, 2026; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) the Chair of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.J. Res. 130;

Passage of H.J. Res. 131;

Passage of S.J. Res. 80; and

Adoption of H. Res. 888.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO “BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE RECORD OF DECISION AND AP- PROVED RESOURCE MANAGE- MENT PLAN AMENDMENT”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of

the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 130) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment”, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 212, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 294]

YEAS—214

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

NAYS—212

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

NOT VOTING—7

Casas	Rutherford	Womack
Kelly (MS)	Sherrill	
Rulli	Swalwell	

□ 2046

Mr. PANETTA and Ms. MCCOLLUM changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. GARBARINO changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 209, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 295]

YEAS—217

Aderholt	Fine	Langworthy
Alford	Finstad	Latta
Allen	Fischbach	Lawler
Amodei (NV)	Fitzgerald	Lee (FL)
Arrington	Fleischmann	Letlow
Babin	Flood	Loudermilk
Bacon	Fong	Lucas
Baird	Fox	Luna
Balderson	Franklin, Scott	Luttrell
Barr	Fry	Mace
Barrett	Fulcher	Mackenzie
Baumgartner	Garbarino	Malliotakis
Bean (FL)	Gill (TX)	Maloy
Begich	Gimenez	Mann
Bentz	Goldman (TX)	Massie
Bergman	Gonzales, Tony	Mast
Bice	Gonzalez, V.	McCaul
Biggs (AZ)	Gooden	McClain
Biggs (SC)	Gosar	McClintock
Billirakis	Graves	McCormick
Boebert	Greene (GA)	McDowell
Bost	Griffith	McGuire
Brecheen	Grothman	Messmer
Bresnahan	Guest	Meuser
Buchanan	Guthrie	Miller (IL)
Burchett	Hageman	Miller (OH)
Burlison	Hamadeh (AZ)	Miller (WV)
Calvert	Haridopolos	Miller-Meeks
Cammack	Harrigan	Mills
Carey	Harris (MD)	Moolenaar
Carter (GA)	Harris (NC)	Moore (AL)
Carter (TX)	Harshbarger	Moore (NC)
Ciscomani	Hern (OK)	Moore (UT)
Cline	Higgins (LA)	Moore (WV)
Cloud	Hill (AR)	Moran
Clyde	Hinson	Murphy
Cole	Houchin	Nehls
Collins	Hudson	Newhouse
Comer	Huizenga	Norman
Costa	Hunt	Nunn (IA)
Crane	Hurd (CO)	Oberholte
Crank	Issa	Ogles
Crawford	Jack	Onder
Crenshaw	Jackson (TX)	Owens
Cuellar	James	Palmer
Davidson	Johnson (LA)	Patronis
De La Cruz	Johnson (SD)	Perry
DesJarlais	Jordan	Pfleger
Diaz-Balart	Joyce (OH)	Reschenthaler
Donalds	Joyce (PA)	Rogers (AL)
Downing	Kean	Rogers (KY)
Dunn (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Rose
Edwards	Kennedy (UT)	Rouzer
Ellzey	Kiggans (VA)	Roy
Emmer	Kiley (CA)	Salazar
Estes	Kim	Scallise
Evans (CO)	Knott	Schmidt
Ezell	Kustoff	Schweikert
Fallon	LaHood	Scott, Austin
Fedorchak	LaLota	Self
Feenstra	LaMalfa	Sessions

Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong

Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dyne
Van Orden
Wagner

Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—209

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

Casas
Kelly (MS)
Rulli

NOT VOTING—7

Rutherford
Sherrill
Swalwell

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

Womack
Rogers
Sherrill
Swalwell

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN RECORD OF DECISION"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 80) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 209, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 296]

YEAS—216

Aderholt	Edwards	Jack
Alford	Ellzey	Jackson (TX)
Allen	Emmer	James
Amodei (NV)	Estes	Johnson (LA)
Arrington	Evans (CO)	Johnson (SD)
Babin	Ezell	Jordan
Bacon	Fallon	Joyce (OH)
Baird	Fedorchak	Joyce (PA)
Balderson	Feenstra	Kean
Barr	Fine	Kelly (PA)
Barrett	Finstad	Kennedy (UT)
Baumgartner	Fischbach	Kiggans (VA)
Bean (FL)	Fitzgerald	Kiley (CA)
Begich	Fleischmann	Kim
Bentz	Flood	Knott
Bergman	Fong	Kustoff
Bice	Fox	LaHood
Biggs (AZ)	Franklin, Scott	LaLota
Biggs (SC)	Fry	LaMalfa
Billirakis	Fulcher	Langworthy
Boebert	Garbarino	Latta
Bost	Gill (TX)	Lawler
Brecheen	Gimenez	Lee (FL)
Bresnahan	Goldman (TX)	Letlow
Buchanan	Gonzales, Tony	Loudermilk
Burchett	Gonzalez, V.	Lucas
Burlison	Gooden	Luna
Calvert	Gosar	Luttrell
Cammack	Graves	Mace
Carey	Greene (GA)	Mackenzie
Carter (GA)	Griffith	Malliotakis
Carter (TX)	Grothman	Maloy
Ciscomani	Guest	Mann
Cline	Guthrie	Massie
Cloud	Hageman	Mast
Clyde	Hamadeh (AZ)	McCaul
Cole	Haridopolos	McClain
Collins	Harrigan	McClintock
Comer	Harris (MD)	McCormick
Costa	Harris (NC)	McDowell
Crane	Harshbarger	McGuire
Crank	Hern (OK)	Messmer
Crawford	Higgins (LA)	Meuser
Crenshaw	Hill (AR)	Miller (IL)
Cuellar	Hinson	Miller (OH)
Davidson	Houchin	Miller (WV)
DesJarlais	Hudson	Miller-Meeks
Diaz-Balart	Huizenga	Mills
Donalds	Hunt	Moolenaar
Downing	Hurd (CO)	Moore (AL)
Dunn (FL)	Issa	Moore (NC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 2052

So the joint resolution was passed.

Moore (UT) Roy
Moore (WV) Salazar
Moran Scalise
Murphy Schmidt
Nehls Schweikert
Newhouse Scott, Austin
Norman Self
Nunn (IA) Sessions
Oberholte Shreve
Ogles Simpson
Onder Smith (MO)
Owens Smith (NE)
Palmer Smith (NJ)
Patronis Smucker
Perry Spartz
Pfluger Stauber
Reschenthaler Stefanik
Rogers (AL) Steil
Rogers (KY) Steube
Rose Strong
Rouzer Stutzman

NAYS—209

Adams Goldman (NY) Omar
Aguilar Gomez
Amo Goodlander
Ansari Gottheimer
Auchincloss Gray
Balint Green, Al (TX)
Barragán Grijalva
Beatty Harder (CA)
Bell Hayes
Bera Himes
Beyer Horsford
Bishop Houlihan
Bonamici Hoyer
Boyle (PA) Hoyle (OR)
Brown Huffman
Brownley Ivey
Budzinski Jackson (IL)
Bynum Jacobs
Carbajal Jayapal
Carson Jeffries
Carter (LA) Johnson (GA)
Case Johnson (TX)
Casten Kamlager-Dove
Castor (FL) Kaptur
Castro (TX) Keating
Cherfilus-Kelly (IL)
McCormick Kennedy (NY)
Chu Khanna
Cisneros Krishnamoorthi
Clark (MA) Landsman
Clarke (NY) Larsen (WA)
Cleave Larson (CT)
Clyburn Latimer
Cohen Lee (NV)
Conaway Lee (PA)
Correa Leger Fernandez
Courtney Levin
Craig Liccardo
Crockett Lieu
Crow Lofgren
Davids (KS) Lynch
Davis (IL) Magaziner
Davis (NC) Mannion
Dean (PA) Matsui
DeGette McBath
DeLauro McBride
DelBene McClain Delaney
Deluzio McClellan
DeSaulnier McCollum
Dexter McDonald Rivet
Dingell McGarvey
Doggett McGovern
Elfreth McIver
Escobar Meeks
Espallat Menendez
Evans (PA) Meng
Fields Mfume
Figures Min
Fitzpatrick Moore (WI)
Fletcher Morelle
Foster Morrison
Foushee Moskowitz
Frankel, Lois Moulton
Friedman Mrvan
Frost Mullin
Garamendi Nadler
Garcia (CA) Neal
Garcia (IL) Neguse
Garcia (TX) Norcross
Gillen Ocasio-Cortez
Golden (ME) Olszewski

NOT VOTING—8

Casas Rulli
De La Cruz Rutherford
Kelly (MS) Sherrill

Taylor Tenney
Thompson (PA) Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud

Swallow
Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 2059

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CENSURING AND CONDEMNING DELEGATE STACEY PLASKETT AND REMOVING HER FROM THE HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR CONDUCT THAT REFLECTS DISCREDITABLY ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR COLLUDING WITH CONVICTED FELONY SEX OFFENDER JEFFREY EPSTEIN DURING A CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 888) censuring and condemning Delegate STACEY PLASKETT and removing her from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for conduct that reflects discreditably on the House of Representatives for colluding with convicted felony sex offender Jeffrey Epstein during a congressional hearing, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 209, nays 214, answered “present” 3, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 297]

YEAS—209

Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Franklin, Scott

Fry
Fulcher
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gosar
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)

Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Bacon
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleave
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espallat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures

Messmer
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self

NAYS—214

Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Bacon
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBath
McBride

Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto

Stansbury	Titus	Veasey
Stanton	Tlaib	Velázquez
Stevens	Tokuda	Vindman
Strickland	Tonko	Walkinshaw
Subramanyam	Torres (CA)	Wasserman
Suozi	Torres (NY)	Schultz
Sykes	Trahan	Waters
Takano	Tran	Watson Coleman
Thanedar	Underwood	Whitesides
Thompson (CA)	Vargas	Williams (GA)
Thompson (MS)	Vasquez	Wilson (FL)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—3

Garbarino	Meuser	Obernolte
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NOT VOTING—7

Casar	Rutherford	Womack
Kelly (MS)	Sherrill	
Rulli	Swalwell	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 2107

So the resolution was not agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 294, YEA on Roll Call No. 295, YEA on Roll Call No. 296, and YEA on Roll Call No. 297.

□ 2110

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Speaker of the House of Representatives can explain why leadership on both sides, both Democrat and Republican, are cutting back-end deals to cover up public corruption in the House of Representatives for both Republican and Democrat Members of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much, but I think the American people know what happened tonight.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING 14 KENTUCKIANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT LOUISVILLE MUHAMMAD ALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago tonight, our community of Louisville, our State of Kentucky, was absolutely rocked when a cargo plane taking off from Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport bound for Hawaii crashed.

Mr. Speaker, 38,000 gallons of jet fuel exploded in our community in a scene

that can only be described as apocalyptic.

All three crew lost their lives, as well as 11 people on the ground. Mr. Speaker, 14 of our neighbors, 14 of our community, gone.

The first responders were incredibly brave, rushing headfirst into the inferno to save everything they could. Our community, our State, our delegation, we did what Louisvillians and Kentuckians do and lifted each other up as best as possible.

Tonight, we want to express our gratitude for those who went headfirst into that danger, for those who lifted each other up, and we want to offer a moment of silence for the 14 people who lost their lives.

□ 2120

HONORING COMMUNITY OF GRAND BLANC, MICHIGAN

(Ms. McDONALD RIVET asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. McDONALD RIVET. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by my colleagues from Michigan as we honor the community of Grand Blanc and the victims and families of the shooting and fire at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

On the morning of Sunday, September 28, families, friends, and neighbors gathered to worship when a gunman crashed his car into the church, set the church on fire, and began shooting into the congregation.

Ultimately, four members of our community were taken from us that morning. Today and for many days to follow, we will mourn for each of them, their families, every congregant of the church, and all of those impacted by this senseless act of violence.

This kind of violence, specifically in a place of worship where we go to pray and reflect in peace, is despicable, and no one should ever have to go through this.

We also extend profound gratitude to the heroic first responders: the law enforcement officers who responded to the scene within seconds; the 911 dispatchers who coordinated an instantaneous response; the firefighters who got people to safety; and the local EMTs, nurses, and doctors who treated the injured. Their bravery and quick action saved lives.

As the community heals from this moment of incredible darkness, they unify and find light under the motto: Grand Blanc, Better Together.

Residents specifically asked me to bring this message to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Today, may the whole Nation learn from their example, and may we always stand better together with Grand Blanc. They remind us that it is our differences that make our country stronger and that it is the way we love one another that will define us.

For them, may we all seek to bring peace, understanding, and love to this

world, and let us never forget their loss.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Thursday marks National Rural Health Day.

Nearly 60 million Americans live in rural areas, and they too often encounter limited access to primary care specialists and health services. These gaps are worsened by transportation barriers, doctor shortages, and hospital closures. These challenges don't just affect individuals; they affect entire families and communities.

Before coming to Congress, I spent nearly 30 years in the nonprofit healthcare field, assisting those with life-changing diseases and disabilities.

Most of my congressional district is rural, and many constituents must drive long distances to get the care that they need. Some do not have broadband access. Some have limited transportation options. Thankfully, telehealth has added tremendous reach and value to communities across the country.

That is why I reintroduced the bipartisan Helping Ensure Access to Local TeleHealth Act, or the HEALTH Act, which cuts red tape and allows community health centers and rural health clinics to provide telehealth services to their patients. Telehealth makes life simpler for rural and underserved communities, especially for our seniors. Telehealth is an essential part of healthcare that expands access to care for all Americans, regardless of location.

REMEMBERING JAMAL KHASHOGGI

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, given the President's disturbing and counterfactual defense of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman today, I feel compelled to speak up on behalf of Mr. Khashoggi and his family and the American people.

During my tenure on Trump's White House National Security Council staff, I reviewed many of Trump's calls with foreign leaders. Of all of the calls I reviewed, two stood out as the most problematic.

The first, we all know. It was between President Trump and President Zelenskyy, which resulted in President Trump's first impeachment. The second was between President Trump and Mohammed bin Salman.

After the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, I reviewed a call between the President and the Saudi Crown

Prince. The American people and the Khashoggi family deserve to know what was said on that call.

If history is any guide, the receipts will be shocking. I call on the President to release that transcript.

Honestly, does anyone believe that the Zelenskyy call was the only problematic conversation Donald Trump had with a foreign leader?

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, in small towns and communities across America, rural hospitals are critical lifelines. They provide emergency care, support seniors and veterans, deliver behavioral health services, assist mothers who are giving birth, supply pharmacy services, and serve as major local employers.

Yet, many rural hospitals are under serious strain. Nearly half are operating at negative margins. Since 2010, more than 150 rural hospitals have cut inpatient services or closed their doors permanently, including some in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

These closures aren't happening because communities don't need care but because the financial reality of providing it in rural America keeps getting tougher.

When a rural hospital closes, families face hours-long drives in emergency situations, expectant mothers lose access to obstetric care, and seniors suffering from a heart attack or a stroke may arrive too late.

As we mark National Rural Health Day this week, we must renew and strengthen our commitment to rural hospitals by ensuring fair reimbursement, strengthening telehealth and infrastructure, and preserving access to critical resources like the 340B drug program, a key revenue stream for rural hospitals.

Rural hospitals must not only survive but thrive. We need to keep that because it is not about ZIP Codes.

CALLING FOR QUICK ACTION

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to bring attention to the Senate's despicable decision last week to sneak in a self-serving provision into the bill that was used to reopen the government.

While 42 million Americans on SNAP were denied their benefits, Senate leadership added a payout provision to eight Senate Republicans whose phone records were subpoenaed in the January 6 Capitol riot investigation by the Department of Justice.

While American air traffic controllers worked without pay, Senators gave

themselves the ability to sue for at least \$500,000 if their electronic records were seized.

American taxpayers should not be footing the bill for this Republican windfall provision. I am proud of my House colleagues for acting quickly to address this dishonest and embarrassing display.

I will be voting to repeal this provision when it comes in before the House this week because these eight Senators should not be putting themselves ahead of the American people.

I call on the Senate to take up this legislation as soon as it is received from the House and to right this wrong immediately.

□ 2130

RECOGNIZING MAYOR KEVIN COTTON

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Mayor Kevin Cotton of Madisonville, Kentucky, who was recently honored as the 2025 Elected City Official of the Year by the Kentucky League of Cities.

Mayor Cotton's exemplary leadership, dedication, and service to his community have left an indelible mark on the city of Madisonville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Selected from nominations all across the State, Mayor Cotton stood out for his innovative, hands-on approach and tireless commitment to making a positive difference. He received a record 12 nominations, many from city staff, who praised his unwavering dedication and lifelong commitment to the city.

His peers and colleagues see him as a humble leader whose focus on Madisonville's growth and success goes far beyond the expectations of his role.

In addition to this remarkable honor, Mayor Cotton was recognized for his 4 years of dedicated service as a member of the Kentucky League of Cities Executive Board and was presented with a copy of the Athenian Oath in recognition of his commitment.

On behalf of Kentucky's First Congressional District, I join with Mayor Cotton's family, friends, and citizens of Madisonville in celebrating his outstanding leadership and dedication.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTHCARE WEEK

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

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, rural Georgians and rural Americans are older, sicker, and less likely to have health insurance than those in our cities. In fact, compared to urban areas, rural Georgians are nearly five times more likely to die early from cancer.

However, access to care is collapsing. Over 20 percent of rural counties in Georgia have no doctor or only one doctor, and 200 counties across America have no doctor at all.

When rural hospitals close, the community loses not only healthcare but jobs, restaurants, banks, and hope. When Southwest Georgia Regional Hospital closed, the nearest ER became 40 miles away, a life or death distance.

Rural healthcare is not just about hospitals and doctors. Clean drinking water, wastewater upgrades, and broadband are necessary for health and survival. Rural areas simply don't have the tax base to modernize these systems alone, so Congress must invest funding in rural development, energy, and healthcare to ensure they can thrive.

Mr. Speaker, rural health is not partisan. We must work together to make access to care a reality for rural Americans everywhere.

BRING THE SENSELESS REDISTRICTING WAR TO AN END

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the moment to bring the senseless redistricting war to an end.

Today, a Federal District Court tossed out the gerrymandered map in Texas with an appeal headed straight to the Supreme Court. California's gerrymandered map is facing a similar legal challenge. We don't know how these cases will turn out, so there is uncertainty at this moment whether the whole redistricting war is going to end as a wash or with a modest advantage for one party or the other.

Now, it really shouldn't matter. I am against gerrymandering wherever it occurs no matter which party stands to benefit, but this present uncertainty has created a window of opportunity for a bipartisan agreement to bring this madness to an end.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 4889 to ban mid-decade redistricting in every State in the country. I am calling on House leadership to do the right thing and bring this bill to the floor for a vote. Not only is it supported widely by Members in this body but a poll showed that the American people support this proposal by a 3 to 1 margin. Let's pass this legislation and restore a dose of sanity to politics in this country.

RIISING HEALTHCARE COSTS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of National Health Month, let me put some quotes out there from individuals that I represent.

Just in Ohio, we know health insurance will become unaffordable for tens

of thousands of people across our northwest Ohio district, over half a million Ohioans, and 15 million Americans.

Please let me share some examples. A constituent from Clyde, Ohio, said it clearly: High insurance prices will allow people to die by making healthcare unaffordable. It was terrible before the ACA. We need affordable health insurance.

Another citizen from Edon in Williams County shared how their medications had become so costly that they now have to seek out patient assistance programs. Their prescription insurance has increased by \$119 a month, which is unmanageable on a fixed income.

A Toledo resident told me that everything is going up. Groceries cost more as well as childcare and rent. Unless Congress acts, health insurance premiums for us will double. Our family cannot make it. We don't have an extra \$100 per month.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you are listening to these pleas because unless we address the cost of health insurance in this country, too many people are going to die.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS RELY ON RURAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Rural Health Day to honor the millions of Americans who rely on rural healthcare systems and to shine a light on the unique challenges faced by our rural and territory communities.

In places like Guam, distance is not measured in miles but in oceans. When a family needs specialty care, when a child requires emergency service, and when one of our manamko seeks follow-up treatment, the nearest option may be thousands of miles away.

Hospitals and healthcare facilities across our Nation, including Guam Memorial Hospital, bear tremendous responsibility with limited resources. It is the doctors, the nurses, and allied health professionals at Guam who meet the responsibility every day. They provide lifesaving care despite higher costs, workforce shortages, and outdated reimbursement formulas.

Financial sustainability for these institutions is not just about healthcare. It is about equality, economic stability, and national security. That is why I am working on policies to strengthen reimbursement, modernize Federal support programs, and expand workforce pipelines so every community, no matter how remote, can count on its providers and hospitals for quality care.

PRESERVING RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS IS LITERALLY LIFE AND DEATH

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

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of a district full of forests, mountains, and rugged coastlines that are beautiful but often mean a long drive to the hospital, I know that preserving rural healthcare access is literally life and death in our communities.

Tribal health clinics, federally qualified health centers, rural hospitals, and independent providers are facing challenge upon challenge upon challenge. At Grays Harbor Community Hospital, I saw firsthand how tariffs are driving up costs for medical devices and supplies, adding financial strain to already stretched rural facilities.

The hospital recently invested in a new MRI machine, a critical upgrade that offers faster scans and higher resolution images, but because of tariffs, they had to pay significantly more money to purchase this machine. That is money they now can't use for other things.

Advanced medical equipment like this is increasingly expensive under the Trump administration. Add to that the Medicaid cuts in the big, ugly bill and the end of the ACA tax credits, the strain and uncertainty is challenging.

On National Rural Health Day, we should be working together to expand care, not making it more difficult for rural communities.

SERVING 35 YEARS AGO AS A PAGE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

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

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, every time I come on to this floor, I marvel at the fact that I get the opportunity to serve here, but today it means a lot more because 35 years ago as a page in this institution, my mom used to come and watch me every day.

She would come and sit in the gallery over there never knowing that 35 years later, her son would ultimately serve in Congress. Frankly, had you asked me 1 year ago today, I would have told you that I would not expect to be serving here.

However, it was 1 year ago today that my mom died. It was 5 days after that that President Trump asked me to run. Today, as I mourn my mother on the 1-year anniversary of her death, I think of all of the things that I can do to make sure that I make her proud in how I served her every day because as I often say to my constituents, I won't let you down because I am not going to let her down.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF POLICE OFFICER WALLIE HOWARD, JR.

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

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Syracuse Police Officer Wallie Howard, Jr.

Officer Howard was a son of Syracuse, a Henninger graduate, a Syracuse University student, and a respected member of the Syracuse Police Department.

He dedicated his life to protecting our community, serving with distinction on the Central New York DEA Task Force.

On October 30, 1990, during an undercover narcotics investigation, Officer Howard was ambushed and killed in the line of duty. His death marked the first line-of-duty death for a Syracuse officer since 1929.

For decades, his legacy has guided law enforcement training across the country, and awards in his name continue to honor excellence, bravery, and service.

It is time to bestow another lasting honor on this Syracuse hero. That is why I have introduced bipartisan legislation to rename the post office at 2200 South Salina Street in Syracuse as the Officer Wallie Howard, Jr. Post Office Building.

This designation ensures that in the everyday life of the city he protected, Syracuse, New York, Officer Howard's name, sacrifice, and example will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the overwhelming majority of the New York delegation that are cosponsoring this bill, and I urge all my colleagues to support it and to help a great American city honor a great American hero who gave everything for his community.

