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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX 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 1:50 p.m.

NURSING EXCLUDED AS ''PROFESSIONAL'' DEGREE BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, as this headline from Newsweek magazine reports, a few weeks ago, the U.S. Department of Education issued probably the most out-of-touch, offensive new rule in the history of the Department, excluding nursing from its definition of ''professional occupations,'' part of its new graduate student loan program, which was created by the one big, ugly bill.

For the 4.7 million actively registered nurses and the 250,000 students enrolled in bachelor's, master's, and doctoral nursing programs across the United States, this decree that they are not professionals is both a disgraceful insult that shocks the conscience and an order which will condemn America's nurses into second-class status for Federal graduate student loan assistance.

Madam Speaker, this legal demotion is happening at a time when our country is experiencing a nursing shortage. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that we have 195,000 unfilled nursing positions in this country. The Department of Health and Human Services goes even higher. It says that it is 280,000. McKinsey & Company, a respected think tank, predicts that the shortage will grow to 400,000 by the end of this decade.

Madam Speaker, Members of this House don't really need to spend much time reading these reports to know that that shortage is real. Just go to any hospital, nursing home, or health clinic in your district, and you will hear the same thing: they are short-staffed in ERs, exam rooms, operating rooms, and on the floors. Short-staffing is bad for patients, and it is bad for nursing burnout.

Despite this blindingly obvious reality, the Education Department's designation is putting a hard cap of $100,000, with no indexing, on graduate student loans for nurses, all part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which my Republican colleagues passed in June. It is a healthcare monstrosity, which cut $1 trillion from Medicaid, cut out premium subsidies for 22 million Americans for their healthcare exchange plans, and now will suffocate the growth of our Nation's caring professions.

If you doubt my words, then maybe you will listen to the president of the American Nursing Association, the largest nursing professional organization in America. Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, the president, states: ''Nurses make up the largest segment of the healthcare workforce and [are] the backbone of our Nation's health system. At a time when healthcare in our country faces a historic nurse shortage and rising demands, limiting nurses' access to funding for graduate school threatens the very foundation of patient care.''

Well said.

Madam Speaker, ANA is doing more. They have organized a petition drive because this rule goes into effect next July. As of the middle of last week, they had 180,000 signatures, and that will grow.

Madam Speaker, it definitely will grow in the coming days. Every Member of this House—and I will be one of them—should write to the Department of Education saying that this rule makes no sense in terms of the healthcare system today and, also, is an insult to the people who go through extensive training, testing, and certification before they are allowed to practice their caring profession.

While we are at it, we should also help the other professions which were excluded by the Department of Education: physician assistants, physical therapists, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, architects, accountants, advanced degree educators, social workers, dental hygienists, and occupational therapists.

This proposal by the Department of Education is madness, and Congress should actually do more than just support the regulatory process in terms of reversing these rules. We should also go back and revisit the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and recognize, again, what our healthcare sector is telling us: We are risking the financial solvency of institutions all across America, and, again, we are damaging our

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future in terms of getting young, motivated people to join the healthcare professions.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SARAH BECKSTROM

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of U.S. Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, a 20-year-old from West Virginia, who was killed while defending Washington, D.C., during an assignment with the National Guard.

In Sarah's 2 years of service, she was distinguished, admirable, and a highly respected individual. Her assassination is nothing more than despicable.

The National Guard in Washington has aided immensely in cracking down on crime. Yet, they have been vilified with dangerous rhetoric. The devastation continues to arise.

On the day before Thanksgiving, America lost one of the best of us. May God watch over Sarah Beckstrom. May God comfort her loved ones and guide our Nation through this heartbreaking time. May we always recognize Sarah as an American hero, and may her sacrifice continue to uphold her legacy.

Please continue to lift Andrew Wolfe, the critically injured National Guardsman, in your prayers, and pray that God guides him and his family through these challenging times.

REGULATORY RELIEF ON COKE OVEN FACILITIES

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, President Trump signed a proclamation providing 2 years of regulatory relief from the Biden-era restraints on coke oven facilities.

These facilities are essential to America's steelmaking capacity, a vital component of Pennsylvania's economic prosperity. Many companies in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, including JLG Industries; Volvo Construction Equipment; Manitowoc Company; and defense firms such as Lockheed Martin, Leonardo DRS, Kongsberg Defense Corporation, and JWF Defense Systems, all depend on a stable and efficient U.S. steel supply.

This proclamation by President Trump recognizes the need for a robust domestic steel supply supported by U.S. coke oven facilities across our Nation. By balancing environmental standards with economic growth, Congress must support President Trump's efforts to strengthen America's economic resilience and our national security.

HONORING SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY FIELD HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Shippensburg University field hockey team for winning the NCAA Division II championship.

Overall, this year's title is the seventh national championship for Shippensburg field hockey. In her first season as head coach at Shippensburg, Rayell Wallace led the Raiders to a record of 20–3. She led them to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference championship and the NCAA Division II championship.

Kelly Naude's goal in overtime propelled Shippensburg to a victory in that title game. Kelly's post-game comments reflect the team-oriented spirit: ''Almost every single goal that our team has scored this year has been a team goal. Yes, there is one individual person who does touch the ball last and it goes in the goal. But every goal has been a team effort, and we do it for the team.''

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Shippensburg's players and coaches for expanding upon a legacy of success.

HONORING MAYOR DEBORAH BARGO

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Deborah Bargo of Lewistown, Pennsylvania, for her dedicated public service as the mayor of Lewistown since 2007.

Beyond her leadership roles in borough government, Mayor Bargo has served as a member of the board of directors and the board of trustees for the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

A lifelong resident of Lewistown, Mayor Bargo is widely respected for her active engagement throughout the community. Very impressively, Mayor Bargo has proudly officiated at over 700 wedding ceremonies.

On behalf of everyone in the 13th Congressional District, I express my personal gratitude to Mayor Bargo for her distinguished legacy and her commitment to the service of community.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP MICHELLE C. THOMAS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the newly consecrated bishop, Michelle C. Thomas, a community leader in northern Virginia.

In 2006, Bishop Thomas became the first African-American female pastor to establish a church in our county, Loudoun County, Virginia. She has delivered invocations for numerous dignitaries and heads of state. Now, she is the first female bishop in the history of Loudoun County.

Perhaps the most remarkable accolade is reflected in the lives that she has changed. Faced with her own nightmare in the loss of her son, Fitz, Bishop Thomas went on to inspire countless others, serving as an active role model and advocate for her son's friends and community.

Her work continues to uplift those around her, and I congratulate Bishop Michelle C. Thomas on officially being consecrated to the office of bishop.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN HOWARD EISENHOUR

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Howard Eisenhour, a devoted public servant, veteran, and proud Virginian who, unfortunately, passed away on November 10.

John lived a life rooted in service and civic responsibility. He served our Nation as a tank commander in the United States Army at Fort Hood and went on to a distinguished career in Federal service. John held key roles at the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Defense, the American Embassy in Thailand, and the National War College. Even after retirement, he continued to lend his expertise as a consultant to the Federal Government.

Locally, John was active in civic life for many years, giving his time and energy to local Democratic politics and community service. John's legacy lives in all of the lives and communities that he touched.

My heart goes out to his family, and may he rest in peace.

CORRUPTION AND CONTROVERSY AT FANNIE MAE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, for decades, Fannie Mae has played a critical role in supporting home buyers and renters and has employed many of my constituents.

Madam Speaker, under this administration, it has taken a turn toward corruption and controversy. This year, Fannie Mae's ethics watchdogs have been fired.

A senior Fannie Mae executive shared confidential mortgage pricing data with a competitor at the direction of Bill Pulte, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. In his brief tenure, Director Pulte has weaponized his office to target Democrats with allegations of mortgage fraud.

Earlier this year, Fannie Mae has terminated hundreds of my constituents, as well, over charitable donations, without any due process to them. Months later, Fannie Mae has still not answered my letters or provided these employees with any meaningful explanation for their dismissal.

Instead of confronting the housing affordability crisis, Fannie Mae has turned to advancing the political interests of this administration, turned against the people who worked for them and served them for so many years, and turned against the American people.

GOOD AND BAD NEWS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, we had some good news this week.

One of my constituents was finally able to get an in-person appointment to receive at least an interview about her Social Security benefits. You would think that we would be delighted that appointment is going to happen in a couple of days, but this is also bad news because she had actually reached out to our office in February and is

now getting an appointment in January.

That is 11 months since she reached out to our office. She was probably trying to reach out to the Social Security office much longer. After repeated requests from our office, we didn't really hear back until finally getting her that appointment on December 3.

This is because there have been cuts to the staff in that particular office of Social Security. Sixty percent of the staff at that particular office have been cut. This is a huge issue in our community right now.

Social Security offices across the country are seeing that more people are now being forced to come in person to do these appointments and interviews, yet there are fewer appointments that are able to be had for them.

This is a huge concern, and we have to address it. Right now, this administration is going the wrong way when it comes to administering Social Security benefits.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING VALENCIA ABBOTT

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Valencia Abbott, of Rockingham Early College High School, who was recently named the 2025 National History Teacher of the Year.

This is a monumental accomplishment and one that speaks volumes to Ms. Abbott's passion for education and her dedication to the students she serves.

Not only is Ms. Abbott the 2025 National History Teacher of the Year, but she is also the 2025 North Carolina History Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me and to countless others that Ms. Abbott represents the best that Rockingham County Schools and North Carolina have to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Abbott on her well-deserved recognition, and I thank her for her continued dedication to educating Rockingham County's future leaders.

RECOGNIZING VANCE DALTON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Vance Dalton, who recently retired from AgSouth Farm Credit after three decades of unwavering, passionate service.

I have been very fortunate to call Vance a friend for many years. He is a salt-of-the-earth person who is loyal, caring, and pleasant to everyone he meets. He has a deep faith that stands him in good stead.

During his time at Farm Credit, he built long-lasting friendships and relationships with the people Farm Credit is proud to serve, and he created long-lasting value every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, everyone who is fortunate enough to have worked alongside Vance, to know him, or to even call him a friend agrees with this sentiment.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Vance on a well-earned retirement. May God continue to bless him and his family as he enters a new and exciting chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING SCOTTIE COOK

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Scottie Cook, a career and technical education teacher in the Alexander County School System.

In September, Mr. Cook was recognized as a winner of the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for teaching excellence. Mr. Cook was 1 of only 25 winners throughout the entire Nation and the only teacher in North Carolina to receive the award in 2025, a remarkable accomplishment, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cook's passion and service with a career in technical education have left an indelible mark on the lives of his students. There is no question about it.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Cook on this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING STAN LAFURIA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stan LaFuria as he retires from Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership.

For 43 years, Stan has dedicated his career to championing community and economic development throughout Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

After receiving a master's degree in public administration from Penn State in the summer of 1982, Stan began his career in Titusville, Pennsylvania, where he worked as the assistant director of the administration of the Titusville Redevelopment Authority.

For 5 years, he was responsible for creating and managing multimillion-dollar neighborhood revitalization and housing rehabilitation programs, as well as recreation improvement projects.

In 1988, Stan took a position as the assistant director of the Economic Development Corporation of Erie County, where he assisted in the management of three industrial parks, a new incubator facility, and a revolving loan fund program.

In 1990, Stan was named the executive director of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership, a role he has held ever since.

For 35 years, Stan has been a driving force behind major economic initiatives to enhance the communities and economy of the Moshannon Valley and Philipsburg region.

Under Stan's leadership, the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership has developed two business parks, two multitenant buildings, a revolving loan fund program, $2.9 million in housing rehabilitation programs, and the Philipsburg Main Street Program.

In 1997, the organization was named Agency of the Year by the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association, in recognition of its outstanding accomplishments for the region.

Madam Speaker, Stan's commitment and leadership have shaped Moshannon Valley for the better, and his legacy will be felt for generations.

Madam Speaker, I wish Stan the best as he enters retirement and starts this new chapter of life.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

God of hope, fill us this day with all joy and peace. Lift our minds out of the current disquiet and renew our hearts in the belief that our desires and our contentment are to be found in You and not in anything we devise or which the world designs.

By the power of Your Holy Spirit, may we discover the strength available to us when we hope in You.

In You, our creator, we find our source, the wellspring of all that is good and right. May we establish all of our decisions, intentions, and pursuits on Your firm foundation.

In You, our redeemer, we find our salvation, the one who delivers us from our trials and inspires us in our weakness. May we trust that You will bring forth the best outcomes from our worst attempts.

In You, our sustainer, we find our strength and purpose, the power that upholds and guides us to serve as instruments of Your will. May we abound in the hope You provide.

In serving You in these days, in these times, may all that we are and all that we do reveal the joy and peace found only in You.

We pray in the name of the one who is our joy, our peace, and the source of our hope.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CISNEROS 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.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER MONTH

(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, last month was National Family Caregiver Month. Every day, more than 48 million family caregivers provide essential care to loved ones who are aging, ill, or disabled.

As a former healthcare professional, I have seen these caregivers often go above and beyond for their families, sacrificing their own time, energy, and well-being to ensure that those they care for receive the support and love that they need.

Family caregivers are often the unsung heroes in our communities. Many balance caregiving with full-time jobs, raising children, and managing their own health.

They deserve our support and recognition, which is why I am proud to support legislation like the Lowering Costs for Caregivers Act to help ensure these caregivers have the financial resources to continue providing care for their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, let this month be a reminder of our shared responsibility to support these caregivers who give so much to others. By showing our appreciation and lending a hand where we can, we honor the work that they do every day.

TRUMP WINNING FOR FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we return from Thanksgiving with families and friends, I am grateful that, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, America is beating inflation, leading to lower costs, higher pay, and job creation.

The cost of Thanksgiving dinner itself decreased by 5 percent, with 16 percent less for turkey.

Additionally, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act is working for American families. Inflation has dropped almost in half. Gas prices are at the lowest level in 4 years. American families are saving up to $2,100. America has attracted nearly $20 trillion in foreign investments—promises made, promises kept.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump as Putin mass murders civilians across Ukraine.

As a 31-year National Guard veteran myself with three National Guard sons, our sympathy to the family of Specialist Sarah Beckstrom and prayers for Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe. Both are American heroes standing for liberty and freedom in our own country.

RECOGNIZING KORSON'S TREE FARMS

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Korson's Tree Farms in Michigan's Montcalm County for being selected to provide the 2025 White House Christmas tree.

Under the leadership of Rex and Jessica Korson, Korson's earned this honor by winning the National Christmas Tree Association's grand champion title, a recognition that reflects years of dedication, family tradition, and the highest standards of Michigan agriculture.

To commemorate this accomplishment, this afternoon, I am introducing a resolution congratulating Korson's Tree Farms.

It has been 41 years since a Michigan-grown Christmas tree was displayed in the White House, and bringing this tradition back highlights the strength and quality of Michigan's growers.

Korson's has been recognized before, winning Michigan's Grand Champion Tree contest and even providing a tree for the Vice President's residence, but this selection marks the pinnacle of their work. Their family-run operation represents the excellence and tradition that define Michigan's growers and exemplifies the First Lady's Christmas theme: Home is where the heart is.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to honor this achievement and celebrate the role Michigan will play in bringing Christmas spirit to our Nation's Capital.

□ 1410

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.

MADE IN AMERICA MANUFACTURING FINANCE ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3174) to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3174

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 ''Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(gg) SMALL MANUFACTURER.—The term 'small manufacturer' means a small business concern—

''(1) the primary business of which is classified in sector 31, 32, or 33 of the North American Industrial Classification System; and

''(2) all of the production facilities of which are located in the United States.''.

SEC. 3. SMALL BUSINESS ACT LOAN LIMITS FOR SMALL MANUFACTURERS.

Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting ''except as provided in subparagraph (B),'' before ''if the total'';

(ii) by striking ''would exceed $3,750,000'' and inserting the following: ''would exceed—

''(i) $3,750,000'';

(iii) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking '', except as provided in subparagraph (B);'' and inserting ''; or''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) in the case of a borrower that is a small manufacturer, $7,500,000 (or if the gross loan amount would exceed $10,000,000);''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''would exceed $4,500,000'' and inserting the following: ''would exceed—

''(i) $4,500,000'';

(ii) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking ''section 7(a)(14) for export purposes; and'' and inserting ''paragraph (14) for export purposes; or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) in the case of a borrower that is a small manufacturer, $9,000,000 (or if the gross loan amount would exceed $10,000,000), of which not more than $8,000,000 may be used for working capital, supplies, or financings under paragraph (14) for export purposes; and''; and

(2) in paragraph (14)(B)(i), by striking ''than $5,000,000.'' and inserting the following: ''than—

''(I) except as provided in subclause (II), $5,000,000; or

''(II) in the case of a loan made to a small manufacturer, $10,000,000.''.

SEC. 4. SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958 LOAN LIMITS FOR SMALL MANUFACTURERS.

Section 502(2)(A)(iii) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696(2)(A)(iii)) is amended by striking ''$5,500,000'' and inserting ''$10,000,000''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 3174, the Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act.

The ability to manufacture in the United States is vital to our country's economic and national security. However, for decades, America's policies have shipped good-paying manufacturing jobs overseas and opened the door for foreign adversaries to fill the void. We must reverse this trend which would require more than just luck.

That is why the Trump administration has been championing progrowth and pro-American policies that are fueling a domestic manufacturing comeback. Now, Congress can do its job to reverse the trend and support the revitalization of American manufacturing.

Small American manufacturers account for 98 percent of U.S. manufacturing companies. Like all small businesses, access to capital, or the appropriate amount of capital, is challenging. H.R. 3174 gives small American manufacturers access to capital at a level they need to start or grow their operations.

This legislation increases the loan limit for small American manufacturers under the SBA's 7(a) and 504 lending programs from $5 million to $10 million.

This will provide American manufacturing the capital they need to invest in new technology, hire, grow, and create onshore jobs that we have carelessly lost overseas.

H.R. 3174 is essential to keep pace with demand for capital and bring jobs back to the U.S. Two weeks ago, the Committee on Small Business heard testimony from the industry and other manufacturing stakeholders about the importance of this bill for small manufacturers across the country looking to grow and reshore their businesses.

It is often the case that when Congress passes a bill to support an industry, it will come at a cost to taxpayers. This is not the case with H.R. 3174 because the SBA's 7(a) and 504 loan programs operate under zero subsidy, meaning zero cost to the taxpayer. The Congressional Budget Office's review found that any costs would be insignificant in this area.

H.R. 3174 presents Congress with the critical opportunity to usher in the golden age of American manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3174, to support made in America, small businesses, and the revitalization of the American manufacturing base.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak as we take up a set of five bipartisan bills that will expand services available to our country's 36 million small businesses.

These businesses are crucial to our economy and national security, creating two-thirds of all new jobs, employing half the private-sector workforce, and generating almost half of our Nation's economic activity.

Despite forming the bedrock of our local communities, small businesses are increasingly feeling uncertain about the future of the country. The small business landscape is littered with obstacles like finding qualified workers, dealing with supply chain disruption as they adjust to the President's tariff regime, and adopting new technologies in order to stay competitive. These economic headwinds make SBA services more important than ever.

The bills before us today reflect the monthslong, bipartisan effort to strengthen the services offered by the SBA and bolster the support for small businesses across the country. These five bills were negotiated in good faith and in the spirit of collaboration.

Together, they help expand access to capital for businesses central to our national security, expand the reach of the SBA's Office of Rural Affairs, hold fraudsters accountable for exploiting the pandemic relief programs, and modernize the SBA's IT infrastructure.

These bills are quite simply common sense and would meaningfully improve SBA services for small businesses across the country. I am proud to support them, and I thank my colleagues for the bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, turning to the first bill, I rise today for H.R. 3174, the Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act.

Small manufacturers account for more than 98 percent of U.S. manufacturing firms and employ 4.8 million Americans. They play a critical role in regional economies and in maintaining supply chain resilience.

There is no doubt that reshoring manufacturing is a top priority. We all lived through the pandemic and saw the downsides of streamlined just-in-time supply chains. When it comes to industries critical to our economic and national security, such as pharmaceuticals and weapons, ensuring the viability of domestic supply chains is paramount.

Let's all be honest, as a result of the crushing use of tariffs imposed unilaterally by the President, small businesses are clamoring for options in their supply chains that avoid massive and ever-changing taxes at points of entry, but a renewed economic focus on making things in the U.S. cannot happen at the snap of a finger.

It takes large investments and long-time horizons. This bill is a way to approach filling the gaps in manufacturing financing. It raises the loan limits for the SBA 7(a) and 504/CDC loan program from $5 million to $10 million for small manufacturers.

In fact, helping small firms with the upfront capital investment is one of the main goals of the 504/CDC program, and there is broad support for increasing the loan limits in particular. Whether this is a prudent use of the 7(a) program is a conversation that is still up for debate, and one I look forward to continuing to work through with our Senate counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3174 that supports American manufacturing, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I will close by thanking the chairman for his commitment to working on behalf of small businesses to open up avenues of financing for small businesses hoping to contribute to the reshoring of manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3174, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SBA IT MODERNIZATION REPORTING ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4491) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to implement certain recommendations relating to information technology modernization, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4491

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 ''SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act''.

SEC. 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the Administration, shall take such actions as may be necessary to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Comptroller General of the United States titled ''IT MODERNIZATION: SBA Urgently

Needs to Address Risks on Newly Deployed System'' (GAO–25–106963; published November 6, 2024).

(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate an implementation plan detailing the actions the Small Business Administration will undertake to establish and implement policies and procedures to govern information technology modernization projects of the Administration. Such policies and procedures shall, with respect to each project—

(1) for each risk identified, explicitly state the source of such risk in the relevant risk documentation;

(2) clearly define risk parameters;

(3) establish and maintain risk management strategies;

(4) identify and document risks for all phases of the life cycle;

(5) evaluate, categorize, and prioritize risks based on defined risk parameters and develop project risk management plans;

(6) connect measures to mitigate risk to risk mitigation plans;

(7) require that any information technology acquisition plan and any strategic plan contains information needed to manage cyber risks;

(8) require that a traceability analysis is performed and documented;

(9) require that security-related subject matter experts are involved in selection process for contractors for a project;

(10) develop master schedules using the guidelines contained in the publication of the Comptroller General titled ''GAO Schedule Assessment Guide: Best Practices for Project Schedules'' (GAO–16–89G; published December 22, 2015); and

(11) develop cost estimates using the guidelines contained in the publication of the Comptroller General titled ''Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide: Best Practices for Developing and Managing Program Costs'' (GAO–20–195G; published March 12, 2020).

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The implementation plan required by this section shall include the actions required to carry out the requirements listed in paragraphs (1) through (11) of subsection (b), an identification of the office of the Administration responsible for implementation, and the timelines for completion of each action.

(d) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the submission of the implementation plan required under this section, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a briefing on the plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4491, the SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act, introduced by Representative CISNEROS from the great State of California and Representative JACK from the great State of Georgia.

The SBA is charged with certifying small businesses to participate in certain government contract opportunities.

□ 1420

Last year, the Biden-Harris SBA sought to implement a new certification portal. Unfortunately, this portal's lackluster planning, creation, and rollout left the SBA with a ticking time bomb.

The Biden administration's failed Unified Certification Portal rollout resulted in delays, errors, and cybersecurity risks, shutting out small businesses from vital government contracting opportunities.

While this committee shared bipartisan concerns with the Biden-Harris SBA over its rollout plan, or lack thereof, former Administrator Guzman failed to listen, and the results were damaging. Small businesses were delayed for months, sometimes longer, to get approval from the SBA to compete for governmental contracts.

To make matters worse, the SBA allowed small businesses to use the new portal without conducting minimum cyber threat assessments. Entrepreneurs didn't just face delays, but their sensitive personal and business information was put at risk of cybercrime.

The SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act ensures that this will not happen at the SBA again. This bill requires the SBA to implement the GAO's recommendations to establish stronger safeguards and improve oversight of IT initiatives so small businesses can rely on an efficient contract certification system.

Small businesses should not be held back by government mismanagement. This bipartisan, commonsense bill restores accountability and helps Main Street focus on what it does best—innovate.

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

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

I rise today in support of my bill, the SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act, and I thank the chairman for his support. I also thank Representative JACK for joining me in introducing this bill, which will go a long way to help SBA modernize its IT infrastructure and improve its services to small businesses.

Billions of dollars in Federal contracts are awarded to small businesses every year, and the SBA plays a vital role in promoting small business participation; however, over the years the SBA's outdated and inefficient IT systems have made it harder for entrepreneurs to access the resources they need.

After repeated unsuccessful attempts to develop and deploy a platform that would be a one-stop-shop for contracting certifications, the committee requested the GAO review the SBA's efforts to figure out why they failed. The report identified the critical gaps in the SBA's modernization efforts from risk management to cybersecurity and budgeting.

My bill directly addresses these issues by requiring the SBA administrator to implement the 11 recommendations in the GAO report, mandating a clear plan of action and ensuring Congress is kept in the loop. This means better oversight, better execution, and most importantly, better services by the SBA for all small businesses.

An efficient and fully operational IT platform is critical for the SBA to conduct the certifications that allow for so many small businesses to participate in the Federal marketplace. The SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act will ensure that the SBA addresses the root causes that lead IT projects to fall behind schedule, increasing costs, or outright fail.