□ 2140

REMEMBERING IRYNA ZARUTSKA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to remember and make sure we don't forget the name and the likeness of Iryna Zarutska, a Ukrainian refugee who successfully made it safely to this country, to North Carolina, where she innocently one evening was riding a transit train and had her life brutally taken away from her by a 13- or 14-time arrested criminal for no reason other than a thrill kill.

We need not forget, as it doesn't seem to be playing very far into the news, this tragic loss. Remember the name, the face of Iryna Zarutska, and hope that she gets justice from the prosecution of this animal currently in court.

HONORING FORMER ARLINGTON MAYOR ELZIE ODOM

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend in Arlington, Texas, who passed away, the former mayor of Arlington, Elzie Odom. He was 96 years old. Mayor Odom was a trailblazer in every sense of the word. Born in east Texas, he moved to Arlington and made his mark in the city very quickly.

His journey was a testament to a determination of dignity and faith. He was an elected official in Arlington for 14 years and very active in the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, where he and his wife, Ruby, of 78 years spent most of their time worshipping.

He was very instrumental in making sure that we kept General Motors in Arlington. We almost lost the plant back in the 1990s, and it was Elzie's leadership that helped us keep the plant. He kept the Texas Rangers baseball club there as well. He talked about bringing the Olympics to Arlington, and people didn't believe it would happen, but then it got serious consideration, and we were on the short list.

This was an incredible man.

His daughter, who is on the city council, Barbara Odom-Wesley, said that he taught others that "service is the price you pay for the space you occupy."

I have to tell you there are so many things that I can say great about Mayor Odom, but this man absolutely loved his family. His grandkids called him Grandee, and he and his wife of 78 years had one of the most beautiful relationships in all of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE KIRK

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that not even 7 weeks have gone by since Charlie Kirk was savagely murdered in Utah.

I am, quite frankly, a little bit disappointed at the degree to which I do not feel that this body is doing enough to memorialize this great man's short life. I, myself, am reading books by Charlie Kirk to familiarize myself with what drove him to be such an active force in American civil life.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the rest of this body familiarize themselves with the books and familiarize themselves with why so many Members on the left could not contain themselves, apparently even horrifically with glee, that Charlie Kirk was shot.

I ask particularly my Republican colleagues to familiarize themselves with his writings and let his writings inspire us for the next 13½ months of this term

so that we can begin to accomplish all of the wonderful things he wanted us to accomplish, which he so eloquently pointed out where we were failing to accomplish them.

RURAL MENTAL HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the growing mental health care crisis in rural America.

Nearly one in five adults live with a mental illness, yet rural communities lack the providers, facilities, and resources to meet their needs. In my own district, an entire county has only one child and adolescent psychiatrist. For families seeking timely specialized care, that is not just an inconvenience. It is a barrier that can mean the difference between preventative help and a crisis.

Communities across the country face the same impossible math: too many needs and too few providers.

That is why I have introduced legislation to support clinicians who commit to practicing in rural areas and to expand telemental health services tailored to farmers, fishers, and foresters, the people who power our rural economies.

Access to quality care should not depend on your ZIP Code. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring rural Americans are no longer overlooked or underserved.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. TOKUDA of Hawaii was recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HURD of Colorado). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate National Rural Health Day here on the House floor, standing shoulder to shoulder with our colleagues in the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus. I am very humbled and honored to be here with my friend and fellow co-chair, Representative DIANA HARSHBARGER.

A big mahalo, as we have just heard from Members on both sides of the aisle, who took to the floor to raise up the needs, the challenges, the hopes, and the dreams for healthcare in rural America.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER).

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Rural Health Month and to honor the men and women who keep healthcare alive in America's small towns and rural communities.

As co-chair of the Congressional Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus, I am proud to join my colleagues in leading an effort to ensure the millions of Americans who live in rural areas, including the hardworking people of Tennessee's First District, receive the same quality of care as anyone else in the Nation.

In northeast Tennessee, rural healthcare is a lifeline to people, especially those who live in remote areas and are limited or have no mode of transportation. They depend on a nurse to drive during the night and before dawn to check on a patient or the pharmacist who knows every family by name and stretches every dollar to keep medicine affordable. It is the doctor who stays late to see one more patient because there is no one else to take the next shift.

These are the people who form the backbone of our rural healthcare communities, and they deserve a system that works as hard for them as they do for us.

The truth is, rural healthcare has always faced an uphill battle. When a rural hospital shuts down, it just doesn't take away healthcare. It takes away jobs, stability, and peace of mind.

It means longer drives for emergency care, fewer options for expectant mothers, and limited access for seniors and veterans who depend on those services the most.

The systems that are supposed to support them is too often buried in bureaucracies.

Pharmacy benefit managers are manipulating drug prices, restricting choices, and squeezing out small-town pharmacies that are fighting just to survive.

These PBMs never see a patient, but they control what medicines people can get and at what cost.

That is wrong, and I have been proud to lead bipartisan legislation to bring transparency, accountability, and fairness to that system because patients and pharmacists alike deserve better.

□ 2150

I have made it my mission to champion these policies that put people, not politics, first. Under President Trump's leadership, we signed the Working Families Tax Cuts Act into law this year. This critical legislation included the single largest investment in rural healthcare in history. That is \$50 billion for a Rural Health Transformation Fund to reinvest Federal savings directly into the communities that need it most, expanding telehealth, and recruiting and retaining rural healthcare workers.

We are committed to ensuring telehealth remains an option for those living in rural communities. Telehealth provides expanded access to specialists, closes the distance between patients and providers, and gives families faster, more reliable care.

I have legislation, the Rural Physician Workforce Production Act, that would help bring more doctors to rural communities by giving rural hospitals the resources they need to train and retain more physicians.

I have fought to strengthen our Nation's drug supply chain by supporting domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing, including facilities like USAntibiotics in Bristol, Tennessee, where we are proving that these life-saving antibiotics can and should be made right here in the United States and not halfway around the world.

Mr. Speaker, these aren't abstract policy debates. They are about real people and real places. They are about the mom who drives an hour to find a pediatric specialist. They are about the veteran who can't get his prescription filled because his local pharmacy closed. They are about the nurse who works back-to-back shifts because there aren't enough hands to go around.

Those stories are what drive my work every single day. That is why I have joined my co-chair, Representative TOKUDA, in introducing a resolution to recognize November 20, 2025, as National Rural Health Day. This resolution recognizes the challenges we face, but more importantly it affirms our commitment to solving them.

I thank Representative TOKUDA for her continued commitment on working together to address the pressing healthcare issues facing our rural communities. We must fight for a healthcare system that serves patients, not big insurance companies; that values rural providers, not red tape; and ensures no community, no matter how small or remote, is left behind.

We thank the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and first responders who keep rural America healthy. Their work saves lives. Their compassion gives hope, and their dedication holds our communities together.

As long as I have the privilege to serve the people of Tennessee's First District, and as co-chair of the Rural Health Caucus, I will continue that fight. We are united in our shared mission to strengthen rural healthcare, protect patient access, and preserve the small-town values that make this Nation strong.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, National Rural Health Day is a chance to honor the communities that keep this country moving: the farmers, teachers, "seniors," "kupuna," health workers, first responders, small business owners, and families who fuel our local economies and preserve our way of life. It is also a moment for Congress to recognize that rural communities face challenges that are different not because

they are less but because they are often asked to survive systems that were not built for them.

What some in Washington call innovation is really rural America being forced into a constant state of adaptation, forced to make do, to improvise, and stretch thin resources even thinner simply to maintain basic access to healthcare.

Every day in Hawaii, I see mobile clinics reaching isolated communities, school-based health centers stepping up for low-income children, and community health workers bridging cultural and geographic divides. Rural communities everywhere are pioneering models of behavioral health integration in telemedicine, not from a place of creativity or convenience but necessity and survival.

We have proven we can adapt to impossible situations, but extraordinary flexibility cannot and must not replace true investment. Ingenuity cannot replace Federal partnership, and resilience cannot continue to be a substitute for resources.

We have unfinished business here before us in Congress, but what gives me hope is that we have allies and advocates on both sides of the aisle ready to lead.

Across the country, from the volcano-lined communities in my district of Ka'u to the farming slopes of Upcountry Maui, to the taro patches that I see on Kauai, one truth is crystal clear: Rural America is tired of being resilient.

When people call us resilient, what they are really saying is we have been forced to survive hardship. Resilience means we are struggling. Resilience means we are being asked to endure what no community should ever be asked to endure.

Our people cannot survive on resiliency alone. Rural America is tired of being tired. Rural America is tired of jumping from one difficult situation to another. Rural America is tired of learning to bend without breaking due to a lack of resources, investment, and support.

What rural America needs is an immediate, revolutionary, transformational investment, a historic top-to-bottom overhaul that rebuilds the healthcare system from the inside out. Rural America needs a profound change on a scale that we have not yet seen before and, most importantly, rural America, where we all live, needs a chance to be known as more than just resilient. It deserves a chance to thrive.

We cannot rely on Band-Aids, small steps forward, and short-term pilot projects, especially when we know families are driving hours or having to even get on a plane for care. Hospitals are closing, behavioral health crises are going untreated. When the difference between life and death is the difference between one rural town and the nearest city, this is unacceptable. Our people will literally die without

bold, immediate, systemic action on rural health.

Today, we still lack long-term stability for community health centers, teaching health centers, and the National Health Service Corps. Critical workforce and training programs remain stuck in reauthorization limbo, and bipartisan bills to strengthen EMS capacity, expand telehealth, and improve behavioral health access still await action.

We said these issues were urgent last year when we were on the floor. They are even more urgent today. Rural communities cannot afford another year of waiting. That is why we are pushing forward with real, bipartisan solutions that simply cannot wait another Congress to be enacted into law.

My rural health clinic modernization package, including the Rural Behavioral Health Improvement Act, cuts red tape and strengthens reimbursements so rural clinics can stay open.

The HEALTH Act protects telehealth access, including audio-only visits for families who lack broadband or live hours away from their care.

The Community TEAMS Act and Strengthening Pathways to Health Professions Act rebuild the rural workforce pipeline, supporting students and providers and keeping scholarships and loan repayment programs accessible and tax free.

The Rural Health Care Technical Assistance Act gives rural facilities the tools they need to prevent closures and stay financially stable.

These are practical, bipartisan solutions built for lasting impact, not another short-term fix to grab a headline. That is why caucuses like ours, the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus, and Special Order hours like the ones that you have seen tonight matter. They remind America and this Congress that despite everything going on in our politics, there is still a path forward. There is still work we can only accomplish together.

In closing, I thank all of my colleagues who joined us tonight to give their speeches and to the over 70 Members, Republicans and Democrats, who make up our caucus. Their presence sends a clear message: Rural communities matter.

The voices of my constituents in Hawaii and rural Americans across this great country keep us grounded. Every nurse, doctor, EMT, pharmacist, community health worker, and small clinic team show us both the urgency and the solutions every single day. This work is not just policy. It is people. It is families. It is the future of rural America.

Let's continue to listen, to act, and deliver together because when rural communities thrive, all of America thrives.

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

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed is my resignation letter to New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy, effective November 20, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. It has been an honor to serve the residents of New Jersey's 11th Congressional District. I look forward to serving them, and all residents of New Jersey, as Governor over the next four years.

Sincerely,

MIKIE SHERRILL,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2025.

Hon. PHILIP D. MURPHY,
Governor, State of New Jersey,
Trenton, New Jersey.

DEAR GOVERNOR MURPHY: Kindly accept this letter as formal notice, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:3-25, of the relinquishment of my elected position as Member of the United States House of Representatives for the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey, effective as of November 20, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

It has been an honor to serve the residents of the 11th Congressional District since 2019. I've been proud to fight for our communities, getting shovels in the ground for the Gateway Tunnel project, slashing through red tape on critical flood mitigation projects, protecting Picatinny Arsenal's mission, and funding community projects that support our students, infrastructure, and public safety. Importantly, I am proud of our office's reputation for constituent services, assisting our veterans, seniors, and residents who are having trouble navigating the federal government.

Public service is a public trust. I look forward to continuing to serve the residents of the 11th District and all New Jerseyans as Governor next year.

Sincerely,

MIKIE SHERRILL,
Member of Congress.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2235. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits received November 14, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-2236. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Oxirane, Methyl-, Polymer With Oxirane, Monobutyl Ether and Oxirane, 2-Methyl-, Polymer With Oxirane, Monomethyl Ether in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption From the Requirement for a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0003; FRL-12980-01-OCSP] received November 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2237. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Chlorantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2025-0284; FRL-12973-01] received November 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2238. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Various Fragrance Components in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption From the Requirement for a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0311; FRL-12962-01-OCSP] received November 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2239. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluazinam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0319; FRL-12959-01-OCSP] received November 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2240. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Castor Oil, Polymer With 2-Ethylhexanol, Maleic Anhydride and Soybean Oil, Sodium Salt in Pesticide Formulations: Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2025-0079; FRL-12955-01-OCSP] received November 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2241. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Technical Amendments to the EPCRA Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reporting Requirements To Conform to the 2024 OSHA Hazard Communication Standard [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2025-0299; FRL-12698-04-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AH40) received November 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2242. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Texas Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Class VI Primacy Application [EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0157; FRL-12672-02-OW] received November 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2243. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Methylene Chloride; Regulation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Compliance Date Extension [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2020-0465; FRL-8155.1-02-

OCSP] (RIN: 2070-AL28) received November 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2244. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; Extension of Transition Period for New Product Schedule Listing [EPA-HQ-OPA-2006-0090; FRL-4526.2-01-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AH43) received November 13, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2245. A letter from the Agency Representative, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Trademark Classification Changes [Docket No.: PTO-T-2025-0013] (RIN: 0651-AD87) received November 14, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2246. A letter from the Acting Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — 2025 Adjustment of the Penalty for Violation of Notice Posting Requirements (RIN: 3046-AB34) received November 14, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2247. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major notice — Medicare Program; CY 2026 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts [CMS-8089-N] (RIN: 0938-AV54) received November 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-2248. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major notice — Medicare Program; CY 2026 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement [CMS-8090-N] (RIN: 0938-AV55) received November 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-2249. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Interest Capitalization Requirements for Improvements That Constitute Designated Property [TD 10034] (RIN: 1545-BN93) November 14, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-2250. A letter from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's revenue procedure — Update to Section 355 PLR Procedures (Rev. Proc. 2025-30) received November 14, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-2251. A letter from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's notice — Relief from Penalty for Failure to Deposit Remittance Excise Tax [Notice 2025-55] received November 14, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-2252. A letter from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the

Service's final rule — Section 42, Low-Income Housing Credit Average Income Test Procedures [TD 10036] (RIN: 1545-BQ47) received November 14, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-2253. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final guideline — Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program: Final Guidance, Implementation of Sections 1191-1198 of the Social Security Act for Initial Price Applicability Year 2028 and Manufacturer Effectuation of the Maximum Fair Price in 2026, 2027, and 2028 received November 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-2254. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major notice — Medicare Program: Medicare Part B Monthly Actuarial Rates, Premium Rates, and Annual Deductible Beginning January 1, 2026 [CMS-8091-N] (RIN: 0938-AV56) received November 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-2255. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2026 Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; and Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program [CMS-1832-F] (RIN: 0938-AV50) received November 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GUTHRIE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1669. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program (Rept. 119-381). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2319. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-382). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 6074. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRESNAHAN (for himself and Ms. McDONALD RIVET):

H.R. 6075. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the pilot program for alternative water source projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 6076. A bill to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to reauthorize certain Environmental Protection Agency programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 6077. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that medical students, medical residents, and medical faculty receive education and training in the deployment of artificial intelligence in the medical profession, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 6078. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reauthorize the wildlife crossings program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 6079. A bill to guarantee the right of individuals to receive Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 6080. A bill to require regulation of wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of crude oil, natural gas, or geothermal energy under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. SIMON):

H.R. 6081. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate the exemption for aggregation of emissions from oil and gas sources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. MENG, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. SIMON):

H.R. 6082. A bill to repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing in the Safe Drinking Water Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 6083. A bill to establish a commission to address the fundamental repercussions of misguided interventions by the United States in multiple sovereign Western Hemisphere nations over the course of the twentieth century, including to study and consider an apology and proposals for the repairment of relations and reconciliation with the peoples of said nations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FINE:

H.R. 6084. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to strengthen the pleading standards for certain claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARCIA of California:

H.R. 6085. A bill to prevent corruption by appropriately limiting donations for any public property, building, or fixture at the White House, the Naval Observatory, or certain other public property, for events on such property, or for monuments to living current or former Presidents, current or former Vice Presidents, or current or former employees or officers appointed by the President; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAVES (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 6086. A bill to provide for funding from the Aviation Insurance Revolving Fund to continue certain Federal Aviation Administration activities in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 6087. A bill to amend the Delta Development Act to add the Kentucky counties of Hancock, Ohio, and Daviess to the Delta Regional Authority area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZZO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FRIEDMAN,

Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MANNION, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. POU, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VINDMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. SCHOLTEN):

H.R. 6088. A bill to repeal certain provisions relating to nutrition; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 6089. A bill to establish a Biopharmaceutical Center of Excellence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. POCAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SIMON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 6090. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study with respect to stormwater runoff from oil and gas operations, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MIN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 6091. A bill to provide a civil remedy for an individual whose rights have been violated by a person acting under Federal authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 6092. A bill to ensure that the United States, States, and local governments are liable for monetary damages for constitutional violations by law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. MANN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BACON, Mr. SCHMIDT, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 6093. A bill to expand eligibility for certain United States Department of Agriculture programs to include agricultural cooperatives with fewer than 2,500 employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself and Mr. CROW):

H.R. 6094. A bill to direct the establishment of a public-private wildfire technology deployment and demonstration partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6095. A bill to extend privileges and immunities under the International Organizations Immunities Act to the Gulf Cooperation Council; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LETLOW (for herself, Ms. SCHRIER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 6096. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to include as a special project of regional and national significance the purchase, acquisition, and distribution to mothers of newborn infants newborn supply kits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 6097. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish additional factors considered in the design of pathways in the Transition Assistance Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 6098. A bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MANNION (for himself, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. GILLEN, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. NADLER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York):

H.R. 6099. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2200 South Salina Street in Syracuse, New York, as the "Wallie Howard Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. PA-

NETTA, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 6100. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to lower barriers to increase patient access to health care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 6101. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Director of the Congressional Budget Office to provide testimony at annual hearings held by the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. PALMER (for himself, Mr. CLYDE, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 6102. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 6103. A bill to prohibit reductions in the workforce at the Drug Enforcement Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 6104. A bill to prohibit the delivery of opioids by means of the dark web, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 6105. A bill to revoke security clearances for former personnel of the Department of Defense who engage in lobbying activities on behalf of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself and Mr. CROW):

H.R. 6106. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself and Mr. CROW):

H.R. 6107. A bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, to modify requirements under that Act relating to exemptions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BELL, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6108. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary

to exclude certain individuals and entities who commit fraud from participation in any Federal health care program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6109. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish certain requirements with respect to rates of reversed prior authorization coverage determinations under Medicare Advantage plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BELL, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6110. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require Medicare Advantage plans to automatically reconsider determinations denying coverage; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6111. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require any advertisement of a Medicare Advantage plan to include information related to the rates of prior authorization denials under such plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6112. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish certain requirements with respect to the average monthly cost to provide coverage to an enrollee under Medicare Advantage plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6113. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to impose limitations on

contracts with Medicare Advantage organizations offering multiple Medicare Advantage plans under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6114. A bill to prohibit funds made available to the Department of Health and Human Services by previous Appropriations Acts from being used for any activity that makes Medicare Advantage the default under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6115. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to maintain a website for Medicare beneficiaries to search for providers participating in MA plans and traditional Medicare; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. SIMON):

H.R. 6116. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require testing of underground sources of drinking water in connection with hydraulic fracturing operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 6117. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize requiring the manufacturers of a covered device to disclose to a patient all patient-specific data that is recorded or transmitted by the device and accessible to the manufacturer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 6118. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to protect the well-being of soldiers and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIFFANY (for himself, Mr. STEIL, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. WIED):

H.R. 6119. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 South Chestnut Avenue in Marshfield, Wisconsin, as the "Army Corporal Gordon 'Gordy' Richard Schmoll Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ZINKE (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6120. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any retirement income received by individuals who retired from service as a law enforcement officer or member of the Armed Forces and subsequently serve as school resource officers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to unveil the statue of Barbara Rose Johns; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. FOX:

H. Res. 886. A resolution electing a member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H. Res. 887. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. ROY, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. SELF, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. FINE, and Mrs. LUNA):

H. Res. 888. A resolution censuring and condemning Delegate Stacey Plaskett and removing her from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for conduct that reflects discreditably on the House of Representatives for colluding with convicted felony sex offender Jeffrey Epstein during a congressional hearing; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H. Res. 889. A resolution censuring Representative Cory Mills; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mr. AGUILAR (for himself and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H. Res. 890. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 19, 2025, as "National GIS Day"; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MANN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. ROSE, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MEUSER):

H. Res. 891. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Rural Health Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of the rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are

submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 6074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BRESNAHAN:

H.R. 6075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6076.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 6077.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6078.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 6079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 6080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare" of Americans.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 6081.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Title 1, Section 8

By Ms. DeGETTE:

H.R. 6082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3, provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. ESPAILIAT:

H.R. 6083.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

By Mr. FINE:

H.R. 6084.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—the Commerce Clause

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—the Necessary and Proper Clause

By Mr. GARCIA of California:

H.R. 6085.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GRAVES:

H.R. 6086.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution,

specifically clause 3, and clause 18

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 6087.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 6088.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 6089.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6090.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 6091.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 1

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 6092.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 1

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 6093.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. KIM:

H.R. 6094.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6095.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 6096.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 6097.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 6098.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MANNION:

H.R. 6099.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 6100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 6101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 6102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 4, clause 1

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 6105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 6106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Sec 8

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 6107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6108.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6109.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6110.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6113.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6114.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6115.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 6116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 6117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:
H.R. 6118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article one section 8, clause 4 and Article one section 8, clause 18

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 6119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 6120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. LICCARDO.
H.R. 210: Mr. RILEY of New York and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 407: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 429: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 516: Mr. EZELL.
H.R. 539: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 637: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 715: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 842: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 868: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 909: Mr. FIGURES and Mr. BARRETT.
H.R. 1171: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 1229: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 1348: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 1414: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1638: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 1707: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1723: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 1733: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 1921: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 1993: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 2036: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 2055: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 2059: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 2089: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 2145: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2200: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2314: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 2383: Mr. SHREVE and Mrs. KIM.
H.R. 2477: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 2484: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2527: Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2550: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 2586: Mr. WALKINSHAW and Ms. BYNUM.
H.R. 2598: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. KILEY of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 2627: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 2812: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2831: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 2854: Mr. BERA, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. MESSMER.
H.R. 2878: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2911: Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 2978: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 3045: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3170: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 3172: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 3178: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3226: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 3241: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3277: Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 3320: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.
H.R. 3335: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3474: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3505: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3512: Mr. MURPHY and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 3538: Mrs. KIM.
H.R. 3543: Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 3564: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 3591: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 3609: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 3711: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3740: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3772: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
H.R. 3870: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 3946: Ms. SALAZAR and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4007: Mr. IVEY.
H.R. 4076: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 4140: Mr. SHREVE and Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 4157: Mr. DELUZZIO.
H.R. 4206: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 4227: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 4245: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 4283: Mr. WHITESIDES and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 4291: Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 4305: Mr. PATRONIS.
H.R. 4363: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 4457: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 4502: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 4516: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 4568: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 4577: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 4585: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 4696: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4703: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 4725: Ms. CHU and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 4792: Ms. SEWELL, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 4827: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4849: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 4862: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4966: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4982: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 5106: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5234: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5267: Mr. CAREY.
H.R. 5275: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5309: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM and Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 5341: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 5343: Mr. OWENS and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 5353: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
H.R. 5369: Mrs. KIM.
H.R. 5387: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5403: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 5415: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 5434: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. ROSS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. BALINT, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 5439: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 5443: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5469: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 5488: Mr. COLE and Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 5490: Mr. MCDOWELL.
H.R. 5558: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5563: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 5593: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 5614: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 5616: Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. JACK, Mr. ROGERS of

Kentucky, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 5636: Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 5655: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 5657: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5684: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 5731: Mr. KEATING and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 5778: Ms. GOODLANDER.
H.R. 5800: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 5813: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 5815: Mr. GILL of Texas.
H.R. 5862: Ms. DEXTER.
H.R. 5867: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM and Ms. FRIEDMAN.
H.R. 5885: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 5894: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. VINDMAN, and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5906: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 5929: Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 5941: Mr. MAGAZINER and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 5965: Mr. KEATING and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 5972: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 5992: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 6011: Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 6019: Mr. MCDOWELL.
H.R. 6035: Mr. HURD of Colorado.
H.R. 6044: Mrs. KIM.
H.R. 6049: Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BELL, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FROST, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 6053: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 6056: Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. CASE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SIMON, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 6057: Mr. CLYDE and Mr. SELF.
H.R. 6061: Mr. RILEY of New York and Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 6068: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.J. Res. 108: Ms. ELFRETH.
H.J. Res. 111: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.J. Res. 130: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H. Con. Res. 12: Mrs. KIM.
H. Con. Res. 61: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. STANTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. ELFRETH, and Ms. JACOBS.
H. Res. 64: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H. Res. 70: Ms. RIVAS.
H. Res. 564: Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. POU, and Mr. COSTA.
H. Res. 683: Mr. CARSON.
H. Res. 839: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H. Res. 841: Mr. NORCROSS.
H. Res. 854: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H. Res. 866: Mr. DONALDS.
H. Res. 876: Ms. PINGREE.
H. Res. 880: Mr. WALKINSHAW and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H. Res. 882: Ms. TENNEY.