I am grateful for the partnership of Representative JACK to introduce this commonsense, bipartisan legislation which shows that modernizing how the SBA works is not a partisan issue. Together, we can ensure that the SBA is prepared to meet the evolving needs of small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to ensure we give the SBA the modern tools it needs to support the success of America's small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I close by once again thanking my colleague Representative JACK for partnering with me on this important legislation.

By bolstering SBA's IT infrastructure, we can improve services to small businesses and open up doors to thousands of new entrants in the Federal marketplace. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation to protect both the SBA and small businesses alike. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4491.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SBA FRAUD ENFORCEMENT EXTENSION ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and

pass the bill (H.R. 4495) to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4495

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 ''SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act''.

SEC. 2. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS.—Section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any grant for shuttered venue operators under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

(b) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION.—Section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any restaurant revitalization grant under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4495, the SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act, a companion piece of legislation to S. 1199, introduced by Senator ERNST.

H.R. 4495 is bipartisan legislation introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DOWNING) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. CONAWAY).

For 4 years, the Biden administration's SBA failed to address over $200 billion in COVID–19 era fraud. H.R. 4495 extends the soon-to-expire statute of limitations for two pandemic-era relief programs: The Shuttered Venue Operators Grant and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. The statute of limitations for these programs is set to expire this December.

These two programs combined provided over $44 billion in grants and funding for small businesses during the pandemic. Unfortunately, fraudsters stole COVID relief funds from small businesses across the country. These fraudsters hope that the statute of limitations for their crimes will pass, allowing them to skirt justice.

As Congress, we cannot let this happen. American taxpayer dollars should be protected at all costs.

In the 117th Congress, we took similar action to extend the statute of limitations under the Paycheck Protection Program and the COVID EIDL program. Today, we have the chance to close this final loophole so that fraudsters do not get away with defrauding American taxpayers and entrepreneurs.

This legislation sends a clear message that the era of taking advantage of the American taxpayer is simply over.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4495, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 4495, the SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act. This bill builds off the work done by Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ in a previous Congress. That bill extended the statute of limitations for investigating fraud in the PPP and EIDL programs.

All of the major pandemic relief programs, including the Shuttered Venues Operators Grant Program and Restaurant Revitalization Fund, will have extended statutes of limitations from 5 years to 10 years because of this bill.

Passing this bill into law will send a strong message to fraudsters that their behavior will not be tolerated, and those who committed fraud will be held accountable in the years to come.

The pandemic upended regular SBA operations, and the agency executed 14 years of lending in 14 days to keep small businesses afloat. While these programs helped millions of small businesses, the implementation was not without its flaws.

As we now know, potential fraud could range from $36 billion up to $200 billion. While the exact number will never be known, we do know that the vast majority of that fraud came in the first 9 months under the first Trump administration.

Recognizing the potential for fraud, the Biden administration instituted strong upfront controls for RRF and SVOG. To date, the Office of the Inspector General's work has resulted in charges against 25 individuals, 14 criminal convictions, and more than $61 million in recoveries.

Now, the OIG has 31 open RRF cases and 6 open SVOG cases. While modest in number, these cases are complex, involving layered transactions, false documentation, and financial concealment. These cases will take time to investigate and prosecute, and we owe it to the experts doing the work to give them the tools they need.

Extending the statute of limitations is only part of the equation. We must provide full funding to the Office of the Inspector General so that they have the resources to root out the fraud. Moreover, we need to ensure proper staffing at the SBA to review the 1,892 active SVOG awards totaling over $3.2 billion.

Mr. Speaker, with that said, this legislation is a step in the right direction. I commend Mr. DOWNING and Mr. CONAWAY for leading this effort. We need to make sure that no one gets away with fraud simply because the clock ran out.

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

□ 1430

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of Montana (Mr. DOWNING).

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, waste, fraud, and abuse fundamentally undermine the American people's trust in the government. When well-intentioned Federal programs are defrauded by criminal bad actors, taxpayer dollars are wasted, and funding for businesses and individuals in need of this vital support is squandered and stolen.

Over the course of the COVID pandemic, the Small Business Administration carried out an extensive effort, channeling funding to small businesses facing unprecedented economic challenges. In total, SBA provided over $1.2 trillion in emergency loans and grants during this period.

While COVID-era SBA programs in many cases delivered much-needed emergency aid to small businesses, these programs were sometimes exploited by criminals seeking to defraud American taxpayers and illegally secure illegitimate loans and grants. According to a 2023 report from the SBA's Office of Inspector General, SBA distributed over $200 billion in potentially fraudulent funds in its COVID-era programs.

This level of fraud undermines the integrity of the SBA. It is essential that we track these criminal fraudsters down and hold them accountable for their actions.

Two of these SBA COVID-era programs, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, directed financial assistance toward small businesses that were disproportionately harmed by lockdown policies due to their reliance on confined gathering spaces.

The statute of limitations for prosecuting fraud within these programs is set to expire beginning early next year. If Congress does not act, law enforcement will not have the necessary time to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

Along with my colleague, Representative CONAWAY, I have introduced H.R. 4495, the SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act. This bill extends the statute of limitations from 5 years to 10 years for fraud with respect to SBA's Restaurant Revitalization Fund and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant. This extension will provide critical time for law enforcement to track down criminals who have defrauded the U.S. Government and hold them accountable.

Small businesses across our country, including in my home district of central and eastern Montana, deserve an SBA that efficiently supports local job creators and isn't undercut by fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative HERB CONAWAY, for coleading this legislation.

The fraudulent spending of Federal taxpayer dollars undermines our trust in the government. It is essential that law enforcement is given the proper tools, time, and authority to punish those who subvert the integrity of the SBA programs and ensure that fraudsters face consequences for their actions.

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of New Jersey (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4495, the SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act. I am the co-lead on this legislation, along with my friend, colleague, and fellow Air Force veteran, Representative DOWNING.

During the COVID–19 pandemic, more than 30 million small businesses were negatively impacted. The Federal Government took action to ensure that an unprecedented amount of money flowed into small businesses in the form of grants and loans in order to help them stay afloat.

Over the course of 18 months, the SBA administered four major programs, which delivered 22.1 million loans and $1.2 trillion in grants. Although these loans did provide muchneeded relief to numerous small businesses throughout the United States, there were many who illegally obtained these loans.

The SBA issued a report titled: ''Protecting the Integrity of the Pandemic Relief Programs.'' It states that there are estimates that $36 billion of the $1.2 trillion in pandemic relief emergency funds were obtained illegally.

H.R. 4495 would extend the civil and criminal statute of limitations for violations of, or conspiracy to violate, fraud related to the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

To ensure small businesses can receive the benefits they deserve, it is important that the SBA is properly funded and staffed. I am concerned that the cut in the SBA's workforce by 43 percent will impede the SBA's ability to recover the improper and illegally obtained payments.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important legislation. I thank my colleague, Representative DOWNING, for allowing me to lead this important piece of legislation with him.

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I will close by thanking Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. DOWNING, and Chairman WILLIAMS for their work on ensuring taxpayer funds are protected from fraudsters. This is a commonsense measure to rebuild public trust, and I encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation. We cannot let fraudsters get away with American taxpayer dollars.

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 Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4495.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OFFICE OF RURAL AFFAIRS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4549) to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4549

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 ''Office of Rural Affairs Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. OFFICE OF RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

Section 26 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 653) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

''(b) APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be administered by an Assistant Administrator, who shall be an employee in the competitive service.

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Administrator shall—

''(A) have education or professional experience with, or knowledge of, rural affairs and issues relating to small business concerns; and

''(B) have experience providing development assistance to rural small business concerns.'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''small business concerns located in rural areas'' and inserting ''rural small business concerns'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''provide information'' and inserting ''promote''; and

(ii) by striking ''concerning the'' and all that follows through the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: ''on the policies and programs of the Administration and of other Federal departments and agencies for assisting rural small business concerns;'';

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(D) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking ''the United States Tourism and Travel Administration'' and inserting ''the National Travel and Tourism Office of the Department of Commerce'';

(ii) by striking ''small businesses in rural areas'' and inserting ''rural small business concerns''; and

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) host webinars and outreach events for rural small business concerns as described in subsection (d).''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(d) OUTREACH.—The Assistant Administrator shall—

''(1) host webinars and outreach events in various regions of the United States for rural small business concerns; and

''(2) invite representatives from district offices of the Administration, resource partners, Federal and State agencies, and other interested persons to participate in such webinars and outreach events.

''(e) REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, and make publicly available on a website of the Administration, a report on the activities of the Office during the one-year period immediately preceding the date of submission of the report.

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) The operational details of the Office, including the name of the Assistant Administrator, the budget of the Office, and the number of full-time employees employed by or detailed to the Office.

''(B) A summary of the activities conducted under subsection (c).

''(C) The number of webinars and outreach events conducted by the Administration to promote policies and programs described in paragraph (3) of subsection (c) and to provide information described in paragraph (4) of such subsection.

''(D) An analysis of the lending programs of the Administration in serving the needs of rural small business concerns.

''(E) Information gathered from any webinars and outreach events conducted by the Administration during the period covered by the report.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Assistant Administrator' means the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Rural Affairs appointed under subsection (b).

''(2) RESOURCE PARTNERS.—The term 'resource partners' means—

''(A) small business development centers;

''(B) women's business centers (described under section 29);

''(C) chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (established under section 8(b)(1)(B)); and

''(D) Veteran Business Outreach Centers (described under section 32).

''(3) RURAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term 'rural small business concern' means a small business concern located in a rural area (as defined in section 7(b)(16) of this Act).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4549, the Office of Rural Affairs Enhancement Act.

This bill was introduced by Representative GOODLANDER from the great State of New Hampshire, Representative WIED from the great State of Wisconsin, and Representative GOLDEN from the great State of Maine.

Mr. Speaker, 46 million Americans live in rural communities. The small businesses of rural America face distinct and persistent challenges, such as a shortage of business assistance resources and limited access to capital. These challenges often hinder their growth and sustainability.

The SBA Office of Rural Affairs was created to serve our rural entrepreneurs. However, it is often underutilized and thus ineffective. This bill addresses these challenges by clarifying the critical responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs and qualifications for leadership to prioritize the rural communities.

This bill ensures that the office will be utilized to reach rural entrepreneurs anywhere they are in Main Street America. These efforts will strengthen local networks and equip entrepreneurs with the knowledge and support necessary for long-term growth.

H.R. 4549 is about investing in the future of rural America, creating jobs, and ensuring resources reach all businesses across America. I thank Representatives GOODLANDER, WIED, and GOLDEN for introducing this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4549, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this commonsense legislation to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs at the SBA. I commend Representatives GOODLANDER, WIED, and GOLDEN for their commitment to making this office operate more effectively for rural small businesses.

Rural small businesses are powerful drivers of economic growth across the United States, fueling the agricultural, tourism, manufacturing, and energy sectors.

□ 1440

Unfortunately, they receive disproportionately fewer SBA loans and resources than their urban counterparts and face greater challenges, including access to affordable capital, unreliable internet access, and access to talent.

Created in 1990, the Office of Rural Affairs at the SBA could play a key role in helping small businesses overcome these challenges. However, throughout its existence, the office has either been dormant or the collateral duty of a regional administrator.

In 2020, an acting SBA director was named, and in 2021, the SBA appointed a permanent, full-time career deputy director to stand up the office. This bill would elevate the role of director to an assistant administrator, ensure that assistant administrator meets certain qualifications, and requires the office to host webinars and outreach events.

With clear lines of communication and the outreach that will come from the office, small businesses will be able to access resources that should be readily available to them.

I will, once again, thank Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. WIED, and Mr. GOLDEN for their bipartisan efforts on behalf of America's rural small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the great State of New Hampshire (Ms. GOODLANDER).

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise today and join my colleagues from across America in support of what is a commonsense, bipartisan bill.

H.R. 4549 is a bill that will deliver a fair deal for America's rural small businesses and entrepreneurs by cutting red tape, delivering access to key Federal resources, and ensuring experienced and accountable representation and leadership within our government. It is a bill that will ensure the voices of rural America aren't just heard but are truly prioritized within our government.

Running a small business is really an act of faith. It is hard work, often brutally hard work, and it is extraordinarily important work because rural small businesses are the beating hearts of communities across America, and in every corner of my home State of New Hampshire. They are the backbone of our economy.

As I have worked alongside and as I have listened to and learned from rural small businesses across New Hampshire, from the family farmers of our north country to the manufacturers of our Monadnock region, and from the loggers of our upper valley to the small businesses of the Souhegan Valley, I have heard again and again that the Federal programs designed to help our rural small businesses are riddled with red tape, and they are often impossible to access.

I have heard again and again that the rules of the road are simply not written with the realities of rural America in mind, their challenges and the opportunities. That is not right, and it is our job as lawmakers to correct it.

In 1990, Congress created the Office of Rural Affairs within the Small Business Administration to tackle this problem set, but as we have seen over the past 35 years, the office is underperforming. It lacks experienced and accountable leadership, and the red tape is still very much there for the cutting.

So our bill is going to address these gaps in the law. It is going to require a senior leader with real experience in rural economic development to be at the helm and to be accountable to Congress and the American people.

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues from across this body and across our Nation to come together to deliver for our rural small businesses. They are the backbone of our economy, and they are the fabric of American life. This bipartisan bill, the Office of Rural Affairs Enhancement Act, is going to go a long way to delivering for them.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I will, once again, thank my colleagues, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. WIED, and Mr. GOLDEN, for their bipartisan efforts to pass this legislation.

By strengthening the Office of Rural Affairs, we can ensure all small businesses have adequate access to the resources at their disposal.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation to support rural small businesses, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4549.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INVESTING IN ALL OF AMERICA ACT OF 2025

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2066) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to exclude from the limit on leverage certain amounts invested in smaller enterprises located in rural or low-income areas and small businesses in critical technology areas, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2066

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 ''Investing in All of America Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY MAXIMUM LEVERAGE EXCLUSION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 103(9) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662(9)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ''established prior to October 1, 1987'';

(B) in subclause (II)—

(i) by striking ''or'' and inserting a comma; and

(ii) by inserting '', foundation, endowment, or trust of any college or university'' after ''pension plan''; and

(C) in subclause (III), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) does not include any funds obtained directly or indirectly from any Federal, State, or local government or any government agency or instrumentality, except for funds described in subclauses (I) through (III) of subparagraph (B)(iii), for the purpose of approval by the Administrator of any request for leverage.''.

(b) MAXIMUM LEVERAGE EXCLUSION.—Section 303(b)(2) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 683(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''300'' and inserting ''200''; and

(B) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii)(I) with respect to such a company that makes quarterly or semiannual interest payments $250,000,000; or

''(II) $175,000,000 with respect to any other company licensed under section 301(c).'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''may not exceed $350,000,000.'' and inserting the following ''may not exceed—

''(i) with respect to such companies that are commonly controlled and that make quarterly or semiannual interest payments, $475,000,000; or

''(ii) $350,000,000 with respect to any other companies licensed under section 301(c) that are commonly controlled.''; and

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in the heading—

(i) by inserting ''OR RURAL'' after ''LOW-INCOME''; and

(ii) by inserting '', CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREAS, OR SMALL MANUFACTURERS'' after ''GEOGRAPHIC AREAS'';

(B) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking ''(i) In calculating'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), in calculating'';

(ii) by inserting ''or companies'' after ''of a company'';

(iii) by striking ''subparagraph (A)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) and (B)'';

(iv) by striking ''equity''; and

(v) by striking ''the company in a smaller enterprise'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''the company or companies in—

''(I) a small business concern located in a low-income geographic area (as defined in section 351 of this title) or in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a)(13) of the Agricultural Act of 1961 (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)));

''(II) a small business concern operating primarily in a covered technology category (as defined in section 149(e) of title 10, United States Code); or

''(III) a small manufacturer (as defined in section 501(e)(6) of this Act).'';

(C) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) LIMITATION.—While maintaining the limitation of subparagraph (A)(i) and consistent with a leverage determination ratio issued pursuant to section 301(c), the aggregate amount excluded for a company or companies under clause (i) from the calculation of the outstanding leverage such company or companies for the purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B) may not exceed the lesser of 50 percent of the private capital of such company or companies or $125,000,000.''; and

(D) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

''(iii) PROSPECTIVE APPLICABILITY.—An investment by a licensee is eligible for exclusion from the calculation of outstanding leverage under clause (i) only if such investment is made by such licensee after the date of enactment of this clause.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2066, the Investing in All of America Act of 2025, introduced by Representative MEUSER from the great State of Pennsylvania and Representative SCHOLTEN from the great State of Michigan.

One of the most significant barriers to economic growth across America is the lack of access to capital for small businesses, including investment opportunities. While some regions and industries are flush with investment, too many small businesses struggle to attract investment capital that they would need to help them to grow.

The Investing in All of America Act strengthens one of the most effective public-private partnerships the SBA has to offer: the Small Business Investment Company, or SBIC, program. This program has a proven track record of turning promising small businesses into household names, all without spending any taxpayer dollars.

By unleashing nearly $20 billion in private capital, this bipartisan bill would expand opportunities for small manufacturers, rural communities, and businesses critical to our national security. It means more jobs, greater innovation, and a stronger economy.

This commonsense solution rewards hard work and fuels private investment into small businesses across America without new spending or more red tape.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill for Main Street America, driving capital back into the hands of small business owners where it belongs.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2066, the Investing in All of America Act. Small Business Investment Companies, or SBICs, are an essential part of the small business lending ecosystem. Under this program, SBA works with and licenses private institutions to provide financing to small, high-growth companies.

Unfortunately, due to statutory constraints, investors are often limited in their ability to participate in the program when focusing on rural and underserved communities, small manufacturers, or small businesses critical to national security.

Due to their capital-intensive nature and early revenue profile, these small businesses operating in the critical technology sector need institutional investors with longer term time horizons to raise capital.

That is why this bill makes statutory improvements to provide SBICs with access to additional leverage when they invest in these businesses.

Providing SBICs with additional leverage flexibility will ensure the capital needs of small businesses in our critical technology sector are met by the SBIC program. This will enable the SBA and DOD to successfully implement their joint Small Business Investment Company Critical Technology Initiative.

In addition, this bill provides another avenue to extend private investment to small businesses in rural and underserved communities, something that lenders and policymakers have repeatedly fallen short on. This additional bonus leverage will encourage more investment in communities that need it most.

I applaud Representatives MEUSER and SCHOLTEN for leading this bipartisan effort, and I thank Chairman WILLIAMS and his team for their collaboration on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes'', and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank our chairman very much for yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 2066, the Investing in All of America Act of 2025. This legislation will incentivize greater investment from small business investment companies, SBICs, to small businesses located in rural or low-income areas, as well as small businesses in the manufacturing and national security technology sectors.

SBICs are privately owned and managed investment funds that are licensed and regulated by the SBA. These companies raise private capital, which is then matched with additional leverage by the SBA, capped at $175 million.

SBICs then invest both their private capital and SBA leverage into small businesses in communities across the country. Importantly, the SBIC program operates at zero subsidy cost to the American taxpayer.

Over the last 5 years, SBICs have invested over $130 billion in small businesses across America, including $1.3 billion in my home State of Pennsylvania's small businesses.

Though the SBIC program is successful, recent studies have shown that less than 20 percent of SBIC investment reaches low- to middle-income communities, especially rural communities.

The Investing in All of America Act encourages additional private capital investments in parts of America that are often overlooked by not counting dollars invested in these areas against an individual SBIC's $175 million leverage cap. By creating this incentive, my bill will increase investment for these currently underserved communities.

It is important to note that the bonus leverage included in this legislation does not change the costs or risks of the SBIC program. The existing model operates at no cost to the taxpayer and will remain the same.

The Trump administration and SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler are focused on fueling small business growth and reinvigorating domestic manufacturing throughout the United States. This legislation supports that effort by encouraging increased private investment in the manufacturing sector.

By expanding access to capital and reducing barriers to entry, this legislation helps manufacturers scale operations and create high-quality American jobs.

I thank Representative SCHOLTEN for her continued partnership, as well as the support from the Democratic leadership, on this legislation and the bipartisan group of all Members, Republican and Democrat, who have cosponsored it. This legislation will have tangible, positive impacts on our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support passage of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by once again thanking Mr. MEUSER and Ms. SCHOLTEN for their leadership on this bill and their efforts to extend additional capital to rural and underserved entrepreneurs, as well as the critical technology industry.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill and encourage all of my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation to increase access to capital for America's small businesses. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2066, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF ACT

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4323) to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4323

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 ''Trafficking Survivors Relief Act''.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL EXPUNGEMENT FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 237 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 3771A. Motion to vacate; expungement; mitigating factors

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'child' means an individual who has not attained 18 years of age;

''(2) the term 'covered prisoner' means an individual who—

''(A) was convicted of a level A offense or level B offense;

''(B) was sentenced to a term of imprisonment for the offense described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) is, or was previously, imprisoned or incarcerated under such sentence for a term of imprisonment;

''(3) the terms 'employee' and 'officer' have the meanings given the terms in section 2105 of title 5;

''(4) the term 'Federal offense' means an offense that is punishable under Federal law;

''(5) the term 'level A offense' means a Federal offense that is not a violent crime;

''(6) the term 'level B offense'—

''(A) means a Federal offense that is a violent crime; and

''(B) does not include a Federal offense that is a violent crime of which a child was a victim;

''(7) the term 'victim of trafficking' has the meaning given that term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102); and

''(8) the term 'violent crime' has the meaning given the term 'crime of violence' in section 16(a) of this title.

''(b) MOTIONS TO VACATE CONVICTIONS OR EXPUNGE ARRESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) CONVICTIONS OF LEVEL A OFFENSES.—A person convicted of any level A offense (or an attorney representing such a person) may move the court that imposed the sentence for the level A offense to vacate the judgment of conviction if the level A offense was committed as a direct result of the person having been a victim of trafficking.

''(B) ARRESTS FOR LEVEL A OFFENSES.—A person arrested for any level A offense (or an attorney representing such a person) may move the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where the person was arrested to expunge all records of the arrest if the conduct or alleged conduct of the person that resulted in the arrest was directly related to the person having been a victim of trafficking.

''(C) ARRESTS FOR LEVEL B OFFENSES.—A person arrested for any level B offense (or an attorney representing such a person) may move the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where the person was arrested to expunge all records of the arrest if—

''(i) the conduct or alleged conduct of the movant that resulted in the arrest was directly related to the movant having been a victim of trafficking; and

''(ii)(I) the movant was acquitted of the level B offense;

''(II) the Government did not pursue, or the Government moved to dismiss, criminal charges against the movant for the level B offense; or

''(III)(aa) the charges against the movant for the level B offense were reduced to an offense that is a level A offense; and

''(bb) the movant was acquitted of the level A offense, the Government did not pursue, or the Government moved to dismiss, criminal charges against the movant for the level A offense, or any subsequent conviction of the level A offense was vacated.

''(2) CONTENTS OF MOTION.—A motion described in paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) be in writing;

''(B) describe any supporting evidence;

''(C) state the offense; and

''(D) include copies of any documents showing that the movant is entitled to relief under this section.

''(3) HEARING.—

''(A) MANDATORY HEARING.—

''(i) MOTION IN OPPOSITION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a motion is filed under paragraph (1), the Government may file a motion in opposition of the motion filed under paragraph (1).

''(ii) MANDATORY HEARING.—If the Government files a motion described in clause (i), not later than 15 days after the date on which the motion is filed, the court shall hold a hearing on the motion.

''(B) DISCRETIONARY HEARING.—If the Government does not file a motion described in subparagraph (A)(i), the court may hold a hearing on the motion not later than 45 days after the date on which a motion is filed under paragraph (1).

''(4) FACTORS.—

''(A) VACATING CONVICTIONS OF LEVEL A OFFENSES.—The court may grant a motion under paragraph (1)(A) if, after notice to the Government and an opportunity to be heard, the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that—

''(i) the movant was convicted of a level A offense; and

''(ii) the participation in the level A offense by the movant was a direct result of the movant having been a victim of trafficking.

''(B) EXPUNGING ARRESTS FOR LEVEL A OFFENSES.—The court may grant a motion under paragraph (1)(B) if, after notice to the Government and an opportunity to be heard, the court

finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that—

''(i) the movant was arrested for a level A offense; and

''(ii) the conduct or alleged conduct that resulted in the arrest was directly related to the movant having been a victim of trafficking.

''(C) EXPUNGING ARRESTS FOR LEVEL B OFFENSES.—The court may grant a motion under paragraph (1)(C) if, after notice to the Government and an opportunity to be heard, the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that—

''(i) the movant was arrested for a level B offense and the conduct or alleged conduct that resulted in the arrest was directly related to the movant having been a victim of trafficking; and

''(ii)(I) the movant was acquitted of the level B offense;

''(II) the Government did not pursue, or the Government moved to dismiss, criminal charges against the movant for the level B offense; or

''(III)(aa) the charges against the movant for the level B offense were reduced to a level A offense; and

''(bb) the movant was acquitted of the level A offense, the Government did not pursue, or the Government moved to dismiss, criminal charges against the movant for the level A offense, or any subsequent conviction of that level A offense was vacated.