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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

No. 194

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM BANKS, a Senator from the State of Indiana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, we belong to You. Thank You that our government has reopened.

Give our lawmakers the wisdom to discontinue repeating the same actions while hoping for different results. Lord, empower them to find ways where no one will go hungry, thirsty, sick, or shackled because of the legislative process.

Use our Senators to set the captives free. Reveal to our legislators resources of power adequate to make them more than conquerors.

We pray in Your powerful 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, November 18, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM BANKS, a Senator

from the State of Indiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BANKS 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 136, H.R. 4016.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 136, H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, after 43 days, the longest government shutdown in history is over. Shellshocked government employees are getting paid again. The air travel situation is im-

proving. Nutrition programs are back on a secure footing. But the damage remains.

How many of those government employees now getting paid again are staring at credit card debt taken on to cover necessities during the month and a half they worked without pay? The newly restored salaries don't contain extra to cover the interest on that debt.

How many small businesses are struggling, thanks to the hit that their business took during the shutdown?

How long is it going to take to catch up on the 43-day backlog in government services the shutdown created?

The pain the shutdown caused was immense, and all of it—all of it—could have been so easily avoided.

Republicans offered Democrats a clean, nonpartisan funding extension. We did not make a single demand. We didn't ask for a single partisan policy. We didn't add a single partisan policy rider. We simply asked Democrats to extend current funding levels for a few weeks so that we could continue bipartisan work on appropriations.

Instead, Democrats chose to plunge the country into chaos because the far left of their party demanded a showdown with President Trump. That is right. All of this pain, all of this profound financial stress, all of this economic damage is because the far left demanded a showdown with President Trump. And Democrats fell in line.

It is disturbing enough that the Democrat party was willing to shut down the government for 43 days—by far the longest government shutdown in history—but what is even more disturbing is the fact that a number of Democrats were prepared to let this shutdown continue even longer. Even as lines stretched around the block at food banks and air travel grew evermore precarious, progressive Democrats pushed to embrace the shutdown forever, as far as I can tell.

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



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The senior Senator from Vermont published an op-ed calling for a continued shutdown and continued opposition to President Trump, even though the President had exactly nothing to do with the clean funding extension that Republicans were proposing.

And the junior Senator from Connecticut spent the last week of the shutdown advocating for continuing it and fretting that ending it would damage Democrats' "brand." That is right, Democrats' "brand."

Neither Senator seemed to spend a minute seriously considering the incredible damage their shutdown was doing to hard-working Americans and to our country. Indeed, as we know from their own words, a lot of Democrats saw the pain of working people as leverage for Democrats in this shutdown, a useful tool to be deployed to advance the Democrats' political goals.

I am grateful that we finally got eight Democrats to join Republicans to reopen the government and spare the American people from further pain. But the fact that a month and a half into the shutdown 39 Democrats still voted to keep the government closed remains deeply disturbing.

Are Democrats going to continue hamstringing the necessary work of government at the behest of the far left? Are their partisan politics going to continue to obstruct the government's functioning?

We have a lot of work left to do, starting with the need to fund the government for the remainder of the fiscal year beyond January 30. And there is a lot more we could accomplish, too, from improving our healthcare system to passing a farm bill, but not if the vast majority of the Democrat party continues to put partisan politics above the well-being of the American people.

I hope Democrats will be content with their recordbreaking 43-day shutdown, and they will now be able to turn back to the business of the American people. The American people deserve better than the past month and more of Democrat-imposed misery.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, the House of Representatives finally voted to demand that the Justice Department release the Epstein files. The American people have waited a very long time for this.

The margin in the House was overwhelming. In fact, every single Member

of Congress except one voted yes, and that now brings the focus to the U.S. Senate.

As soon as the House sends us the Epstein bill, the Senate should move, without delay, to pass it unamended and send it on to the President's desk to be signed into law. We should pass this bill as soon as possible, as written, and without a hint of delay.

Republicans must not try to change this bill or bury it in committee or slow-walk it in any way. Any amendment to this bill would force it back to the House and risk further delay. Who knows what would happen over there.

The American people have waited long enough, and they cannot take the risk.

We have an opportunity to get this bill done today and have it on the President's desk to be signed into law tonight. We should seize that opportunity. That is why later today, I will ask unanimous consent for the Senate to hold a vote to pass the House Epstein bill.

The Epstein victims groups have made it clear they do not want amendments to the bill. In fact, just this morning, Epstein survivors stood right in front of the Capitol demanding that Congress pass this version of the bill.

The House has now spoken in an overwhelming fashion, and Senate Republicans must step up because the public is fed up with waiting around to get to the bottom of the Epstein files. Americans are fed up with Donald Trump's lies, they are fed up with the coverups, and they are fed up with Republican leaders who keep siding with Donald Trump instead of siding with the American people, who demand transparency when it comes to Jeffrey Epstein.

There is only one right answer for the Senate: Pass this bill as written today.

Let me say something else. This could not have been possible without the courage and advocacy of Jeffrey Epstein's survivors. They made this vote possible. They risked their safety coming out of the darkness to share their stories and tell the truth. We thank them. We thank them and everyone who has pushed for transparency.

Let me also add this: This will go down as one of the most damaging moments of Donald Trump's Presidency. In trying so hard to hide the truth, Donald Trump has provoked the fiercest rebellion he has ever faced among his own supporters, both in Congress and around the country. All the lying, all the broken promises about transparency, all the bullying and threats to Members of Congress who wanted these files released—it has all blown up in Donald Trump's face. His usual methods of intimidation and dishonesty have failed spectacularly in this instance.

But make no mistake, today's vote is just one step. Once the Senate sends this bill to the President's desk, Donald Trump must obey the letter of the

law and ensure full transparency regarding the Epstein files. No "We will give you some of this but not that"; "Maybe you should see this"; "There is a reason you can't see that." Anything less than full transparency will be unacceptable in the eyes of the American people. If the President tries to manipulate his way into releasing just some of the Epstein files while deliberately hiding others, the public will see right through it, and their frustration, their distrust in Donald Trump will grow even worse.

Before we get to that step, the Senate must finish this job first. We must pass this bill unamended as soon as humanly possible.

I yield the floor to my colleague Senator MERKLEY, who has been a great partner as we have pursued finding full transparency with the Epstein files.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I join my colleague the minority leader from New York in noting that principles matter. Equal justice under law matters. In fact, it matters so much that it is carved into the facade of the Supreme Court. If you go out these doors down the hall, under the big staircase descending to the plaza, and you look out, you are square center of the Supreme Court—"Equal Justice Under Law." It is a powerful concept. It goes to the sense that everyone should be accountable for their crimes here in the United States of America no matter how much money you have, no matter how much power you have, no matter what large office you hold.

Mr. President, 427 to 1. That is what the House said, 427 to 1. The House just voted to say that equal justice under law matters, and they are standing behind that principle. But is it a principle this U.S. Senate will stand behind?

Let's look at what has happened. Back in July, a bipartisan group of Senators that included two of my Republican colleagues introduced legislation to release the Epstein files—the same bill that just passed the House of Representatives 427 to 1. But we only had two colleagues across the aisle join us in demanding justice.

In September, on the Defense Authorization Act, we had a vote on this bill as an amendment put forward by the minority leader, leading the charge to say that equal justice under the law matters. My colleagues across the aisle—did they follow the example of the House, or did they express the same spirit as the example we saw moments ago? No. They tabled the amendment. Only two colleagues across the aisle, only two Republicans stood for the principle of equal justice under law.

So there we have it—a bill introduced with only two colleagues; a bill voted on as an amendment led by the minority leader—only two colleagues from across the aisle, but every Democrat saying this matters.

Now, the Department of Justice didn't need a law to release the Epstein

files; they could have just done so. In fact, when President Trump was campaigning, he kept saying that these files are going to be released when he is President. Well, he has been President for 10 months. Where are those files? They haven't been released.

President Trump, why haven't you released the files?

In fact, not only has he failed to release the files, he has fought the release at every possible moment. It was widely reported that back in May, Attorney General Pam Bondi informed President Trump that his name appeared in the files. Oh, his name appears. Well, now he has doubled down on making sure they are never released. The Attorney General herself said she had the full file on her desk, and then she said, well, she didn't.

At every level, this administration has sought to thwart equal justice under law.

Powerful men—the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives—have fought to make sure these files are never released.

How long was the House on vacation in the middle of the legislative year? A full 7-plus weeks of abandonment, missing in action, nowhere to be found in the middle of the legislative year. The entire House of Representatives shut down for over 7 weeks and into an 8th week, vacationing around the world to avoid voting to release the Epstein files.

That is how much powerful people at the very top of our government were fighting to make sure these files never see the light of day. But across this great country, people said: Hell no. People on the right side of the aisle and the far-right side of the aisle, people on the left side of the aisle and the far-left side of the aisle all demanded that justice be served because this particular case is one that involves such egregious conduct.

Jeffrey Epstein was a monster who groomed, abused, raped underage girls and facilitated the ability of other powerful men to groom, abuse, and rape underage girls. He trafficked these women to rich and powerful men. He destroyed the lives of hundreds of young women. That is why, from every corner of this Nation and from every part of the political spectrum, there is a demand to release these files.

The Senate Finance Committee, led by my colleague from Oregon Senator RON WYDEN, had been investigating the financial network that facilitated this national and international crime, and the Biden administration cooperated fully with the Senate investigators in this case. The Finance Committee, under President Biden, went to Treasury to see the Epstein files suspicious activity reports. They proceeded to put together an incredible database of how money was spent to facilitate this network.

The Biden administration echoed the demand for equal justice under law.

Trump campaigned saying he would release these files, but then he is in office, his name is in the file, and he does everything possible to stop their release.

Now the House voted powerfully for sure—427 to 1—but a bill doesn't get enacted into law unless it is passed in this Chamber. That is why the minority leader Senator SCHUMER said he would return today after the bill has been sent over to the Senate to ask for unanimous consent.

If the House—427-strong—can call for equal justice—the release of these files—certainly the Senate can stand up and say 100 to 0 that we also stand for equal justice under the law.

The truth must not be buried.

We know how nervous the administration is. They responded by saying: We are going to release information about how those files affect powerful people who are Democrats.

Let me tell you, President Trump, that does not stop one of us because this is not a partisan affair. This is about a horrific crime on hundreds of underage girls whose lives were destroyed, hundreds who were groomed, hundreds who were abused, hundreds who were raped. So the chips must fall where they may no matter what the political party of the actors may be.

So, President Trump, you think you are doing something clever and you are going to intimidate Democrats from supporting this by making this partisan? I tell you, President Trump, hell no. There is nothing partisan about the principle of equal justice under law.

Now, we know why the President is so nervous. A few days ago, a trove of emails was released from the Epstein estate. They made clear in Jeffrey Epstein's own words that President Trump "knew about the girls," and he called President Trump "the dog that hasn't barked."

Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted pedophile, even wrote:

I've met some bad people. None as bad as Trump. Not one decent cell in his body.

Well, I don't know what President Trump's role was, and President Trump says he wants to see others investigated, including former Presidents who were Democrats. I don't know whether they were involved, but I do know this: It is time for the truth. It is time to end the coverup. The Epstein coverup is morally wrong; it is legally wrong. The victims deserve justice. The victims and the American people demand not just justice but transparency. The American people demand accountability.

It is the right thing to do no matter how rich or famous an individual might be who is mentioned in those files. And they may be mentioned in those files with no connection to the crimes committed. There is no knowing until we see what the files say. That is the point.

The bill that was passed in the House—the bill almost word for word identical to the bill introduced here in

the Senate—says that "no record shall be withheld, delayed, or redacted on the basis of" any of the following: "embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary." Nothing withheld, redacted, or delayed because some powerful man or group of powerful men is afraid of what is in that file.

We did say in this bill to protect the victims and underage witnesses by redacting the personally identifiable information, any depictions of abuse or information that would jeopardize an active Federal investigation or national security. Protect the victims, but don't protect the perpetrators.

Let all 100 Senators come up the staircase outside, in order to enter this Chamber, and on the way up those stairs, look back—turn around—at the principle "Equal Justice Under Law," carved into the facade of the Supreme Court, and carry that principle in your heart.

And when the minority leader from New York comes to this floor and asks to pass this bill with unanimous consent so that it will be endorsed 100 to 0, echoing the cry for justice from down the hall, let not one voice of objection be raised. Let all 100 of us stand with the victims and stand for accountability and stand for justice.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if you put me on the spot and ask me how many times I have flown from O'Hare to Washington during the course of my congressional career, I couldn't guess. I am going to take a wild guess and say 2,000—2,000 flights in and out of O'Hare.

This morning, I had a press conference there, and it was important for those who count on that great airfield to know what I learned. I met with the air traffic controllers. Turns out that O'Hare, at this point, is the busiest airport in the world if you combine both passenger and cargo air traffic. It is also the case that, for more than 10 years, they have been understaffed when it comes to air traffic control. They don't have enough air traffic controllers. They have been working 6 days a week, 10-hour days, for at least 10 years and in the foreseeable future.

They are concerned about it. I am as well. They are doing their job and doing a great job in the process, but they are under pressure unlike anything most of us can imagine. They literally have the lives of ourselves and our families in their hands when they are directing air traffic around O'Hare.

Recently, when we had a government shutdown, there was a question raised as to whether or not we were going to reduce the number of air flights in America as a result of it. It was not an unreasonable suggestion because, when you consider that we need 14,000 air traffic controllers nationwide, and we have around 10,000, we already start off with a problem. Fortunately, the reduction in air service only lasted a brief period of time.

I met with those air traffic controllers today and told them that I voted to reopen the government, thinking of them and thinking of the recipients of the SNAP benefits and food stamp benefits across America.

But that isn't enough to be concerned about it. We need to do something on a bipartisan basis to solve this problem. We need more air traffic controllers. There are ways to do this, and I want to pursue those. We also need the very best in technology and equipment when it comes to the work that they do, and that can be improved. There seems to be a bipartisan feeling now that we should do something. Let's seize this moment and seize this opportunity and move forward in making sure that we have the safest and most modern air traffic control in the world.

I thank the men and women who continue to do their jobs so well at O'Hare and across the United States, but they have a burden that most of us don't even appreciate in their 6-day weeks and 10-hour days.

OPERATION MIDWAY BLITZ

Mr. President, on a separate topic now, for nearly 3 months, the city of Chicago has lived under the shadow of President Trump's Operation Midway Blitz, a cruel campaign that has swept up innocent American citizens, legal residents, and immigrants who pose no threat to public safety.

The Trump administration justifies this campaign by saying they are targeting "the worst of the worst." Oh, you heard him give the speech over and over again. We are going after those illegal immigrants in this country who are rapists, terrorists, murderers, criminally insane—"the worst of the worst," as he says over and over again.

But the situation on the ground, the reality of the situation, paints a dramatically different picture. As part of these immigration raids, agents, ICE agents, and others have baselessly rounded up and disappeared people on the streets and in homes across the city, almost all of whom had no prior warrants or criminal history.

Terrorists? That is not the case at all.

I want to speak to you about one of the incidents that I ran across when I went back home last week. Two weeks ago, a viral video showed agents, Federal agents, storming through the doors of Rayito de Sol daycare and preschool center in the North Center neighborhood of Chicago. These ICE agents, in their camouflage uniforms and with masks on their faces, were

dragging out a teacher while she screamed and cried: "I have papers," in Spanish. That teacher's name is Diana Santillana, but her students—little girls and boys between the ages of 6 months and 6 years—know her as Miss Diana.

According to school officials, Diana had an authorization to work, and agents did not present a warrant when they entered the building.

This is the "Meet the Teacher" file for Miss Diana that is posted in the classroom of Rayito de Sol. This was the woman that the ICE agents went into the school and daycare center and arrested. The flyer describes Diana's love of early education and working with kids because "it is one of the most rewarding experiences," in her words, and she likes to "nurture and leave a mark on young ones."

Does this look like one of the rapists, murderers, terrorists, criminally insane that President Trump has reminded us of over and over again? Of course not.

Thankfully, Miss Diana was released from detention after a judge ruled her mandatory detention was illegal.

They swooped her up out of this daycare center. She disappeared, and no one could find her, not family and friends—no one could find her. And then she turned up in a facility, I believe, in Indiana, and they released her from there.

What was this all about? Well, I will tell you what it was all about. It was about the reign of terror which Operation Midway Blitz is visiting on the city of Chicago.

Following her release, Diana said:

I love our community and the children I teach, and I can't wait to see them again.

Does that sound like a terrorist rant?

I know they can't wait to see her. They love Miss Diana.

This incident has rattled this community in Chicago, especially the kids who attend Rayito de Sol who range in age from, as I mentioned, 6 months to 6 years.

This past week, I visited with the parents of some of these students, about 12 of them. They, of course, expressed concerns for her because they love her. Miss Diana is well-loved by all of these kids. They also worried about the impact of this incident on their kids—the questions and the nightmares that followed as these little ones were forced to see and hear the administration's brutality in full view.

In an interview later after the incident took place, one of the parents, Tara, said the families were "traumatized." The "children were crying." And the scene was one none "of us have ever witnessed before and will ever forget."

It is outrageous that children are exposed to this, but the Trump administration basically doesn't give a damn. There used to be a time when ICE didn't cross certain lines. DHS had policies against enforcement at schools and churches for this very reason—not

anymore. They have got to go after "terrorists" like Miss Diane so they have to break all of the rules that have been established.

President Trump has touted Operation Midway Blitz as a resounding success. These raids aren't targeted. The administration is sweeping up people off streets while they are dropping off their kids at school or heading to work for simply looking Hispanic—good enough to be arrested and deported.

Don't take my word for it. Listen to what U.S. District Court judge Jeffrey Cummings said. In a lawsuit challenging warrantless immigration arrests in Illinois, Judge Cummings read from a summary he and his law clerks compiled of more than 150 pending immigration cases in which arrestees challenged their deportation. The judge said the circumstances of the arrests show that Operation Midway Blitz is not targeting hardened criminals, not targeting the worst of the worst. In that case, the Trump administration provided a list of more than 600 individuals detained during Midway Blitz. By their own data—their own data—just 16 of the 1,600 detainees have any criminal history that poses a high risk to public safety.

Do you know what percentage that is? Less than 3 percent. Terrorists, rapists, murderers, criminally insane—less than 3 percent have any criminal background.

All of this confirms what we have been saying for months. What is happening in Chicago with Midway Blitz is a political theater to spread fear, not reduce crime.

Oh, they struck fear in the hearts of the kids at this daycare center. They may never forget what they saw that day when the agents came in, in their camouflage and their masks, and whisked this poor woman out to deport her and started off by sending her to Indiana and then releasing her.

It made no sense whatsoever. This is political theater at its worst. Chicago deserves better. America deserves better.

Reports indicate Border Patrol Chief Greg Bovino is leaving the city of Chicago. Let me tell you, he couldn't leave too soon from my conclusion. However, we expect immigration raids to continue in the city.

And Mr. Bovino has already taken his administration's brutal tactics that they have been practicing in Chicago to Charlotte, NC. In just one weekend, DHS agents raided a church and arrested at least one U.S. citizen simply because he looked Hispanic.

And in Mr. Bovino's own words, "It wouldn't surprise me to see us in a city near you."

So I ask my colleagues, especially my Republican friends who value liberty and freedom as much as I do: What is stopping this government from deploying tear gas in your home city? What is stopping them from pointing guns at your constituents? What does

arresting your fellow neighbors without cause mean to you in the future?

It is a legitimate question. Don't look the other way out of personal or political loyalty to this President. Look straight in the eyes of the people you represent and tell them you stand for the Constitution and the well-worn history of this country where we have tried to push back on tyrants. It is on all of us to call out these abuses of power and this trampling of civil liberties.

How can we say to Miss Diana, "We are sorry"? We can say it by ending Midway Blitz as fast as possible and by reassuring the families there that we want to have a safe nation without the expense of our basic liberties.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I commend First Lady Melania Trump for her leadership on the recent "Fostering the Future for American Children and Families" Executive order, and, obviously, the thanks would go to President Trump for his support of his wife's work. And it wouldn't happen without his signing the order last week. This action is an important step to see that young people who have experienced foster care are supported as they begin to navigate their lives as adults.

For decades, I have worked to shine a light on the challenges that foster youth face. The bipartisan Senate Caucus on Foster Youth that I launched with former Senator Mary Landrieu in 2009 and still cochair today has a particular focus on the challenges that older foster youth face.

Young people who already face constant uncertainty growing up, often compounded with the trauma of neglect and abuse, are then expected to lead the rest of their lives successfully on their own, and that is a hard way to start a life outside of foster care. And, of course, that is just not quite right. They deserve a mom and dad, a supportive and safe environment to grow up and to develop, and to have meaningful connections.