''(5) SUPPORTING EVIDENCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, in determining whether the movant is a victim of trafficking, the court—

''(i) shall consider an affidavit or sworn testimony of an anti-human trafficking service provider or clinician; and

''(ii) may consider any supporting evidence the court determines is of sufficient credibility and probative value, including sworn testimony from a law enforcement officer detailing the role of the movant in coercing other victims of trafficking into committing criminal offenses.

''(B) AFFIDAVIT OR SWORN TESTIMONY SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.—The affidavit or sworn testimony described in subparagraph (A)(i) shall be sufficient evidence to vacate a conviction or expunge an arrest under this section if the court determines that—

''(i) the affidavit or sworn testimony is credible; and

''(ii) no other evidence is readily available.

''(6) CONVICTION OR ARREST OF OTHER PERSONS NOT REQUIRED.—It shall not be necessary that any person other than the movant be convicted of or arrested for an offense before the movant may file a motion under paragraph (1).

''(7) DENIAL OF MOTION.—

''(A) FINALITY.—If the court denies a motion filed under paragraph (1), the denial shall be final, except as provided under subparagraph (C) of this paragraph and subject to the discovery of any new and compelling evidence or information.

''(B) REASONS FOR DENIAL.—If the court denies a motion filed under paragraph (1), the court shall state the reasons for the denial in writing.

''(C) REASONABLE TIME TO CURE DEFICIENCIES IN MOTION.—If the court denies a motion filed under paragraph (1) due to a curable deficiency in the motion, the court shall allow the movant sufficient time to cure the deficiency.

''(8) APPEAL.—An order granting or denying a motion under this section may be appealed in accordance with section 1291 of title 28.

''(c) VACATUR OF CONVICTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the court grants a motion to vacate a conviction of a level A offense under subsection (b), the court shall immediately—

''(A) vacate the conviction for cause;

''(B) set aside the verdict and enter a judgment of acquittal; and

''(C) enter an expungement order that directs that there be expunged from all official records all references to—

''(i) the arrest of the movant for the level A offense;

''(ii) the institution of criminal proceedings against the movant relating to the level A offense; and

''(iii) the results of the proceedings.

''(2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection requires a court to amend or remove any fine or restitution order in a criminal or civil proceeding.

''(3) EFFECT.—If a conviction is vacated under an order entered under paragraph (1), the conviction shall not be regarded as a conviction under Federal law and the movant for whom the conviction was vacated shall be considered to have the status occupied by the movant before the arrest or the institution of the criminal proceedings related to such conviction.

''(d) EXPUNGEMENT OF ARRESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the court grants a motion to expunge all records of an arrest for an offense under subsection (b), the court shall immediately enter an expungement order that directs that there be expunged from all official records all references to—

''(A) the arrest of the movant for the offense;

''(B) the institution of any criminal proceedings against the movant relating to the offense; and

''(C) the results of the proceedings, if any.

''(2) EFFECT.—If an arrest is expunged under an order entered under paragraph (1) the arrest shall not be regarded as an arrest under Federal law and the movant for whom the arrest is expunged shall be considered to have the status occupied by the movant before the arrest or the institution of the criminal proceedings related to such arrest, if any.

''(e) MITIGATING FACTORS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The court that imposed sentence for a level A offense or level B offense upon a covered prisoner may reduce the term of imprisonment for the offense—

''(A) upon—

''(i) motion by the covered prisoner; or

''(ii) the court's own motion;

''(B) after notice to the Government;

''(C) after considering—

''(i) the factors set forth in section 3553(a);

''(ii) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person, if applicable; and

''(iii) the community, or any crime victims; and

''(D) if the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the covered prisoner committed the offense as a direct result of the covered prisoner having been a victim of trafficking.

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—Any proceeding under this subsection shall be subject to section 3771.

''(3) PARTICULARIZED INQUIRY.—For any motion under paragraph (1), the Government shall conduct a particularized inquiry of the facts and circumstances of the original sentencing of the covered prisoner in order to assess whether a reduction in sentence would be consistent with this section.

''(f) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS BY COURT.—The court shall, upon granting a motion under this section, take any additional action necessary to grant the movant full relief.

''(g) NO FEES.—A person may not be required to pay a filing fee, service charge, copay fee, processing fee, or any other charge for filing a motion under this section.

''(h) CONFIDENTIALITY OF MOVANT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A motion under this section and any documents, pleadings, or orders relating to the motion shall be filed under seal.

''(2) INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.—An officer or employee may not make available for public inspection any report, paper, picture, photograph, court file, or other document, in the custody or possession of the officer or employee, that identifies the movant.

''(i) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to any conviction or arrest occurring before, on, or after the date of enactment of this section.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of chapter 237 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''3771A. Motion to vacate; expungement; mitigating factors.''.

SEC. 3. REPORTS.

(a) UNITED STATES ATTORNEY MOTIONS FOR VACATUR OR EXPUNGEMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each United States attorney shall submit to the Attorney General a report that details—

(1) the number of motions for vacatur or expungement filed under section 3771A of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 2, in the district of the United States attorney; and

(2) for each motion described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the underlying offense;

(B) the response of the United States attorney to the motion; and

(C) the final determination of the court with respect to the motion.

(b) UNITED STATES ATTORNEY TRAINING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report that details all professional training received by United States attorneys on indicators of human trafficking during the preceding 12-month period.

(c) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) assesses the impact of the enactment of section 3771A of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 2; and

(2) includes—

(A) the number of human trafficking survivors who have filed motions for vacatur or expungement under such section 3771A;

(B) the final determination of each court that adjudicated a motion described in subparagraph (A);

(C) recommendations to increase access to post-conviction relief for human trafficking survivors with Federal criminal records; and

(D) recommendations for improving the implementation and tracking of professional training of United States attorneys on indicators of human trafficking.

SEC. 4. USE OF GRANTS FOR POST-CONVICTION RELIEF REPRESENTATION.

The Office of Justice Programs or the Office on Violence Against Women, in awarding a grant that may be used for legal representation, may not prohibit a recipient from using the grant for legal representation for post-conviction relief.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) this Act is a first step to address the changing tactics of human traffickers, who are using forced criminality as a form of force, fraud, and coercion in their human trafficking enterprises; and

(2) Congress is committed to continuing to find solutions as needed to thwart human traffickers and protect survivors of human trafficking.

SEC. 6. HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 28. Human trafficking defense

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'covered Federal offense' means a level A offense or level B offense, as those terms are defined in section 3771A; and

''(2) the term 'victim of trafficking' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

''(b) DURESS.—In a prosecution for a covered Federal offense, a defendant may establish duress by demonstrating that the defendant was a victim of trafficking at the time at which the defendant committed the offense.

''(c) RECORD OR PROCEEDING UNDER SEAL.—In any proceeding in which a defense under subsection (b) is raised, any record or part of the proceeding related to the defense shall, on motion, be placed under seal until such time as a conviction is entered for the offense.

''(d) POST-CONVICTION RELIEF.—A failure to assert, or failed assertion of, a defense under subsection (b) by an individual who is convicted of a covered Federal offense may not preclude the individual from asserting as a mitigating factor, at sentencing or in a proceeding for any post-conviction relief, that at the time of the commission of the offense, the defendant was a victim of trafficking and committed the offense under duress.

''(e) FEDERAL AID.—A failure to assert, or failed assertion of, a defense under subsection (b) by an individual who is convicted of a covered Federal offense may not be used for the purpose of disqualifying the individual from participating in any federally funded program that aids victims of trafficking.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''28. Human trafficking defense.''.

SEC. 7. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (16), by striking ''(9)'' and inserting ''(11)''; and

(2) in paragraph (17), by striking ''(9) or (10)'' and inserting ''(11) or (12)''.

SEC. 8. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, may be construed to conflict with any of the crime victims' rights described in section 3771 of title 18, United States Code.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4323.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4323, the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, is a strong, bipartisan piece of legislation—and bicameral, actually—that will help one of our most vulnerable populations.

This legislation passed the House Judiciary Committee by a voice vote earlier this year, and I am looking forward to seeing it pass the full House.

Human trafficking is a heinous crime that we are all too familiar with. Human trafficking is not just a distant problem. It is a crisis that touches every corner of our Nation, rural communities and urban centers. It can occur anywhere, in any community, and it does not discriminate. Traffickers exploit the vulnerable wherever they may find them.

We see it happen to a vast number of women and children who are exploited after crossing our southern border. We see it happen to people from both low-income and high-income backgrounds. We see it happen to ordinary Americans, people who never imagined that they would become victims themselves.

Efforts by Federal, State, and local law enforcement and advocates to eliminate trafficking and to support victims have increased awareness, reporting, and prosecution of sex traffickers across the country. However, victims of these crimes are sometimes prosecuted for their actions taken while under the control of their traffickers. This can lead to the arrest, conviction, and incarceration of actual trafficking victims themselves without proper consideration of their criminal culpability.

We know that criminal convictions, and even nonviolent ones, can hold someone back from applying for a job or getting housing. These victims deserve to be able to heal and move on with their lives.

Thankfully, we have made significant progress to help survivors. Today, the vast majority of States—in fact, 46 or 47—have some sort of relief to victims for nonviolent offenses committed while under the control of their traffickers. These laws allow individuals to reenter their communities and move on with their lives.

My home State of South Carolina continues to lead on this forward-looking, victim-centered approach. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act follows the States' clear lead and provides Federal relief to survivors of human trafficking who committed a nonviolent offense as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking.

For a court to grant this relief, a defendant must show that the offense was committed as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking.

To ensure that these opportunities are only available to true victims of trafficking and not criminals, we have worked hand in hand with law enforcement to include appropriate safeguards in the bill. The legislation allows for additional evidence to be considered, including the sworn testimony of a law enforcement officer as to whether a victim had any role in coercing other victims into criminal offenses.

This legislation is endorsed by multiple advocacy organizations, faith-based organizations, and law enforcement officials. This is a bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation that unites both law enforcement and victim organizations. It is a good piece of legislation.

There are countless individuals and organizations that have worked tirelessly to get this bill to where it is today, including CPAC Foundation's Center for Combating Human Trafficking, NCOSE, Rights4Girls, Street Grace, survivor leader Hollie Nadel, and so many more.

Last Congress, a bipartisan group of attorneys general wrote a letter in strong support of the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act. This carefully crafted legislation strikes the right balance in protecting victims' rights and public safety.

Let's work together to fight back against this evil, to help victims and survivors begin a new chapter, and to allow them to take on every opportunity that life hands them without any constraint of their past.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, and I encourage swift passage in the Senate.

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

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

I thank the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina for his leadership on this issue.

I am pleased that we are considering the bipartisan Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, which will provide relief to victims and survivors of human trafficking who have been unjustly criminalized as a result of their trafficking.

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Victims and survivors of human trafficking have been waiting nearly a decade for us to make this relief available to them at the Federal level. The heroic survivors of the global Epstein trafficking conspiracy have raised the conscience of our Nation about the nightmarish consequences of human trafficking for the victims of it, and they strongly support this legislation, which is part of the long, overdue reckoning that America must have with all of the double standards and coverups that have affected women and girls who have been entered into the trafficking criminal underworld.

While we have found far too less opportunities to work together in this broken session of Congress, I am glad that the majority has finally chosen to bring this much-needed consensus reform forward to the floor to protect trafficking victims and survivors, and I look forward to its swift passage.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking is a multibillion-dollar criminal industry that overtakes the will and the freedom of nearly 25 million people around the world every year. Traffickers exploit their victims by forcing them to provide labor, services, and commercial sex through violence, fear, coercion, and manipulation. While awful, their exploitation doesn't stop there. Traffickers often force their victims to commit other crimes, including prostitution, money laundering, fraud, drug trafficking, robbery, and theft.

This leads trafficking victims to be arrested and prosecuted without consideration of their status as victims themselves. They are often then made to serve prison sentences and left with criminal records that can stop them from finding employment, suitable housing, or qualifying to receive the treatment that they need to recover from trauma and rebuild their lives.

When they are unable to start fresh or move on because of the obstacles that they face as a consequence of the crimes that they were forced to commit, victims and survivors often return to their traffickers or fall victim to new predators. We cannot allow this cycle of trauma, criminal exploitation, and victimization to continue in the lives of so many untold victims.

While all but three States now allow trafficking survivors some form of criminal record relief, there is still no Federal pathway to clear criminal convictions or records in this situation. H.R. 4323 would correct this inequity by allowing human trafficking victims to petition to have their convictions vacated for certain offenses and to expunge their arrest records for other offenses if the offenses were committed only as a consequence of their trafficking.

This bill would also provide an avenue of relief for victims and survivors facing prosecution for certain Federal offenses relating to their victimization by establishing a human trafficking defense. The defense will also be available as a post-conviction remedy. To ensure that survivors have access to all of the remedies provided, this bill makes clear that a grantee may use grant funds from the Office of Justice Programs and Office on Violence Against Women for legal representation for post-conviction relief.

For far too long, we have closed our eyes to the true horrors of human trafficking and allowed victimization to fester simply by allowing survivors of human trafficking to be classified and treated as criminals. I am pleased to support this essential and thoughtful bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on the bill and am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), the distinguished ranking member of the Crime and Federal Government Surveillance Subcommittee.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act is very critical, bipartisan legislation that would provide long-overdue relief to victims and survivors of human trafficking to help them overcome the lasting effects of being trafficked and allow them a chance to heal.

It recognizes their unique traumas, the immense challenges that they face after escaping their exploitation, and their right to rebuild their lives with some dignity and some respect.

Victims of trafficking are demeaned. They are dehumanized and coerced by their traffickers, who do not see them as people but see them as objects only to be bought, sold, and abused; but we see them, and we must give them the help that they need and they deserve.

Too often, they emerge with criminal records directly tied to their exploitation. These records follow them along their path long after they are free, preventing them from finding a job, securing safe housing, pursuing education, or even getting treatment for the trauma that they have escaped.

The barriers they face as a result of their records often serve as painful reminders of the abuse that they endured and can make survivors vulnerable to even further exploitation.

Many States, including my State of Georgia, have already passed laws like the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act. It is past time that we take similar steps to do this on the Federal level. By allowing survivors to expunge arrests or vacate nonviolent convictions connected to their trafficking, we give them a chance to reclaim their futures and move forward without the weight of their past being used against them.

Just as we must allow them the ability to shed the lasting remnants of their victimization, we must also provide them with resources and services that they desperately need. Survivors need strong and consistent Federal support to stay safe and move forward.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, we must ensure our government continues to invest in prevention services and enforcement that keeps survivors protected. Any cuts or weakened efforts will risk putting them back in harm's way or back in the streets, and we cannot allow that to happen.

This bill is about justice, healing, and true restoration. It affirms that survivors are more than the crimes that they are forced to commit. They are human beings deserving of opportunity, safety, and hope.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support putting survivors first and support this bipartisan legislation. I thank Representatives FRY and JOHNSON for championing this effort. I look forward to working together to ensure that survivors are seen, supported, and given every chance that they can to thrive.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I pick up on the words of the distinguished gentlewoman from Georgia, who is the ranking member of the Crime and Federal Government Surveillance Subcommittee on Committee on the Judiciary. To be forced into a human-trafficking network, like the Epstein network, is to suffer a double trauma. There is the original trauma of the exploitation and the abuse, and then there is the added trauma of being stigmatized yourself as being a criminal: a prostitute and someone forced to engage in other criminal activity by the trafficking network.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that, on a bipartisan basis today, we are able to move forward to address this problem and to give some relief to the victims and the survivors of a human-trafficking network.

Again, I recognize the survivors from the Epstein global international child sex-trafficking conspiracy who have raised the conscience of the country and changed America's mind about the fundamental importance of our addressing this.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for working with us on bringing this legislation forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I find myself in this moment on H.R. 4323, the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, in somewhat of a deja vu. I did this legislation at the State level, and I talked to victims of human trafficking and those who have used this legal mechanism as a sense of relief to expunge their crimes, to get their prior convictions vacated, to apply for housing, and to go on with their lives in a very meaningful way.

What they would share with me and what I will share with you today is that this absolutely matters to them. Being able to turn the page on their past is not easy. It is not easy for a victim of human trafficking to come forward. There is shame sometimes in doing so. There is extreme guilt. When they get that chance to do that, this is an incredibly important step.

□ 1510

Here is the caveat that I think is often overlooked. Law enforcement loves this bill, too. Why is that? Because during a prosecution of a criminal defendant who is a trafficking victim, or within a conviction of a human-trafficking victim, victims are allowed to tell their story. One, it is very therapeutic and helpful to the victims themselves, but for the law enforcement folks, they can go after the real bad actors.

I think that is the key crux of this bill, and I think that is what unites Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate Members, and the law enforcement community and victim organizations. It is a great piece of public policy that has worked so well in 46, 47, 48 States at this point, and there is no reason why the Federal Government should lag behind the States anymore in crafting a very good, commonsense piece of legislation.

This bill is victim-centered. It is law enforcement-focused, as well. It checks all the boxes of good public policy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4323, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COUNT THE CRIMES TO CUT ACT

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2159) to direct the Attorney General of the United States to submit to the Congress a report on Federal criminal offenses, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2159

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 ''Count the Crimes to Cut Act''.

SEC. 2. REPORT ON FEDERAL CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''criminal regulatory offense'' means a Federal regulation that is enforceable by a criminal penalty; and

(2) the term ''criminal statutory offense'' means a criminal offense under a Federal statute.

(b) REPORT ON CRIMINAL STATUTORY OFFENSES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report, which shall include—

(1) a list of all criminal statutory offenses, including a list of the elements for each criminal statutory offense; and

(2) for each criminal statutory offense listed under paragraph (1)—

(A) the potential criminal penalty for the criminal statutory offense;

(B) the number of prosecutions for the criminal statutory offense brought by the Department of Justice each year for the 15-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) the mens rea requirement for the criminal statutory offense.

(c) REPORT ON CRIMINAL REGULATORY OFFENSES.—

(1) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency described in paragraph (2) shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report, which shall include—

(A) a list of all criminal regulatory offenses enforceable by the agency; and

(B) for each criminal regulatory offense listed under subparagraph (A)—

(i) the potential criminal penalty for a violation of the criminal regulatory offense;

(ii) the number of violations of the criminal regulatory offense referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution in each of the years during the 15-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act; and

(iii) the mens rea requirement for the criminal regulatory offense.

(2) AGENCIES DESCRIBED.—The Federal agencies described in this paragraph are the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Labor, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Election Commission, the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Federal Maritime Commission, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, the Office of Compliance, the Postal Regulatory Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Small Business Administration, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the Office of Government Ethics.

(d) INDEX.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Attorney General shall establish a publically accessible index of each criminal statutory offense listed in the report required under subsection (b) and make the index available and freely accessible on the website of the Department of Justice; and

(2) the head of each agency described in subsection (c)(2) shall establish a publically accessible index of each criminal regulatory offense listed in the report required under subsection (c)(1) and make the index available and freely accessible on the website of the agency.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or authorize appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROY. 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.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank the gentlewoman from Georgia for joining with me in this effort. I thank the minority leader for his past work on this bill, as well, from his position on the Judiciary Committee, like the gentlewoman from Georgia.

We may come at these things from slightly different perspectives on different issues that come before us, but we are bound and joined together here in wanting some commonsense, good government to make sure that we know what we are dealing with, with respect to criminal laws. For decades, the American people, Congress, and corners of the Federal Government have tried to grasp a reliable estimate of how many criminal laws exist either in statute or in regulation.

In the 1980s, the Department of Justice tried to count the number of Federal criminal laws that reside within the code and estimated there are ''about 3,000 criminal offenses.'' The American Bar Association, in the 1990s, said it was much higher than 3,000 but couldn't figure out the number. In 2019, the U.S. Code was estimated to have 5,199 Federal crimes, but again, that was uncertain.

In other words, the Department of Justice, the American Bar Association, and organizations within our government are guessing.

Now, to be clear, there are estimated to be thousands of criminal offenses, many buried in regulatory codes. For context, there are an estimated 300,000 Federal regulations that carry criminal offenses that could put an American citizen in prison.

We can debate the merits, and we would debate the merits no doubt among the Members of this body, of any particular statute that criminalizes a certain act or any particular regulation that comes with criminal penalties associated with an action. It might be something that involves OSHA. It might be something that involves environmental regulations. It might be something else.

There are thousands upon thousands of regulations and statutes, and the American people often have no idea that they might be in violation of something that would come with a penalty that might include jail time or sufficient fines, and so forth, and they potentially could become a felon.

This bill is pretty simple. It just directs the Federal Government and the executive branch to count the crimes, to come up with a list of the crimes that exist, put those in order, and make sure that we know what offenses are attached to those so that we can go through this and make decisions as to whether or not these crimes are duplicative, whether they might be contradictory, and whether maybe they go too far or not far enough.

We feel like the people's House, for sure—Congress in its Article I function—ought to know how many crimes there are and what penalties are associated with those crimes so that the American people can know this.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative ROY for working with me. This is a true representation of good government and what it looks like for bipartisanship, and I hope we are able to do more of this going forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the sake of an effective criminal justice system. The laws within our criminal code, as has been expressed before, have become outdated and a highway to overcriminalization. We have so many unlawful acts within our criminal code that we don't even know how many criminal laws there are.

That is why we need to pass the Count the Crimes to Cut Act of 2025,

which would mandate the creation of a comprehensive inventory, as we have expressed, of all Federal criminal, statutory, and regulatory offenses.

I am really proud to co-lead this commonsense and, as I said before, bipartisan solution that will help us address the pressing issue of overcriminalization, a troubling result of unchecked growth of our Federal criminal law.

For too long, new Federal crimes have been created without a full understanding of what criminal laws already exist. Six years ago, policy organizations estimated that we have over 5,000 Federal crimes, many of which, as we have stated before, are redundant, overly broad, or better left to the States, or are so obscure that the public has no practical way of knowing that they even exist. In some cases, these laws are so vague that even a reasonable person would struggle to understand what conduct is prohibited.

This massive and unorganized body of Federal criminal law puts well-intentioned, law-abiding citizens definitely at risk. Legal scholars suggest that everyday Americans may unknowingly violate multiple Federal crimes without ever being made aware of it. Yet, we cannot meaningfully address the consequences of this bloated system until we fully understand the scope of the problem.

Over the last few decades, the number of Federal criminal offenses has dramatically increased to more than 5,000, and that figure doesn't even account for the countless additional crimes created by Federal regulations. Despite several previous attempts to determine the number of criminal offenses that are currently on the books, the fact is, we still don't know.

The Count the Crimes to Cut Act, which I am very proud to cosponsor, is a necessary first step toward comprehensive, data-driven reform that truly works.

By finally establishing a complete inventory of these offenses, we can effectively evaluate how they are enforced, understand the intent requirements associated with each one of these laws, and determine where reforms to mens rea standards are necessary. We will also be able to identify redundant or outdated laws that serve no public safety purpose at all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this very reasonable bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Georgia for her comments.

Mr. Speaker, I would just add, in agreement with her, that, as I said before, this simply says that the Attorney General should provide to us, the people's House and this Congress, a list of all Federal crimes in statute and regulation, along with pertinent information such as potential criminal penalty, the mens rea requirement for the offense, and the DOJ prosecutorial history of the statute.

I think this is the bare minimum that we should have as a body to ensure that we are protecting due process and the rights of the American people while ensuring that we have an ordered society.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my good friend.

□ 1520

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has turned the criminal code into a labyrinth, a maze so bloated and disorganized that not even the DOJ can tell you how many Federal crimes exist.

That is why I rise in strong support of H.R. 2159, the Count the Crimes to Cut Act, led by my friend, CHIP ROY from Texas, Representative MCBATH, who is the ranking member on our Subcommittee of Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, and supported by Members of both parties who understand that freedom collapses when the law becomes unknowable.

This bill is co-led by staunch conservatives like Representative ROY and myself and our colleagues, who occasionally think differently than us, Mrs. MCBATH and Mr. COHEN. We disagree on a lot in this Chamber, but we should all agree that Americans should know what conduct is criminal before they are punished for it.

The Count the Crimes to Cut Act forces the DOJ to produce a complete list of every Federal criminal statute with the specific legal elements, the authorized penalties, and the number of prosecutions for each offense over the last 15 years.

Right now, we literally cannot tell the American people how many Federal crimes exist. I called the Congressional Research Service several years ago because I was interested in this. They said we have no idea.

Estimates range from 4,000 statutes to hundreds of thousands of criminalized regulations, but no one actually knows because Washington has never bothered to count them. This is the very definition of overcriminalization: vague laws, hidden laws, duplicative laws, and regulatory crimes that nobody could reasonably expect an ordinary citizen to find or understand.

The Federal code has grown so bloated that a person can unknowingly violate a regulation they have never heard of and the government can still throw the book at them.

Even former Harvard University Professor Harvey Silverglate estimates that the average American commits three felonies a day without even knowing it.

Dr. Silverglate clearly wasn't referring to violent felonies like murder or felonies like money laundering or fraud, but instead to those vague, hidden, duplicative and sometimes downright silly laws.

I have other pending legislation; the End Endless Criminal Statutes Act to repeal 10 unnecessary criminal offenses such as selling or possessing colored oleomargarine or colored margarine unless they are packaged and labeled or served in a triangular shape. That is far from the only silly law still on the books.

It is illegal to use a falconry bird in a movie that isn't about falconry, to sell runny ketchup, or to leave the country with too many nickels in your pockets.