While nothing can replace the things I just mentioned, I find they, at least, ought to have a chance to have some support to pursue higher education and find employment and stable housing, all to help prepare for their future.

I continue to work to find avenues to provide this support for these young people, including exploring ways to increase the awareness of Federal programs that support older foster youth.

I started out by complimenting our First Lady. In her remarks announcing the Executive order, the First Lady said this:

I predict this small spark today will ignite a profound and lasting nationwide movement.

I share her optimism and, once again, thank her for her commitment to improve the lives of young people. I look

forward to working with her and supporting how I can do that here in the United States Senate, both as an individual Senator and cochair of the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth.

IOWA

Mr. President, on another article, on Thursday, in Kossuth County, IA, I completed my 45th annual 99 county meetings. For 45 years in a row, I have held at least one question-and-answer session in all of Iowa's 99 counties.

Now, I have to modify that just a little bit because I remember—and it is not here in print—that in my first term in office, there was one county where nobody showed up, but, otherwise, I have had a Q&A in every county of Iowa—all 99—for the last 45 years.

Last week, I met with welders, students, family farmers, factory workers, and others to hear what is on their minds. I was in two high schools so I could hear straight from the next generation of Iowans about what is most important to young Iowans.

This year, I joined an artificial intelligence workshop in Grinnell, IA, with small business owners. I visited seven hospitals to hear from nurses and doctors about changes to Medicaid and how I am working to strengthen rural healthcare.

I held a roundtable with restaurant and hotel workers about the no tax on overtime and no tax on tips. These were all provisions, as we Senators know, from last summer's tax bill—everything to help working men and women of our country. These workers told me how the tax bill was a big moral boost for their employees and also to help recruit more employees.

Congress legislates and makes policy that impacts Americans. As a part of representative government, it is important to hear from our constituents how this policy is impacting their daily lives.

Hearing from Iowans face to face in my county meetings is the best way to keep in touch, but, as I tell them at that particular time, they only see me maybe 1 day out of 365. There are 364 days in the year that they ought to be telling me what is on their minds. So I encourage all Iowans to write or call my office with their opinions, and I always say dialogue is the essence of representative government. So if they don't see me face to face to have that conversation and they have it by email, they should expect an answer. If you don't get an answer, let me know because if I encourage you to write to me and I say I am going to answer, then I had better give you an answer.

Knowing what Iowans care about helps me better serve them. I look forward to more Q-and-A's in the coming weeks.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Nieh nomination.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4405

Mr. SCHUMER. Well, Mr. President, Donald Trump has tried to cover up for Jeffrey Epstein long enough. It is time that the Senate finish the job to finally compel the Department of Justice to release the Epstein files.

A few hours ago, the House of Representatives passed their Epstein bill with as lopsided a vote as you can get, 427 to 1. It is now the Senate's turn.

In a few moments, I will ask unanimous consent for the Senate to pass the Epstein bill as soon as it comes over from the House. My unanimous consent request guarantees that the Senate will immediately pass the Epstein Files Transparency Act without any further action as soon as it comes over from the House. We will pass the House's bill without changes, without delay, and we will finally get this done.

Epstein victim groups have made clear that they support this bill as written, without amendments. We should listen to them and pass this bill quickly. They have worked so hard and long to make this happen and deserve tremendous—tremendous—credit that we have arrived at this moment.

This isn't about Democrats versus Republicans or about Congress versus the President. This is about giving the American people the transparency they have been crying for. This is about holding accountable all the people in Jeffrey Epstein's circle who raped, groomed, targeted, and enabled the abuse of hundreds of girls for years and years.

The American people have waited long enough. Jeffrey Epstein's victims have waited long enough. Let the truth come out. Let transparency reign. And I urge my Republican colleagues: Let the Senate act today.

And so, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H.R. 4405, the Epstein Files Transparency Act, from the House, the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, the bill be considered read three times and passed, with no intervening action or debate, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the stable.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Senate has now passed the Epstein bill as soon as it comes over from the House.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, hallelujah. Equal justice under law just took an enormous stride forward in this Senate Chamber.

It was back earlier this year in July when Senator LUJÁN and I introduced the Epstein bill—the same bill that just passed the Senate Chamber after passing through the House—and it had 25 sponsors, but we couldn't get a single sponsor from across the aisle, not one. Twenty-five Democrats said: Let's cosponsor this bill because we need transparency; the victims need justice.

And yet the President, who said during his campaign he was all about releasing these files, blocked them, did everything possible to stop them.

And then in September, under consideration of the Defense Authorization Act, we put forward an amendment. In fact, our minority leader, Senator SCHUMER from New York, put forward an amendment and said: Let's take the bill—the bill that Senator LUJÁN and I had introduced with 23 colleagues—and let's vote on it now and put it in the Defense authorization bill. And my good friends across the aisle again blockaded justice. They moved to table the amendment. And with only Republican votes, they created a 51-to-49 vote to kill justice, kill transparency, kill fairness for the victims of this evil—evil—operation that Epstein headed.

But the fight continued. The publicity continued from every part of the spectrum, politically, from the far right and the near right, left of center, far left of center, all saying: This is wrong. The crime is enormous—hundreds of young women, hundreds of girls, raped by powerful men. Every American knows how wrong those rapes were, how much damage they did to the young women involved, often destroying their lives.

Every father of a young girl thinks about how evil it would be for a powerful man to rape his daughter. And yet Trump's persistence in blockading the release of these files continued until the House came back into session, and there was a withdrawal petition—a discharge petition as they call it in the House—and a majority of the House Members said: We must vote on this.

And the President lobbied the Republicans who were on that discharge petition because Democrat names weren't enough to have a majority. He asked them to get off the petition, and they refused.

So it became clear the House was going to vote, and today they did. And when it came to the question of saying yes or no on releasing these files, it was 427 Members of the House strong, 1 opposed, saying today we stand for justice.

And so, just moments ago, the minority leader, Senator SCHUMER from New York, came to this floor, and he asked the Senate to follow the example set by the House. And just earlier today I said: When that moment comes, let's be 100 Senators strong, 100 strong in

saying yes to the unanimous consent request, saying yes to discharge of these files from the executive branch.

I am struck that the language is very full in saying all the details have to be discharged, and none of them can be blocked because of embarrassment or political sensitivity to the powerful individuals who are currently in office or may have been in office or may never have been in office but may have been involved in Epstein's operation. Let the chips fall where they may.

This bill says: Thirty days from a signature being provided by the President, 30 days those files have to be fully released, redacted only to protect the victims' names. So 30 days from now is a long time. And so I say to the President of the United States: You have had plenty of time to have your legal team already redact the names, so release these files now. Release them now. Sign this bill and release the files right away.

Today is a victory, a victory for the voices for justice who have pushed and argued that these two Chambers, the House and the Senate, need to fulfill the vision so embraced by the American people, so powerfully felt in their hearts, their sense of right and wrong, their sense that the powerful should not be able to do evil acts and get away with it, and finally their voices were heard today.

So I thank my Republican colleagues across the aisle. Every one of them decided not to come to the floor and object, which means they are giving unanimous consent. So all 100 Senators, however much they may have obstructed in the past, today did the right thing, and I applaud them for it.

Let's, together, push the President to release these files immediately. They have had plenty of time to redact the names. Let's see no further administrative delays or cleverness and let the chips fall where they may.

May there be justice for the victims. May there be accountability for the perpetrators. Equal justice under law should be served. It is our duty to serve it, and we have taken a powerful stride to equal justice today.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. GALLEGU. Mr. President, I ask consent to speak for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. GALLEGU. Mr. President, I have come to the floor three times now to call for release of the Epstein files. Earlier today, the House voted to release the full files, and later today, I hope, this Chamber will do the same.

Before we vote, I want us to remember what is really at stake here. This isn't about Democrats versus Republicans. It is about real girls who were hurt, abused, and trafficked by Jeffrey Epstein and the powerful people who surrounded him.

One of those girls was Virginia Roberts Giuffre. She was forced to stay silent for years, but today I want to let her speak in her own words.

Virginia was just 16 when she started working at Mar-a-Lago where she met Epstein's recruiter Ghislaine Maxwell. She writes in her memoir:

Maxwell says she knows a wealthy man—longtime Mar-a-Lago member, she says—who is looking for a massage therapist to travel with him. . . . My lack of experience doesn't concern her a bit. I'm sure you'd be terrific," she insists, looking me up and down. "Will you come for an interview?"

Even today, more than 20 years later, I remember how excited I felt. Could my dreams of becoming a professional masseuse be coming true so quickly? Something about how this proper, well-spoken lady focused on me made that seem possible. I told her I had to get permission from my dad first, but that I really wanted to come.

That wealthy man, we all know now, was Jeffrey Epstein. That moment began years of trafficking and abuse for Virginia.

Later in her memoir, she writes:

I was about to spend more than two years in Epstein and Maxwell's orbit. My job: to do whatever they asked whenever they asked it. There were no bars on the windows or locks on the doors. But I was a prisoner trapped in an invisible cage.

Those are the words of a child—a child who should have been safe from predators like Epstein and Maxwell.

She talks about how Epstein gave her money to rent an apartment so her parents wouldn't question why she had to go to meet Epstein's clients in the middle of the night.

Here is the thing: Epstein did not act alone. He had help. And the men who helped him target and abuse young girls and protected him are still out there walking around like nothing happened. This can't just be another news cycle or another Tuesday. There needs to be justice.

We owe it to Virginia and every survivor of Epstein's to finally get the full truth of how this happened and who allowed it to happen. That is why I am going to, again, call for the full release of the Epstein files. Let's bring this evidence out, stop this secrecy, the coverups, and protecting these elites. The American people deserve the truth, and Virginia deserves transparency, accountability, and healing.

At a press conference earlier today, another Epstein survivor said:

Today we stand in a moment that will decide whether our government belongs to the American people or to those who prey on them.

We owe it to her and every survivor to choose accountability and release the files.

I yield the floor.

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 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 Barrasso, 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. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on 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, 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 65, nays 32, as follows:

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

[Rollcall Vote No. 619 Leg.]

YEAS—65

Banks	Hagerty	Ossoff
Barrasso	Heinrich	Padilla
Blackburn	Hoeven	Paul
Boozman	Husted	Reed
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Budd	Johnson	Risch
Capito	Justice	Rounds
Cassidy	Kelly	Schmitt
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Coons	King	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Warner
Daines	McCormick	Warnock
Duckworth	Moody	Welch
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moreno	Wicker
Graham	Mullin	Young
Grassley	Murkowski	

NAYS—32

Alsobrooks	Hassan	Rosen
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Shaheen
Booker	Lujan	Slotkin
Cantwell	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Galleo	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	

NOT VOTING—3

Fetterman	Hawley	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 32, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ho Nieh, of Ala-

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

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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-80, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Denmark for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$318.4 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-80, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Denmark for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$318.4 million. We

will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-80, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Denmark for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$318.4 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-80

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Denmark.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$270.2 million.

Other \$48.2 million.

Total \$318.4 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Up to three-hundred forty (340) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder tactical missiles.

Up to thirty-four (34) AIM-9X Block II tactical guidance units.

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

(iv) Military Department: Navy (DE-P-AEI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: DE-P-AEC; DE-P-AEF).

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 12, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Denmark—AIM-9X Block II Tactical Missiles

The Government of Denmark has requested to buy up to three-hundred forty (340) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder tactical missiles and up to thirty-four (34) AIM-9X Block II tactical guidance units. The following non-MDE items will also be included: training aids; weapon software; training; support equipment; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$318.4 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve Denmark's capability to meet current and future threats by ensuring its aviation forces' interoperability with the United States and other allied forces as well as their ability to contribute to missions of mutual interest. Denmark currently operates the AIM-9X missile system with F-35A aircraft and ground-based air defense and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

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

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-80

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-9X Block II and Block II+ (Plus) Sidewinder missile represents a substantial increase in missile acquisition and kinematics performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block I configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, a low drag/high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The software algorithms are the most sensitive portion of the AIM-9X missile. The most current AIM-9X Block II/II+ Operational Flight Software is developed for international partner countries and is authorized for export by U.S. policy; it provides fifth-generation infrared capabilities such as lock-on-after-launch, weapons data link, surface attack, and surface launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

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

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

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

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

system with similar or advanced capabilities.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1M. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-65 of December 21, 2021.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1M. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-65 of December 21, 2021.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1M. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensi-

tivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-65 of December 21, 2021.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-1M

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of France.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 21-65; Date: December 21, 2021; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On December 21, 2021, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 21-65 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of one (1) Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS), two (2) launcher configuration; and one (1) Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG), three (3) engine configuration. Also included were land-based testing and test spares; shipboard install; testing and certification support; shipboard spares; peculiar support equipment; government furnished equipment; multi-purpose reconfigurable training system; operator and maintainer training; integrated electronic technical manuals; drawings and interface control documents; technical assistance; contractor engineering technical services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was \$1.321 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$0.848 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following MDE items: one (1) Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) and three (3) launcher configurations. The following non-MDE items are also included: EMALS launcher configuration land-based testing and test spares; shipboard installation services; testing and certification support; shipboard spares; peculiar support equipment; government-furnished equipment; multi-purpose reconfigurable training system; operator and maintainer training; integrated electronic technical manuals; drawings and interface control documents; technical assistance; contractor engineering technical services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$755 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$513 million to a revised \$986 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$755 million to a revised \$2.076 billion. MDE constitutes \$1.09 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified.

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

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

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

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 13, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-74, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Germany for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.5 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-74, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Germany for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.5 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-74, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Germany for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.5 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public

of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-74

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Germany.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$3.0 billion.

Other \$500 million.

Total \$3.5 billion.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred seventy-three (173) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I

Five hundred seventy-seven (577) Standard Missile 2 (SM-2) Block IIIC

Non-Major Defense Equipment:

The following additional non-MDE items will also be included: MK 21 Mod 3 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; MK 13 Mod 1 VLS canisters; missile and support test equipment component parts; engineering, integration, and test (EI&T) materiel and support required to produce SM-6 Block I and SM-2 Block IIIC missiles; special test and handling equipment; training and training equipment aids; technical publications data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; related studies and analysis support; and product life cycle sustainment support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (GY-P-ALM, GY-P-GRN).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 14, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Germany—Standard Missile 6 Block I and Standard Missile 2 Block IIIC

The Government of Germany has requested to buy up to one hundred seventy three (173) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I missiles and up to five hundred seventy seven (577) Standard Missile 2 Block IIIC missiles, along with the non-MDE inclusion of MK 21 and MK 13 Vertical Launch System (VLS) missile transport, storage and launch canisters into which are installed SM-6 Block I and SM-2 Block IIIC missiles, respectively. The following additional non-MDE items will also be included: MK 21 Mod 3 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; MK 13 Mod 1 VLS canisters; missile and support test equipment component parts; engineering, integration, and test (EI&T) materiel and support required to produce SM-6 Block I and SM-2 Block IIIC missiles; special test and handling equipment; training and training equipment aids; technical publications data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; related studies and analysis support; and product life cycle sustainment support. The total estimated cost is \$3.5 billion.

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

The proposed sale will improve Germany's capability to meet current and future threats by providing integrated air and missile defense capabilities deployable from their future Aegis Weapon System equipped F127 class surface combatants, bolstering Germany's capacity to present a credible deterrence to regional strategic competitors. The proposed sale will also improve Germany's ability to operate alongside U.S. and Allied naval forces in facing a full spectrum of maritime threats. Germany will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, with locations in Camden, AR; Tucson, AZ; and Huntsville, AL. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-74

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) is a surface Navy anti-air missile that provides area and ship self-defense. The missile is intended to project power and contribute to raid annihilation by destroying manned fixed and rotary wing aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, and cruise missiles. It was designed to fulfill the need for a vertically launched, extended range missile compatible with the Aegis Weapon System to be used against extended range threats at sea, near land, and over land. The SM-6 combines the tested legacy of Standard Missile 2 (SM-2) propulsion and ordnance with an active radio frequency seeker allowing for over-the-horizon engagements and enhanced capability at extended ranges.

2. The SM-2 Block IIIC maximizes existing SM-6 Block I active and SM-2 semi-active missile technology to deliver a low cost, medium range, dual mode, active semi-active missile. The guidance, ordnance and power, and control and telemetry sections are derived from SM-6 Block I, and the dual thrust rocket motor and missile canisters are derived from SM-2.

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

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

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-05, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Iraq for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-05, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Iraq for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-05, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Iraq for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this

proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-05

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Iraq.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$100 million.

Total \$100 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case IQ-B-URS was below congressional notification threshold at \$41 million (\$0 in MDE) and included Radio Access Points (RAP), handheld dismantled radios; radio base station systems; radio repeater systems; very high frequency vehicular radio systems; WiMax systems; intermediate power amplifier base station systems; intermediate power amplifier vehicular systems; Very Small Aperture Terminals; installation materials and kits; routers; switches; shelters; solar equipment; cameras and spare parts; personnel training and training equipment; studies and surveys; Contractor Logistics Support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The Government of Iraq has requested that the case be amended to include additional repeater systems and installation kits; high-capacity line of sight systems; RAP infrastructure (shelter, solar, camera, and air conditioner); and IT components (router, switch, and rack) to support a Country Wide Repeater System. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the notification threshold and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Radio Access Points (RAP), handheld dismantled radios; radio base station systems; radio repeater systems; very high frequency vehicular radio systems; WiMax systems; intermediate power amplifier base station systems; intermediate power amplifier vehicular systems; Very Small Aperture Terminals; installation materials and kits; routers; switches; shelters; solar equipment; cameras and spare parts; personnel training and training equipment; studies and surveys; Contractor Logistics Support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support; repeater systems and installation kits; high-capacity line of sight systems; RAP infrastructure (shelter, solar, camera, and air conditioner); and IT components (router, switch, and rack) to support a Country Wide Repeater System; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (IQ-B-URS).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

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

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 13, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Iraq—Country Wide Repeater System

The Government of Iraq has requested to buy Radio Access Points (RAP), handheld dismantled radios; radio base station systems; radio repeater systems; very high frequency vehicular radio systems; WiMax systems; intermediate power amplifier base station systems; intermediate power amplifier vehicular systems; Very Small Aperture Terminals; installation materials and kits; routers; switches; shelters; solar equipment; cameras and spare parts; personnel training and training equipment; studies and surveys; Contractor Logistics Support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support; repeater systems and installation kits; high-capacity line of sight systems; RAP infrastructure (shelter, solar, camera, and air conditioner); and IT components (router, switch, and rack) to support a Country Wide Repeater System; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve Iraq's critical command-and-control capabilities, bolstering its defense against regional threats. This strengthens Iraq's ability to protect its borders, energy infrastructure, and residents, while advancing U.S. security interests. Iraq will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor will be L3Harris Corporation, located in Rochester, NY. At this time, the U.S. government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of two U.S. government and five U.S. contractor representatives to Iraq for a duration of five years to support quarterly program management reviews, provide engineering consulting and technical assessments for equipment upgrades and growth of the CWRSS, and to conduct in-country training.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-73, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$330 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-73, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$330 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-73, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$330 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-73

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0.

Other \$330 million.

Total \$330 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: Non-standard components, spare and repair parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support for F-16, C-130, and Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF) aircraft; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (TW-D-RAS).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-D-RAR.

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

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 13, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Non-Standard Spare and Repair Parts

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy non-standard components, spare and repair parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support for F-16, C-130, and Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF) aircraft; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$330 million.

The proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by maintaining the operational readiness of the recipient's fleet of F-16, C-130, and IDF aircraft. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

The equipment will be transferred from U.S. Government stock. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-91, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$105 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-91, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$105 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-91, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$105 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-91

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0.

Other \$105 million.

Total \$105 million.

Funding Source: JUMPSTART Funding from Germany.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: sustainment related articles and services for the PATRIOT air defense system, including the upgrade of M901 launchers to M903 configuration; classified and unclassified prescribed load lists and authorized stockage lists for ground support equipment; other necessary services, ancillaries, spare parts, support, training, and accessories; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (JU-B-UAE).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: UP-B-UDC and USAI Cases NX-B-VAB, NW-B-WMA, NW-B-WME, KA-B-WAM, KA-B-WAZ, M-B-WBA, KA-B-WBB, KA-B-WDE.

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

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

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

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—PATRIOT Air Defense System Sustainment

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy sustainment related articles and services for the PATRIOT air defense system, including the upgrade of M901 launchers to M903 configuration; classified and unclassified prescribed load lists and authorized stockage lists for ground support equipment; other necessary services, ancillaries, spare parts, support, training, and accessories; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$105 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve Ukraine's ability to meet current and future threats by further equipping it to conduct self-defense and regional security missions with a more robust local sustainment capability. Ukraine will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

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

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of approximately five

additional U.S. Government and fifteen U.S. contractor representatives to the European Combatant Command for the duration of up to one month to support training and periodic meetings.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-91

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The PATRIOT air defense system contains sensitive and critical technology. The M903 upgrade will allow for deployment of all the munitions fieldable with the M902 configuration as well as the PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhanced (MSE) munition. The MSE variant of the PAC-3 is the next generation of hit-to-kill interceptors and provides expanded battlespace against evolving threats.

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

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

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRIAN DULZO

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate MAJ Brian Dulzo for his exemplary dedication to duty and service to the Nation and Washington State. Major Dulzo served as an Army congressional fellow in my office, and he currently serves with distinction in the Army Congressional Budget Liaison Office, assisting my office and many others in serving our constituents.

Originally from Novi, MI, Major Dulzo's commitment to service began with his graduation from the University of Michigan in 2011, where he earned a bachelor of science in nursing and received his commission as an officer in the Army Nurse Corps. He continued to prove himself as a hard-working team member as he earned a master of arts in international relations from American Military University, a master of professional studies in congressional affairs from George Washington University, and a graduate certificate in global health engagement from Uniformed Services University.

Throughout his 14 years of dedicated service thus far, Major Dulzo's selfless dedication to our Nation and his fellow servicemembers has been apparent in every role he has taken on. Major

Dulzo has demonstrated exceptional leadership in a variety of essential positions, including as a critical care nurse, aide-de-camp to a commanding general, company commander, and officer-in-charge of a critical care section. During very uncertain times, he deployed to Iraq and Syria in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Prior to his selection into the Army congressional fellowship, Major Dulzo led the critical care section at Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, in Washington State.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working directly with Major Dulzo over the past 3 years. His professionalism, unwavering commitment to our Nation and Washington State, and insightful contributions have earned the respect of me, my entire staff, and countless other offices. His work on servicemember healthcare, housing, childcare, and military families has been invaluable. Throughout his career, Major Dulzo has consistently demonstrated a profound dedication to the well-being of his peers and superiors alike.

I offer my deepest appreciation for Major Dulzo's leadership and continued dedication to our Nation's servicemembers. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his outstanding contributions to the U.S. Army and wishing Major Dulzo the best on his next assignment.

THE BALLAD OF JANE GOODALL

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, in fond memory of Dame Jane Goodall, 1934-2025, Explorers Club Fellow, Honorary Member, and Explorers Club Medalist, by L. M. Levie:

There's a tale explorers tell, of a girl with drive and dreams, Who was born in Hampstead, London in a home of modest means, With a small toy chimp named Jubilee clutched close against her heart, And a yearning for the wilderness, imprinted from the start.