Here is the deal: We just have too many laws and too many crimes. When the Federal Criminal Code becomes a weapon instead of a guide, it is always the most vulnerable, the poor, the small business owners, the persons who don't have a legal team on retainer who gets crushed first.

Overcriminalization is one of the most destructive features of the modern Federal leviathan. We cannot restore liberty, shrink government, or protect due process unless we first expose the scope of the problem and that is what this bill attempts to do.

I am so pleased to be a sponsor, but I am proud to associate with my cosponsors, Mr. ROY, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. COHEN, and others.

This is very simple, Mr. Speaker: If you believe in liberty, you vote ''yes'' on H.R. 2159. If you believe the government should be accountable to the people, you vote ''yes'' on H.R. 2159. If you believe that Americans deserve to know the laws that can put them behind bars, you vote ''yes'' on H.R. 2159. It is bipartisan, common sense, and long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Count the Crimes to Cut Act.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), our constitutional scholar and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. MCBATH for yielding, Mr. ROY for his leadership on this, and Mr. BIGGS for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan legislation. The Founders thought that Federal law would be strictly limited in two different ways: one, according to the subject matter; and two, according to number.

The subject matter of Federal criminal law requires that the conduct being proscribed be tethered to a particular Federal jurisdictional nexus, like interference with Federal interstate commerce or assault on a Federal officer in doing his or her duty, or seditious conspiracy against the Union, which is why the vast majority of crimes are prosecuted at the local level like assault, murder, armed robbery, theft, and so on.

Federal law would also be limited, the Founders thought, according to number because the Federal criminal laws would be organized around certain

specific principles forbidding criminal conduct that is clearly harmful to everyone. As my colleagues have said, what we have seen is the endless proliferation of criminal offenses, some of them statutory, some of them regulatory, oftentimes in a kind of political reaction to a particular event that might have been criminal already under a more general category.

This legislation will allow us to get on top of the problem. It will direct the Department of Justice and other Federal agencies to compile a comprehensive report describing every Federal statutory and regulatory criminal offense carrying penalties. These have grown substantially over the last four decades, despite several previous attempts by the Office of Legal Policy at DOJ, the American Bar Association, and several scholars to determine exactly how many Federal offenses there are.

There is simply not a single comprehensive accounting of Federal criminal offenses to be found anywhere in the Federal Government, and that is a pretty remarkable statement in itself.

Through the bipartisan Count the Crimes to Cut Act of 2025, Congress and the people will finally get an inventory of all Federal statutory and regulatory criminal offenses. Thanks to this bill, we will know the specific elements of each offense, the potential criminal penalties, the mens rea requirement, and the number of prosecutions that have taken place each year for the preceding 15 years for every listed offense.

Now, what is the danger of having too many criminal offenses? Some people might just say, let's let sleeping dogs lie. What is the problem with having proliferation of offenses that may be opaque, inscrutable, obscure, and duplicative? One danger is the citizen doesn't know what kind of conduct and behavior is actually expected of him or her. That leaves the citizen in a state of confusion and potential anxiety.

The other major danger is that an unscrupulous executive will use this nearly endless arsenal of criminal offenses to target political foes or vulnerable communities. In a free society, anything that is not specifically prohibited is allowed to you. That is what it means to live in a free society. In an authoritarian society, anything that is not specifically allowed to the population is considered prohibited and a danger to the government.

Mr. Speaker, the proliferation of endless criminal offenses moves us down that spectrum from being a free society much closer to an authoritarian society. We all have a right to know exactly what the criminal law entails at the Federal level.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I don't have a whole lot more to add. I associate myself with the remarks of all of my colleagues who have spoken on this matter. I would only add that I think it is important to note that this legislation is supported by the Due Process Institute, R Street, Right on Crime, as well as the National District Attorneys Association and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, which I think tells you what is going on here in that everybody would like to have some clarity and some transparency so we can have a commonsense understanding of our criminal laws, the extent to which they impact—as the gentleman from Maryland, I think, wisely noted—our civil liberties, and the extent to which we are made aware of what actions we take might be criminalized.

Mr. Speaker, I note as James Madison said in Federalist No. 62 on the fundamental principles of representative government and the importance of accessible and understandable laws: ''It will be of little avail to the people, that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man who knows what the law is today, can guess what it will be tomorrow.''

□ 1530

That is precisely the situation we find ourselves in, and we should fix it. We may have again, as I said before, some disagreements as to what should be criminalized or not. Previous Congresses have decided to criminalize some action that today we might take a second look at.

I do believe that we need to know and have the debate, and then be able to allow the subcommittee on which my Judiciary Committee colleagues serve, be able to review these, have open debate, and then make some decisions.

Maybe some of these should be sunsetted. Maybe some should be aligned. Maybe there are penalties that are out of whack. Maybe there are things that should be done to have greater notice for the American people.

I come together in good faith with my colleagues across the aisle and hope that my colleagues in the Chamber will support it.

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I got on this bill when it was first introduced, I think, last spring. Representative ROY and I have served on the Judiciary Committee for quite a while, and I respect his intellect. I certainly hope that he gets to be Attorney General of Texas. That would be great for him, and I think it would be great for Texas, too.

I will miss him in working on this act, Article I bill. We agreed to work on that just as a kind of a legislative check on Article I executive actions. That is something we may be able to bring up again next year, although I think it was more popular in certain places when President Biden was the President, but it is still an important bill.

This is a commonsense bill. It is bipartisan, and I am happy to be a cosponsor. I look forward to the gentlewoman from South Carolina, the gentlewoman from Georgia, the gentlewoman from Colorado, the gentleman from Illinois, and all the other people who have been highlights of our last week of legislation to vote with us in unanimous passage.

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot have effective reform of Federal criminal laws without first passing and implementing the Count the Crimes to Cut Act. This bill is not about simply making lists. It is about creating the tools that we need for precise data-driven reform.

With concrete data, we can determine exactly which reforms are needed, remove speculation from the process, and avoid unintentional, unnecessary mistakes that could arise from a sweeping one-size-fits-all approach.

Might I say, in the era that we are in right now, there seems to be a lot of mistrust within our communities with law enforcement. We need to be building those relationships, building community, and I think this piece of legislation helps to really expedite that kind of community-driven policing and helps to make sure that people feel safe and secure in their communities.

I thank Congressman ROY for his leadership on this legislation, which will help eliminate duplicative laws and allow us to better serve and focus on the true threats to public safety, which are always a top priority of mine.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this long overdue piece of legislation. It is a bipartisan measure that really puts common sense and accountability first. I thank my colleagues for their support on this piece of legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Georgia for her comments. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his kind remarks, the gentleman from Maryland, all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and my friend from Arizona. I also thank Judiciary Committee Chairman JORDAN. I thank the ranking member from Maryland who we have already engaged with, and all of my colleagues who worked on this in the Judiciary Committee.

This is not a long or major piece of legislation. I tend to think that speaks well of it. I think the shorter the bill, the better.

I do believe that this is an important step, but I do want to remind my colleagues it is just a step. I would hope that we would get swift action out of the executive branch in following this

legislation if we are to get it through the Senate and get it signed so we can make an understanding of what is happening with respect to our criminal laws and regulations, and then act on it, as a Congress, in a bipartisan fashion. Again, we will have reasoned debate over some of the matters, but let's act on it. Let's do some things.

I agree with the gentleman that we need to revisit Article I. I introduced that during the first Trump administration the first time, and then we had it, obviously, during the Biden administration. I want to revisit that. It is critically important.

I hope that the AUMF repeal for 2002 that was in the NDAA in the Senate will be allowed to stay in the NDAA as it is coming back over to the House. We shouldn't have a 23-year-old authorization for the use of military force continuing to be under use. I hope that we in the House will reclaim those portions of congressional authority.

I think this is an important step. It is critically important for due process. I hope my colleagues in the Chamber will support it, and I urge its swift passage. 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 Texas (Mr. ROY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2159, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NO IMMIGRATION BENEFITS FOR HAMAS TERRORISTS ACT OF 2025

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 176) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens who carried out, participated in, planned, financed, supported, or otherwise facilitated the attacks against Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 176

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 ''No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. ALIENS WHO CARRIED OUT, PARTICIPATED IN, PLANNED, FINANCED, SUPPORTED, OR OTHERWISE FACILITATED ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL.

(a) PARTICIPANTS IN HAMAS TERRORISM AGAINST ISRAEL.—Section 212(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(i), in the matter following subclause (IX)—

(A) by inserting ''Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or Hamas'' after ''Palestine Liberation Organization''; and

(B) by inserting ''member,'' after ''representative,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) PARTICIPANTS IN HAMAS TERRORISM AGAINST ISRAEL.—Any alien who carried out, participated in, planned, financed, afforded material support to, or otherwise facilitated any of the attacks against Israel initiated by Hamas beginning on October 7, 2023, is inadmissible.''.

(b) INELIGIBILITY FOR RELIEF.—Section 241(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) INELIGIBILITY FOR RELIEF.—Any alien who carried out, participated in, planned, financed, afforded material support to, or otherwise facilitated any of the attacks against Israel initiated by Hamas beginning on October 7, 2023, shall be ineligible for any relief under the immigration laws, including under this section, section 208, and section 2242 of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (and any regulations issued pursuant to such section).''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 237(a)(4)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(4)(B)) is amended by striking ''subparagraph (B) or (F)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B), (F), or (H)''.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED ON PARTICIPANTS IN HAMAS TERRORISM AGAINST ISRAEL.—Beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress, including the number of aliens who were—

(1) found to be inadmissible under section 212(a)(3)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(H)); and

(2) described in section 212(a)(3)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(H)) and found to be removable pursuant to section 237(a)(4)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(4)(B)).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 176.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, although our political differences these days are vast, there are still some things we come together on in this body. We certainly did so during the last session. One of them was an enduring opposition to Hamas and the terrorism they unleashed on innocent civilians in Israel more than 2 years ago.

Earlier this year, the barbaric inhumanity of Hamas was revealed again in the macabre and infuriating spectacle of returning the bodies to the Bibas family. We last saw Shiri Bibas alive on October 7, 2023, as she was seized, terrified and sobbing, begging for the lives of her two little boys as they were dragged into the hell on Earth that Hamas created. This February, their murdered bodies were treated as trophies, and later we learned in a final act of cruelty that Shiri's body had been substituted for another.

We all came together in this body last year and said that such monsters as these must never be admitted into our country, never given safe haven on our soil, and never tolerated where they are found.

H.R. 176 says that anyone associated with Hamas or Palestinian Islamic jihad, in any capacity, or anyone who assisted these terrorist activities in any form, will not be allowed in this country under any circumstances, will be immediately removed if we do find them here, and under no circumstances will we allow them to receive any immigration benefit under our laws. We already single out Nazi collaborators and PLO terrorists. This simply adds Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad to that list.

□ 1540

Madam Speaker, for reasons I find inexplicable, the Senate couldn't be bothered to take up this bill in the last session. They will hopefully find the time in this session.

Under current law, being a member of Hamas or associated with its barbaric attack against Israel is not an explicit ground of inadmissibility or removability. That is just not good enough. Anyone who gave them support in any form should never be allowed into this country.

During the Biden years, the number of known or suspected terrorists encountered at the Southwest border soared to nearly 400. Too many were allowed into this country. How many more were among the 2 million known gotaways is anybody's guess. How many more are among the 190,000 Afghans allowed into this country with minimal or no vetting is also anybody's guess. We found out last week that one is far too many.

Under the Biden administration, Hamas terrorists didn't even have to sneak in across the border. President Biden simply let them in through the front door.

As just one example, less than 2 months ago, Federal officials arrested a 33-year-old native of Gaza, who was living in Lafayette, Louisiana, for his alleged involvement in Hamas' attack against Israel on October 7.

After learning about the ongoing Hamas attack, the alleged terrorists gathered a group of fighters and stormed into Israel to join the barbarism. Less than a year later, he submitted a visa application, which the Biden administration quickly approved, and he was allowed to enter the United States.

After the October 7 attacks, Director Wray warned us that the FBI ''cannot, and [does] not, discount the possibility that Hamas . . . could exploit the conflict to call on their supporters to conduct attacks on our own soil.'' These words proved to be prophetic.

On June 1, 2025, Mohammed Sabry Soliman, an Egyptian national, attacked pro-Israeli demonstrators who were marching in Boulder, Colorado, in

support of the release of hostages held captive by Hamas. While shouting, ''Free Palestine,'' Soliman attacked the peaceful demonstrators with Molotov cocktails, resulting in the hospitalization of at least eight people who suffered burns and other injuries. At least one of the victims had survived the Holocaust.

According to the Justice Department, Soliman stated he planned the attack for more than a year. He ''wanted to kill all Zionist people and wished they were all dead'' and would conduct the attack again if he had the chance. He, too, was able to enter the United States through the front door, this time with a tourist visa, under the Biden administration.

This can never be allowed to happen again, regardless of which party controls the executive branch. While we have a President who is committed to securing our borders, protecting our communities, and restoring the enforcement of our immigration laws, now is the time to act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The terrorist atrocities committed by Hamas in Israel on October 7, which took the lives of more than 1,200 innocent civilians, and the subsequent war of mass destruction in Gaza, have been nothing less than a catastrophe for humanity.

More than 70,000 people have been killed to date, including an estimated 20,000 children. Hostages kidnapped by Hamas were abused, shackled in cages, and isolated in underground tunnels—in some cases, for more than 2 years. Many were killed there.

According to UNICEF, the Gaza Strip is now home to the world's highest concentration of child amputees. More than 80 percent of buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed in the violence.

The world breathed a sigh of relief that a tenuous cease-fire was finally reached and that all the living hostages were returned home. Alas, the cease-fire continues to be breached. Violence and suffering continue to afflict the people of the region, including escalating vigilante settler violence in the West Bank.

Getting to a just and lasting peace in the region will require the creative leadership and hard work of statesmen and stateswomen. It is past time to break out of the brutal and circular logic of terrorism and violence and war and instead address the underlying political problems destabilizing the region. We must stay united around these goals and committed to the continuation of a strong peace process.

Madam Speaker, in the meantime, we must all agree to the aim of this bill, which passed the House with bipartisan support in the last Congress. No one affiliated with Hamas, nor anyone involved in the horrific and lawless attacks of October 7, should be admissible to the United States or eligible for any immigration benefits whatsoever. That is an obvious point of political and moral consensus in our Chamber.

However, I am afraid this is another missed opportunity for us to work across the aisle in a bipartisan fashion because it departs dramatically from the Judiciary Committee's traditional practice. This bill is essentially what we call a visa sanctions bill. For decades, we have relied on pre-negotiated, bipartisan, and bicameral texts for every such visa sanctions bill. This legislation today departs from this bipartisan practice by directly amending the Immigration and Nationality Act, the INA, to impose visa sanctions.

To put into perspective just how anomalous this approach is, consider our response to the 9/11 attacks. In the aftermath of that catastrophe, we revised our immigration laws to overhaul significant parts of our immigration system, and we created the Department of Homeland Security. Even then, we did not amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to specifically reference the events of September 11 or to bar the individuals involved in the planning or commission of those outrageous terror attacks from entering or remaining in the United States.

The reason for that is plain. The laws that we have in place already bar noncitizens who engage in terrorism or are involved with terrorist organizations from entering the United States. For any of those noncitizens who happen to be here, our laws clearly allow us to remove them and prevent them from obtaining any immigration benefits.

These laws were designed to apply broadly to any individual or organization engaged in terrorism without having to specify them by reference to specific historical events or attacks.

Under sections 212(a)(3)(B) and 237(a)(4)(B) of the INA, any noncitizen who has engaged in any terrorist activity, provided any material support to terrorists, or is a member or representative of a terrorist group or organization that enforces or espouses terrorist activity is presently inadmissible to the United States and is presently deportable. Hamas has been designated as such a terrorist group since 1997.

We already plainly have the legal tools to keep any noncitizen involved with Hamas, as well as any noncitizen who was involved in the horrific terror attacks of October 7, out of this country forever or to deport them from the United States if they are already somehow here.

This approach is, alas, symptomatic of the syndrome we just discussed in the last bill of the proliferation of redundant legislation and redundant language simply to make a point.

The Judiciary Committee's standard visa sanctions language, which was carefully crafted with the majority and minority on both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, would allow us to achieve all the aims of this legislation without departing from negotiated sanctions language and amending the INA in an unprecedented and incongruous way.

Amending the INA to impose visa sanctions sets a strange and potentially self-defeating precedent where new statutory language becomes necessary every time a new terrorist group or event emerges.

Nonetheless, we strongly support this legislation today, whose purpose is incontestable and essential. I hope we can both pass this bill and return to our bipartisan and bicameral practice for dealing with visa sanctions whenever the occasion presents itself.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1550

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, the gentleman says that the bill is unnecessary because terrorists are already covered under the Immigration and Nationality Act. This bill creates a new ground of removability and a new ground of inadmissibility for aliens who carried out, or participated in, or planned, or financed, or afforded material support to or otherwise facilitated any of the attacks against Israel beginning on October 7 of 2023.

In doing so, the bill treats the atrocities of October 7 on a par with the Immigration and Nationality Act's current treatment of Nazi persecution, genocide, torture, and extrajudicial killings.

Does anyone seriously argue that we should repeal the sanctions against persons who aided and abetted the Nazi's Holocaust?

If not, then why would they oppose extending the same sanctions to the Nazi's would-be, modern-day successors who just 2 years ago slaughtered more than 1,200 innocent civilians, including children, infants, and the elderly because they were Jewish?

Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close when the gentleman has completed, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, again, we restate our support for this bill and its purposes and only hope that we can return to the traditional visa sanctions method of dealing with particular events. In the meantime, I wonder if the gentleman would yield for a question.

I wonder how this legislation with the new language would apply to the case of Changpeng Zhao, the former CEO of the crypto firm Binance, who was prosecuted for and convicted of and sentenced to jail for taking money from a number of terrorist groups, among them Hamas, as part of his crypto venture. He was convicted of violating the Bank Secrecy Act and turning a blind eye to terrorists, including Hamas, cybercriminals, and child abusers.

I am wondering if the new language would cover Changpeng Zhao, who just

received a pardon from President Trump.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. First of all, I am not familiar with the case, so I can't comment on that directly. I am quite confident that we have an existing process for applying the law and a process for appealing the application of that law through a writ of habeas corpus in the judiciary if an individual seeks to contest it.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, again, I strongly support this legislation. We need to be doing whatever we can to eliminate terrorist forces and those who are providing critical material support to terrorist forces all over the world, which is why I raised the case of Changpeng Zhao, who is the former CEO of the crypto firm Binance, who was recently pardoned by President Trump.

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

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

Madam Speaker, for 4 devastating years, our Nation suffered the largest illegal mass migration in history. For 4 devastating years, we were told that the laws had to be changed if we wanted to do anything about it, and in the meantime anyone who illegally entered our country could stay in our country and be supported by American taxpayers.

However, as President Trump said in this very Chamber and proved in his first weeks in office: We didn't new need new laws. We needed a new President.

The largest illegal mass migration in history must now be followed by the largest legal deportation and repatriation in history.

New laws would be helpful to prevent a future Joe Biden from making a mockery of our sovereignty and reopening our borders to the most violent criminal gangs, cartels, criminals, and terrorists on the planet, and it would be helpful to give a future President Donald Trump the added tools to quickly and expeditiously prevent these same groups from infiltrating our Nation, preying on our communities, and attacking our people.

This law will stop the Hamas terrorists and their supporters who perpetrated the most violent attack against innocent civilians since the Holocaust from entering our country, as we already sanctioned Nazi collaborators. Although they are a tiny fraction of those who do our country harm, at least it does that.

To the apologists of the Democrats' open-border policies who say that this is unnecessary and covered by other laws on the books, I would ask these two questions: First, if that were so, then where were those laws under Joe Biden?

Second, even if their argument was true and the legislation was entirely unnecessary, then why would they object to sending a strong message around the world that terrorists will get no quarter here?

Madam Speaker, if you have associated with Hamas, then you are persona non grata in America, as you should be in any corner of the world that values peace, justice, and human dignity.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 176, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FOUNDATION OF THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION CHARTER AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2025

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 616) to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the Federal charter for the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 616

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 ''Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Charter Amendments Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION.

Section 70501 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).

SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.

Section 70503 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

''(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Except as provided in this chapter, eligibility for membership in the corporation and the rights and privileges of members are as provided in the bylaws.''; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).

SEC. 4. GOVERNING BODY.

Section 70504 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 70504. Governing body

''(a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The board of directors is the governing body of the corporation. The board may exercise, or provide for the exercise of, the powers of the corporation. The board of directors and the responsibilities of the board are as provided in the bylaws.

''(b) OFFICERS.—The officers and the election of the officers are as provided for in the bylaws.''.

SEC. 5. RESTRICTIONS.

Section 70507 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 70507. Restrictions

''(a) STOCK AND DIVIDENDS.—The corporation may not issue stock or declare or pay a dividend.

''(b) POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The activities, funds, income, and property of the corporation may not be used to carry on political activity or attempt to influence legislation.

''(2) NO CONTRIBUTION, SUPPORT, OR PARTICIPATION.—The corporation or a director or officer in the corporate capacity of the director of officer may not contribute to, support, or participate in any political activity or in any manner attempt to influence legislation.

''(c) DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME OR ASSETS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The income or assets of the corporation may not inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, a director, officer, or member during the life of the charter granted by this chapter. This subsection does not prevent the payment, in amounts approved by the board of directors, of—

''(A) reasonable compensation; or

''(B) reimbursement for expenses incurred in undertaking the corporation's business, to officers, directors, or members.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This subsection shall not be construed to—

''(A) prevent the award of a grant to a Federal Bar Association chapter of which an officer, director, or member may be a member; or

''(B) prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to the corporation's employees for services undertaken on behalf of the corporation.

''(d) LOANS.—The corporation may not make a loan to a director, officer, member, or employee.

''(e) IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY.—Members and private individuals are not liable for the obligations of the corporation.

''(f) CLAIM OF GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL OR AUTHORITY.—The corporation—

''(1) may not claim congressional approval or the authority of the United States Government for any of its activities; and

''(2) may acknowledge this charter.''.

SEC. 6. PRINCIPAL OFFICE.

Section 70508 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the District of Columbia,'' and inserting ''a United States location decided by the board of directors and specified in the bylaws,''.

SEC. 7. SERVICE OF PROCESS.

Section 70510 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 70510. Service of process

''The corporation shall comply with the law on service of process of the State or District in which it is incorporated.''.

SEC. 8. DEPOSIT OF ASSETS ON DISSOLUTION OR FINAL LIQUIDATION.

Section 70512 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 70512. Deposit of assets on dissolution or final liquidation

''On dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, any assets of the corporation remaining after the discharge of all liabilities shall be distributed—

''(a) as provided by the board of directors; and

''(b) in compliance with the charter and bylaws.''.

SEC. 9. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam 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 S. 616.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 616, the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Charter Amendments Act of 2025.

The Federal Bar Association was founded in 1920 as a nonprofit organization. In 1954, Congress chartered the Federal Bar Association as a congressionally chartered organization under title 36.

The FBA seeks to strengthen the Federal legal system and administration of justice by providing services to Federal practitioners, the Federal judiciary, and the public.

The FBA serves the Federal legal community by promoting standards of professional competence and ethical conduct, providing educational programs to the public and the profession, and facilitating the administration of justice. The FBA is also committed to bringing civics education programs to classrooms across the country.

Over the years, it has become necessary for the FBA to update its bylaws. Because the FBA is a congressionally chartered organization, it takes an act of Congress to make changes in its charter to permit the FBA to update those bylaws.

S. 616 amends the FBA's current charter in several ways: It removes the requirement for the FBA to be incorporated and domiciled in Washington, D.C.;

It allows the board of directors to choose the location of the principal office;

It specifies that the FBA's bylaws establish membership requirements, responsibilities of the board of directors, and the election of officers;

It prohibits a director or officer from contributing or participating in political activities;

It prohibits loans to members and employees; and

It specifies that in the event of dissolution, any remaining assets are to be distributed by as provided by the board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 616, the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Charter Amendments Act of 2025.

I was proud to lead this bill, along with our former colleague, Congressman STEVE CHABOT, in the 117th Congress when the bill passed the House by unanimous consent. Sadly, the bill stalled in the Senate at that time.

However, I am delighted to see that our colleagues across the Capitol were finally able to come to an agreement this Congress and move this important legislation.

S. 616 makes technical changes to the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association's charter that will give the foundation the flexibility it needs to advance its significant mission in this century.

The changes made would enable the foundation to swiftly meet the needs and priorities of the organization and improve the administration of Federal justice for all of our citizens.

□ 1600

It is critical for attorneys who practice in the Federal judiciary to have the professional support that they need to illuminate the legal issues that they are litigating on and to advance the interests of their clients.

The Foundation of the Federal Bar Association provides just that support, and it is crucial that the foundation be allowed to grow and to serve our people with flexibility.

I thank our colleagues Senator KENNEDY and Senator WHITEHOUSE for working together to get this bill finally across the finish line. I urge all of our colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of S. 616, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 616.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MIKAELA NAYLON GIVE KIDS A CHANCE ACT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1262) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1262

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Research into pediatric uses of drugs; additional authorities of Food and Drug Administration regarding molecularly targeted cancer drugs.
Sec. 3. Ensuring completion of pediatric study requirements.
Sec. 4. FDA report on PREA enforcement.
Sec. 5. Extension of authority to issue priority review vouchers to encourage treatments for rare pediatric diseases.
Sec. 6. Limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs.
Sec. 7. Program for pediatric studies of drugs.
Sec. 8. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.
Sec. 9. Establishment of Abraham Accords Office within Food and Drug Administration.
Sec. 10. Increasing transparency in generic drug applications.
Sec. 11. Medicare Improvement Fund.

SEC. 2. RESEARCH INTO PEDIATRIC USES OF DRUGS; ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES OF FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REGARDING MOLECULARLY TARGETED CANCER DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ADDITIONAL ACTIVE INGREDIENT FOR APPLICATION DRUG; LIMITATION REGARDING NOVEL-COMBINATION APPLICATION DRUG.—Section 505B(a)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(a)(3)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the investigation described in this paragraph is a molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigation of—

''(i) the drug or biological product for which the application referred to in such paragraph is submitted; or

''(ii) such drug or biological product used in combination with—

''(I) an active ingredient of a drug or biological product—

''(aa) for which an approved application under section 505(j) under this Act or under section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act is in effect; and

''(bb) that is determined by the Secretary, after consultation with the applicant, to be part of the standard of care for treating a pediatric cancer; or

''(II) an active ingredient of a drug or biological product—

''(aa) for which an approved application under section 505(b) of this Act or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act to treat an adult cancer is in effect and is held by the same person submitting the application under paragraph (1)(B); and

''(bb) that is directed at a molecular target that the Secretary determines to be substantially relevant to the growth or progression of a pediatric cancer.

''(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) DESIGN OF INVESTIGATION.—A molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigation referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be designed to yield clinically meaningful pediatric study data that is gathered using appropriate formulations for each age group for which the study is required, regarding dosing, safety, and preliminary efficacy to inform potential pediatric labeling.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—An investigation described in subparagraph (A)(ii) may be required only if the drug or biological product

for which the application referred to in paragraph (1)(B) contains either—

''(I) a single new active ingredient; or

''(II) more than one active ingredient, if an application for the combination of active ingredients has not previously been approved but each active ingredient is in a drug product that has been previously approved to treat an adult cancer.

''(iii) RESULTS OF ALREADY-COMPLETED PRECLINICAL STUDIES OF APPLICATION DRUG.—With respect to an investigation required pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary may require the results of any completed preclinical studies relevant to the initial pediatric study plan be submitted to the Secretary at the same time that the initial pediatric study plan required under subsection (e)(1) is submitted.

''(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING INACTIVE INGREDIENTS.—With respect to a combination of active ingredients referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii), such subparagraph shall not be construed as addressing the use of inactive ingredients with such combination.''.

(2) DETERMINATION OF APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 505B(e)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(e)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''The Secretary shall determine whether subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1) applies with respect to an application before the date on which the applicant is required to submit the initial pediatric study plan under paragraph (2)(A).''.

(3) CLARIFYING APPLICABILITY.—Section 505B(a)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No application that is subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B) shall be subject to the requirements of subparagraph (A), and no application (or supplement to an application) that is subject to the requirements of subparagraph (A) shall be subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B).''.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 505B(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)(C), as redesignated by paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection, by striking ''investigations described in this paragraph'' and inserting ''investigations referred to in subparagraph (A)''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(D), as redesignated by paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection, by striking ''the assessments under paragraph (2)(B)'' and inserting ''the assessments required under paragraph (1)(A)''.

(b) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall—

(1) not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, issue draft guidance on the implementation of the amendments made by subsection (a); and

(2) not later than 12 months after closing the comment period on such draft guidance, finalize such guidance.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section apply with respect to any application under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)) and any application under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)), that is submitted on or after the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—Not later than 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the Secretary's efforts, in coordination with industry, to ensure implementation of the amendments made by subsection (a).

(2) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(A) STUDY.—Not later than 8 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of requiring assessments and investigations described in section 505B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c), as amended by subsection (a), in the development of drugs and biological products for pediatric cancer indications, including consideration of any benefits to, or burdens on, pediatric cancer drug development.

(B) FINDINGS.—Not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report containing the findings of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).

SEC. 3. ENSURING COMPLETION OF PEDIATRIC STUDY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) EQUAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PEDIATRIC STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—Section 505B(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Beginning 270'' and inserting ''NONCOMPLIANCE LETTER.—Beginning 270'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''The drug or'' and inserting ''EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—The drug or''; and

(B) by striking ''(except that the drug or biological product shall not be subject to action under section 303)'' and inserting ''(except that the drug or biological product shall be subject to action under section 303 only if such person demonstrated a lack of due diligence in satisfying the applicable requirement)''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not issue enforcement actions under section 303 for failures under this subsection in the case of a drug or biological product that is no longer marketed.''.

(b) DUE DILIGENCE.—Section 505B(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(d)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) DUE DILIGENCE.—Before the Secretary may conclude that a person failed to submit or otherwise meet a requirement as described in the matter preceding paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(A) issue a noncompliance letter pursuant to paragraph (1);

''(B) provide such person with a 45-day period beginning on the date of receipt of such noncompliance letter to respond in writing as set forth in such paragraph; and

''(C) after reviewing such written response, determine whether the person demonstrated a lack of due diligence in satisfying such requirement.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 303(f)(4)(A) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 333(f)(4)(A)) is amended by striking ''or 505–1'' and inserting ''505–1, or 505B''.

(d) TRANSITION RULE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may take enforcement action under section 303 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 333) only for failures described in section 505B(d) of such Act (21 U.S.C. 355c(d)) that occur on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. FDA REPORT ON PREA ENFORCEMENT.

Section 508(b) of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (21 U.S.C. 355c–1(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting '', including an evaluation of compliance with deadlines provided for in deferrals and deferral extensions;'';

(2) in paragraph (15), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in paragraph (16), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(17) a listing of penalties, settlements, or payments under section 303 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353) for failure to comply with requirements under such section 505B, including, for each penalty, settlement, or payment, the name of the drug, the sponsor thereof, and the amount of the penalty, settlement, or payment imposed.''.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHERS TO ENCOURAGE TREATMENTS FOR RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASES.

(a) EXTENSION.—Paragraph (5) of section 529(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(b)) is amended by striking ''December 20, 2024, unless'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''September 30, 2029.''.

(b) USER FEE PAYMENT.—Section 529(c)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(c)(4)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The priority review user fee required by this subsection shall be due upon the submission of a human drug application under section 505(b)(1) or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for which the priority review voucher is used. All other user fees associated with the human drug application shall be due as required by the Secretary or under applicable law.''.

(c) GAO REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRIORITY VOUCHER AWARDS IN INCENTIVIZING RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE DRUG DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) GAO STUDY.—

(A) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of awarding rare pediatric disease priority vouchers under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff), as amended by subsection (a), in the development of human drug products that treat or prevent rare pediatric diseases (as defined in such section 529).

(B) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—In conducting the study under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall examine the following:

(i) The indications for each drug or biological product that—

(I) is the subject of a rare pediatric disease product application (as defined in section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff)) for which a priority review voucher was awarded; and

(II) was approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (42 U.S.C. 355) or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).

(ii) Whether, and to what extent, an unmet need related to the treatment or prevention of a rare pediatric disease was met through the approval or licensure of such a drug or biological product.

(iii) The size of the company to which a priority review voucher was awarded under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) for such a drug or biological product.

(iv) The value of such priority review voucher if transferred.

(v) Identification of each drug for which a priority review voucher awarded under such section 529 was used.

(vi) The size of the company using each priority review voucher awarded under such section 529.

(vii) The length of the period of time between the date on which a priority review voucher was awarded under such section 529 and the date on which it was used.

(viii) Whether, and to what extent, an unmet need related to the treatment or prevention of a rare pediatric disease was met through the approval under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (42 U.S.C. 355) or licensure under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) of a drug for which a priority review voucher was used.

(ix) Whether, and to what extent, companies were motivated by the availability of priority review vouchers under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) to attempt to develop a drug for a rare pediatric disease.

(x) Whether, and to what extent, pediatric review vouchers awarded under such section were successful in stimulating development and expedited patient access to drug products for treatment or prevention of a rare pediatric disease that wouldn't otherwise take place without the incentive provided by such vouchers.

(xi) The impact of such priority review vouchers on the workload, review process, and public health prioritization efforts of the Food and Drug Administration.

(xii) Any other incentives in Federal law that exist for companies developing drugs or biological products described in clause (i).

(2) REPORT ON FINDINGS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report containing the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. LIMITATIONS ON EXCLUSIVE APPROVAL OR LICENSURE OF ORPHAN DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 527 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360cc) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter following paragraph (2), by striking ''same disease or condition'' and inserting ''same approved use or indication within such rare disease or condition'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''same rare disease or condition'' and inserting ''same approved use or indication for which such 7-year period applies to such already approved or licensed drug''; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', relating to the approved use or indication,'' after ''the needs'';

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''same rare disease or condition as the already approved drug'' and inserting ''same use or indication for which the already approved or licensed drug was approved or licensed''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) APPROVED USE OR INDICATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'approved use or indication' means the use or indication approved under section 505 of this Act or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act for a drug designated under section 526 for a rare disease or condition.''.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any drug designated under section 526 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bb), regardless of the date on which the drug was so designated, and regardless of the date on which the drug was approved under section 505 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 355) or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).

SEC. 7. PROGRAM FOR PEDIATRIC STUDIES OF DRUGS.

Section 409I(d)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284m(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''section,'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''section, $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028.''.

SEC. 8. ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK.

Section 372 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by moving the margins of subparagraphs (M) through (O) 2 ems to the left;

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking '', and'' and inserting ''; and''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''twenty-four-hour telephone service'' and inserting ''24-hour telephone or information technology service'';

(D) in each of subparagraphs (B) through (M), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(E) in subparagraph (N), by striking ''transportation, and'' and inserting ''transportation;'';

(F) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

''(P) encourage the integration of electronic health records systems through application programming interfaces (or successor technologies) among hospitals, organ procurement organizations, and transplant centers, including the use of automated electronic hospital referrals and the grant of remote, electronic access to hospital electronic health records of potential donors by organ procurement organizations, in a manner that complies with the privacy regulations promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, at part 160 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, and subparts A, C, and E of part 164 of such title (or any successor regulations); and

''(Q) consider establishing a dashboard to display the number of transplants performed, the types of transplants performed, the number and types of organs that entered the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network system and failed to be transplanted, and other appropriate statistics, which should be updated more frequently than annually.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) REGISTRATION FEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may collect registration fees from any member of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network for each transplant candidate such member places on the list described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(i). Such registration fees shall be collected and distributed only to support the operation of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. Such registration fees are authorized to remain available until expended.

''(2) COLLECTION.—The Secretary may collect the registration fees under paragraph (1) directly or through awards made under subsection (b)(1)(A).

''(3) DISTRIBUTION.—Any amounts collected under this subsection shall—

''(A) be credited to the currently applicable appropriation, account, or fund of the Department of Health and Human Services as discretionary offsetting collections; and

''(B) be available, only to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, to distribute such fees among awardees described in subsection (b)(1)(A).

''(4) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) promptly post on the website of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network—

''(i) the amount of registration fees collected under this subsection from each member of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network; and

''(ii) a list of activities such fees are used to support; and

''(B) update the information posted pursuant to subparagraph (A), as applicable for each calendar quarter for which fees are collected under paragraph (1).

''(5) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall, to the extent data are available—

''(A) conduct a review concerning the activities under this subsection; and

''(B) submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report on such review, including related recommendations, as applicable.

''(6) SUNSET.—The authority to collect registration fees under paragraph (1) shall expire on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of the Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act.''.

SEC. 9. ESTABLISHMENT OF ABRAHAM ACCORDS OFFICE WITHIN FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter X of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1015. ABRAHAM ACCORDS OFFICE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall establish within the Food and Drug Administration an office, to be known as the Abraham Accords Office, to be headed by a director.

''(b) OFFICE.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall—

''(1) in consultation with the governments of Abraham Accords countries, as well as appropriate United States Government diplomatic and security personnel—

''(A) select the location of the Abraham Accords Office in an Abraham Accords country; and

''(B) establish such office; and

''(2) assign to such office such personnel of the Food and Drug Administration as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the functions of such office.

''(c) DUTIES.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Abraham Accords Office, shall—

''(1) after the Abraham Accords Office is established—

''(A) as part of the Food and Drug Administration's work to strengthen the international oversight of regulated commodities, provide technical assistance to regulatory partners in Abraham Accords countries on strengthening regulatory oversight and converging regulatory requirements for the oversight of regulated products, including good manufacturing practices and other issues relevant to manufacturing medical products that are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration; and

''(B) facilitate interactions between the Food and Drug Administration and interested parties in Abraham Accords countries, including by sharing relevant information

regarding United States regulatory pathways with such parties, and facilitate feedback on the research, development, and manufacturing of products regulated in accordance with this Act; and

''(2) carry out other functions and activities as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this section.

''(d) ABRAHAM ACCORDS COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Abraham Accords country' means a country identified by the Department of State as having signed the Abraham Accords Declaration.

''(e) NATIONAL SECURITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any action inconsistent with a national security recommendation provided by the Federal Government.''.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Congress a report on the Abraham Accords Office, including—

(A) an evaluation of how the Office has advanced progress toward conformance with Food and Drug Administration regulatory requirements by manufacturers in the Abraham Accords countries;

(B) a numerical count of parties that the Office has helped facilitate interactions or feedback pursuant to section 1015(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by subsection (a));

(C) a summary of technical assistance provided to regulatory partners in Abraham Accords countries pursuant to subparagraph (A) of such section 1015(c)(1); and

(D) recommendations for increasing and improving coordination between the Food and Drug Administration and entities in Abraham Accords countries.

(2) ABRAHAM ACCORDS COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''Abraham Accords country'' has the meaning given such term in section 1015(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by subsection (a)).

SEC. 10. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN GENERIC DRUG APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505(j)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H)(i) Upon request (in controlled correspondence or an analogous process) by a person that has submitted or intends to submit an abbreviated application under this subsection for a drug that is required by regulation to contain one or more of the same inactive ingredients in the same concentrations as the listed drug referred to, or for which the Secretary determines there is a scientific justification for an approach that is in vitro, in whole or in part, to be used to demonstrate bioequivalence for a drug if such a drug contains one or more of the same inactive ingredients in the same concentrations as the listed drug referred to, the Secretary shall inform the person whether such drug is qualitatively and quantitatively the same as the listed drug. The Secretary may also provide such information to such a person on the Secretary's own initiative during the review of an abbreviated application under this subsection for such drug.

''(ii) Notwithstanding section 301(j), if the Secretary determines that such drug is not qualitatively or quantitatively the same as the listed drug, the Secretary shall identify and disclose to the person—

''(I) the ingredient or ingredients that cause such drug not to be qualitatively or quantitatively the same as the listed drug; and

''(II) for any ingredient for which there is an identified quantitative deviation, the amount of such deviation.

''(iii) If the Secretary determines that such drug is qualitatively and quantitatively the same as the listed drug, the Secretary shall not change or rescind such determination after the submission of an abbreviated application for such drug under this subsection unless—

''(I) the formulation of the listed drug has been changed and the Secretary has determined that the prior listed drug formulation was withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness; or

''(II) the Secretary makes a written determination that the prior determination must be changed because an error has been identified.

''(iv) If the Secretary makes a written determination described in clause (iii)(II), the Secretary shall provide notice and a copy of the written determination to the person making the request under clause (i).

''(v) The disclosures authorized under clauses (i) and (ii) are disclosures authorized by law, including for purposes of section 1905 of title 18, United States Code. This subparagraph shall not otherwise be construed to authorize the disclosure of nonpublic qualitative or quantitative information about the ingredients in a listed drug, or to affect the status, if any, of such information as trade secret or confidential commercial information for purposes of section 301(j) of this Act, section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or section 1905 of title 18, United States Code.''.

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue draft guidance, or update guidance, describing how the Secretary will determine whether a drug is qualitatively and quantitatively the same as the listed drug (as such terms are used in section 505(j)(3)(H) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a)), including with respect to assessing pH adjusters.

(2) PROCESS.—In issuing guidance under this subsection, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(A) publish draft guidance;

(B) provide a period of at least 60 days for comment on the draft guidance; and

(C) after considering any comments received and not later than one year after the close of the comment period on the draft guidance, publish final guidance.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 505(j)(3)(H) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a), applies beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, irrespective of the date on which the guidance required by subsection (b) is finalized.

SEC. 11. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''$1,403,000,000'' and inserting ''$2,622,000,000''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a very valuable member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I am rising in strong support of H.R. 1262, the Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act, led by my friend, the gentleman from Texas, Congressman MCCAUL.

This piece of legislation is comprised of bipartisan solutions to increase access to innovative treatments for those living with rare diseases, particularly children and adolescents.

Ten years ago, Mr. Speaker, the idea that we would be able to not just treat but cure sickle cell disease sounded like a dream that was too far out of reach. Today, we are curing sickle cell disease. We are curing spinal muscular atrophy. We are curing hemophilia and blood cancers. These cures are just a few of the success stories attributable to the FDA's Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program.

The PRV program is a powerful incentive that spurs the development of treatments for rare pediatric diseases, providing a lifeline for patients who require specialized treatments.

I also want to highlight the other provisions in this bill that seek to bolster important components of our healthcare system.

This legislation supports the improvement of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network by allowing the Secretary of HHS to collect member registration fees to support the operation of the OPTN.

This bill also helps secure our medical product supply chain by requiring the FDA to establish an office in a country that has signed the Abraham Accords.

I am grateful to Representatives Harshbarger and Vargas for their work to facilitate operations between the FDA and regulatory authorities and innovators in Abraham Accords countries.

Last but not least, this bill also includes a provision championed by Representatives DUNN and MULLIN that will ensure more affordable drug options are available to patients faster rather than being delayed by unnecessary red tape.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has one of the largest totals of bipartisan cosponsors of any legislation we will see this Congress.

One of the reasons for that is the tireless work of the patient advocates. They come to our office on a regular basis and tell us their personal stories. It makes such a difference, Mr. Speaker.

This bill now bears the name of one of those heroic kids, Mikaela Naylon, who passed away earlier this year after battling cancer for nearly 6 years. May her memory be eternal. She was 16 years old, and I will never forget the videos.

Throughout her battle, Mikaela was a fierce advocate of this bill to create

hope for a cure, not just for herself but for the thousands of kids around the country who are fighting the same fight.

This is a very important bill, and I want to get it to the Senate as soon as possible so it can become law.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this legislation on the Democratic side, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), for yielding.

I rise today in support of this legislation, the Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act, sponsored by Representatives DINGELL and MCCAUL.

This bill includes several strong, bipartisan pieces of legislation to help expand access to care for patients with rare diseases and complex medical needs. It increases research and development into rare pediatric diseases, improves regulatory certainty, strengthens the medical product supply chain, and enhances patient access to lower-cost medicines.

This bill will help in our efforts to bring new treatments to pediatric patients with more advanced forms of cancer. It also includes important enforcement authority for the Food and Drug Administration to take action against companies that do not conduct required studies for pediatric patients.

The bill also includes critical language to clarify the FDA's long-held treatment of orphan drug exclusivity and bring new treatments to more patients suffering from rare diseases. It will also allow for disclosure of certain information related to drug formulations to generic drug manufacturers to bring lower-cost medications to patients more quickly.

These provisions all advance our goal of accelerating the development of novel, safe, effective, and affordable treatments while improving outcomes for patients.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides the Health Resources and Services Administration, or HRSA, with the authority to modernize the organ transplant system. This language will allow HRSA to collect registration fees and distribute them among the multiple contractors that will be supporting the OPTN. The system is lifesaving for Americans, and I am glad that we can continue to support these much-needed reform efforts.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also includes important provisions to ensure that our medical product supply chain can be strengthened by working with international partners that believe in both tolerance and respect for every person, as well as advancement of science and medicine.

As a whole, this bill is going to make a difference, but I continue to believe that additional guardrails are needed for the PRV program to function the way Congress intended it to.

Previous reports from the Government Accountability Office on the program and continued research from academics show that there is little evidence that it incentivizes the products that Congress intended to help come to market.

This is especially concerning as the FDA has introduced a new priority review program with potentially massive financial benefits for pharmaceutical companies without any transparency or congressional authorization. That is why I am pleased that this bill includes a requirement for the GAO to conduct a new study and report on the effectiveness of the PRV program in achieving our original intent.

Let us not overstate the impact of this bill, however. While we are working together to advance the bill forward on incremental but important bipartisan legislation to advance both drug discovery and drug affordability, the Trump administration continues its devastating attacks on public health, including in cancer research.

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The Trump administration's substantial cuts to research funding for the biomedical community is chilling the innovation that we are trying to promote through this bill.

The Trump administration is decimating research and endangering the pipeline of new cancer therapies that could come to FDA for approval. Their actions are putting patients at risk and leaving pediatric patients without the treatments that we are trying to ensure can be tested and brought to them.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration is using the FDA as a tool to provide lucrative gifts to drugmakers and allies of President Trump, undermining the Agency's science-based review process, and endangering the health of the American public with potentially unsafe and rushed drug reviews.

The Trump administration is also decimating our vaccine infrastructure, from the programs that cover our vaccines and ensure that patients can afford them to destroying the pipeline to future vaccines through their ideological, pseudoscience agenda.

Mr. Speaker, one day, I hope that my Republican colleagues will join us in calling on the Trump administration to reverse these terrible policies that are only harming the public health.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan Give Kids a Chance Act, which supports research and development of drugs for children with cancer and other rare diseases.

Nearly 70 percent of rare diseases start in childhood, and most still have no approved treatments. The Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program has been a catalyst for developing therapies for these vulnerable populations.

Thanks to this program, treatments have reached children who are suffering from nearly 40 rare diseases, many of which previously had no FDA-approved options and often led to severe disability or death before adulthood. Since 2012, the Rare Pediatric Disease PRV Program has helped bring more than 60 new treatments to market and has driven investment in hundreds of additional therapies for rare pediatric diseases that would otherwise be financially unviable.

The Give Kids a Chance Act restores this critical program, ensuring that we continue to spur innovation, improve outcomes for young patients, and close gaps in pediatric drug research.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my strong support for H.R. 1262, the Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act. I am proud to co-lead this important, bipartisan legislation alongside Representatives MICHAEL MCCAUL, Dr. KIM SCHRIER, and GUS BILIRAKIS.

This bill will accelerate pediatric cancer treatments and expand access to lifesaving therapies for children battling rare diseases.

It is impossible to fully express the pain and the devastation that a family experiences when their child is diagnosed with cancer.

One of the bill's advocates was one that we are all going to talk about, Mikaela Naylon, a 16-year-old girl in Colorado who battled bone cancer. She was a fierce fighter for this bill. She talked to all of us, and we all sent videos to her. Unfortunately, she died on October 30.

Her mother told all of us, the sponsors and the cosponsors of this bill, that we gave her reason to live, and she hopes that other children will not die at her age and that this bill will help save lives.

She supported and spoke on the importance of funding cancer research to be able to help other kids like herself. She was a fighter her entire life, and this lifesaving bill has been renamed in her honor.

There are too many others facing the fight, as Mikaela has, each year. Nearly 16,000 children in just the United States are diagnosed with cancer each year.

Mr. Speaker, 1 in every 285 children in the U.S. will be diagnosed with cancer before they reach 20 years of age. In fact, children comprise as many as half of those living with rare diseases. Yet, here is the reality for those children: Treatment options for children remain extremely limited compared to those for adults.

We know that children respond to cancer treatments differently, but

there is limited research on how these therapies impact them. We owe our kids better than that, and their families deserve more.

We need this bill to offer more children a fighting chance. The Give Kids a Chance Act would reauthorize the Food and Drug Administration Priority Review Voucher Program to allow pharmaceutical companies to expedite FDA review of more profitable drugs in return for developing treatments for rare pediatric diseases.

Since 2011, 53 PRVs have been awarded for 35 different rare pediatric diseases. Additionally, thousands of successful drug combination therapies are now being studied and developed for adults but not for kids; not for our children.

The Give Kids a Chance Act also authorizes the FDA to direct companies to study a combination of cancer drugs and therapies in pediatric trials, as well. Together, we can show these young children and their families that they are not alone in this fight.

Mr. Speaker, I do thank the 313 cosponsors of this bill for their support, along with Chairman GUTHRIE and Ranking Member PALLONE for their assistance and support for this important bill. It has taken too long to get here today, but we are here. Let's show the kids in this country that we care.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the esteemed Member who has announced that this will be his last session and who has had a stellar career in this august body and who has led in many, many ways, in many committees, and whose career we all want to emulate.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for those kind words. I thank Chairman GUTHRIE, GUS BILIRAKIS, Mr. PALLONE, and, especially, Chairwoman DINGELL for their steadfast advocacy for these kids. I can't think of anything more important in my 22 years.

As chairman of the Childhood Cancer Caucus, I host a yearly childhood cancer summit. Mrs. DINGELL is a co-chair. It is a time for pediatric cancer patients, survivors, and advocates to rally together around these precious children, the most precious thing we have, and to spread hope to them.