She would read of Doctor Dolittle and apes of Tarzan's land, While her mother, kind and gentle, held her daughter's reaching hand. Though she had no lofty pedigree from university, Jane set out upon a mission that would change humanity.

Jane would save all of her wages, every shilling, pence and pound, And she booked a ship to Africa, to Kenya she was bound. In the camp of Louis Leakey, digging age-old skulls from earth, He found something in her manner, recognized her hidden worth.

"You shall study chimpanzees in the wilds of Gombe Stream, You shall live among the primates and fulfill your childhood dream." So at twenty-six she ventured to Tanzania's lake shore, Where no woman dared go solo, where no scholar went before.

And at first the chimps would scatter, running fearful through the trees, But she sat there day and nighttime under sun and rain and breeze. 'Til one ancient male named David with a beard of silver-gray, Took a nut from Jane's kind outstretched hand and gently squeezed to say:

"You are welcome here among us, you may watch us, you may learn." And upon this invitation, science took a mighty turn. Through the years at Gombe watching, Jane recorded every deed, How they shared their

food and groomed with care—compassion was their creed.

How they laughed and kissed and mourned their dead with grief upon their face. How they held the mirror to us, showing evolution's trace. But in nineteen-eighty-six she flew far above this wood, And she saw the devastation where the forest once had stood.

She was no more mere observer, now she'd fight to save and teach, And she traveled 'round the planet, bringing hope within her reach. On three hundred days of travel, every year for decades long, Speaking, begging, preaching, pleading, singing out her urgent song:

"Every person makes a difference, every action matters true, And the future of our planet, of all life, depends on you." On October first she left us, and she shed all mortal cares. Ninety-one years of devotion, of a life of answered prayers.

Jane, who gave her life to nature, and gave voice to all things wild, Has returned unto the earth now, still a curious, loving child. So we weep for Jane this evening, though we know she'd ask us: "Why? I have lived the life I dreamed of underneath the broadest sky."

As we mourn for you, dear Jane, your great legacy burns bright, And the world's a kinder place because you brought us to the light. For in every child who plants a tree, in every soul who cares, In every word of hope and faith, we find you standing there.

Rest now in peace, dear Jane Goodall, in earth you loved and knew, You showed us how to live with grace, with courage strong and true. And when the wind sings through the Gombe trees, chimps call at dawn, Remembering one who loved them—Though she's gone, her work lives on.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DALE STOVALL

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing Brigadier General (Ret.) Dale Stovall of Missoula as Montanan of the Month for his extraordinary courage, lifetime of military service, and heroic actions that saved the lives of his fellow airmen during the Vietnam war. Earlier this year, Ret. General Stovall traveled to Washington, DC, where he received well-deserved recognition from President Trump for the daring rescues that he carried out decades ago in Vietnam. His story is one of unwavering bravery, humility, and dedication to his country.

During his service as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Air Force, then-Captain Stovall flew some of the most dangerous missions of the war, going deep into hostile territory under heavy enemy fire to rescue downed American airmen. One of his most legendary missions was the rescue of fellow airman Roger Locker, a mission so dangerous that Stovall recalled the sky filled with explosions as he maneuvered his helicopter through relentless enemy attacks. Despite the danger, Stovall pressed on. His extraordinary flying skill and refusal to give up saved Locker's life and many others.

Over the course of a single combat tour, he completed 12 rescues behind

enemy lines. On each one, he risked his own life so that another American could go home to their family. For these acts of heroism, General Stovall received the Air Force Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Silver Stars, making him one of the most highly decorated Air Force Academy graduates in history.

But in true Montana fashion, General Stovall is always quick to shift the spotlight away from himself. He reminds us that rescue missions are a team effort of pilots, crew members, and rescuers united under the Jolly Green motto: "That Others May Live."

After Vietnam, Stovall continued to serve our Nation with distinction, ultimately retiring as a brigadier general after 31 years in uniform. His commitment to service, courage under fire, and lifelong dedication to his fellow servicemembers make him a hero of the Vietnam era.

General Stovall, you make Montana proud. Your legacy of valor, humility, and service will inspire Montanans for years to come. It is my honor to recognize you as Montanan of the Month.●

RECOGNIZING BOERNSEN BEES

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Boernsen Bees of Osceola County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in the summer of 2004 in Ocheyedan, IA, Boernsen Bees began when Marlene Boernsen and her family transformed a simple backyard hobby into a thriving generational enterprise. What started as an effort to provide her children with the healthiest and most natural foods quickly grew into a passion for beekeeping and a commitment to understanding the vital role honeybees play in agriculture and the environment. Marlene first introduced her honey to the community through local farmers markets, selling raw honey in its purest form. As demand increased, the Boernsen family expanded their offerings and grew their apiary to more than 400 colonies. Today, Boernsen Bees produces more than 18 products, including creamed honey in over 20 flavors, raw honey, honey lemonade, body lotions, lip balms, beeswax candles, gift sets, and seasonal specialty items. The business also provides bees and basic beekeeping supplies, supporting hobbyists and new beekeepers across the region as interest in pollinator health continues to grow.

With a team of five employees, including Marlene's two daughters-in-law Jill and Mara, Boernsen Bees has grown well beyond its backyard origins. The business now sells at its storefront, known as the "Honey House," which has become a local destination for families, school groups,

and community members interested in honey production. In addition to in-person sales, Boernsen Bees operates an online store and partners with 26 year-round retailers and 4 seasonal locations throughout Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. Through sustainable practices and a deep respect for nature, Boernsen Bees continues to expand while promoting environmental stewardship across the Midwest.

Marlene and the Boernsen Bees team are deeply committed to their community. They participate in local farmers markets throughout the spring and summer, helping connect residents with Iowa-made products while educating the public about the importance of pollinators. Marlene serves as the district 6 director of the Iowa Honey Producers Association, IHPA, where she supports fellow beekeepers, coordinates regional outreach, and helps lead educational efforts across the State. Beyond her involvement with IHPA, Marlene advocates for local food producers by engaging with the Osceola County Board of Supervisors on initiatives related to community self-governance and small-scale agriculture. In February 2025, her leadership earned her a Small Business Salute from the Iowa Secretary of State.

What began as one mother's effort to provide for her family has grown into a thriving Iowa business admired well beyond its county line. It is my honor to recognize Marlene Boernsen and the entire Boernsen Bees team for their dedication, innovation, and service to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING LAKE CITY VETERINARY SERVICE

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Lake City Veterinary Service of Calhoun County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1974, Lake City Veterinary Service was established by Dr. Paul Armbrecht, a dedicated swine veterinarian whose lifelong commitment to supporting independent livestock producers has shaped the practice. After graduating from Iowa State University and serving in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, Dr. Armbrecht and his wife planted their roots in Lake City. For more than 40 years, Dr. Armbrecht has served as the Calhoun County Expo veterinarian, providing guidance to independent pork producers, as well as diagnosing and troubleshooting farm operations, and mentoring the next generation of veterinarians. He has also contributed his expertise to swine disease eradication campaigns and to committees focused on foreign animal disease preparedness,

demonstrating his steadfast commitment to the health and success of Iowa's livestock industry.

In 2015, after his associates retired, Dr. Armbrecht became the sole owner and continued to practice in nearby Rockwell City. Today, as an independent practitioner, Dr. Armbrecht focuses primarily on veterinary farm visits and livestock auction markets and says he is having "more fun than ever." As Dr. Armbrecht puts it, his greatest honor is "the privilege to serve independent livestock producers," including now the third generation of families he has worked with since the 1970s.

Dr. Armbrecht's commitment to service extends far beyond his veterinary work. He is a loyal member of the Iowa Farm Bureau, an elder at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, a volunteer with the Capri City Theater Restoration and Rockwell City Sweet Corn Daze, and a proud supporter of local youth and education. Throughout his career, Dr. Armbrecht's exceptional service has been recognized with numerous honors. Most recently, Dr. Armbrecht was named as the Rockwell City Citizen of the Year for 2025. In 2010, he was named a "Master of Pork Production" by the National Hog Farmer magazine. His family has been recognized by Iowa State University with the 2004 Family of the Year Award, and he has been recognized by the Iowa Farm Bureau with awards such as Iowa's Favorite Veterinarian, the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award, and the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Through his dedication to Iowa agriculture, Dr. Armbrecht represents the best of the heartland's small business owners.

For over 50 years, Dr. Armbrecht and Lake City Veterinary Service have faithfully served independent livestock producers across Iowa while exemplifying the values of hard work, community service, and integrity. What began as a veteran pursuing his passion has grown into one of the most trusted practices within Iowa's agricultural community. It is my honor to recognize Lake City Veterinary Service and Dr. Paul Armbrecht for his outstanding work and dedication to the Calhoun County community. I look forward to his continued success and wish him the very best in the years ahead.●

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGIA AQUARIUM

● Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, Georgia Aquarium opened in 2005 and has since become one of Georgia's most beloved cultural institutions, welcoming millions of guests and inspiring curiosity, stewardship, and a lasting appreciation for the ocean.

Georgia Aquarium's transformative experiences have reimaged what an aquarium can be. Awe-inspiring habitats and immersive galleries are paired with science-based storytelling so families, students, and visitors of all ages connect deeply with aquatic life and leave with a renewed sense of wonder.

Its profound community impact reaches downtown Atlanta and classrooms across the State. Accessible programs and field experiences strengthen tourism, support local businesses, and expand hands-on STEM learning opportunities for Georgia's students.

As an animal well-being champion, the aquarium advances best practices through collaborative research and responds to urgent rescues, demonstrating expertise that saves animals and informs conservation worldwide.

Georgia Aquarium strives to make every experience welcoming and accessible. Designated a Certified Autism Center and recognized as KultureCity's Sensory Inclusive Venue of the Year, the aquarium also runs the Veterans Immersion Program—therapeutic dives for wounded and recovering veterans—now extended to children from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and patients from Shepherd Center, creating restorative, unforgettable connections with marine life. As research and conservation experts, the aquarium and its partners conduct and apply cutting-edge science. They advance knowledge of threatened species, restore critical habitats, and turn evidence into action for healthier oceans and stronger ecosystems.

On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, I congratulate Georgia Aquarium and commend its enduring leadership in education, animal care, inclusion, and conservation. This work enriches the lives of Georgians and elevates Atlanta on the world stage.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 12, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5371. An act making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the en-

rolled bill was signed on November 12, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Vice President.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 17, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 695. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 260. An act to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes.

S. 2392. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1608. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to produce a report on emerging threats and countermeasures related to vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2212. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2261. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Department of Homeland Security's oversight of certain intelligence matters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2659. An act to ensure the security and integrity of United States critical infrastructure by establishing an interagency task force and requiring a comprehensive report on the targeting of United States critical infrastructure by People's Republic of China state-sponsored cyber actors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5078. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the State and local cybersecurity grant program of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 874. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, a former Vice President of the United States of America.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4703(b) of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Act (20 U.S.C. 4703), the

Majority Leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation: Mr. Burgess Owens of Utah.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), as amended by section 1601 of Public Law 111-68, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center: Mr. Bacon of Nebraska.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Ms. Foxx of North Carolina.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, November 18, 2025, he has signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 695. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1608. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to produce a report on emerging threats and countermeasures related to vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2212. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2261. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Department of Homeland Security's oversight of certain intelligence matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2659. An act to ensure the security and integrity of United States critical infrastructure by establishing an interagency task force and requiring a comprehensive report on the targeting of United States critical infrastructure by People's Republic of China state-sponsored cyber actors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5078. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the State and local cybersecurity grant program of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States

Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 89, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment", and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Cynthia M. Lummis, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, Ted Budd, Bill Cassidy, John Boozman, Rick Scott, Lindsey Graham, Mike Rounds, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Mike Lee, James E. Risch, James Lankford, Bernie Moreno, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, Ted Cruz, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Cornyn, Rand Paul, Kevin Cramer, Deb Fischer, Tom Cotton, Pete Ricketts, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, David McCormick, Katie Boyd Britt.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 89. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment".

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator BILL CASSIDY, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-2115. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-070) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2116. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Mexico in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-

078) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2117. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Ukraine in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-103) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 246. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions (Rept. No. 119-96).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 1884. A bill to clarify the Holocaust Appropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, to appropriately limit the application of defenses based on the passage of time and other non-merits defenses to claims under that Act.

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2503. A bill to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 3175. A bill to establish a pilot program for ZIP Code boundary changes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 3176. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain Oklahoma communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 3177. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MORENO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3178. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture to withdraw a final determination relating to energy efficiency standards for housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. MOODY:

S. 3179. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for obstructing immigration enforcement activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3180. A bill to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to increase transparency and oversight of third-party funding by foreign persons, to prohibit third-party funding by foreign states and sovereign wealth funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3181. A bill to revoke security clearances for former personnel of the Department of Defense who engage in lobbying activities on behalf of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3182. A bill to amend chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the President from seeking relief under that chapter; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3183. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to improve safety standards for wildland firefighters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

S. 3184. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to add access to telecommunications and information services in Indian country and areas with high populations of Indian people to the universal service principle relating to access to those services in rural, insular, and high cost areas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3185. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to provide information on relocation assistance programs when a member of the Armed Forces receives orders for a change of permanent station, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3186. A bill to ensure that the United States, States, and local governments are liable for monetary damages for constitutional violations by law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3187. A bill to provide a civil remedy for an individual whose rights have been violated by a person acting under Federal authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 3188. A bill to establish a Biopharmaceutical Center of Excellence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 3189. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any retirement income received by individuals who retired from service as a law enforcement officer or member of the Armed Forces and subsequently serve as school resource officers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 3190. A bill to direct the establishment of a public-private wildfire technology deployment and demonstration partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3191. A bill to prevent corruption by appropriately limiting donations for any public property, building, or fixture at the White House, the Naval Observatory, or certain other public property, for events on such property, or for monuments to living current or former Presidents, current or former Vice Presidents, or current or former employees or officers appointed by the President; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3192. A bill to require Transmission Organizations to allow aggregators of retail customers to submit to organized wholesale electric markets bids that aggregate demand flexibility of customers of certain utilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3193. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 to limit liability protection under that section for certain social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3194. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in California as the Monterey Bay National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3195. A bill to repeal section 213 of division C of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3196. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to give employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs opportunities to be represented by the representatives of their choices in examinations of the employees in connection with examinations that may result in disciplinary action, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S.J. Res. 95. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Interim Guidance Simplifying Application of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax to Partnerships"; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HUSTED:

S. Res. 499. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. Res. 500. A resolution commemorating the centennial year of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GALLEGUE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 501. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. KIM):

S. Res. 502. A resolution recognizing November 2025 as "National Family Caregivers Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 141

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to identify and address barriers to coverage of remote physiologic devices under State Medicaid programs to improve maternal and child health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women.

S. 343

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 343, a bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 455

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 455, a bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to limit immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations, to clarify the powers of immigration officers at sensitive locations, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify Reid Vapor Pressure requirements and to provide for the return of certain retired credits, and for other purposes.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor 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. 932

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 932, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 1286

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1286, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow workers an above-the-line deduction for union dues and expenses and to allow a miscellaneous itemized deduction for workers for all unreimbursed expenses incurred in the trade or business of being an employee.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1404, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods and cargo for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 1506

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1506, a bill to establish a Medicare-for-All national health insurance program.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, by adding an additional aggravating factor to be considered in determining whether a sentence of death is warranted.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1707, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to minimum participation standards for pension plans and qualified trusts.

S. 1757

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1757, a bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide for more efficient hearings on nuclear facility construction applications, and for other purposes.

S. 1763

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1763, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the 7-year recovery period for motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 1796

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1796, a bill to modify the premerger notification requirements under the Clayton Act with respect to certain acquisitions of residential property, and for other purposes.

S. 1809

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a

cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking or transmitting video of defense information, and for other purposes.

S. 1949

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1949, a bill to improve certain criminal provisions.

S. 1973

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1973, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 1996

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve coverage of audiology services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2019

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2019, a bill to establish a Task Force for Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams, and for other purposes.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 2211, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 2212

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2212, a bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require all immigration enforcement officers to display visible identification during public-facing immigration enforcement actions and to promote transparency and accountability.

S. 2275

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2275, a bill to provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, and for other purposes.

S. 2304

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2304, a bill to amend section 45Q of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the mine methane capture incentive credit.

S. 2329

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to amend title

XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect beneficiaries with limb loss and other orthopedic conditions by providing access to appropriate, safe, effective, patient-centered orthotic and prosthetic care, to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse with respect to orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes.

S. 2398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2398, a bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2406

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2406, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize admission of Canadian retirees as long-term visitors for pleasure described in section 101(a)(15)(B) of such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2468

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2468, a bill to amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to render available to certain long-term residents of the United States the benefit under that section.

S. 2503

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2503, a bill to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

S. 2557

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2557, a bill to direct the Attorney General to make publicly available documents related to Jeffrey Epstein, and for other purposes.

S. 2747

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2747, a bill to require the Secretary of State to designate the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern, to impose certain sanctions, and for other purposes.

S. 2858

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2858, a bill to improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

S. 2875

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2875, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of health reimbursement arrangements integrated with individual market coverage.

S. 2977

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2977, a bill to amend chapter 77 of title 5, United States Code, to ensure timely rulings by the Merit Systems Protection Board on appeals by Federal employees and applicants for employment.

S. 3126

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3126, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reform farm loans, to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to reform the National Appeals Division process, and for other purposes.

S. 3147

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3147, a bill to provide for continuing appropriations for Head Start programs.

S. 3165

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3165, a bill to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of Federal employees during the lapse in appropriations that began on October 1, 2025, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 158

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 158, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that paraprofessionals and education support staff should have fair compensation, benefits, and working conditions.

S. RES. 463

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 463, a resolution expressing condemnation of the Chinese Communist Party's persecution of religious minority groups, including Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists and the detention of Pastor "Ezra" Jin Mingri and leaders of the Zion Church, and reaffirming the United States' global commitment to promote religious freedom and tolerance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr.

MULLIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MORENO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3178. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture to withdraw a final determination relating to energy efficiency standards for housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3178

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

SECTION 1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture—

(1) shall withdraw the final determination announced in the notice of final determination entitled "Adoption of Energy Efficiency Standards for New Construction of HUD- and USDA-Financed Housing" (89 Fed. Reg. 33112);

(2) may not take any action or use any Federal funds to implement or enforce the final determination described in paragraph (1) or any substantially similar final determination; and

(3) shall revert energy efficiency standards for covered programs under the final determination described in paragraph (1) to the energy efficiency standards required before the final determination.

(b) ACTION BY ADDITIONAL AGENCIES.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not take any action or use any Federal funds to implement or enforce a final determination that is substantially similar to the final determination described in subsection (a)(1).

(2) FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency may not finalize, implement, or enforce a determination or rule relating to energy efficiency standards for single and multifamily housing.

(c) CONSIDERATION OF STATE STANDARDS.—Section 109(d) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12709(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) not fewer than 26 States have adopted an energy efficiency code or standard that meets or exceeds the requirements of the revised code or standard."

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3192. A bill to require Transmission Organizations to allow aggregators of retail customers to submit to organized wholesale electric markets bids that aggregate demand flexibility of customers of certain utilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3192

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Responsive Energy Demand Unlocks Clean Energy Act” or the “REDUCE Act”.

SEC. 2. AGGREGATOR BIDDING INTO ORGANIZED POWER MARKETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any prohibition established by State law or a State commission (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796)) with respect to who may bid into an organized wholesale electric market, each Transmission Organization shall, consistent with any applicable market rules that do not establish such a prohibition, allow aggregators of retail customers to submit bids that aggregate demand flexibility of customers of utilities that distributed more than 4,000,000 megawatt-hours in the previous fiscal year.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall issue a rule to carry out the requirements of subsection (a).

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3194. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in California as the Monterey Bay National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Monterey Bay National Heritage Area Study Act. This legislation would direct the completion of a study to assess the feasibility of designating certain land along California’s central coast as the Monterey Bay National Heritage Area.

This bill would require the National Park Service to conduct a study to determine if coastal communities adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary meet the requirements to be designated as a national heritage area. If passed, the Park Service would hold robust consultation and listening sessions with local stakeholders and community members to assess whether this designation is appropriate.

A national heritage area designation recognizes a place’s cultural, historical, and ecological value. These designations create public-private partnerships that leverage Federal support to empower local conservation efforts, provide technical assistance, and spur economic development without imposing Federal land use restrictions or affecting private property.

In California, where we already have two such designations, residents continue to retain their private property rights despite the designation. Nothing in this bill would allow the Federal Government to infringe upon private property acquire land within a potential national heritage area boundary.

My bill would also not immediately authorize the designation but, rather,

assess the feasibility of moving toward a designation. I want to thank Senator SCHIFF for cosponsoring this bill, and I want to thank Representative JIMMY PANETTA for leading this effort in the House.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this straightforward legislation to recognize the unique cultural, historical, and environmental treasures in the Monterey Bay region.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 499—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE (CJD) AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. HUSTED submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 499

Whereas Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) is a rare, fatal brain disorder within a group of illnesses called prion diseases;

Whereas CJD occurs in approximately 1 to 2 individuals per 1,000,000 each year, resulting in approximately 600 cases annually in the United States, 85 percent of which are designated as sporadic, with no known causes, while 10 to 15 percent are deemed genetic, and less than 1 percent are deemed acquired;

Whereas, in the early stages of the disease, CJD patients may exhibit failing memory, behavioral changes, impaired coordination, and visual disturbances, and as the illness progresses, mental deterioration becomes more pronounced while involuntary movements, blindness, weakness of extremities, and ultimately coma may occur;

Whereas CJD typically leads to death within a few months to 1 year following the onset of symptoms;

Whereas CJD is responsible for 1 in every 6,000 deaths in the United States each year;

Whereas comprehensive prion disease surveillance is critical in order to develop more efficient detection methods and to determine whether humans can acquire the disease through the consumption of prion-contaminated beef (known to cause bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or “mad cow” disease) or meat from cervids (deer, elk, and moose) affected by chronic wasting disease (referred to in this preamble as “CWD”);

Whereas CWD is a fatal condition in cervids, caused by misfolded prions, that has been detected in cervids in more than 36 States and all 4 regions of the United States;

Whereas monitoring the prevalence of prion diseases, including determining a disease’s incidence and whether it was acquired from animals or other humans, is critical;

Whereas continued prion disease surveillance, particularly through examination of postmortem human brain tissue, is imperative to evaluate whether CWD has or can spread to humans;

Whereas the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center is the only laboratory-based organization in the United States that monitors human prion diseases, which is critical to protecting the public health of the United States;

Whereas Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (referred to in this preamble as “ADRD”) research could benefit from the study of prion diseases, like CJD;

Whereas caregiver and health-services research of ADRD should be applied to prion diseases, like CJD, which share many of the same challenges;

Whereas the families and communities affected by CJD have compelling stories due to the rarity and rapid effects of the disease;

Whereas, from the time of diagnosis, CJD presents unique challenges and burdens for patients, their family members, and caregivers given the rapidly progressive nature of this devastating disease; and

Whereas the establishment of November 12, 2025, as “Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) Awareness Day” would raise awareness about this rare, rapidly progressive, and invariably fatal disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) Awareness Day”; and

(2) recognizes the importance of raising awareness of this rare brain disorder.