Each year, I meet a child who impacts me in a very strong way. This year, I was blessed to get to know this beautiful, beautiful young woman by the name of Mikaela Naylon. I could see in her eyes that she was at the height of her struggle with cancer. It took so much strength for her to come to the summit, but she believed that she was meant to be there. She wanted her presence and her voice to help shape our policies and change our world for the better.

We got her into a joint clinical trial at MD Anderson and Texas Children's Hospital, but, unfortunately, it was too late. She had to be put on a ventilator 3 weeks after our summit, and she passed away.

As Congresswoman DINGELL mentioned, we sent videos to her to remind her of how important she is. In her final moments on this Earth, I reached out to her and told her that her story would not be forgotten and that her legacy would continue to help thousands of other children. I wanted her to know that her impact would outlive all of us.

Mr. Speaker, today, in her honor, the United States Congress will vote on the Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act.

Mr. Speaker, 16 years ago, I founded the Childhood Cancer Caucus because I saw that children with cancer did not have a voice here in Washington. We cared about adult treatments, but no one was paying attention to the precious children who are battling this heartbreaking disease. In fact, they called it rare orphan diseases.

□ 1620

Since then, we have made a change for the better, and today is proof of that. Put simply, this bill gives kids the same chance to beat cancer that adults already have.

Right now, thousands of successful drug combination therapies are being studied and developed for adults, but not for children. The Give Kids a Chance Act will change that. It authorizes the FDA to direct companies to study those same drugs and therapies in children, as well.

It will also reauthorize my Creating Hope Reauthorization Act, which created a pediatric review voucher program within the FDA. It was the first-ever market incentive for pharmaceutical companies to develop childhood cancer treatments. Prior to that, there were none.

Since its inception in 2012, 63 vouchers have been awarded for treatments of at least 39 different rare pediatric diseases, 36 of which previously had no FDA-approved treatments. These diseases typically lead to death before a child can reach adulthood, but not anymore.

A dear friend of mine, Dr. Allison from MD Anderson in my home State of Texas, was able to use this voucher program to obtain FDA approval for a treatment called CAR-T immunotherapy. He received the Nobel Prize in medicine for it, and this voucher program had everything to do with the FDA approval of it. This breakthrough treatment could change everything, and it has changed everything, not just for kids with cancer, but also for many adults.

This bill will keep this successful voucher program going for another 5 years, fueling more innovation and more hope for children and families who desperately need it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my friends on the Committee on Energy and Commerce—I am not on the committee—who helped me get this bill done. I also want to recognize the childhood cancer survivors who are in the gallery today.

With 313 cosponsors, this bill has the most bipartisan support in Congress, and that is because there is nothing political about a child with cancer. There is nothing more important than saving the lives of the next generation.

My prayers remain with Mikaela's family, and we are honored to have them here with us today: her mother, Kassandra; her father, Doug; and her brother, Ayden. I thank them for sharing Mikaela's beautiful story with us.

Mikaela represents all the children who have suffered with this heartbreaking disease. After meeting with many of them over all of these years, I can tell you these kids are tougher and more resilient than any adult I have ever seen, and they are truly my biggest inspiration. Many survive, but many don't, and that needs to change. Losing these kids has been the hardest part of my career over 22 years.

Today, I am encouraged because Mikaela's legacy and all of their legacies, all those who have died and survived this horrible disease, will live on in this bill forever.

Mr. Speaker, it is rare in this place that you can pass a bill that will end up saving children's lives. I can think of nothing more important.

I urge my colleagues to do right by our children and pass the Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act without delay.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close, but before doing so, I thank my colleague, with whom I have been proud to co-chair the caucus. We both know too many children who have died, but we know a lot who we were able to get help for. We make a commitment to all the families in the gallery, and those who we have not gotten to know, that no matter where the gentleman is going, he and I are in this fight for the rest of our lives. I thank him for all of his work. I am going to miss my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and beg everybody to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I do have one other speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Georgia, for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support as both a member of the Health Subcommittee and a proud cosponsor of this bill, H.R. 1262, the Give Kids a Chance Act.

Mr. Speaker, we live in the most technologically advanced society in the history of human civilization, and modern medicine has recently come up

with amazing solutions and cures for many of the physical ailments that have afflicted humanity.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have many rare pediatric diseases for which there is no cure. While we are researching the cures for those diseases, thousands and thousands of children continue to suffer.

Mr. Speaker, we need to give every priority and do everything we possibly can to speed up the delivery of these treatments for rare pediatric diseases, and that is what this bill is all about. The Give Kids a Chance Act will reauthorize the FDA's Priority Review Voucher system to speed the research and development of these technologies and innovative treatments and bring them to market. It also clarifies the FDA's authority over expediting these therapies and reauthorizes needed funding for the NIH to fund research and development into these cures.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will help us finally bring solutions to these thousands of suffering children.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my bipartisan cosponsors for their hard work on this bill. I urge this body to pass it this evening and urge its speedy consideration in the Senate.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a ''yes'' vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1262, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOSPITAL INPATIENT SERVICES MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4313) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities, and to require an additional study and report on such flexibilities, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4313

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 ''Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act''.

SEC. 2. EXTENDING ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME WAIVER FLEXIBILITIES.

Section 1866G(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc–7(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''January 30, 2026'' and inserting ''September 30, 2030''.

SEC. 3. REQUIRING ADDITIONAL STUDY AND REPORT ON ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME WAIVER FLEXIBILITIES.

Section 1866G of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc–7), as amended by section 2, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(E)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking ''the study described in subsection (b)'' and inserting ''the studies described in subsections (b) and (c)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new flush sentence:

''The Secretary may require that such data and information be submitted through a hospital's cost report, through such survey instruments as the Secretary may develop, through medical record information, or through such other means as the Secretary determines appropriate.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''STUDY'' and inserting ''INITIAL STUDY''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''or subsection (c)'' before the period at the end;

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) SUBSEQUENT STUDY AND REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2028, the Secretary shall conduct a study to—

''(A) analyze, to the extent practicable, the criteria established by hospitals under the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative to determine which individuals may be furnished services under such initiative; and

''(B) analyze and compare (both within and between hospitals participating in the initiative, and relative to comparable hospitals that do not participate in the initiative, for relevant parameters such as diagnosis-related groups)—

''(i) quality of care furnished to individuals with similar conditions and characteristics in the inpatient setting and through the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative, including health outcomes, hospital readmission rates (including readmissions both within and beyond 30 days post-discharge), hospital mortality rates, length of stay, infection rates, composition of care team (including the types of labor used, such as contracted labor), the ratio of nursing staff, transfers from the hospital to the home, transfers from the home to the hospital (including the timing, frequency, and causes of such transfers), transfers and discharges to post-acute care settings (including the timing, frequency, and causes of such transfers and discharges), and patient and caregiver experience of care;

''(ii) clinical conditions treated and diagnosis-related groups of discharges from inpatient settings relative to discharges from the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative;

''(iii) costs incurred by the hospital for furnishing care in inpatient settings relative to costs incurred by the hospital for furnishing care through the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative, including costs relating to staffing, equipment, food, prescriptions, and other services, as determined by the Secretary;

''(iv) the quantity, mix, and intensity of services (such as in-person visits and virtual contacts with patients and the intensity of such services) furnished in inpatient settings relative to the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative, and, to the extent practicable, the nature and extent of family or caregiver involvement;

''(v) socioeconomic information on individuals treated in comparable inpatient settings relative to the initiative, including racial and ethnic data, income, housing, geographic proximity to the brick-and-mortar facility and whether such individuals are dually eligible for benefits under this title and title XIX; and

''(vi) the quality of care, outcomes, costs, quantity and intensity of services, and other relevant metrics between individuals who entered into the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative directly from an emergency department compared with individuals who entered into the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative directly from an existing inpatient stay in a hospital.

''(2) SELECTION BIAS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, analyze and compare individuals who participate and do not participate in the initiative controlling for selection bias or other factors that may impact the reliability of data.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2028, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the study conducted under paragraph (1).

''(4) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for fiscal year 2026, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $2,500,000, to remain available until expended, for purposes of carrying out this subsection.''.

SEC. 4. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''$1,403,000,000'' and inserting ''$1,400,500,000''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on this bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act introduced by the Committee on Ways and Means Health Subcommittee chairman, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Congressman DWIGHT EVANS.

I think one of the healthcare-related conversations that frustrates a lot of us around here is the typical year-end healthcare policy extender mess.

□ 1630

The legislation in front of us takes the successful hospital at home program and removes it from that chaos by providing it with a renewed 5-year authorization so more Americans can receive care in the comfort and convenience of their own home.

Hospital at home has become embedded in the fabric of our healthcare system. More than 400 hospitals in nearly 40 States have participated in the program, which has built a track record of improved patient outcomes.

In Health Subcommittee Chairman BUCHANAN's home State of Florida

alone, there are 23 hospitals participating in this program. Hospital care provided at home cuts mortality rates, reduces the risk of falls and infections, and lowers recovery times. It also can save costs versus expensive in-person hospital visits. It is no wonder that 99 percent of patients said they were satisfied with the program.

At a Ways and Means Committee hearing, we heard the incredible story of a hospital at home patient from North Carolina named Roy who was diagnosed with sepsis and initially treated in a hospital. There, he was disturbed by beeping sounds, uncomfortable in the hospital gown, and alone with no one able to visit him. His recovery was much better at home.

He was able to sleep in his own bed and visit with friends and family. He also continued to receive the same level of care he would have otherwise received at the hospital. His recovery at home was rapid, complete, and without any infections.

Mr. Speaker, I represent one of the most rural districts in America. The long drives to a hospital faced by people living in small towns in remote areas can make seeking care prohibitive. Hospital at home shrinks the physical distance stopping rural patients from getting care. Hospital at home has been a proven success for getting more Americans the healthcare that they need.

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am really happy to see the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and I am certainly happy to support this 5-year extension of the hospital at home program, which, of course, includes a critical study to ensure additional information about the program. I am also happy to hear about the success of this program as people experience it.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions, as the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee has pointed out, get extended every single year. Sometimes they get extended in short increments. Sometimes they move as a kind of tax package. As a matter of fact, this was just extended in the continuing resolution that we just passed and in previous funding bills before that. I am so delighted to be here this evening to see that my Republican colleagues are in the mood to extend current law.

I will offer them the opportunity to maybe extend the Affordable Care Act to the 24 million Americans who are facing unprecedented enormous health insurance premium hikes since we are extending healthcare stuff today.

In my own State of Wisconsin, Mr. Speaker, 279,000 people receive credits to help make insurance coverage affordable. In my State, for a 60-year-old couple not yet eligible for Medicare, earning $85,000 a year, they will see their premiums increase by $23,281 a year. A family of four earning $133,000 a year would see their premiums increase by $14,000 next year.

Families are going to be asked to pay 20, 30, 40 percent of their income for health insurance premiums, and the majority just wants to ignore it. My constituents and your constituents, Mr. Speaker, Americans from coast to coast are going to be staring down these massive amounts of medical debt, massive insurance premiums, or the inability to access healthcare. If they are unable to afford it, they will just drop it.

We have to act. It is December 1. We have to act.

I am reminded, Mr. Speaker, of how fast the Ways and Means Committee and the majority moved to give tax breaks to the wealthy, but when it comes to regular families, we just don't seem to have the time. We could be doing that here on the floor now. This is a marvelous bill we are passing today, but I would much rather be securing the time for that purpose.

Those hikes in healthcare premiums are not isolated, Mr. Speaker. They come on the heels of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that slashed more than 10 million Americans out of healthcare through the Medicaid program, cut over a trillion dollars in Medicare, and a half-trillion dollar liability in the Medicare fund. Hospitals will close, patients will suffer, and millions of American families will become uninsured all because the majority is refusing to act.

Mr. Speaker, the majority was more than happy to make a whole host of tax breaks permanent for the billionaire business class, but not for these entrepreneurs and families who are facing these tremendous hikes in their premiums. This is part of a Republican economy, I think. Help the billionaires. It will all trickle down. We are going to heap the costs onto middle-class families from every angle. Rising numbers of Americans are falling behind on their utility bills. There is a recent uptick in mortgage delinquencies and a rise in serious delinquency rates for the first time in years. Consumer bankruptcies are on the rise, up 15 percent since last year.

What are we doing? We just passed a $4.3 trillion tax break overwhelmingly for the wealthy.

What else did the majority do, Mr. Speaker?

They found $40 billion for certain people in Argentina, but no healthcare for American families. They found $300 million for a new gilded ballroom where the East Wing of the White House used to be. The ballroom keeps getting bigger and bigger, so I can't describe the dimensions of it, but it is going to have a marble bathroom in it and a fancy new patio, but no healthcare for families.

We have higher electric prices, grocery prices, and housing prices. Half the people in my State who are renting are paying more than a third of their income for housing.

These prices are going through the roof. American families, unless they are billionaires, are struggling to stay afloat in this economy. While President Trump and his family use the White House to haul in billions of dollars to line their own pockets, people will not be able to access healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, while I support this bill, I object to how the majority and the President are making life worse every single day for most Americans.

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

□ 1640

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN).

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this topic. It has been key to what we have accomplished today.

I rise today in strong support of my bill, the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act, which would allow hospitals to treat Medicare patients safely at home.

During the pandemic, CMS established the hospital at home waiver to provide hospitals with the flexibility to care for patients from the comfort and convenience of their homes.

The hospital at home program has been very successful, being treated in many homes across the country. It has also made a big difference in reducing the risk of infections and falls.

I am thrilled to say that my bill extends the successful hospital at home program for an additional 5 years. I know a lot of people being in Florida where their parents will talk about the importance of if they could stay at home, and I know this is critical.

An extension of this program would ensure more than 200 hospitals across 34 States—including 20 hospitals in Florida—can continue to provide quality care to patients at home. More than 140 leading healthcare organizations, including hospitals, healthcare providers, and patients support this legislation.

I thank Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. MOORE for their friendship and bipartisanship on this bill. I thank Leader SCALISE and Whip EMMER for bringing this to the floor tonight. I urge my colleagues to support the hospital at home program extension for hospitals, providers, and patients.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I congratulate Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. EVANS on bringing forth this bill. I certainly agree with them that people do better at home in many instances and ought to have this as an option.

I look forward to the study that is involved in this iteration of the bill that will inform us about ways to improve the bill.

As we look at healthcare as a whole, it is one of those sort of broken markets that we have. We have 60 percent

of folks who get healthcare through their employer or government or labor unions. We have another group of people who are disabled who get healthcare. We have another group of people who are elderly, thank God they get Medicare, but then there is the rest of us out there.

In a broken system of healthcare, we have got to be concerned about those people. We have talked a lot about children with cancer. What if you are 27 and you have cancer, and you are not getting healthcare through an employer? You don't have one of them good government jobs. You are not elected to anything. What do you do?

While we are passing legislation, I hope that before we adjourn, we will not ignore the thousand-pound elephant in the room, and that is the Republican Party standing in the way of doing it.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for moving this bill through Ways and Means and for having us consider this bill this evening, the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act, which is legislation led by my friend, Congressman BUCHANAN. I appreciate his leadership on this, and I was pleased to be able to support the effort, as well.

This bipartisan bill would enable hospitals to extend their successful hospital at home programs for another 5 years. The hospital at home model gives hospitals the flexibility to treat certain patients in the comfort and convenience of their own homes rather than in the hospital facility.

Over 31,000 patients received acute level care in their homes as of October 2024, and studies show that hospital systems achieved savings of 19 percent regarding these patients who required a shorter average length of stay and used fewer unnecessary services.

A number of hospitals in my district have used the hospital at home waiver to great effect. For example, one system with a hospital in my community has accepted more than 800 patients across all of their facilities, freeing up more than 1,500 hospital bed days and saving approximately $1.1 million.

This is exactly the kind of program that we should be encouraging. It allows medical providers to innovate and provide better care for their patients. Patients like being at home, as well. It decreases costs over the long run. By extending the hospital at home waiver for 5 years, this bill that we are considering today would give hospitals the certainty they need to continue to build out these innovative care models and serve their patients in a holistic way after the disruption caused by the Democratic shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this important legislation, which is a clear win for patients and taxpayers.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to approve this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4313, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CLAIMING AGE CLARITY ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5284) to require the Social Security Administration to make changes to the social security terminology used in the rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Administration, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5284

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 ''Claiming Age Clarity Act''.

SEC. 2. CHANGES TO SOCIAL SECURITY TERMINOLOGY.

Not later than the later of the date that is 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act or January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Security shall ensure that, in any rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Social Security Administration, whether online or in print—

(1) the term ''early eligibility age'' is replaced with the term ''minimum monthly benefit age'';

(2) the terms ''full retirement age'' and ''normal retirement age'' are replaced with the term ''standard monthly benefit age''; and

(3) the term ''delayed retirement credit'' shall not be used and any reference to age 70 as the maximum age up to which delayed retirement credits can be received shall be replaced with the term ''maximum monthly benefit age''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Claiming Age Clarity Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by my Ways and Means colleagues, Representative LLOYD SMUCKER and DON BEYER.

Planning for one's retirement can be stressful enough without having to interpret needlessly complicated terminology. Unfortunately, millions of Americans claiming Social Security today often face confusing and misleading terms used by the agency that make it that much harder to make informed decisions about one's financial future.

Under the legislation before us, the Social Security Administration will be required to update the agency's language to make it clearer and more straightforward. This will help ensure that Americans do not accidentally claim benefits earlier than they should, are completely informed, and don't potentially miss out on substantial income during their retirement years.

This is critical for the nearly 100,000 citizens living in Representative SMUCKER's district and the over 80,000 in Representative BEYER's district who are nearing retirement age today. It is why organizations like the AARP, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the Association of Mature American Citizens have come out in support of this bill, which received overwhelming bipartisan support in the Ways and Means Committee. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1650

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5284, the Claiming Age Clarity Act. I thank my colleagues, Mr. SMUCKER and Mr. BEYER, for their leadership on this important legislation.

As Mr. SMITH has described, these changes will better help seniors understand the advantages and disadvantages of claiming at different ages. I certainly know folks among my constituency who are faced with this confusion. This bill addresses that.

I want to quote Mr. BEYER, who is not with us. He is an author of the bill, along with Mr. SMUCKER. He noted, in our committee report, this bill ''doesn't solve the big picture on Social Security, which this committee presides over, nor does it fix the data privacy, customer service, or staffing disaster that DOGE and this administration have put on this agency, but it will help on the margins, and I am glad that this little bill is seeing the light today.''

Mr. Speaker, this bill passed the Committee on Ways and Means with overwhelming bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. MOORE is right. There are serious questions about Social Security and its sustainability going forward. I can tell my colleagues that Republicans want to ensure that the promises that have been made to the American people will be kept.

We need to have that conversation that Ms. MOORE talked about. We need to make structural changes to the program. We have a math problem. In 8 years, if nothing is done, beneficiaries will not receive their full payments. It is time we begin to have that discussion.

Mr. Speaker, for individuals who are reaching retirement age, this ensures they have the best information available to them as they make decisions about when to start benefits.

Today, we use terms like ''early eligibility age,'' ''full retirement age,'' and ''delayed retirement credits.'' Those are confusing to people I talk with about this. Studies show that most beneficiaries don't fully understand how their claiming decisions will affect their monthly benefits. As a result, there are many seniors today who may be missing out on substantial retirement income because of suboptimal claiming decisions they made.

Mr. Speaker, that is where the Claiming Age Clarity Act comes in. My bill would simply change the terminology used by the Social Security Administration to describe the different ages when an individual can begin to claim their benefits.

Instead of ''early retirement age,'' this bill would refer to 62 as the ''minimum benefit age.'' If Americans start Social Security at 62, then that is the smallest benefit, the minimum benefit, they would receive. ''Full retirement age'' would become the ''standard benefit age.'' Age 70 would be referred to as the ''maximum benefit age.'' When describing this, it doesn't get any simpler than minimum, standard, and maximum benefit ages.

This bill will help seniors make informed decisions when deciding when to begin their Social Security benefits that they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BEYER for leading this effort with me, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a commonsense bill, and I am so happy that our colleagues thought it appropriate to bring it forward to help older Americans make better-informed decisions.

As I indicated, I have had friends who retired at age 62 and thought that that would be a better time based on the misinterpretation of the language.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, no American entering retirement should lose out on their hard-earned Social Security benefits because the Social Security Administration failed to provide information in clear and understandable terms. We need to make it easier and not harder for individuals to plan for retirement in this country.

The Claiming Age Clarity Act is a positive step in the right direction. Representatives SMUCKER and BEYER are to be commended for forging this bipartisan consensus on a policy that will improve retirement security and ensure the bureaucracy here in Washington better serves American seniors.

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 Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5284, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING SOCIAL SECURITY'S SERVICE TO VICTIMS OF IDENTITY THEFT ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5345) to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5345

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 ''Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act''.

SEC. 2. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT FOR IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 714. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT FOR IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall establish and implement procedures to ensure that any individual whose social security account number has been misused (such as to fraudulently obtain benefits under title II, VIII, or XVI of this Act, or in a manner that affects an individual's records at the Social Security Administration, or in a manner that prompts the individual to request a new social security account number) or whose Social Security card has been lost in the course of transmission to the individual has a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration throughout the resolution of the individual's case. The single point of contact shall track the individual's case to completion and coordinate with other units to resolve issues as quickly as possible.

''(b) SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a), the single point of contact shall consist of a team or subset of specially trained employees who—

''(A) have the ability to coordinate with other units to resolve the issues involved in the individual's case, and

''(B) shall be accountable for the case until its resolution.

''(2) TEAM OR SUBSET.—The employees included within the team or subset described in paragraph (1) may change as required to meet the needs of the Social Security Administration, provided that procedures have been established to—

''(A) ensure continuity of records and case history, and

''(B) notify the individual when appropriate.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, the theft and misuse of Social Security numbers has become a very serious problem in our country. In 2024 alone, there were over 3,000 reported data breaches, and over half of them included compromised Social Security numbers. For victims, the fallout can be overwhelming.

Instead of finding clear guidance at the Social Security Administration to deal with this stressful situation, too many folks are bounced from one office to another. They receive conflicting instructions and spend months trying to resolve what should be a straightforward issue.

During a previous Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security hearing, we heard directly from a mother about how a single point of contact at the Social Security office would have been beneficial in helping her deal with the fallout from her daughter's Social Security number being compromised.

Protecting Americans from identity theft is not a partisan issue. This bill provides a simple and commonsense fix to provide victims of identity theft with a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration when their number is lost or compromised.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman DAVID KUSTOFF for his leadership on this bill. Thanks to his work, victims of identity theft whose Social Security

numbers have been compromised will get the help that they so need.

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

□ 1700

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I certainly support H.R. 5345, the Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act, and of course, this passed the Ways and Means Committee with overwhelming bipartisan support.

I think having a single person to deal with at the Social Security office is common sense, and it will enable a victim to unravel their problems a lot sooner.

I just want to make note of the fact that, like some other Social Security bills that are under consideration today, this bill does not fix the crisis that this Trump administration has inflicted on Social Security when it comes to data privacy and customer service. Thumb drives went into our central data computers by DOGE employees, people who had not been confirmed by any Senate or anything else, and our Social Security information was captured—captured indeed—on thumb drives.

Democrats are going to continue to fight to protect Americans from having their personal Social Security information politicized or bought and sold to the highest bidder or their Social Security benefits put at risk. It is very, very frightening, so frightening, Mr. Speaker, that as soon as our current Treasury Secretary was brought into office, I wanted to know what DOGE was doing and where the information was going. I don't think we have had any conversations of any substance regarding the location of that data.

While this bill will have a modest but meaningful improvement to Social Security's customer service to the victims of identity theft, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for this legislation, I want them to think more deeply about what we need to do in the atmosphere that we are in now to protect Americans' Social Security data that was mined by DOGE.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank our Ways and Means chairman, JASON SMITH, not only for his strong leadership but for his support on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, every year, more and more Americans are having their identity stolen. It is a sad fact. However, actors are becoming more sophisticated. They are using new technology to gain access to sensitive information. Just last year, there were over 3,000 separate data breaches that were reported, including many leaks involving stolen Social Security numbers.

Currently, when somebody has their identity stolen, they have got to navigate a baffling process at the Social Security Administration. The Ways and Means Committee has heard from victims who describe the process of regaining their identities as a bureaucratic nightmare. It is complex. It is lengthy, and it is frustrating. Sometimes they report being passed from representative to representative and from department to department. Sometimes they even get conflicting advice from people within the Social Security Administration.

As identity theft becomes more commonplace, the system at the Social Security Administration needs to be streamlined to work better for the victims. The Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act addresses this problem head-on.

Specifically, this bill will establish a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for Americans who have had their Social Security numbers lost or stolen. Mr. Speaker, think of it as a one-stop shop for those trying to protect themselves from identity theft. Having a single point of reference, one point of contact, at the Social Security Administration will simplify the process, making it easier and faster for victims to get relief.

This piece of legislation was passed favorably out of the Ways and Means Committee with a strong bipartisan vote. Mr. Speaker, now it is time to act in a bipartisan manner to support Americans whose Social Security numbers fall into the wrong hands.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank my colleague for introducing this very important piece of legislation. I am always happy, as are other Democrats on the Ways and Means Committee, for any initiative to protect our data, to protect and secure it, to protect people's privacy, and to streamline their ability to resolve their problem.

I would hope that the authors of this legislation and the chairman of the committee would recognize that this will mean that they will have to stop taking the appropriations away from the Social Security Administration. We have shut down scores of offices. Many people have been fired, and that data and AI will not resolve the issue of having a single point of contact or a person to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It did pass out of committee with a strong bipartisan vote. I hope that there is bipartisan interest in protecting our data which, like I said, has been DOGE'd and stored somewhere in the cloud. I hope that this urgency around protecting data will continue to be a priority of the committee.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, identity theft has become a major issue in our country. One of the main ways that bad actors exploit victims is through the misuse of their Social Security number.

Unfortunately, when people contact the Social Security Administration for help with a stolen or missing Social Security number, they are often met with red tape, waiting for callbacks, confusion, and conflicting information. Callers will get bounced around to multiple SSA employees or have go through different processes just to get the help that they need.

This bill sponsored by Representative KUSTOFF will make it easier for Americans to resolve issues with stolen or missing Social Security numbers by providing them with a single point of contact at the SSA.

I, once again, want to thank Representative KUSTOFF for his great leadership on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'', and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5345, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1710

SOCIAL SECURITY CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2025

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5348) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5348

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 ''Social Security Child Protection Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. REISSUANCE OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS TO YOUNG CHILDREN IN CASES WHERE CONFIDENTIALITY HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(c)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(2) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

''(iii) In any case in which a social security account number has been issued to a child who has not attained the age of 14 pursuant to subclause (IV) or (V) of clause (i) and it is demonstrated by evidence, as determined by the Commissioner of Social Security, and submitted under penalty of perjury to the Commissioner by a parent or guardian of the child that in the course of transmission of a social security card to the child, the confidentiality of such number has been compromised by reason of loss or theft of such social security card, the Commissioner shall issue a new social security account number to such child and make note in the records maintained with respect to such child of the pertinent information received by the Commissioner regarding the loss or theft of the social security card.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, a lost or stolen Social Security number can cause a lifetime of harm to American children. Every year, more than a million children become victims of identity fraud.

Current Social Security Administration policy makes it extremely difficult for families to get a new Social Security number for a child, even when families know the original number was compromised through no fault of their own.

Previously, the Ways and Means Committee heard direct testimony from a mother who had to battle with the Social Security Administration when her 1-month-old child's Social Security number was compromised, and she was denied a new number.

This bill, the Social Security Child Protection Act of 2025, sponsored by Representative SMUCKER, will help families when their child's Social Security number is lost or stolen. It requires the SSA to issue a new number to children under the age of 14 when the child's card has been compromised versus sitting around and waiting for a malicious act to take place.

This is a straightforward solution that will help protect children and families from fraud.

I urge my colleagues to support this so we can continue to stand together to better safeguard the identities of American kids.

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I certainly think that H.R. 5348, the Social Security Child Protection Act of 2025, which passed the Ways and Means Committee with overwhelming bipartisan support, deserves to be supported by this body.

As has been indicated, this legislation would direct the SSA to issue a new Social Security number to a child under 14 if it was stolen in the course of being mailed.

The current policy brings nothing but misery upon a child and a new family, and I think that this is a commonsense effort to mend this grievous bureaucratic conundrum that parents have to face.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for the opportunity to bring this up in committee and then for moving it out of committee. I thank the leader for bringing it to the floor for a vote.

This is about helping kids. I know when we talk about Social Security, we don't often think about kids. But remember, every child receives a Social Security number that follows them around for the rest of their life. Every year, there are kids whose Social Security numbers are lost or stolen in the mail and exposed to fraudsters.

Because children don't open bank accounts, they don't apply for lines of credit, and they don't seek employment, it can take them years to discover that their identity was stolen or to realize the effects of a stolen identity.

Under current policy, even if the child is aware that the Social Security number was stolen, a child must become victimized by actual fraud before the Social Security Administration will give them a new number.

That is ridiculous. If my bank issued a credit card and I didn't receive it in the mail, they wouldn't send me another copy of the same card. They would cancel the old one and send me a new card. Why would we treat our children any differently? We shouldn't.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote for the Social Security Child Protection Act. This bill would simply require that the Social Security Administration issue a new, different Social Security number to a child under the age of 14 if the card has been lost or stolen while being issued to the child in the mail.

Mr. Speaker, it is a simple fix to protect our children and make the process of interacting with the Social Security Administration easier. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill, and it will strengthen customer service for children whose Social Security card has been lost or stolen in the mail.

While Mr. SMUCKER described this as a very simple, commonsense bill, I think the importance of this is it demonstrates that on a bipartisan basis we can solve problems. You always start with the little things and work yourself forward.

If providing greater customer service through the Social Security Administration is a goal that has strong bipartisan support, I think that that really gives us a runway to do bigger things.

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

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

A mother testifying before the Ways and Means Committee told us how it took ''hours of effort over months'' to protect her daughter from identity theft and that ''the threat will never completely go away unless she is assigned a new Social Security number.''

This mother had to battle with the SSA after her infant daughter's Social Security number was compromised. Unfortunately, the story is all too common for millions of Americans who have had their Social Security numbers stolen or misused each year.

By taking swift action today, we can prevent a lifetime of financial harm to American children across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5348, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. 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 motion will be postponed.

FAIR AND ACCOUNTABLE IRS REVIEWS ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5346) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform certain penalty and interest provisions, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5346

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 ''Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act''.

SEC. 2. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT OF PENALTIES.

(a) APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENT.—Section 6751(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No penalty under this title shall be assessed or entered unless, before any written communication with respect to such penalty (including proposal of a penalty as an adjustment) is sent to the taxpayer, the initial determination of such assessment is personally approved (in writing) by the immediate supervisor of the individual making such determination or such higher level official as the Secretary may designate.''.

(b) IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR DEFINED.—Section 6751(b) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'immediate supervisor' means, with respect to an individual making a determination under paragraph (1), the person to whom such individual reports.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to notices issued, and penalties assessed, after December 31, 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1720

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act introduced by our colleague, Representative GLENN GROTHMAN.

While not a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, I know Representative GROTHMAN to be a tireless advocate for American taxpayers, as represented by this important piece of legislation that will go a very long way toward protecting their rights.

The legislation ensures that rogue IRS employees are not able to unfairly impose penalties and fines on taxpayers without going through proper channels of authorization and doing so in a timely manner.

Right now, an IRS agent can impose a penalty on an American taxpayer before obtaining a supervisor's approval. Moreover, they can shop around for any other employee at the agency that they wish to seek permission from since current law does not require approval from a direct supervisor.

These loopholes undermine the no-signature, no-penalty principle. Representative GROTHMAN's bill received unanimous support at the Committee on Ways and Means. It is an important policy reform that will reinforce fair treatment of taxpayers at the IRS.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5346, the Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman JASON SMITH for putting this bill on the floor, and I thank the gentleman for always remembering that it is better to do things in a bipartisan way.

This bill clarifies procedures under section 6751 of the Internal Revenue Code and fixes an ongoing controversy regarding tax penalties and IRS supervisory approvals.

The IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 added section 6751 to the Internal Revenue Code, which says that certain tax penalties shall not be assessed unless the initial determination of the assessment is personally approved, in writing, by the immediate supervisor of the employee making the determination, or a higher-level official.

This provision, in its current form, does not define when supervisory approval must be obtained or who is considered an immediate supervisor. The lack of definition has led to conflicting decisions in the court regarding the time of approvals and among whom at the IRS can make such approvals.

Due to this widespread confusion, the National Taxpayer Advocate recommended that Congress enact legislation to fix this provision. Therefore, this bill clarifies that an IRS employee must obtain supervisory approval in writing before any written communication is sent to a taxpayer about certain proposed penalties. It also clarifies that an IRS employee's immediate supervisor is a person to whom the employee reports.

In addition to providing clarity, this bill also raises $117 million over the next 10 years. This bill passed the Committee on Ways and Means with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very important clarification bill.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the previous speakers for their kind words and assistance on this bill. I also will address the Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act.

For decades, Federal laws required that before the IRS can impose penalties on a taxpayer, an agent must first receive written approval from that agent's immediate supervisor.

Congress put this safeguard in place to ensure that penalties are imposed fairly, consistently, and with appropriate oversight. A supervisor's signature helps prevent the use of penalties as a pressure tactic and creates a transparent record that benefits both taxpayers and the government in collection and appeals proceedings.

In recent years, unfortunately, a regulatory interpretation complicated the intent of this longstanding statute. Instead of adhering to the clear requirement that an agent's immediate supervisor must approve a penalty at the time of the initial determination, supervisory appeal could be obtained at any point in the process and the term ''immediate supervisor'' was broadened beyond Congress' original intent.

As a result, an agent could propose a penalty without prior review and later seek approval from a wide range of individuals, weakening the transparency and accountability that the law was designed to ensure.

The Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act restores clarity. It reaffirms that an IRS agent's actual immediate supervisor must provide written approval at the initial determination of a penalty, ensuring proper oversight from the start. This simple clarification strengthens the taxpayer protections and promotes a consistent and reliable penalty process.

Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve a tax system that is fair, predictable, and transparent. This bill moves us closer to that goal.

I thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership on the Committee on Ways and Means and all of the Members on the other side of the aisle who helped shoot it out of the committee on such a bipartisan basis. I thank Chairman SMITH for his commitment to strengthening fairness and accountability within our tax system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5346 is a commonsense bill that will help taxpayers and the courts. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill because not only is it common sense, but it will allow for more efficiency in our IRS code. I think it is really important that both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans, support such an efficient and commonsense bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, American taxpayers should not be at the mercy of rogue IRS agents who are handing out fines without reasonable due process. At the very least, agents ought to have actual prior approval before issuing a penalty and should not be allowed to go around looking for a sympathetic employee to grant them that approval.

I commend our colleague, Representative GROTHMAN, for introducing this straightforward legislation that puts in place some guardrails around the IRS and its agents. This bill will help restore integrity to the agency's processes. Above all, it will protect the

rights of American taxpayers, whose interests we must continue to look out for.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5346, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TAX COURT IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5349) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve services provided to taxpayers by the Internal Revenue Service by providing greater judicial review, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5349

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Tax Court Improvement Act''.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.
Sec. 2. Authorization of subpoenas before hearings to facilitate settlements.
Sec. 3. Authorization of special trial judges to hear additional cases and address contempt.
Sec. 4. Disqualification of judges and special trial judges.
Sec. 5. Clarification of Tax Court jurisdiction to apply equitable tolling in deficiency cases.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF SUBPOENAS BEFORE HEARINGS TO FACILITATE SETTLEMENTS.

Section 7456(a) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS.—For the efficient administration of the functions vested in the Tax Court or any division thereof, any judge or special trial judge, the clerk or the clerk's deputies, as such, or any other employee of the Tax Court designated in writing for the purpose by the chief judge, may administer oaths or affirmations.

''(2) SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.—Any judge or special trial judge may examine witnesses and require, by subpoena ordered by the Tax Court or any division thereof and signed by the judge or special trial judge (or by the clerk of the Tax Court or by any other employee of the Tax Court when acting as deputy clerk), any of the following:

''(A) The attendance of parties or witnesses.

''(B) The production of books, papers, documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things from any place in the United States by any party or witness having custody or control thereof for purposes of discovery or for use of the things produced as evidence in accordance with the rules and orders of the Tax Court. Any such subpoena shall be issued and served, and compliance therewith shall be compelled, as provided in the rules and orders of the Tax Court.

''(3) DEPOSITIONS.—Pursuant to rules and orders of the Court, the deposition of a witness may be taken before any designated individual competent to administer oaths under this title. Any deposition testimony shall be reduced to writing by the individual taking the deposition, or under such individual's direction, and shall be subscribed by the deponent.''.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGES TO HEAR ADDITIONAL CASES AND ADDRESS CONTEMPT.

(a) CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT.—Section 7443A(b) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (6), by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8), and by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraph:

''(7) upon the consent of the parties, and pursuant to rules promulgated by the Tax Court, any proceeding not described in paragraphs (1) through (6), and'', and

(b) AUTHORIZING SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGE.—Section 7443A(c) is amended by striking ''or (6)'' and inserting ''(6), or (7)''.

(c) CONTEMPT AUTHORITY.—Section 7443A is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) INCIDENTAL POWERS.—A special trial judge appointed under this section shall have the power to punish for contempt of the authority of the Tax Court as provided in section 7456(c), except the sentence imposed by such a special trial judge for any contempt shall not exceed the penalties for a Class C misdemeanor as set forth in sections 3571(b)(6) and 3581(b)(8) of title 18, United States Code. This subsection shall not be construed to limit the authority of a special trial judge to order sanctions under any other statute or any rule of the Tax Court prescribed pursuant to section 7453.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date the United States Tax Court adopts rules implementing the consent procedures of section 7443A.

SEC. 4. DISQUALIFICATION OF JUDGES AND SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part II of subchapter C of chapter 76 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 7467. DISQUALIFICATION OF JUDGE OR SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGE.

''Section 455 of title 28, United States Code, shall apply to judges, special trial judges, and proceedings of the Tax Court.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such part is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 7467. Disqualification of judge or special trial judge.''.

SEC. 5. CLARIFICATION OF TAX COURT JURISDICTION TO APPLY EQUITABLE TOLLING IN DEFICIENCY CASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7451(b) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) TOLLING OF TIME.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Tax Court shall have jurisdiction to toll the period for filing a petition under section 6213(a) in cases in which the Tax Court determines based on the facts and circumstances that equity warrants such tolling.

''(2) RULES FOR INACCESSIBLE FILING LOCATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, in any case (including by reason of a lapse in appropriations) in which a filing location is inaccessible or otherwise unavailable to the general public on the date a petition is due, the relevant time period for filing such petition shall be tolled for the number of days within the period of inaccessibility plus an additional 14 days.

''(B) FILING LOCATION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'filing location' means—

''(i) the office of the clerk of the Tax Court, or

''(ii) any on-line portal made available by the Tax Court for electronic filing of petitions.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7459(d) is amended—

(1) by striking ''If a petition'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a petition'', and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to any dismissal which is solely based on a determination of the Tax Court not to toll the period for filing a petition under section 6213(a).''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to filings made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) NO INFERENCE.—The amendment made by subsections (a) shall not be construed to create any inference with respect to the jurisdiction of the Tax Court with respect to any petition filed on or before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Tax Court Improvement Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives NATHANIEL MORAN and TERRI SEWELL. As a former judge, Congressman MORAN knows the importance of fully protecting Americans' legal rights and due process, and I appreciate his leadership on this issue.

This bill strengthens taxpayer rights during judicial proceedings before the U.S. Tax Court.

The court will be able to more expeditiously resolve cases as the legislation enhances the efficiency of its judicial review to the benefit of the taxpayer. This will increase the court's productivity, and Tax Court judges will also be held to the same disqualification standards as other judges. Finally, the court will now have the ability to extend taxpayer deadlines where timely filing is impractical.

The U.S. Tax Court is the only venue where taxpayers can dispute a tax estimate without first paying that tax. Taxpayers must stand on equal footing when going toe-to-toe with the IRS. Without the guarantee of rights, taxpayers are put in a situation where the

IRS is essentially saying: Heads, I win. Tails, you lose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand with American taxpayers and support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for bringing this bill to the floor.

I rise in support of H.R. 5349, the Tax Court Improvement Act, which passed the Committee on Ways and Means with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my cosponsor and colleague, Mr. MORAN of Texas, for his leadership and for working with me on this important legislation. I also thank the gentleman from Texas for the smoked turkey he sent to several members of our committee.

The Tax Court has a very important impact on everyday Americans. It provides individuals and businesses with an opportunity to be heard in court to challenge the Internal Revenue Service before paying a disputed tax. Our committee is always looking for ways to make the Tax Court more efficient and fairer for the taxpayer, and that is why we are here today.

The Tax Court Improvement Act will strengthen Tax Court procedures and practices by making four commonsense reforms. The act will accelerate the collection of documents, expand the types of cases assigned to special trial judges, hold Tax Court judges to the same recusal standards as other Federal judges, and allow the deadline for petitions to be extended in certain circumstances.

These improvements to the Tax Court will have a tangible impact on thousands of taxpayers, and it will raise $6 million over the next 10 years.

Given the importance of the Tax Court, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Tax Court Improvement Act. This taxpayer-friendly bill significantly improves the critical Tax Court process available to Americans who find themselves in a dispute with the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I thank specifically Representative TERRI SEWELL, who joined me in coauthoring this bill, for recognizing that taxpayers deserve a court process that is clear, timely, efficient, and just. Her work on this bill reflects our joint commitment to the people we serve.

For too long, the Tax Court has operated under preexisting rules that do not mirror many of the well-established procedures for other courts and rules that are antiquated in their application.

In short, changes need to be made so that the Tax Court process works better for the people that it serves. When a system is slow or confusing, the burden falls on taxpayers, often at moments when they are already under stress. This bill provides practical updates that help the court do its job more effectively, and it helps taxpayers find resolution more easily and quickly.

First, this bill modernizes the court's subpoena rules. Today, if someone is subpoenaed to produce documents before the Tax Court, they must show up in person. This wastes time, adds expense, and clogs an already full docket. Other Article I and Article III courts already allow documents to be submitted, at times, without requiring physical appearance. This bill, likewise, gives the Tax Court the same commonsense flexibility, allowing judges to decide when someone truly needs to appear in person.

Second, the bill helps the court address its growing case backlog. It does this by allowing special trial judges, who are experienced legal professionals who already handle much of the court's work, to take on additional responsibilities with the consent of the taxpayer. If the taxpayer agrees, these special trial judges can hear certain additional matters, issue final decisions in specific cases, and use limited contempt authority to maintain order. This is similar to how magistrate judges currently assist Federal district court judges to streamline their dockets when consent of the parties exists. The result is simple: faster resolution for taxpayers without sacrificing expertise on the bench, fairness in the process, or integrity in the result.

Third, the bill strengthens public trust by creating clear ethical standards for Tax Court judges. Article III judges already have statutory recusal rules. Currently, Tax Court judges do not. Codifying disqualification requirements ensures that taxpayers know that their case will be heard by a judge who is impartial and above reproach. This change helps to take away any indicia of impropriety in the process, again giving weight to the soundness of the final judgment.

Finally, this legislation clarifies the court's authority to use equitable tolling in deficiency cases. Today, if a taxpayer misses a filing deadline, even due to illness, natural disaster, or being given incorrect information, the court often has no ability to offer relief to that taxpayer. Cases can be dismissed before the merits are even heard, putting taxpayers at risk for losing their claim when they are not at fault for missing the deadline. That is not a just result. This bill ensures the court can make determinations based on the substance of claims, not just procedural technicalities, especially when a taxpayer is acting in good faith.

Taken together, these reforms make the Tax Court more efficient, responsive, and just for the American taxpayer. They reflect these values that guide our work in this Chamber: strong institutions, fair treatment for taxpayers, and renewed trust in our government processes.

This is a measured, practical bill that passed unanimously in committee, and it deserves the support of this House on both sides of the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Tax Court Improvement Act to help strengthen a court process that plays a vital role in protecting our taxpayers' rights and ensuring accountability of the IRS within our tax system.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, in support of H.R. 5349, the Tax Court Improvement Act, is the fact that we want more commonsense, bipartisan efforts to modernize our Tax Court system.

At its heart, this bill strengthens taxpayer rights and removes unnecessary procedural roadblocks. Specifically, it authorizes the Tax Court to issue subpoenas before hearings. That means third parties can be compelled to produce relevant documents, electronic records, and other evidence early, facilitating settlement, reducing the need for protracted litigation, and helping to resolve disputes sooner rather than later.

This bill also expands the role of special trial court judges, allowing them to hear additional cases and act when there are issues such as contempt, thereby helping to clear backlogs and improving the court's overall input.

It holds Tax Court judges and special trial judges to the same ethical and disqualification standards as other Federal judges, ensuring transparency and integrity in every case.

This bill also clarifies that the Tax Court has the jurisdiction to grant equitable tolling in deficiency cases. In other words, the court can expand and extend deadlines when timely filings were impossible and impractical to make.

These reforms are not radical. They are commonsense improvements designed to deliver timely justice, lower court costs, and greater access for everyday Americans, small businesses, and those who currently face intimidating and burdensome procedures.

In a system where there are high stakes for individuals, families, and entrepreneurs, there is nothing uncommon or unreasonable about expecting a fair shot, swift resolution, and procedures that reflect modern realities. That is exactly what H.R. 5349 delivers.

□ 1740

Passing this legislation is a statement that we believe in a tax system where accountability, transparency, and due process matter, not just for the wealthy or well-connected, but for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 5349 and deliver on commonsense Tax Court reform.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Ways and Means Committee has been working tirelessly to strengthen taxpayer rights. This year alone, the committee has approved several pieces of legislation giving taxpayers fairer treatment. The Tax Court Improvement Act is another one of these solutions.

The IRS is the most feared Federal agency for good reason, but we are working to change that. In addition to pursuing partisan aims, it has a long-documented history of treating taxpayer rights as mere suggestions.

This bill will give taxpayers more confidence and greater protections when litigating their case before the U.S. Tax Court.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MORAN and Congresswoman SEWELL for championing taxpayer rights. This bill received total support in the Ways and Means Committee, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same here in the House.

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 Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5349, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUD TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 225) to require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to testify before the Congress annually, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 225

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 ''HUD Transparency Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.

Not later than October 1 of each year, the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall appear before the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and present testimony on the Office of Inspector General's—

(1) efforts to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse;

(2) ability to conduct and supervise audits, investigations, and reviews;

(3) actions to identify opportunities for the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to progress and succeed;

(4) recommendations to improve overall efficiency and public accountability of the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(5) assessment of the extent to which the Department of Housing and Urban Development has resources sufficient to carry out its statutory mission; and

(6) ongoing activities regarding any such additional work, as appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIDSON. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 225, the HUD Transparency Act.

I thank the gentlewoman from Texas, Congresswoman DE LA CRUZ, for sponsoring this legislation.

The HUD Transparency Act of 2025 is a piece of commonsense legislation that strengthens accountability, enhances oversight, and ensures the American people have a clear view into how Federal housing dollars are spent.

For years, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, has administered programs that touch millions of families, seniors, and veterans in communities across our Nation. These programs are critical. They support affordable housing development, combat homelessness, and help communities recover after disasters.

Unfortunately, over the years, in my view, the agency has shown time and time again they are unable to perform some basic functions. The agency continually fails to hold local public housing authorities responsible for providing safe housing.

Reports from the inspector general, the Government Accountability Office, and our own committee have repeatedly identified some of the same issues: outdated and incomplete reporting, inconsistent and unverifiable data, missed deadlines, and major programs operating without clear evidence of effectiveness.

As the branch with the power of the purse, it is Congress' responsibility to ensure tax dollars that go toward HUD's programs are managed effectively, efficiently, and transparently. H.R. 225 delivers on that responsibility.

This bill requires the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to annually testify before Congress so we can ensure the Department is meeting its performance reporting and management standards. By requiring the HUD Inspector General to appear in front of Congress, Ms. DE LA CRUZ's bill makes HUD take the necessary steps to publish key performance information, report program outcomes in a timely manner, and makes the data available so Congress and the public can better ensure Federal housing programs are meeting their goals.

The HUD Transparency Act is a straightforward, bipartisan solution to a longstanding problem. HUD needs to use consistent reporting formats so Congress can compare outcomes across programs and track progress over time. It ensures that the American people can see how their tax dollars are being used.

These are basic principles of good governance. Transparency strengthens public trust and improves program performance. It allows Congress to address problems early instead of after tax dollars have been wasted or ones in need have been left behind.

Importantly, this bill does so without imposing new burdens on State or local governments and without slowing down the delivery of critical housing assistance. H.R. 225 simply ensures that HUD operates with the openness and accountability the American people expect and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. DE LA CRUZ for this important measure, and I urge our colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 225, the HUD Transparency Act of 2025, sponsored by Representative DE LA CRUZ.

Oversight is a core function of the Financial Services Committee. Inspectors general also play a critical role in providing transparency about the functions of government, as well as holding government officials accountable.

They are able to do this because they are independent of the officials they oversee, and until recently, were only removed for cause.

However, since taking office, President Trump has fired over 20 IGs across the government. The majority of these IG firings took place in the first week President Trump took office and violated lawful removal procedures as they came with no warning or rationale.

In fact, the Trump administration has kept more than three in four presidentially appointed inspector general positions vacant and without Senate-confirmed leadership.

These actions not only silence future IGs but leave the public less informed about critical activities happening across agencies.

Dangerously, Trump's actions, combined with Republican House leadership who are unwilling to investigate anything Trump's team does, enable the Trump administration to be entirely unaccountable.

Notably, the HUD Inspector General this bill would require to testify before our committee was one of the people Trump arbitrarily fired earlier this year.

Since that firing, the acting HUD IG has been replaced again, and there is no one being considered by the Senate for confirmation. As a result, no one in this Chamber knows when our committee will be able to receive this testimony.

That said, and while I support this bill, this debate ignores the real and urgent challenges facing HUD and our housing market, and how the President and his administration are actively taking steps to undermine efforts to address the affordable housing crisis.

For example, where is the legislation from our Republican colleagues to stop Trump's plan to gut existing permanent supportive housing that could force more than 170,000 people back on the streets? Twenty States and D.C. have already sued HUD citing the plan as chaotic and unlawful.