SENATE RESOLUTION 500—COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL YEAR OF THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 500

Whereas the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (referred to in this preamble as “ASHA”) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 241,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are—

(1) audiologists;

(2) speech-language pathologists;

(3) speech, language, and hearing scientists;

(4) audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; or

(5) students;

Whereas, in its centennial year, ASHA remains steadfast in achieving its mission to—

(1) advance science;

(2) foster excellence in education and professional practice;

(3) establish standards; and

(4) advocate for accessible and quality care for all;

Whereas ASHA believes that effective communication is a human right and should be accessible and achievable for all;

Whereas ASHA led the path for licensing in all 50 States and the District of Columbia by setting the initial standards in the fields of practice for audiology and speech-language pathology to ensure consumer protections through State licensure;

Whereas ASHA’s commitment to promoting access to care and support for those with communications disorders is demonstrated through engaging in advocacy for laws, such as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), the Steve Gleason Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-40), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-241), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas people with communication disorders are frequently subjected to stigma that includes mockery, bullying, and myths that say they are of low intelligence and ability, which causes them to be wrongly underestimated and denied advancement at work and educationally, as well as isolated socially;

Whereas communication disorders are among the most common conditions in children and adults in the United States, affecting tens of millions of individuals in the United States;

Whereas May is National Speech-Language-Hearing Month, which provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology; and

Whereas ASHA looks to the future and how it can most effectively educate, support, and advocate for the audiologists and speech-language pathologists who are making a positive difference in the quality of life for millions of individuals in the United States, from infants to older adults: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for 100 years of positive impact for people with communication disorders and work to advance the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology; and

(2) commemorates the centennial year of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

SENATE RESOLUTION 501—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 501

Whereas, from November 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, Indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimates that—

(1) in 2020, there were 9,666,058 individuals of American Indian and Alaska Native descent in the United States; and

(2) in 2020, there were 680,442 individuals of Native Hawaiian descent in the United States;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and write in their Indigenous languages, which have influenced and contributed in a variety of ways to the United States, including the naming of places and sites throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has consistently reaffirmed support for self-governance and self-determination policies for Native American communities and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to—

(1) strengthening the government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes; and

(2) upholding the Federal trust responsibility to Native American communities;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the influence of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

(3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas, with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the world in many fields, including agriculture, environmental stewardship, wayfinding, medicine, music, dance, language, and art;

Whereas contemporary applications of traditional knowledge systems of Native Americans have expanded scientific, environmental, and intercultural understanding;

Whereas Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States for centuries and have the highest per capita involvement of any population currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used Indigenous languages to communicate an unbreakable military code, saving countless lives in both conflicts; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2025 as “National Native American Heritage Month”; and

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as “Native American Heritage Day” in accordance with section 2(10) of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1923); and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 502—RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. KIM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 502

Whereas, in 2025, there were 63,000,000 family caregivers in the United States who provide essential care to millions of people each year, providing unpaid care worth an estimated \$600,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas family caregivers play a vital role in the healthcare system of the United States, supporting loved ones who have chronic illnesses, disabilities, and are aging;

Whereas family caregivers, who are disproportionately women, often face significant challenges including financial strain, physical and emotional exhaustion, and social isolation; and

Whereas “National Family Caregivers Month” is an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the contributions of family caregivers of all ages and to advocate for policies that support family caregivers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes November 2025 as “National Family Caregivers Month”; and

(2) commends the 63,000,000 family caregivers in the United States who provide essential care to their loved ones and chosen family each day;

(3) recognizes the importance of the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers as a roadmap to better support caregivers in the United States; and

(4) encourages all people of the United States to learn more about family caregiving and to support their loved ones and neighbors who are providing care.

TAIWAN ASSURANCE IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1512 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1512) to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 1512) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to consideration of S. Res. 501, 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. 501) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

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

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 501) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 502, 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. 502) recognizing November 2025 as "National Family Caregivers Month".

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

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 502) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that the

postcloture time on the Nieh nomination be expired and the Senate vote on the confirmation of the nomination at noon tomorrow; and if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. I further ask that the Senate recess following the disposition of the Nieh nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that at 2:15 p.m., Senator LUMMIS be recognized for up to 5 minutes prior to making a motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 89.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:47 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

STUART LEVENBACH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE ROHIT CHOPRA.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

CARTER CROW, OF TEXAS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE KARLA ANN GILBRIDE.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROBERT CEKADA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES, VICE STEVEN M. DETTELBAUGH, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID CLAY FOWLKES, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS, VICE PAUL KINLOCH HOLMES, III, RETIRED.

NICHOLAS JON GANJEL, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE LYNN H. HUGHES, RETIRED.

AARON CHRISTIAN PETERSON, OF ALASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA, VICE TIMOTHY MARK BURGESS, RETIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. DALE R. WHITE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRAD W. PIERSON

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MATTHEW T. BROWN
CAPT. JONATHAN A. CARTER
CAPT. ROBERT C. COMPTON
CAPT. DOROTHY J. HERNANDEZ
CAPT. CHRISTOPHER J. HULSER
CAPT. ANDREW D. MEYERDEN
CAPT. BLAKE L. NOVAK
CAPT. TORRENCE B. WILSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JEREMY P. GARLICK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

ROBERT D. HUH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DAWN R. HARDWICK

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

SARAH B. PEZZAT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

ROBERT J. HILLERY

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

SARAH D. RUSHNOV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

WILLIAM F. MURPHY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KEVIN A. WITTE-HUNT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MICHAEL J. BEER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MICHAEL K. MOSI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JEFFREY T. VANAK

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MARC B. GREEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JACOB A. DAHLKE
DONALD A. REDLEY
JASMINE C. TOYE

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on November 18, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

DONALD KORB, OF OHIO, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND AN ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, VICE MARJORIE A. ROLLINSON, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON APRIL 29, 2025.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF CESAR J. SOLDA

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dedicated patriot, Cesar J. Solda, of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania.

Born in France during a time of war, Mr. Solda's life began with great challenge. He was later adopted by an American soldier, a moment that gave him the gift of a second chance and a brighter future. Leaving his family behind, he came to New York and embraced a new life filled with opportunity.

Mr. Solda answered the call to serve our Nation in the United States Army, representing America with honor during the Korean War. Upon his return in 1962, he began a new chapter in Long Island, New York, where he built a family, embraced fatherhood, and shared a life of love with his beloved wife. A proud family man, he often returned to France to reconnect with loved ones, bringing with him his wife, adopted father, and three sons, ensuring that family bonds remained strong across oceans.

In 1985, Mr. Solda and his family moved to Chester Springs, where he grew deep roots in the community. There, he built lasting friendships, expanded his family, and lived life to its fullest. A farmer at heart, he held a profound respect for the land, the soil, and all living things. His life was a testament to resilience, gratitude, and love. As his family and friends now reflect, Mr. Solda climbed every rung of life's ladder—one that reached into the heavens.

In recognition of his service, devotion to family, and the example he set for others, I have requested that the flag of the United States be flown over our Nation's Capitol in his honor. His life was filled with courage, family, and faith, and his memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

CONGRATULATING LANCASTER CITY POLICE CHIEF RICHARD MENDEZ ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Chief Richard Mendez on his retirement as Chief of the Lancaster City Bureau of Police Chief, and I thank him for his 25 years of dedicated service to the Lancaster community.

A native of the City of Lancaster and a graduate of McCaskey High School, Chief Mendez joined his hometown police department in 2000. Over the course of his distinguished career, he served as a patrol officer,

K-9 officer, member of the Selective Enforcement Unit, member of the Lancaster County Special Emergency Response Team, and platoon leader. Demonstrating an unparalleled work ethic, he rose through the ranks, and in 2021, was appointed Captain of Patrol, the largest division of the Lancaster City Bureau of Police.

In July 2022, Chief Mendez was sworn in as Chief of Police, becoming the first Hispanic police chief in the bureau's history. During his tenure, the bureau achieved accreditation from the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and implemented significant improvements to its recruitment process. Chief Mendez helped to advance community-focused initiatives such as the Police Social Worker Program, the Office of Community Engagement, and expanded bike patrols, all of which strengthened trust and collaboration between law enforcement and residents.

Chief Mendez has devoted the past 25 years to keeping Lancaster safe. I am extremely grateful for the positive impact he has had on the community. I wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRECK OF THE S.S. EDMUND FITZGERALD

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the wreck of the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* on November 10, 1975, and the 29 crewmates who tragically lost their lives off the shores of Lake Superior.

Nicknamed "The Pride of the American Side," the *Edmund Fitzgerald* was the largest ship on North America's Great Lakes when it was launched on June 7, 1958. For 17 years, the ship carried taconite from mines in Minnesota to Michigan, Ohio, and various other Great Lakes ports. The ship earned a reputation as a workhorse—becoming the first ship to carry one million tons of ore through the Soo Locks in a year—and set the record for single-trip tonnage, carrying more than twenty-seven thousand tons of ore in one voyage. Despite all these accolades, the ship is most remembered for what happened on that fateful November night.

The *Edmund Fitzgerald* embarked on its final mission on the afternoon of November 9, 1975, carrying a full cargo from Superior, Wisconsin, towards Zug Island in Detroit alongside the S.S. *Arthur M. Anderson*. On November 10th, the ships were caught in a hurricane-like storm, facing 25-to-30-foot waves and wind speeds of nearly 100 miles per hour. With the *Edmund Fitzgerald* struggling to navigate the storm, the captains of both ships agreed to seek refuge in Whitefish Bay, off the coast of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Shortly after 7:10 p.m., just 17 miles from Whitefish

Bay, the *Edmund Fitzgerald* sank to the bottom of Lake Superior. The ship remains there today, more than 500 feet below the surface of the Great Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate this somber anniversary, let us remember the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of the *Edmund Fitzgerald's* crew. Their story endures as a lasting reminder of the strength and spirit of those who live and work on the Great Lakes, and of the deep connection between our people and these powerful waters.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MEENA VYAS, MD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career of Dr. Meena Vyas, whose dedication to mental health care and public service has profoundly impacted the people of Denton County, Texas, and beyond. This year marks 30 years of her extraordinary service with Denton County MHMR, where she has exemplified excellence, compassion, and leadership. Beginning her tenure as a psychiatrist in 1996, Dr. Vyas went on to serve as Medical Director from 2011 to 2023 and now as Chief Medical Officer, providing visionary leadership and compassionate care to countless individuals and families.

Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Vyas has devoted herself to improving mental health care and strengthening community-based services. She has served on numerous professional committees, including the American Psychiatric Association, the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians (TSPP) Public Mental Health Committee, and the Medical Services Consortium of the Texas Council of Community Centers, where she held positions as both Chair and Vice Chair. Her leadership in these roles has helped shape statewide policy and advance the quality and accessibility of behavioral health services for Texans.

Dr. Vyas's contributions have been recognized through several prestigious honors, including the Dr. Spencer Bayles Outstanding TSPP Member Award, the Fellow distinction from the American Psychiatric Association, and the Women of the Year Award for Excellence in Health from the Multi-Ethnic Education and Economic Development Center. Beyond her professional achievements, she has been an active advocate for community well-being, contributing her expertise to initiatives such as the Zero Suicide Task Force, Death Review, and Safety and Quality Management Committees, as well as grant reviews for SAMHSA, CCBHC, and AOT programs.

Dr. Meena Vyas's commitment to her patients, her profession, and her community represents the very best of public service. For three decades, she has embodied compassion, leadership, and innovation in mental

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

health care, leaving an enduring legacy at Denton County MHMR and across the state of Texas. It is an honor to celebrate her 30 years of dedicated service and her profound contributions to the advancement of mental health.

THANKING DEREK HARLEY FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I kindly ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Derek N. Harley for his 25 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Derek began his career on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant with Representative Walley Herger of California, later serving as his Legislative Director and then his Chief of Staff. Following Congressman Herger's retirement, Derek served as Chief of Staff to Representative Brad Wenstrup of Ohio. As Chief, Derek was known for prioritizing first-in-class constituent services, a focus he has maintained throughout his career in the House.

After a short time off the Hill, Derek returned to the House as the Republican Staff Director of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. In this position, he saw an opportunity to strengthen Congress's Article I obligations and create positive and lasting institutional change. The Select Committee had what Derek called "squeaky wheel authority" to call attention to longstanding problems and challenges for the House, and he used that authority to relentlessly pursue solutions. His insistence on working with House partners and colleagues across-the-aisle to forge change and strengthen this institution for the better will benefit generations of Members and staff to come. We can all learn a lot from his example.

At the start of the 118th Congress, the Committee on House Administration turned to Derek to Lead the newly constituted Subcommittee on Modernization. Quite frankly, there was no one better suited for this position than Derek. His institutional expertise, his proven leadership skills, and his unwavering dedication to the House and the people it serves made him the obvious—and only—choice to serve as the Subcommittee's inaugural Staff Director. Under the leadership of Subcommittee Chairwoman STEPHANIE BICE of Oklahoma, Derek worked to create new, and much-needed, collaborative workspaces for staff across the House Office Buildings, improve ADA access to the House and the Capitol, streamline the transfer of constituent casework to incoming members of Congress, provide House committees with access to industry-standard e-Discovery software, institute positive change at the Congressional Research Service, and provide more opportunities for Members to engage with their constituents. These are just a few examples of the many contributions Derek has made to this institution.

At the start of the 119th Congress, Derek joined Speaker MIKE JOHNSON's team as Director of House Operations, where he's worked hand-in-glove with my team on House Administration to meet critical campus needs, formalize longstanding policies for House of-

fices, and think strategically about the House's future physical space needs. Derek has always remained open to ideas and solutions and is committed to finding the best path forward for the institution in service to its Members, staff, and the taxpayer.

I am fortunate to have worked with Derek and know he will be missed by many House Members and staff. Derek has been a consummate steward of the institution and a willing partner to everyone who wants the House to work well for the American people. He has already had a lasting and positive impact on the institution and, through his example, has inspired others to continue this work.

On behalf of my colleagues and staff on the Committee on House Administration, I wish Derek Harley all the best as he begins his new role as the Chief Executive Officer of the Congressional Institute. I thank him for his service to the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING REVEREND BRITISH
CONLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend British Conley.

Reverend British Conley, a native of Lambert, Mississippi, was born to the late Robert Gross, Sr. and the late Gertrude Conley. He is a distinguished United States Navy veteran who served honorably on active duty from 1998 to 2002, followed by four additional years in the United States Navy Reserve from 2002 to 2006. His military service instilled in him the values of duty, integrity, and perseverance—principles that have guided his lifelong commitment to service. Following his time in the Navy, he continued to serve his state and community as a Correctional Officer at the Mississippi State Penitentiary, where he worked diligently for four years to uphold safety and order.

A 1997 graduate of Madison Shannon Palmer High School—formerly Quitman County High School—Reverend Conley demonstrated resilience and determination early in life. His perseverance was recognized when he received the Against All Odds Award and a Scholarship from Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi. His passion for education and leadership led him to the University of Mississippi, where he achieved multiple advanced degrees: a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Special Education, an Educational Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Specialist Degree in K–12 Educational Leadership.

Beyond his academic and professional accomplishments, Reverend Conley is a servant-leader in both education and faith. He continues to impact lives as an educational leader and as Pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Belen, Mississippi. His ministry and career embody his belief in building stronger communities through faith, education, and service.

He has been blessed in life and love, married to his high school sweetheart, Mrs. Terry Lashell Geter-Conley, for 17 years. Mrs. Conley is an accomplished entrepreneur and owner of Sweetie's Home Event and Décor. Together, they find joy and renewal through their shared passion for camping, traveling, and nurturing their garden.

From Lambert, Mississippi, to the U.S. Navy, to the classroom, and to the pulpit, Reverend Conley's life reflects resilience, faith, and the transformative power of service, leadership, and love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend British Conley for his dedication and service to the State of Mississippi and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MR. KONRAD
KROZNER'S 16 YEARS WITH THE
PENNSYLVANIA BIOTECHNOLOGY
CENTER AND BARUCH S.
BLUMBERG INSTITUTE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from my district, Mr. Konrad Kroszner, the Director of Operations and Director of Systems and Engineering at the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute. Today, I proudly commend him on his well-earned retirement, following 16 years of dedicated work to furthering education and research in our community.

As the Director of Operations and Director of Systems and Engineering, Mr. Kroszner has been a driving force behind maintenance and improvement for the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute. In his pursuit of ensuring the safe operations of the campus, he led two expansions during his tenure that improved infrastructure for the biotech research teams, bringing old lab spaces up to code to ensure that the latest safety and technical requirements were being met.

Through Mr. Kroszner's tireless efforts, the researchers of my district are better able to apply their technical knowledge through their research in a safe and secure manner. He took personal pride in his work, spearheading the smallest aspects of both the construction and system-engineering aspects down to the minute details.

Konrad's work has not gone unnoticed. His expansion efforts and day-to-day care for the facilities have led the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center to become a world-class biotechnology center, aiding institutions such as the Hepatitis B Foundation and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute in their mission of curing disease such as Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer.

Mr. Kroszner began his career at the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. He spent the next 10 years of his career as an engineer with the Naval Air Warfare Center in Trenton where he supported naval aviation fuel related issues, managed military specifications for fuel contamination detection devices and components, and provided emergency support for U.S. Navy fleet operations.

Beyond these contributions, he has left behind him a legacy of technical knowledge, care, and dedication to his work. Mr. Kroszner's work will continue to be a force for good in not only the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center, but our Nation through the world class facilities he helped to improve that will continue to empower researchers long after his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Konrad Kroszner on his retirement and thank him for 16 years of dedicated work to the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute. His leadership and dedication are sure to leave a lasting mark on the community.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT GARY SINGLETON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Gary Singleton of Bowie County, Texas, and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Gary has dedicated his life to faithfully serving his community and country.

Born in Texarkana, Texas, Gary attended school in the Texarkana and Liberty-Eylau districts before pursuing higher education at Texarkana College, Texas A&M Commerce, and Texas A&M—Texarkana, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business with a minor in computer science. In 1990, he married the love of his life, Lisa Singleton, with whom he has shared many pets, memories, and accomplishments.

After graduating, Gary began his professional career at the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, where he served for 26 years, advancing from IT Programmer to Senior Systems Analyst and ultimately Manager of IT Operations. He later worked for Alcoa Inc. as Site Conversion and Development Lead, overseeing software conversions, and for Cooper Tire and Rubber Company as a Systems Analyst. Gary applied his expertise in healthcare technology at the Collom & Carney Clinic in Texarkana and Willis Knighton Health System in Shreveport, Louisiana, before returning to Collom & Carney Clinic, where he is currently employed.

Beyond his professional career, Gary has demonstrated exceptional dedication to civic and political engagement. Beginning in the 1980's, he served as Precinct Chair, later Vice Chairman, and ultimately Chairman of the Bowie County Republican Party. He served for over 15 years as a Board Member and Vice President of the Bowie County Republicans PAC and held leadership roles with the National Management Association—LSAAP Chapter. Among his proudest achievements, Gary was honored as a Presidential Elector from Texas' 1st Congressional District in 2024, casting his vote for Donald J. Trump in the Texas House of Representatives Chamber in Austin.

Gary Singleton's lifelong commitment to his community, his profession, and his Nation truly exemplifies what it means to be a patriot. It is an honor to recognize his exceptional con-

tributions and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award in appreciation of his steadfast service to the people of Bowie County and the United States of America.

HONORING COLONEL WILLIAM W. BUTLER AS VIRGINIA'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S 2025 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel William Woodard Butler, an extraordinary Virginian and the 2025 Veteran of the Year for Virginia's 4th Congressional District. Colonel Butler is an outstanding choice for this honor, having devoted his entire military career to saving and improving the lives of our service members and advancing research in surgery, tropical medicine, hyperbaric medicine, and aerospace medicine.

Colonel Butler has logged over 980 flight hours, including more than 65 hours in combat, and completed two overseas deployments, one to Okinawa and another to Qatar. He concluded his distinguished military career as a Professor of Aerospace Medicine at the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, earning the Air Force's special experience identifier of Clinical/Academic Grandmaster in both Hyperbaric and Aerospace Medicine.

Internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in altitude-induced decompression sickness and aeromedical evacuation, Colonel Butler's research has directly improved the safety and survivability of critically ill and injured service members during transport. His contributions have had a lasting, positive impact on the Department of Defense and have almost certainly reduced the overall transport morbidity for tens of thousands of casualties.

Colonel Butler's exemplary service has earned him national and international recognition. In 2019, he was inducted into the National Air and Space Museum's Wall of Honor. In 2022, he received the Aerospace Medical Association's prestigious John Ernsting Award, and in 2024, he was honored with the Chesterfield Education Foundation's BRAVO Award.

Following more than 30 years of combined active duty and reserve service, Colonel Butler continued his dedication to the mission as an Aerospace Medicine Consultant to the Air Force for an additional decade. He has authored over 150 publications, including 29 peer-reviewed articles, 39 peer-reviewed abstracts, and 23 proceedings, technical reports, and textbook chapters, culminating in a definitive 200-page monograph on the safe aeromedical evacuation of critically ill and injured casualties.

Beyond his remarkable professional achievements, Colonel Butler has remained deeply involved in his community. He serves as a Trustee for the John Randolph Foundation, a member of the Hopewell City Planning Commission, and an active congregant at the Family of God Church in Chesterfield. He also helped establish a permanently endowed scholarship for students in Chesterfield, Hope-

well, and Prince George pursuing medical careers and is an engaged member of the William and Mary Alumni Book Club in Richmond.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Butler's legacy of service, both in uniform and in his community, embodies the best of Virginia's 4th Congressional District. His lifelong commitment to science, service, and community betterment stands as an inspiration to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Butler on being named the 2025 Veteran of the Year and in thanking him for his decades of exemplary service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING VALERIE PREHODA ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE MICHIGAN TECH PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL OF ALUMNAE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Valerie Prehoda for being inducted into the Michigan Tech Presidential Council of Alumnae. This well-deserved honor reflects her steadfast dedication to her fellow Servicemembers, the communities throughout the Upper Peninsula, and our Nation.

Ms. Prehoda graduated from Michigan Tech in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences, concentrating on archaeology. To help pay her way through school, she worked at the university's copper mine while remaining engaged in many extracurricular activities. She was a member of the soccer, gymnastics, and women's hockey teams while also participating in MTU Aquanauts and assisting in SCUBA instruction.

Following her graduation in 1983, Ms. Prehoda was accepted into the United States Marine Corps as an officer. After 10 years of active duty, she was transferred to the reserves, where she served as museum director and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act coordinator for the Cocopah tribe in Arizona. In 2001, Ms. Prehoda was redeployed following the invasion of Iraq. There she completed two combat tours, surviving a missile attack in northern Kuwait in March 2003, and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2016 after 30 years of civil and military service.

Throughout her distinguished career, Ms. Prehoda received a plethora of awards and commendations, including, but not limited to, a Joint Service Achievement Medal, a Navy Unit Commendation with a bronze star, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and a Presidential Unit Citation for OIF combat support. Upon retiring, Ms. Prehoda continues to serve her country through memberships in various Veteran organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Valerie Prehoda for receiving the prestigious honor of being inducted into the Michigan Tech Presidential Council of Alumnae. I thank her for her enduring commitment to Veterans, her community, and our great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 286; YEA on Roll Call No. 287; and NAY on Roll Call No. 288.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT LISA SINGLETON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mrs. Lisa Singleton of Bowie County, Texas, and to present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Lisa has dedicated her life to faithfully serving her community and country.

Born in Hope, Arkansas, Lisa attended Hope High School, graduating in 1986, and later completed office vocational courses at Texarkana College. In 1990, Lisa married the love of her life, Gary Singleton, with whom she has shared many pets, memories, and successes.

Lisa's professional journey has been as diverse as it has been impactful. She has worked as a receiving clerk for Walmart, a local rental car agent, and in jewelry sales. Yet her greatest professional passion has been in the healthcare industry. She has served her community as a postpartum department unit clerk, an emergency department unit clerk, and as office manager and receptionist for Dr. Petty's Podiatry.

Beyond her professional career, Lisa's dedication to civic engagement has been extraordinary. She has been a volunteer with the Bowie County Republican Party for 35 years, currently serving as Precinct Chair and Volunteer Coordinator, inspiring and organizing others to participate in the democratic process. Her community outreach extends beyond the Party through her work in voter registration and voter engagement at local events and festivals.

Since 1992, Lisa has proudly served as an Election Clerk and Election Judge with the Bowie County Election Administration Office. Among her most notable accomplishments, she has served as Treasurer (two terms), Vice President (one term), and President (two terms) of the Bowie County Republican Women, a chapter affiliated with the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW). Outside of her service, Lisa is also close to completing a personal goal—visiting all fifty states, with only two remaining.

Lisa Singleton's lifelong commitment to her community, her profession, and her Nation truly exemplifies what it means to be a patriot. It is an honor to recognize her exceptional contributions and to present her with the Congressional Patriot Award in appreciation of her steadfast service to the people of Bowie County and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF T1 ENERGY'S OPERATIONS IN WILMER, TEXAS

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the one-year anniversary of T1 Energy's operations in Wilmer, Texas. On November 1, 2024, production began at its state-of-the-art facility. In just twelve short months, the company has already created more than 1,200 good-paying Texas jobs, including 200 held by proud residents of Texas' 6th Congressional District.

By all accounts, the Wilmer facility is exceeding expectations, surpassing production goals and selling out its entire 2025 inventory. This success story is more than numbers; it is an American story. T1 is reshoring the solar supply chain, reducing dependence on Southeast Asia, and making the United States stronger.

Recently, T1 signed a partnership with Corning, a historic American company, to supply solar wafers, linking the innovation of Michigan and Texas in a powerful new supply chain that will support upwards of 6,000 jobs. T1 delivers domestic energy and energy dominance.

This investment in American energy will strengthen our national security, bolster our economic competitiveness, and power the future, including the technologies of tomorrow like artificial intelligence and data centers. I congratulate T1 Energy on this milestone and look forward to their continued growth and contribution to our Nation's energy security.

RECOGNIZING DONALD MAKI ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Donald Maki for being inducted into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor reflects Mr. Maki's remarkable impact and contributions to worker dignity and workplace fairness.

Throughout his life Mr. Maki has embodied integrity, diligence, and a steadfast commitment to fairness. Growing up on his family farm, he worked diligently for hours on end to ensure the success of his family's business. It was those early mornings and hours spent bailing hay that he said contributed to the strong work ethic he carries with him today.

After graduating from Hancock Public Schools in 1975, Mr. Maki earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Suomi College, followed by a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Northern Michigan University. While at NMU he worked multiple jobs as a student building supervisor, apartment manager, and at Public Service Garage to help finance his studies. Upon graduating from NMU in 1979, he began a dedicated career as a full-time police officer with the Norway City Police Department. He was elected chapter

chair of Norway City Employees, a chapter of Local Union No. 1176, a testament to his deep-rooted commitment to workplace fairness and worker dignity.

Following his service in law enforcement, Mr. Maki began working with AFSCME, where he mentored countless workers, negotiated contracts, and strengthened the voice of public employees. At the turn of the 21st century, he continued his service working as a Federal Mediator and Conciliation Services Commissioner. He helped labor and management find common ground through respect, communication, and collaboration. His mediation and training efforts supported fair labor relations, preserved vital jobs, and fostered long-term economic stability across the Great Lakes region.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Donald Maki for being inducted into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. I thank him for his dedication, compassion, and selflessness on behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT DENNIS LEWIS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Dennis Lewis of Texarkana, Texas, and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Dennis has dedicated his life to faithfully serving his community and country.

Born in Texarkana, Texas, Dennis attended Maud High School, graduating in 1970, before pursuing higher education at United Electronics Institute, Texarkana College, the University of North Carolina, and Army Management Staff College, Army Logistics Management College, where he completed the Leadership Management Program and Logistics Management program. In 1971, he married his high school sweetheart, the love of his life, Paula Graham Lewis, with whom he has shared 54 years of marriage, three kids, six grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

After graduating, Dennis began his professional career with the Department of Army at Red River Army Depot in 1972, where he would serve for 39 years until his retirement in 2011. He applied his expertise in electronics by working on cobra helicopter systems and subsequently advanced from technician to senior management.

Beyond his professional career, Dennis has demonstrated exceptional dedication to civic and political engagement. He gave back to his hometown of Maud by serving as a school board member and city councilman. He served for 20 years as Chairman of the Selective Service Local Board, as a member of the Military Services Nomination Board for Senator CRUZ, as a Director for the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce, and currently as Chair of the Red River Credit Union Supervisory Committee.

In 1986, Dennis was awarded the Outstanding Community Service Award by the Army and later received the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

While Dennis has been recognized with numerous distinguished service and leadership awards, he considers his greatest accomplishments to be his three sons growing into dedicated fathers and his enduring marriage to Paula.

Dennis Lewis' lifelong commitment to his community, his profession, and his Nation truly exemplifies what it means to be a patriot. It is an honor to recognize his exceptional contributions and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award in appreciation of his steadfast service to the people of Texarkana his family, and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
DAISY EVELYN STEADMAN

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Liam Steadman and Malia Zaidi on the birth of their new baby daughter, Daisy Evelyn Steadman, who was born on September 28, 2025. She has been born to wonderful parents—Liam has dedicated his career to public service, and Malia is a skilled painter and author. I have no doubt that Daisy will be raised in a home filled with laughter and love and look forward to watching her grow into a beautiful young woman.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to celebrate this new bundle of joy in Liam and Malia's life. Please join me in wishing them well on this newest chapter of their journey together.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER DAVID
HERNANDEZ, JR. OF THE
WESLACO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer David Hernandez, Jr. of the Weslaco Police Department in Weslaco, Texas, for his exceptional service and dedication to our community.

Officer Hernandez has long demonstrated not only professionalism, but strong instincts and sound judgement—qualities that were crucial on November 2, 2025.

On that day, Officer Hernandez responded to a routine disturbance call at a local cafe. During the transport, the patient suddenly became aphasic with eye deviation. Relying on his quick thinking and training, Officer Hernandez made the decision to transport the patient to the Knapp Medical Center Emergency Department.

Because of his swift action, the medical team was able to activate a stroke alert upon arrival. The patient was soon diagnosed with a vessel occlusion and was experiencing a life-threatening stroke. Thanks to Officer Hernandez's decisive response, the patient was quickly transferred for higher-level care and given the best chance of survival.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Hernandez exemplifies the courage and commitment to public service

that define South Texas law enforcement. I am proud to represent him in Congress and recognize the exceptional judgement he displayed on November 2, 2025, as well as his continued service to the people of Weslaco and the Rio Grande Valley.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT STEVE
LEDWELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Steve Ledwell of Texarkana, Texas, and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Steve has dedicated his life to faithfully serving his community and country.

Born and raised in Texarkana, Steve has spent his life building up others and strengthening his community. From a very young age, he has always been the first to lend a hand to anyone in need—and often to those who never even had to ask. Steve has also built a loving, faith-filled family with his wife, their three children, and grandchildren.

Professionally, Steve has had a long and dedicated career at Ledwell & Son Enterprises. Through his work, he has extended his generosity to the entire community—refurbishing and providing trucks for countless local nonprofits and schools. Steve has supported nearly every sports team in town, contributed to Watersprings Ranch, and served as the go-to man behind the scenes whenever help was needed. He even advocated directly with the Army Corps of Engineers to advocate improvements to local flood control and levee systems.

Steve counts among his greatest blessings, his wonderful parents, devoted family, his incredible community, and the opportunity to make a positive difference in so many lives.

Steve Ledwell's lifelong commitment to his community, his profession, and his Nation truly exemplifies what it means to be a patriot. It is an honor to recognize his exceptional contributions and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award in appreciation of his steadfast service to the people of Texarkana and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HOGAN ON
HIS INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER
PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF
FAME

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Thomas Hogan for being inducted into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. A proud U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Hogan brought the same courage, perseverance, and sense of duty he demonstrated in Vietnam to his lifelong commitment to Michigan's working men and women.

Following his service with the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Hogan began his career as

an apprentice with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, ascending through the ranks from journeyman to Business Manager of Local 1070. Over the course of 25 years, he negotiated contracts that improved wages, strengthened workplace safety, and upheld the dignity of electrical workers across Michigan's Upper Peninsula. His dedication towards empowering Michigan's electricians helped strengthen apprenticeship programs, protect pensions, and solidify equal pay for equal work.

Mr. Hogan played an integral role in the creation of IBEW Local 906, which united electrical workers across fourteen counties and laid a stronger, more equitable foundation for future generations of electricians. His steadfast commitment to ensuring the fair treatment of electricians across the U.P. helped eliminate wage disparities, expand training opportunities, and improve cooperation between labor and management with the U.P. Construction Council.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Thomas Hogan for his induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame and thank him for his decades of dedicated service to his fellow electricians, to the Upper Peninsula, and to our Nation.

HONORING GLENDOLA RUNIS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special person, Glendola Runis, of Lexington, Kentucky. She celebrates her 104th birthday on November 20, 2025.

Mrs. Runis was born in Flemingsburg, Kentucky. Mrs. Runis became a nurse and served in the United States Navy. She was stationed at Mare Island Naval Hospital in California and was on active duty from June 13, 1945 until May 14, 1946. One of the many wounded service members that she helped was John Runis, who lost his lower arm during combat. They married in California and moved back to Wisconsin, John's home state.

Mr. and Mrs. Runis had three daughters, Lisa, Linda, and Gloria, and a son, John, Jr. Their son died when he was sixteen. The family moved to Green Valley, Arizona in 1978. Mr. Runis passed away in 1992 and she moved back home to Kentucky to be near family.

Mrs. Runis is to be commended for serving our Nation during World War II. It took great courage and patriotism to leave Kentucky, travel across the country, and treat wounded service members. She and all the men and women who served truly are the "Greatest Generation" as they protected our freedoms that we hold so dear as Americans. We cannot thank them enough for their service and their sacrifice.

It is my honor to recognize, before the House of Representatives, the patriotic service of Glendola Runis during her military career. It is also my honor to wish her a Happy 104th Birthday.

HONORING ANDRE JACKSON WITH
A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Andre Jackson of Rockwall, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Jackson honorably served in the United States Army from 2000 to 2007, dedicating nearly a decade of service for the defense to our Nation with distinction, leadership, and selfless service.

During Sergeant Jackson's seven years of service, he served as an Information Systems Operator, Analyst, and Maintainer. In this role, he oversaw and managed networks and help desks for all information technology functions for over two-thousand users. Sergeant Jackson was deployed to Iraq for both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, where he demonstrated outstanding character, organization, and communication in performing his duties at the highest level.

For his exemplary service, Sergeant Jackson received numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon, among many others recognizing his exceptional performance and commitment to excellence.

Following his retirement from the Army, Sergeant Jackson has continued his legacy of leadership and service in his community. In 2012, he became involved with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, which led to his participation with Heroes on the Water, Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He currently serves as the Interim Post Commander and District Chaplain for Rockwall Veterans of Foreign Wars. Sergeant Jackson also serves as the President of Operation Frontline Warriors Foundation, which works to address food insecurity among active-duty service members, veterans, and first responders. He also founded the Rockwall County VET Together Facebook group, which promotes fellowship and camaraderie with local veterans, while also connecting them with local resources.

I am deeply honored to recognize Sergeant Jackson for his courage, pioneering leadership, and lifelong dedication to serving his country and community. He represents the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
LINDA LEWIS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Linda Lewis of Jasper,

Alabama, wife of Ray Lewis and longtime President of the Chamber of Commerce of Walker County, for her decades of service, leadership, and steadfast commitment to the people and businesses of Walker County.

A proud graduate of Walker High School, Class of 1974, Mrs. Lewis has dedicated much of her life to making Walker County a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Since assuming the role of Chamber President in 1996, she has been instrumental in leading Walker County through transformative growth and economic development. Under her leadership, retail across the county has flourished, from the revitalization of downtown Jasper to the expansion of Interstate 22.

Mrs. Lewis has guided the Chamber in launching critical programs focused on leadership development, community engagement, and technical advancement. She has strengthened partnerships with regional and national bass fishing organizations, boosting tourism and supporting business recruitment. Through her efforts, nationally recognized brands in lodging, dining, and retail have chosen to invest in Walker County, creating hundreds of new jobs and expanding opportunities for families throughout the region.

Most recently, the Walker County Chamber of Commerce unveiled plans for a major new development near Walker Baptist Medical Center in Jasper, a project made possible by Mrs. Lewis's determination to continue advancing the county's economic future.

Mrs. Lewis's contributions to our communities cannot be overstated. Her vision, commitment, and unwavering work ethic have left a lasting impact on Walker County and will continue to shape its success for generations to come.

On this day, November 18, 2025, Linda Lewis will be honored as the recipient of the 2025 Jamie Wallace Award, the highest recognition that a chamber of commerce executive in the State of Alabama can receive. In recognition of her dedicated service, I am proud to present Mrs. Lewis with a flag flown over the United States Capitol in her honor.

It is my privilege to congratulate Linda Lewis on this well-deserved award and to commend her for nearly three decades of exceptional leadership and devotion to Walker County. Her contributions demonstrate the very best of public service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE 102ND ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 102nd anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye. On October 29, 1923, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk proclaimed the establishment of the Republic, ushering in a new era of modernization and progress for the Turkish people. Today, we honor more than a century of friendship, alliance, and cooperation between the United States and Türkiye.

The relationship between our two nations has been anchored in shared strategic inter-

ests and enduring partnership, particularly through our joint commitment to NATO. As allies, the United States and Türkiye have worked together to promote regional stability, strengthen transatlantic security, and advance the values of freedom and democracy. Our collaboration continues to play a vital role in addressing global challenges—from counterterrorism and defense cooperation to humanitarian efforts and energy security.

Our bilateral economic relationship is also significant and growing. Trade between the United States and Türkiye reached nearly \$33 billion in 2024, underscoring the strong commercial ties that benefit both nations. Here in Michigan, Turkish-American trade and investment have contributed to local growth and job creation—totaling approximately \$545 million in 2024 alone. From advanced manufacturing and automotive partnerships to agricultural exports, the economic link between Michigan and Türkiye continues to strengthen our state's role in the global economy.

Equally important are the contributions of Turkish Americans to our society. Turkish Americans enrich our communities through their entrepreneurial spirit, cultural traditions, academic and scientific achievements, and civic engagement. Their success reflects the shared values of opportunity and perseverance that define both our nations.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark this milestone in the history of the Republic of Türkiye, I extend my best wishes to Turkish Americans in Michigan and across the United States, and to the people of Türkiye. May the friendship between our nations continue to grow stronger in the years ahead, rooted in mutual respect, shared prosperity, and a steadfast commitment to peace and security.

HONORING ASHTEN WALDREP
WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Ashten Waldrep of Whitewright, Texas, and to honor her with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Petty Officer Waldrep honorably served in the United States Navy from 2008 to 2015, demonstrating integrity, discipline, and dedication to duty as a Master at Arms.

During her military career, Petty Officer Waldrep was stationed at Naval Station Everett in Washington, where she played a vital role in maintaining security and readiness, ensuring the safety and effectiveness of her fellow sailors. Serving during the post-9/11 War on Terrorism, she contributed to the Navy's global mission to protect the Nation and combat terrorism both at home and abroad. For her honorable service, she received the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal—each recognizing her commitment and professionalism in service to our Nation.

Following her military career, Petty Officer Waldrep has continued her dedication to others through her work with the Military Veteran

Peer Network, where she provides peer support, suicide prevention, and community outreach for veterans in need. As a Mentor Coordinator for Veterans Court, she assists justice-involved veterans by offering guidance, accountability, and a second chance at success through rehabilitation and support.

In 2024, Petty Officer Waldrep graduated from the Texoma Regional Police Academy, where she received the Grayson College Veteran Award for her outstanding achievements. She went on to serve with the Grayson County Sheriff's Office and now provides security for Austin College. In addition to her service and career, she is a devoted mother of four, continuing to lead with strength and compassion.

I am deeply honored to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Ashten Waldrep for her courage, patriotism, and lifelong devotion to serving others. She exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
JAMES E. ALDREDGE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. James E. Aldredge, a trailblazer, educator, and public servant whose lifelong commitment to improving the City of Fresno—particularly for residents in Southwest Fresno—has left an enduring mark on our community. Dr. Aldredge passed away peacefully on October 12, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

Born in Gilmer, Texas, and raised in Fresno from the age of four, Dr. Aldredge's story is one of perseverance, excellence, and service. A star athlete at Edison High School, he signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates at just seventeen years old, showcasing the talent and determination that would define his life. After a career-ending injury ended his professional baseball aspirations, Dr. Aldredge redirected his focus to education, an area he would champion for decades to come.

Dr. Aldredge earned degrees from Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno, before completing both a master's and Ph.D. in Organizational Development at the University of Southern California, with additional studies at Oxford University. His academic journey reflected his deep belief that education is the key opportunity, a principle he shared throughout his life with students and colleagues alike.

In 1985, Dr. Aldredge made history when he became Fresno's first Black City Manager, breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations of leaders. His steady leadership, integrity, and commitment to equity guided the city through times of transition and progress. After retiring from City Hall in 1989, he continued to serve the community as an educator at Fresno State, City College, the University of San Francisco, and Fresno Pacific University, mentoring countless students who would go on to serve their own communities with the same sense of purpose.

Beyond public service, Dr. Aldredge dedicated his time to numerous organizations, in-

cluding the boards of Saint Agnes Hospital, Kings View Behavioral Health, and CEN-CAL Business Finance Group. He also established a foundation that grew over one million dollars in assets to support students, athletes, and social services. Among his many honors, he received the B'nai B'rith Award for his lifelong commitment to justice and equality and was inducted into the State Center Community College District's Wall of Honor at the African American Historical and Cultural Museum.

Dr. Aldredge was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Daisy Rae, and his brother, John Aldredge. He is remembered by his family, friends, colleagues, and former students for his humor, wisdom, and unwavering belief in Fresno's potential. His legacy continues through the James E. Aldredge Foundation, which embodies his vision of empowering others through education and civic engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and celebrating the extraordinary life of Dr. James E. Aldredge. His story reminds us that true leadership is rooted in service, resilience, and commitment to uplifting the communities we call home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for the vote series on November 17, 2025 due to a funeral for a family member.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 286; YEA on Roll Call No. 287; and NAY on Roll Call No. 288.

HONORING BILLY GENE TEAGUE
WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Specialist Billy Gene Teague of Denison, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Specialist Teague honorably served his country across multiple branches, including the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1981 to 1982, the Texas Army National Guard from 1982 to 1983, the United States Army from 1986 to 1987, and the Texas State Guard from 1988 to 1990 and again from 2015 to 2017.

Throughout his military service, he held roles as a tracked vehicle repairman, armored vehicle landing bridge operator, military police supervisor, and later as a nurse and military police officer in the Texas State Guard, where he achieved the rank of First Lieutenant. His duty stations included Parris Island, Aberdeen, Fort Hood, Hunter Army Airfield, the Rio Grande Valley, Fort Walters, Dallas, and Camp Pendleton. For his exemplary service, Specialist Teague received numerous awards and honors, including the Army Service Ribbon, the Medal of Merit, the Adjutant Gen-

eral's Individual Award with two stars, the Commanding General's Individual Medal, the Humanitarian Service Ribbon, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Cold War Medal, the Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizen Bronze Medal, and the Texas Medal of Merit.

Beyond his military service, Specialist Teague has remained deeply devoted to his fellow veterans and the Texoma community. He developed both the Terminally Ill Veteran Flag Program and the Texoma Heroes Project, dedicating more than 1,500 volunteer hours to recognizing hundreds of veterans. He also created a Trauma-Affected Veteran training curriculum for law enforcement and an ASVAB pretest program for students at Grayson College.

Specialist Teague currently serves as Chaplain for the American Legion Post No. 29 in Sherman, Texas, where he continues to assist veterans and their families. A proud husband, father of four, and grandfather of six, he lives by the values of God, family, and country. Despite being a 100 percent disabled veteran, he continues to dedicate his life to serving others and uplifting the veteran community across North Texas.

I am deeply honored to recognize Specialist Billy Teague for his courage, patriotism, and lifelong dedication to serving both his country and his community. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING THE 245TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FIRST AFRI-
CAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICH-
MOND, VIRGINIA

HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 245th anniversary of the First African Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, one of the oldest continuously operating Black congregations in the United States and a cornerstone of faith, resilience, and community leadership in the Commonwealth and in Virginia's 4th Congressional District.

The church's roots run deep into Richmond's past. On July 1, 1841, members of three Baptist churches gathered at First Baptist Church to formally organize what was to become "The African Baptist Church of Richmond." That founding charter included stipulations that reflect the fraught realities of its time, including the oversight of religious instruction by a committee of white members of Richmond's Baptist churches.

Founded in 1780, during a time when the vast majority of African Americans in Virginia were enslaved, First African Baptist Church began as a congregation of free and enslaved worshippers who sought spiritual refuge and self-determination in the heart of Richmond. Despite extraordinary obstacles, the congregation persevered, grew, and became formally recognized as an independent church in 1841 under the leadership of Reverend Robert Ryland.

Throughout its remarkable history, First African Baptist Church has stood as a beacon of hope and activism in Richmond. It was a center for abolitionist organizing, education, and

later, for the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia, playing a vital role in advancing justice, equity, and opportunity for all.

I had the honor of joining the congregation for their 245th anniversary celebration and witnessing firsthand the deep faith, unity, and pride that continue to define this historic church. Under the dedicated leadership of Reverend Dr. Rodney D. Waller, First African Baptist Church remains a powerful force for good, empowering future generations through worship, education, and community outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 245th anniversary of the First African Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, and in recognizing the profound contributions this historic congregation has made to our Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OTTAWA POST 3134

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ottawa Post 3134 for their 80 years of dedicated service to the Veteran community of the Iron River area.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), established in 1899, is an organization of United States Veterans who fought in wars on foreign land, water, or airspace. For over a century, the organization has steadfastly supported the needs of our Nation's disabled and impoverished Veterans, as well as widows of Veterans and the dependents of former Servicemembers.

This historic organization was born from the unification of several communities following the Spanish-American War. Small groups of Veterans returning from campaigns in Cuba and the Philippine Islands formed local communities composed of those who shared the dangers faced while in combat. Eventually, these small, localized societies found each other, culminating in the creation of the American Veterans of Foreign Service (the predecessor to the VFW) founded by James C. Putnam, a Veteran of the Spanish-American War.

On October 17, 1945, the petition charter was granted to form VFW Ottawa Post 3134 to support Veterans returning from World War II. Since then, they have provided a wide range of services, including assistance with VA benefits, community outreach, financial support for Veterans in need, and programs to honor the sacrifices of those who served. Today, Post 3134 continues to serve the needs of Veterans from its surrounding communities under the leadership of its Commander, Jesse Casari.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize VFW Ottawa Post 3134 for their 80 years of service to the Veteran community of the Iron River area. I thank them for their dedication, compassion, and selflessness on behalf of our Upper Peninsula Veterans.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT MICHAEL VERARDO

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in remembrance of American Hero, Retired Army Sergeant Michael Verardo. After a heroic fifteen-year battle with catastrophic injuries from his deployment to Afghanistan, Sergeant Verardo tragically lost his life this past August. He will be laid to rest on November 19, 2025, in Arlington National Cemetery.

Sergeant Verardo enlisted in the Army in 2001, joining the distinguished 82nd Airborne Division as an infantryman and serving multiple tours between Iraq and Afghanistan. During his deployments, he received numerous well-deserved awards and decorations for his service, including two Purple Hearts for deeds in April 2010. He received the second award as the result of life altering injuries from an improvised explosive device detonation.

He underwent extensive speech, visual, physical, and occupational therapy to recover from his injuries. During his fight, he sought to help other veterans by selflessly dedicating time to their needs and struggles. Through the Wounded Warrior Project and countless other initiatives, he worked alongside his wife, Sarah, to make meaningful changes not just in individual lives but through legislation at the state and federal levels.

His wife, Sarah, continues his work as the CEO of the Independence Fund, where she supports service members, combat Veterans, their Caregivers, and families. Michael inspired many of the Independence Fund's programs, and his legacy will live on in all those they continue to help.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the life and legacy of American Hero, Sergeant Michael Verardo, who will continue to serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made to protect our Nation.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALLS TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise in recognition of the distinct achievements and dedicated service of the Falls Township Police Department on the occasion of their 75th anniversary.

For three quarters of a century, the men and women of the Falls Township Police Department have served their community with distinction, dedication, professionalism, and valor. Established on January 2, 1950, under the leadership of Chief Franklin Kirby as a one-man operation in a rapidly growing township, the department's contributions to public safety in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, are immeasurable, and their legacy is one of commitment, adaptability, and steadfast protection of those who live, work, and travel through Falls Township.

The Falls Township Police Department traces its origins to that humble beginning in

1950, when Chief Franklin Kirby patrolled alone in a vehicle without modern amenities like radios, computers, or air conditioning, safeguarding a small farming community surrounding historic Fallsington. From those early days, the department has grown alongside the township's transformation into a thriving suburb encompassing Levittown, Fairless Hills, and parts of Morrisville, meeting the evolving needs of a population that has swelled and diversified.

Over the decades, the department has expanded to a professional force of sworn personnel, operating continually with increasing capabilities. It has adapted to the demands of modern law enforcement, incorporating advanced training, technology, and community-oriented policing while maintaining operational readiness in an ever-changing environment. The officers of the Falls Township Police Department have skillfully navigated shifts in population, infrastructure, and societal challenges, providing decades of vigilant patrol, investigative excellence, and emergency response for the residents and visitors of this vital Pennsylvania community. Their continual adaptation to new tools, techniques, and threats is a true testament to the resiliency, professionalism, and reliability of the men and women of this department.

Their unwavering dedication to duty and willingness to innovate to meet the needs of a dynamic community is exemplified in their growth into a full-service agency, embracing advancements in equipment, tactics, and community partnerships. Today, under the leadership of Chief Nelson E. Whitney, II, the professionals of the Falls Township Police Department continue to uphold the highest standards, providing patrol, criminal investigation, crisis response, and outreach that directly support the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods.

Throughout its history, the Falls Township Police Department has embodied the core principles of law enforcement: integrity, service, and community trust. They have protected the community, responded in times of crisis, and stood ready to answer the call whenever needed. Their officers and support personnel have been, and continue to be, among the most skilled and committed in Bucks County.

As we mark this significant milestone, it is my distinct honor to celebrate those who have faithfully served in the Falls Township Police Department over the past seventy-five years. Their sacrifices, and those of their families, have ensured the peace and security of our community. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge their service and pay tribute to their courage and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Falls Township Police Department and in extending a heartfelt thank you to the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in this distinguished agency. May the next seventy-five years of officers serve with the same valor, honor, integrity, and dedication to duty as the exemplary men and women of the Falls Township Police Department have so expertly demonstrated over the last three-quarter century of service.

HONORING KRISTEN HARRIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Kristen Harris on her recent dual appointment as Executive Assistant to Vicksburg Police Department Chief Larry Burns and as the Department's Data and Compliance Specialist.

Ms. Harris is uniquely qualified for these positions. When the department received its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) certification in 2020, she served as the sole NIBRS trainer for the State of Mississippi. In her new role, she will also leverage NIBRS data to pursue federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants, the leading source of criminal justice funding for state and local jurisdictions.

A 2008 graduate of Vicksburg High School, Ms. Harris earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Tougaloo College, where she graduated as valedictorian. She went on to complete a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Memphis. Her professional career includes service with the Department of Public Safety, where she first worked with the NIBRS system.

In 2021, Ms. Harris returned to her hometown of Vicksburg to help the city manage a \$3 million COVID relief grant. She later served as Chief of Staff for former Mayor George Flaggs, Jr., bringing her leadership and expertise to City government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kristen Harris for her commitment to public service, her professional excellence, and her continued contributions to the City of Vicksburg and the State of Mississippi.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS"
LYNCH WITH A CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Christopher "Chris" Joseph Lynch of Rockwall, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional

Veteran Commendation. CSM Lynch honorably served in the United States Army for twenty-seven years.

During his distinguished military career, Command Sergeant Major Lynch served in a wide range of roles, from basic infantry duties to senior leadership as the Command Sergeant Major of battalion-sized formations. His service record reflects a steady progression of responsibility—from fire team leader and squad leader to platoon sergeant, company first sergeant, and, ultimately, battalion Command Sergeant Major. In addition to these leadership positions, CSM Lynch held numerous noncommissioned officer staff roles within combat formations. His extensive service took him across the globe, including assignments in Korea, Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CSM Lynch's outstanding service earned him numerous commendations, including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, five Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation. These honors reflect his exceptional leadership and steadfast dedication to his country and fellow soldiers.

Since retiring from the Army, Chris has continued his service as the Director of Elections for Rockwall County, where he leads a team known for integrity and excellence. He also serves as Post Vice Commander of the Rockwall Terry Fisher American Legion Post, where he established a Veteran Relief Program supporting local veterans in need. Additionally, he helped create a Youth Leadership Symposium that introduces middle school students to fundamental leadership principles.

I am deeply honored to recognize Command Sergeant Major Christopher Joseph Lynch for his extraordinary courage, patriotism, and lifelong commitment to service. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING MR. MICHAEL TARR
ON BEING NAMED MARQUETTE
COUNTY VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Michael A. Tarr for being

named the 2025 Marquette County Veteran of the Year. This well-deserved honor reflects his steadfast dedication to his fellow Servicemembers, the communities throughout the Upper Peninsula, and our Nation.

Mr. Tarr faithfully served 26 years in the U.S. Army, earning numerous military decorations including, but not limited to, the Army Commendation Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon. These honors stand as a testament to Mr. Tarr's unwavering dedication to his fellow Servicemembers and our great Nation.

After retiring from the U.S. Army, Mr. Tarr continued to serve his community, fellow Veterans, and country as a member of numerous Veteran organizations. Serving as a National Committee Member and Volunteer Director for Wish for Our Heroes (W4OH) since 2012, he has invested innumerable hours in helping Servicemembers and Veterans who are facing financial hardships. Playing a key role in fundraising for W4OH, he has been essential in raising over \$15 million and granting over 20,000 wishes across our country. Mr. Tarr also serves as Executive Director for Walk Among Heroes, leading operations to return WWII Veterans to battlefields they once fought on by coordinating all travel, lodging, and transportation. In addition to helping share the stories of WWII Veterans, he has had the distinct honor of leading battlefield walks for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

Mr. Tarr has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to ensuring that the sacrifices of our Nation's heroes are not forgotten by future generations. In 2025, he launched the Walk Among Heroes Youth Ambassador Program where high school students walk the grounds of historic battlefields while learning from WWII Veterans.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Michael A. Tarr for receiving the prestigious honor of being named the 2025 Marquette County Veteran of the Year. I thank him for his enduring commitment to Veterans, his community, and our great country.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8189–S8209

Measures Introduced: Twenty-two bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3175–3196, S.J. Res. 95, and S. Res. 499–502.

Pages S8203–04

Measures Reported:

S. 246, to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions. (S. Rept. No. 119–96)

S. 1884, to clarify the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, to appropriately limit the application of defenses based on the passage of time and other non-merits defenses to claims under that Act, with amendments.

S. 2503, to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Page S8203

Measures Passed:

Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1512, to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines, and the bill was then passed.

Page S8208

National Native American Heritage Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 501, recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

Pages S8208–09

National Family Caregivers Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 502, recognizing November 2025 as "National Family Caregivers Month".

Page S8209

Measures Considered:

Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2026: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

Pages S8189–94

Epstein Files Transparency Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that when the Senate receives H.R. 4405, to require the Attorney General to release all documents and records in possession of the Department of Justice relating to Jeffrey Epstein, from the House, the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration and the bill be passed, with no intervening action or debate.

Pages S8193–94

Nieh Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of 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.

Pages S8194–95

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 65 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. 619), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S8194–95

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that the post-cloture time on the nomination be expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 12 noon, on Wednesday, November 19, 2025; and that at 2:15 p.m., Senator Lummis be recognized for up to five minutes prior to making a motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 89, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment".

Page S8209

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Stuart Levenbach, of Maryland, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years.

Carter Crow, of Texas, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years.

Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

David Clay Fowlkes, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

Nicholas Jon Ganjei, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Aaron Christian Peterson, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

8 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Page S8209**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Donald Korb, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant Gen-

eral Counsel in the Department of the Treasury, which was sent to the Senate on April 29, 2025.

Page S8209

Messages from the House: **Pages S8202–03**

Measures Referred: **Page S8203**

Measures Disharged: **Page S8203**

Executive Communications: **Page S8203**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8204–06**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8206–08**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8201–02**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—619) **Page S8195**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:47 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8209.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 47 public bills, H.R. 6074–6120; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 62; and H. Res. 886–891 were introduced. **Pages H4768–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H4772**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1669, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program (H. Rept. 119–381); and

H.R. 2319, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–382). **Page H4768**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Taylor to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4709**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:04 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H4716**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Velázquez wherein she resigned from the Committee on Natural Resources. **Page H4718**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 886, electing a member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H4718**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 887, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H4718**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure: Epstein Files Transparency Act: H.R. 4405, to require the Attorney General to release all documents and records in possession of the Department of Justice relating to Jeffrey Epstein, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ recorded vote of 427 ayes to 1 no, Roll No. 289. **Pages H4725–33**

Disapproving the behavior of Representative Jesús G. “Chuy” García of Illinois: The House agreed to H. Res. 878, disapproving the behavior of

Representative Jesús G. “Chuy” García of Illinois, by a yea-and-nay vote of 236 yeas to 183 nays with four answering “present”, Roll No. 292. Consideration began yesterday, November 17th. **Pages H4736–37**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Clarke (NY) announced her intent to offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 889) censuring Representative Cory Mills. **Pages H4757–58**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:26 p.m. and reconvened at 8:16 p.m. **Page H4758**

Requesting the Secretary of the Interior to authorize unique and one-time arrangements for displays on the National Mall and the Washington Monument during the period beginning on December 31, 2025, and ending on January 5, 2026: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.J. Res. 133, requesting the Secretary of the Interior to authorize unique and one-time arrangements for displays on the National Mall and the Washington Monument during the period beginning on December 31, 2025, and ending on January 5, 2026. **Pages H4758–59**

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment”: The House passed H.J. Res. 130, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 294.

Pages H4718–25, H4734–35, H4735–36, H4746–50, H4759

H. Res. 879, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 80), (H.J. Res. 130), (H.J. Res. 131), the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 58), and the bills (H.R. 1949), (H.R. 3109), (H.R. 5107), and (H.R. 5214) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 217 yeas to 210 noes, Roll No. 291, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 290.

Pages H4718–25, H4734–35, H4735–36

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision”: The House passed H.J. Res. 131, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Coastal Plain Oil and Gas

Leasing Program Record of Decision”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 295.

Pages H4718–25, H4734–35, H4735–36, H4750–53, H4760

H. Res. 879, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 80), (H.J. Res. 130), (H.J. Res. 131), the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 58), and the bills (H.R. 1949), (H.R. 3109), (H.R. 5107), and (H.R. 5214) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 217 yeas to 210 noes, Roll No. 291, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 290.

Pages H4718–25, H4734–35, H4735–36

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision”: The House passed S.J. Res. 80, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision” by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 296.

Pages H4718–25, H4734–35, H4735–36, H4753–57, H4760–61

H. Res. 879, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 80), (H.J. Res. 130), (H.J. Res. 131), the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 58), and the bills (H.R. 1949), (H.R. 3109), (H.R. 5107), and (H.R. 5214) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 217 yeas to 210 noes, Roll No. 291, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 290.

Pages H4718–25, H4734–35, H4735–36

Censuring and condemning Delegate Stacey Plaskett and removing her from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for conduct that reflects discredibly on the House of Representatives for colluding with convicted felony sex offender Jeffrey Epstein during a congressional hearing: The House failed to agree to H. Res. 888, censuring and condemning Delegate Stacey Plaskett and removing her from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for conduct that reflects discredibly on the House of Representatives for colluding with convicted felony sex offender Jeffrey Epstein during a congressional hearing, by a yea-and-nay vote of 209 yeas to 214 nays with three answering “present”, Roll No. 297. Earlier, the Clark (MA) motion to refer the resolution to the Committee on Ethics failed by a yea-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 293.

Pages H4737–46, H4761–62

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Sherrill, wherein she resigned as Representative for the Eleventh Congressional District of New Jersey, effective November 20, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

Page H4767

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4733, H4734–35, H4735–36, H4736–37, H4738, H4759, H4760, H4760–61, and H4761–62.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Committee Meetings

OVERSIGHT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Congressional Budget Office”. Testimony was heard from Phillip Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

THE FUTURE OF COLLEGE: HARNESSING INNOVATION TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND LOWER COSTS

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Future of College: Harnessing Innovation to Improve Outcomes and Lower Costs”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a markup on H.R. 1343, the “Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act”; H.R. 1588, the “Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act”; H.R. 1665, the “DIGITAL Applications Act”; H.R. 1681, the “Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act”; H.R. 1731, the “Standard FEES Act”; H.R. 6046, the “Broadband and Telecommunications RAIL Act”; and H.R. 2289, the “Proportional Reviews for Broadband Deployment Act”. H.R. 1343, H.R. 1588, H.R. 1665, H.R. 1681, and H.R. 1731 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. H.R. 6046 and H.R. 2289 were forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

INNOVATION WITH INTEGRITY: EXAMINING THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF AI CHATBOTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Innovation with Integrity: Examining the Risks and Benefits of AI Chatbots.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF DEPOSIT INSURANCE: EXPLORING THE COVERAGE, COSTS, AND DEPOSITOR CONFIDENCE

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Future of Deposit Insurance: Exploring the Coverage, Costs, and Depositor Confidence”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 4638, the “Bill to Outlaw Wounding of Official Working Animals Act”; H.R. 5713, the “Expedited Removal of Criminal Aliens Act”; H.R. 4711, the “REMOVE Act”; H.R. 2189, the “Law Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act of 2025”; H.R. 2675, the “Protecting Our Courts from Foreign Manipulation Act of 2025”; H.R. 1109, the Litigation Transparency Act of 2025”; H.R. 6048, the “NDO Fairness Act”; and H.R. 988, to amend title 36, United States Code, to move the place of incorporation and domicile of the National Woman’s Relief Corps to Illinois, to move the principal office of such Corps to Murphysboro, Illinois, and for other purposes.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5763, the “Main Street Parity Act”; H.R. 5788, the “504 Program Risk Oversight Act”; H.R. 3496, the “Northern Mariana Islands Small Business Access Act”; H.R. 5764, the “AI for Mainstreet Act”; H.R. 5784, the “Artificial Intelligence Wisdom for Innovative Small Enterprises”; H.R. 5778, the “Improving SBA Engagement on Employee Ownership Act”; and H.R. 4305, the “Destroying Unnecessary, Misaligned, and Prohibitive Red Tape Act of 2025”. H.R. 5763, H.R. 5788, H.R. 5784, and H.R. 5778 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 3496, H.R. 5764, and H.R. 4305 were ordered reported, as amended.

LEAVING THE STICKY NOTES BEHIND: HARNESSING INNOVATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGY TO HELP AMERICA’S FOSTER YOUTH SUCCEED

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a hearing entitled “Leaving the Sticky Notes Behind: Harnessing Innovation and New Technology to Help America’s Foster Youth Succeed”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine frontier technologies, industrial efficiency, and pro-innovation policies, after receiving testimony from Will Rinehart, American Enterprise Institute, and Ruth Whittaker, Third Way, both of Washington, D.C.; Niccolo De Masi, IonQ, College Park, Maryland; and Evan Beard, Standard Bots, Glen Cove, New York.

NATO'S EASTERN FLANK

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: On Monday, November 17, 2025, commission concluded a hearing to examine deterrence on NATO's Eastern flank, after receiving testimony from Margus Tsahkna, Republic of Estonia Minister of Foreign Affairs; Seth Jones, Center for Strategic and International Studies; and Peter Rough, Hudson Institute Center on Europe and Eurasia.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D880)

H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026. Signed on November 12, 2025. (Public Law 119–37)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael Selig, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 3 p.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Joseph Gormley, of Maryland, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association, Francis Cassidy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Paul Hollis, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Mint, and Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 10:15 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider the nominations of Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, Trent Morse, of Florida, to be

a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Admiral Kevin Lunday, to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, 11 a.m., SR–253.

Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation, to hold hearings to examine how shutdowns threaten air safety, travel, and the economy, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine how the BLM land use planning process under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) affects permitting for energy, mining, grazing, and infrastructure projects on public lands, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the future of PFAS cleanup and disposal policy, 10 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nominations of Arjun Mody, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Commissioner Social Security, Jeffrey Goettman, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Africa, Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Environment, Labor, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the Rank of Ambassador, Julie Callahan, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, 9:45 a.m., SD–215.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the rising cost of health care, focusing on considering meaningful solutions for all Americans, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Tammy Bruce, of California, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador; the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations; and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Darryl Nirenberg, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Romania, Melissa Argyros, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Christopher Yeaw, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Stability), and Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, and

pending calendar business, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, and Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine pending calendar nominations, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, to hold hearings to examine Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 2 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine Trump's regulatory rollback, focusing on saving Americans \$907 billion and counting, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2 p.m., Room to be announced.

Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine made in America, focusing on restoring trust in our medicines, 3:45 p.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "E-Verify: Ensuring Lawful Employment in America", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled "From Classroom to Career: Strengthening Skills Pathways Through CTE", 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3474, the "Federal Mechanical Insulation Act"; H.R. 3699, the "Energy Choice Act"; H.R. 5184, the "Affordable Housing Over Mandating Efficiency Standards Act"; H.R. 4690, the "Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act"; H.R. 4593, the "Saving Homeowners from Overregulation With Exceptional Rinsing Act"; H.R. 4758, the "Homeowner Energy Freedom Act";

H.R. 4626, the "Don't Mess With My Home Appliances Act"; and H.R. 1355, the "Weatherization Enhancements and Readiness Act of 2025", 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, hearing entitled "No Exit Strategy: Burma's Endless Crisis and America's Limited Options", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Taking Stock of the STOCK Act", 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, hearing entitled "Enumeration or Estimation: Why Inaccurate Census Results Hurt American Citizens", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled "Restoring Law and Order in High-Crime U.S. Cities", 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 338, the "Every Drop Counts Act"; H.R. 1514, the "Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission Act"; H.R. 3756, the "FISH Act of 2025"; and H.R. 5699, the "Fisheries Data Modernization and Accuracy Act of 2025", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 4276, to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, and for other purposes; H.R. 5515, the "Indian Trust Asset Reform Amendment Act"; H.R. 5682, to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pechanga Band of Indians, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5696, the STREAMLINE Act, 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Modernizing Care Coordination to Prevent and Treat Chronic Disease", 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Predatory Pricing: How The Chinese Communist Party Manipulates Global Mineral Prices to Maintain Its Dominance", 10 a.m., 390 Cannon.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House.
The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through October 31, 2025

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in Session	169	138	..
Time in Session	1106 hrs 44'	470 hrs 49'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	S7857	H4569	..
Extensions of remarks .....	..	E1027	..
Public bills enacted into law	14	23	..
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	..	1	..
Measures passed, total	333	400	733
Senate bills	57	8	..
House bills	17	279	..
Senate joint resolutions	13	5	..
House joint resolutions	14	15	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	6	4	..
House concurrent resolutions	7	9	..
Simple resolutions	219	80	..
Measures reported, total	*204	356	560
Senate bills	173	..	..
House bills	4	311	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	26	41	..
Special reports	11	4	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	200	168	..
Measures introduced, total	3670	6934	10,604
Bills	3074	5890	..
Joint resolutions	94	132	..
Concurrent resolutions	22	58	..
Simple resolutions	480	854	..
Quorum calls	3	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	601	209	..
Recorded votes .....	..	72	..
Bills vetoed .....	..	..	..
Veto overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through October 31, 2025

Civilian nominees, totaling 553, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	307
Unconfirmed	191
Withdrawn	55
Other Civilian nominees, totaling 308, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	290
Unconfirmed	18
Air Force nominees, totaling 6034, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,946
Unconfirmed	87
Withdrawn	1
Army nominees, totaling 5959, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,941
Unconfirmed	18
Navy nominees, totaling 5184, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,179
Unconfirmed	5
Marine Corps nominees, totaling 686, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	686
Space Force nominees, totaling 409, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	408
Unconfirmed	1
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominees carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominees received this Session	19,133
Total confirmed	18,757
Total unconfirmed	320
Total withdrawn	56
Total returned to the White House	0

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 91 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 318 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, November 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 12 noon), Senate will vote on confirmation of 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.

At 2:15 p.m., Senator Lummis will be recognized for 5 minutes prior to making a motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 89, Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment.

Additional roll call votes are expected during Wednesday's session of the Senate.

(Senate will recess following disposition of the nomination of Ho Nieh until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, November 19

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 5214—District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025. Consideration of H.R. 5107—CLEAN DC Act of 2025. Consideration of H.R. 3109—REFINER Act. Consideration of H.R. 1949—Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025. Consideration of H. Con. Res. 58—Denouncing the horrors of socialism.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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