□ 1750

Mr. Speaker, where are their investigations into the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Bill Pulte, who is weaponizing the housing finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for politically motivated witch hunts and trying to lock new home buyers into 50-year mortgages?

If Republicans wanted to lower housing costs, why aren't they calling to exempt materials like lumber from Trump's tariffs or why aren't we negotiating the ROAD to Housing Act so that it can be included in NDAA and quickly passed into law?

Mr. Speaker, the invitation to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is open. Join us in finally taking steps to address the rising costs of housing. The American public wants us to lower their bills, and Democrats have numerous ideas about how to do that. Join us in ensuring that the HUD inspector general has the independence to do their job without fear of retaliation when they uncover corruption or abuse of power.

We will join Republicans in passing this bill today, but we need to finally get to work to deliver real change for the American people.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Congressional Budget Office estimate for this bill.

H.R. 225, HUD TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES ON JULY 15, 2025

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2025	2025–2030	2025–2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (−) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	**

* = between zero and $500,000.
** = not estimated.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 225 would require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to testify annually before the Congress on different topics including the sufficiency of the agency's resources, actions taken to identify opportunities for program improvement, and the inspector general's ability to investigate and audit HUD programs to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

Using information from the agency, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 225 would cost less than $500,000. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Zunara Naeem. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 225, the HUD Transparency Act of 2025.

This commonsense legislation requires annual testimony from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's inspector general. By doing so, the HUD Transparency Act adds formal oversight over HUD that does not currently exist.

In the past, Congress has gone years without hearing from HUD's inspector general. With a budget that exceeds $70 billion, we must have proper oversight over HUD to ensure housing programs are working for all Americans.

That being said, my bill will require the inspector general to provide Congress with recommendations and insights into reforming HUD's programs and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in our Federal spending.

Housing issues impact all Americans. I commend this administration for their focus on restoring the American Dream of homeownership by bringing down housing costs and cutting red tape. Our HUD programs play a critical role in increasing the affordable housing supply and access nationwide.

However, the success of HUD's programs relies on the Department's ability to root out fraud, waste, and abuse. The HUD Transparency Act aids in this by adding critical oversight to ensure that those who qualify for HUD's programs can receive the housing assistance that they need.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, this legislation has a strong record of bipartisan support, including passage in the House in the 118th Congress.

As this legislation continues to receive overwhelming bipartisan support, I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, the HUD Transparency Act of 2025.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, HUD plays a vital role in providing safe and affordable housing to families all across the United States. Families depend on HUD's programs to keep a roof over their heads.

H.R. 225 would allow Congress and the public to hear directly from an independent oversight authority, provided one is ever confirmed, and offer more transparency into the functions and operations of HUD, especially at a time when Trump's appointees are abusing their power.

I again urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

For the reasons I explained earlier, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and 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. DAVIDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 225, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NO NEW BURMA FUNDS ACT

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4423) to continue the pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4423

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 ''No New Burma Funds Act''.

SEC. 2. CONTINUATION OF PAUSE ON WORLD BANK DISBURSEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS TO BURMA.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall direct the United States Executive Director at the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to use the voice and vote of the United States to continue the pause by the Bank on disbursements and the making of new financing commitments to the Government of Burma, that was initiated after a military coup overthrew the democratically elected Government of Burma in 2021, unless the Secretary of the Treasury determines that it is not in the national interest to do so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4423, the No New Burma Funds Act. I thank the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS) for sponsoring this bipartisan legislation.

I am pleased to note that this bill passed the Financial Services Committee unanimously by a vote of 54–0 in July of this year. That kind of agreement underscores the seriousness of the threat posed by Burma's military regime and the broad consensus that the United States must respond firmly.

The No New Burma Funds Act ensures that the United States will oppose any new World Bank financing that could benefit Burma's illegitimate military junta and supports international efforts to restore democratic governance.

Since the military overthrew the elected Burma Government in 2021, Congress has fought to hold Burma's military coup accountable and support the Burmese people in their struggle for freedom to restore their rightful voice in their own government.

Yet despite widespread global condemnation, the acting Government of Burma continues to entrench its power, exploit state resources, and suppress democratic aspirations of its citizens, all while seeking access to new streams of international financing.

The No New Burma Funds Act responds directly to this challenge by ensuring that the United States continues to use its full voice and vote at the World Bank to maintain a strict pause on disbursements in new financing commitments to the current government in control of Burma.

Supporting democratic movements, defending human rights, and advancing stability in Southeast Asia are in our American interest. When international institutions inadvertently enable authoritarian regimes through new financing, our credibility suffers, and in this case the Burmese people would pay the price.

By reaffirming and strengthening this pause, H.R. 4423 provides a responsible and targeted approach that prevents international funds from benefiting the current government and maintains the pressure applied following the 2021 coup.

This is a bipartisan, commonsense measure that upholds human rights, reinforces international accountability, and supports the long-term prospects of peace and democracy in Burma. I thank the bill's sponsor for her work on this legislation and commitment to standing with the people of Burma.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill and help send a clear message that the United States will not allow international financing that empowers brutal dictatorship or tyranny in Burma. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1800

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS).

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4423, the bipartisan No New Burma Funds Act.

This bill, which I introduced with my colleague YOUNG KIM, would mandate that the United States use its voice and vote to continue the World Bank's pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma. This pause was initiated after a military coup overthrew the democratically elected Government of Burma in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, the democratically elected leaders in Burma's ruling party, the National League for Democracy, were overthrown by the Tatmadaw, Burma's military. Since the military regime's coup, we have seen families displaced. We have seen citizens detained without access to income, education, or healthcare. There has been brutal violence against the Burmese civilian population.

I center my work on my constituents and fighting for those most marginalized. Mr. Speaker, while I hope we are going to have a robust conversation around making sure that everyone back home in my district is housed with affordable housing and lowering costs in this country, today, this bill is still central to my constituents. In my district alone, DeKalb County is home to over 2,000 Burmese refugees.

In another life, prior to my congressional service, I was a public school teacher. I had a student who was a Burmese refugee. Htet-Yet and his family's story is empowering and a stark reminder that not only do we have an obligation to help those no matter their ZIP Code, but we have a duty to help those no matter where they are around the globe.

This legislation gives our country yet another tool to put financial pressure on the Burmese Government. This bill will ensure that the U.S. executive director at the World Bank pushes the institution to continue its pause on the disbursement of funds and new financing commitments to the government, incentivizing the Burmese Government to give power back to the most important piece of any thriving free country: the people.

I thank Congresswoman YOUNG KIM for co-leading this important legislation with me. I also thank Chairman HILL and Ranking Member WATERS for their support of this priority. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO estimate for this bill.

H.R. 4423, NO NEW BURMA FUNDS ACT, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2026	2026–2030	2026–2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (−) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	*

* = between zero and $500,000.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 4423 would require the United States Executive Director at the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to advocate for a continued pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma.

On the basis of information about the costs of similar diplomatic efforts to influence the actions of other nations and international organizations, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4423 would cost less than $500,000 over the 2026–2030 period. Any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBC staff contact for this estimate is Emma Uebelhor. The estimate was reviewed by Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DAVIDSON for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4423, the No New Funds for Burma Act. This bill would suspend disbursements and financing from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to Burma until the Treasury Secretary identifies a meaningful change in regime and restoration of democratic values.

In February 2021, the democratically elected members of Burma's Government were deposed by the military junta. As we approach almost 5 years since the military's unlawful seizure of power, chaos has overtaken Burma. Since the coup, more than 6,000 people have been killed, 20,000 detained, and more than 3.5 million displaced from their homes.

Caused directly by the Burmese military junta, this humanitarian crisis makes one thing very clear: The regime cannot be trusted to responsibly steward funds from international financial institutions or deliver aid to the communities most in need.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WILLIAMS of Georgia for allowing me to co-lead the No New Funds for Burma Act. I urge my colleagues to join us in condemning the ongoing violence in Burma and supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, given the human rights violations committed by the Burmese leadership, we must ensure that no new funds are disbursed to the government. In line with longstanding U.S. policy, America should urge multilateral institutions like the World Bank to avoid rewarding those who breach international laws and the norms that they should be respecting.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, for the reasons I explained earlier, I urge all of our colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4423, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIDSON. 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 motion will be postponed.

SYSTEMIC RISK AUTHORITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3716) to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require reports on the use of the systemic risk authority applicable to winding up a failed insured depository institution, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3716

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 ''Systemic Risk Authority Transparency Act''.

SEC. 2. BANK FAILURE TRANSPARENCY RELATED TO SYSTEMIC RISK EXCEPTION.

(a) GAO REVIEW.—Section 13(c)(4)(G)(iv) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1823(c)(4)(G)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

''(iv) GAO REVIEW.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, not later than 60 days after a determination is made under clause (i), and again 180 days thereafter, review and report to the Congress on the determination under clause (i), including—

''(aa) the basis for the determination;

''(bb) the purpose for which any action was taken pursuant to such clause;

''(cc) the likely effect of the determination and such action on the incentives and conduct of insured depository institutions and uninsured depositors;

''(dd) any mismanagement by the executives and board of the insured depository institution that contributed to the failure of the insured depository institution;

''(ee) a review of the compensation practices of the insured depository institution;

''(ff) any supervisory or regulatory shortcomings with respect to the appropriate Federal banking agency of the insured depository institution;

''(gg) any actions taken by the Federal banking regulators, Financial Stability Oversight Council, Department of the Treasury, and other relevant financial regulators in relation to the failure of the insured depository institution; and

''(hh) any additional relevant entities or activities that may have contributed to the failure of the insured depository institution, including with respect to auditing, accounting, credit rating agencies, investment bank underwriters, and emergency liquidity options such as loans from the Federal reserve banks or advances through the Federal Home Loan Bank system.

''(II) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this clause or a report issued pursuant to this clause may be construed to limit the authority of a Federal agency to enforce violations of Federal statutes, rules, or orders.''.

(b) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL BANKING AGENCY REPORT.—Section 13(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1823(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(12) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL BANKING AGENCY REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The appropriate Federal banking agency of an insured depository institution about which a determination is made under paragraph (4)(G)(i) shall, not later than 90 days after the date of such determination, and again 210 days thereafter, submit a report to the Congress that discloses the following:

''(i) Subject to such redactions as the appropriate Federal banking agency determines appropriate of personally identifiable information about customers and other financial institutions (as such term is defined under section 11(e)(9)(D)), all—

''(I) reports of examination and inspection that relate to the failed insured depository institution in the previous 3-year period;

''(II) formal communications of a material supervisory determination conveyed to the failed insured depository institution in the previous 3-year period; and

''(III) any additional exam reports and correspondence that the appropriate Federal banking agency determines may be relevant to the failure of the insured depository institution.

''(ii) An examination of any mismanagement by the executives and board of the insured depository institution that contributed to the failure of the insured depository institution.

''(iii) Any supervisory or regulatory shortcomings by such appropriate Federal banking agency with respect to the insured depository institution.

''(iv) Any dynamics that the appropriate Federal banking agency determines may have contributed to the failure of the insured depository institution.

''(v) Any supervisory, regulatory, or legislative recommendations such appropriate Federal banking agency may have to improve the safety and soundness of similarly situated insured depository institutions, the banking system, and financial stability.

''(B) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION.—

''(i) EFFECT ON PRIVILEGE.—The provision of any information by a Federal banking agency under this paragraph may not be construed as—

''(I) waiving, destroying, or otherwise affecting any privilege applicable to the information; or

''(II) waiving any exemption applicable to the information under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act').

''(ii) TRANSPARENCY.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A Federal banking agency shall publish materials contained in a report required under subparagraph (A) to the fullest extent possible to promote transparency.

''(II) CONSULTATION ON OMITTING MATERIALS.—If a Federal banking agency determines particular materials described under subclause (I) should not be published, the Federal banking agency shall consult with the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

''(III) OMITTING MATERIALS.—If, after the consultation required under subclause (II), the Federal banking agency determines there is a substantial public interest in not publishing such materials, the Federal banking agency shall provide those materials to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with a written explanation describing the reasons for not publishing those materials.

''(iii) PRIVILEGE.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'privilege' includes any work-product, attorney-client, or other privilege recognized under Federal or State law.

''(C) REPORT EXTENSION.—A Federal banking agency may extend a deadline described under subparagraph (A) for an additional 60 days, if the Federal banking agency—

''(i) faces ongoing circumstances that require the Federal banking agency to prioritize activities to promote stability of the U.S. banking system; and

''(ii) notifies the Congress of such extension and the reasons for such extension.

''(D) CONSOLIDATED REPORTS.—A Federal banking agency may consolidate multiple reports required under this paragraph so long as the individual reports being consolidated all meet the timing requirements under this paragraph.

''(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph or reports or materials provided pursuant to this paragraph may be construed to limit the authority of a Federal agency to enforce violations of Federal statutes, rules, or orders.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIDSON. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3716, the Systemic Risk Authority Transparency Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for offering this bill. I am pleased to note that this legislation earned unanimous support of the House Financial Services Committee in June, passing 51–0. I thank Mr. GREEN for offering this bill.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN). He is also the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HILL; the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON); and the ranking member for allowing me to carry and present the Systemic Risk Authority Transparency Act.

Mr. Speaker, following the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in 2023, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation invoked the systemic risk exception to guarantee uninsured deposits at those banks. Before 2023, the systemic risk exception was invoked but five times, all occurring between September 2008 and March 2009.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note at this point the importance of the knowledge of what has occurred in Congress. We call it institutional knowledge. Institutional knowledge is important because this legislation gives us the opportunity to explain why institutional knowledge can make a difference.

Because the Honorable MAXINE WATERS was present in 2008 and saw what occurred when banks were afraid to lend to each other, she was able to give the necessary input when we had the Silicon Valley and Signature Bank failures. She was able to give the necessary input to prevent a further run on banks in this country. Institutional knowledge should never be undervalued. We must maintain and keep our institutional knowledge.

To prevent further panic in the financial system following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, the FDIC chose not to follow the typical resolution process for failed banks, in which a failed bank is immediately sold to a competitor.

□ 1810

The Systemic Risk Authority Transparency Act would continue this practice, requiring that for any use of a systemic risk exception, the Government Accountability Office would have to produce the same post-failure report within 60 days of invocation of a systemic risk exception and a more comprehensive report in 180 days.

We deserve transparency—we, the Members of Congress—but the people in this country deserve transparency also. It is this transparency that helps people to have the confidence in the system necessary to prevent runs on banks.

Again, I would want people to understand that institutional knowledge is a supreme exemplar of what can occur when we have these circumstances that require bold action, but you can't have bold action, Mr. Speaker, without bold people. I thank the ranking member for her bold action.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Ranking Member GREEN, for his good work on this bill.

H.R. 3716 will ensure that if we have another banking emergency, as we did 2 years ago with several regional banks, and regulators respond by using systemic risk tools, that Congress and the American people promptly receive detailed information from GAO and others on what went wrong and what should be done to promptly fix it.

This bill is supported by Americans for Financial Reform and Public Citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO cost estimate for this bill.

H.R. 3716, SYSTEMIC RISK AUTHORITY TRANSPARENCY ACT, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES ON JULY 15, 2025

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2025	2025–2030	2025–2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	*	*
Increase or Decrease (−) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	*

* = between −$500,000 and $500,000.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? *

Increases on-budget deficits on any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? *

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No

Contains private-sector mandate? Yes, Under Threshold

H.R. 3716 would require several federal agencies to report to the Congress if federal banking regulators invoke an emergency determination known as the systemic risk exception. Systemic risk is the possibility that the failure of a financial business, market, or product could trigger severe financial instability in the economy. The bill would require the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Federal Reserve, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) to submit information about bank supervision, regulation, management, and recommendations to improve the safety and soundness of the industry.

Enacting H.R. 3716 would increase administrative costs for those agencies to meet the additional reporting requirements. CBO estimates that the total cost across all four agencies would be less than $500,000 over the 2025–2035 period. The budgetary treatment for those four agencies is described below:

The operating costs for the FDIC and the OCC are classified as direct spending. The OCC collects fees from financial institutions to offset its operating costs; those fees are recorded as offsetting receipts, that is, as reductions in direct spending. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would, on net, increase direct spending by less than $500,000 over the 2025–2035 period.

Costs incurred by the Federal Reserve reduce remittances to the Treasury, which are recorded in the budget as revenues. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3716 would decrease revenues by less than $500,000 over the 2025–2035 period.

GAO's funding is provided in annual appropriation acts. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than $500,000 over the 2025–2030 period; any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

If federal financial regulators increase annual fees to offset the costs of implementing the bill, H.R. 3716 would increase the costs of an existing private-sector mandate on entities required to pay those fees. CBO estimates that the incremental cost of the mandate would be small and would fall well below the annual threshold established in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) for private-sector mandates ($206 million in 2025, adjusted annually for inflation).

The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Julia Aman (for federal costs), Nate Frentz (for revenues), and Rachel Austin (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

MARK P. HADLEY
(For Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office).

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives announces bills that will be considered under suspension of the rules in that chamber. Under suspension, floor debate is limited, all floor amendments are prohibited, points of order against the bill are waived, and final passage requires a two-thirds majority vote.

At the request of the Majority Leader and the House Committee on the Budget, CBO estimates the effects of those bills on direct spending and revenues. CBO has limited time to review the legislation before consideration. Although it is possible in most cases to determine whether the legislation would affect direct spending or revenues, time may be insufficient to estimate the magnitude of those effects. If CBO has prepared estimates for similar or identical legislation, a more detailed assessment of budgetary effects, including effects on spending subject to appropriation, may be included.

Mr. DAVIDSON. For the reasons I explained earlier, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and 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. DAVIDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3716, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEVELOPING AND EMPOWERING OUR ASPIRING LEADERS ACT OF 2025

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4429) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the definition of a qualifying investment, for purposes of the exemption from registration for venture capital fund advisers under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, to include an equity security issued by a qualifying portfolio company and to include an investment in another venture capital fund, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4429

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 ''Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall—

(1) revise the definition of a qualifying investment under paragraph (c) of section 275.203(l)–1 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations—

(A) to include an equity security issued by a qualifying portfolio company, whether acquired directly from the company or in a secondary acquisition; and

(B) to specify that an investment in another venture capital fund (as defined in paragraph (a) section 275.203(l)–1 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations) is a qualifying investment under such definition; and

(2) revise paragraph (a) of such section to require, as a condition of a private fund qualifying as a venture capital fund under such paragraph, that, immediately after the acquisition of any asset, such fund holds no more than 49 percent of the amount of the fund's aggregate capital contributions and uncalled committed capital (excluding short-term holdings) in—

(A) one or more venture capital funds; or

(B) qualifying investments acquired in a secondary acquisition, valued at cost or fair value, consistently applied by the fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIDSON. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Ohio for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor H.R. 4429, the Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders, or DEAL, Act.

This bill, which passed with almost unanimous support out of the Financial Services Committee, seeks to ensure the United States remains the most entrepreneurial country in the world, where the next great companies are founded and funded.

It is often said that small businesses are the engine of the American economy, and that is an absolute truth. Small businesses make up 99 percent of U.S. employers, and they are the driving force behind the creation of a majority of new jobs.

The entrepreneurs leading these companies are building something new, taking real risks, and driving growth in communities across the Nation, but too often, they can't get a fair shot at investment.

Right now, our capital markets suffer from an extreme geographic imbalance. The data is stark. Nearly 70 percent of venture capital flows to three States, Mr. Speaker: California, New York, and Massachusetts.

This leaves entire regions of the country struggling to access funding. It leaves communities in the Midwest and the South without the capital they need to build and scale businesses. Access to capital is not just a coastal issue. It is a national economic necessity.

This capital divide is why the DEAL Act is so critically important. This bill is a targeted, forward-looking effort to modernize outdated rules and channel investment to where it is needed most.

The DEAL Act fundamentally strengthens the ability of capital to reach more founders and more communities. It achieves this by allowing larger venture funds to invest directly in smaller, regional funds, a fund-of-funds investment.

This mechanism is a game changer, Mr. Speaker. It means more funding for startups, more opportunities for businesses that might otherwise be overlooked, and more innovation happening everywhere, not just in a handful of elite ZIP Codes.

Newer, regional venture funds are often best positioned to back the entrepreneurs who are building businesses on Main Street. The DEAL Act ensures that these funds can expand that important work, giving them the flexibility to partner with larger institutions to reach a wider base of early-stage companies.

H.R. 4429 ensures our policies are helping capital move efficiently and effectively, empowering those taking risks to build something new, and helping good ideas grow into great companies.

I thank Chairman HILL for his support, and also I thank Congressman CASTEN for joining me and co-leading this commonsense and bipartisan piece of legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN), who is also the vice ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 4429, the Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act, or DEAL Act, which is a critical bill to support innovation, entrepreneurship, and capital formation.

The venture capital industry provides vital funding for early-stage startups at points in their life cycle when they are generally deemed to be too risky for traditional bank financing or for raising money on the public market. This basically means that if we are going to have a growing and innovative economy, then we have to have a healthy venture capital sector.

Historically, venture capital earns investor returns and frees up more capital to recycle in other companies by selling their mature portfolio companies to strategic investors or taking them public on public markets.

For a variety of reasons, including public company reporting obligations, economic uncertainty, and the rise of private equity, U.S. companies today are staying private much longer, which has reduced the opportunities for venture capital firms to recycle their investment dollars.

Some venture capital firms have sought to create new liquidity options through secondary acquisitions and investments in other VC funds. This is what Congresswoman WAGNER was referring to, but that option right now is constrained by provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010 that limit venture capital funds' ability to invest in these so-called fund of funds to only 20 percent of their commitments.

That rule was very well-intentioned when passed, and the intent was to ensure that VC firms remained focused on direct investments in early-stage startups. However, it was crafted for a very different financial market than we have today.

I would also note that that constraint is irrelevant to the larger, more well-known VC funds who have the resources to shoulder the compliance burdens associated with registering with the SEC as registered investment advisers. They can already do this, but they are the big ones. They are the ones based in San Francisco and New York. That option isn't available for these emerging regional fund managers located in the middle of the country. Many of those funds increasingly depend on that fund-of-funds model.

What the DEAL Act does is just provides greater flexibility to those smaller VC funds while still ensuring that investors are protected and that fund managers continue to prioritize direct funding in small businesses. It does this by revising the existing rules to raise the cap from 20 percent in fund of funds up to 49 percent but still requiring that the majority of their investments are directly in portfolio companies.

In other words, the DEAL Act supports growth in the startup economy and ensures that capital reaches the communities and innovators who need it most.

I thank my fellow Midwesterner and friend, Congresswoman WAGNER, for her leadership on this. I am proud to lead this important legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

□ 1820

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

Our economy is struggling. People cannot afford groceries and gas. Every day, it seems more and more people are getting laid off. The American Dream is increasingly out of reach.

A core engine of our economy has always been the entrepreneurs who take the risk of starting their own company. By implementing key changes to the legal definition of a venture capital fund, H.R. 4429 will make it easier for capital to flow into American small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO estimate for this bill.

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives announces bills that will be considered under suspension of the rules in that chamber. Under suspension, floor debate is limited, all floor amendments are prohibited, points of order against the bill are waived, and final passage requires a two-thirds majority vote.

At the request of the Majority Leader and the House Committee on the Budget, CBO estimates the effects of those bills on direct spending and revenues. CBO has limited time to review the legislation before consideration. Although it is possible in most cases to determine whether the legislation would affect direct spending or revenues, time may be insufficient to estimate the magnitude of those effects. If CBO has prepared estimates for similar or identical legislation, a more detailed assessment of budgetary effects, including effects on spending subject to appropriation, may be included.

EFFECTS ON DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUES OF LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2025

Bill number	Title	Effect on direct spending	Effect on revenues	Additional information on direct spending and revenue effects
H.R. 176	No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act of 2025, as amended.	Reduce by Less Than $500K.	None	
H.R. 225	HUD Transparency Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 1262	Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act, as amended	Increase by at Least $500K.	Increase by at Least $500K.	Section 3 would increase revenues by an insignificant amount. Section 10 would reduce direct spending and increase revenues for a net $1.219 billion reduction in the deficit. Section 11 would appropriate $1.219 billion to the Medicare Improvement Fund. On net, the bill would reduce the deficit by an insignificant amount over the 2026–2035 period.
H.R. 2066	Investing in All of America Act of 2025, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 2159	Count the Crimes to Cut Act, as amended	Increase by Less Than $500K.	None	Includes insignificant costs for Postal Service Fund, which are classified as off-budget direct spending.
H.R. 3174	Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 3716	Systemic Risk Authority Transparency Act	Increase by Less Than $500K.	Reduce by Less Than $500K.	
H.R. 4313	Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act, as amended.	Change by Less Than $500K, Direction Unknown.	None	
H.R. 4323	Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 4423	No New Burma Funds Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 4429	Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 4430	Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 4431	Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 4491	SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act	None	None	
H.R. 4495	SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act	Reduce by at Least $500K	Increase by Less Than $500K.	
H.R. 4549	Office of Rural Affairs Enhancement Act	None	None	
H.R. 5284	Claiming Age Clarity Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 5345	Improvlng Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 5346	Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act, as amended	None	Increase by at Least $500K.	Would increase revenues by $117 million over 2026–2036.
H.R. 5348	Social Security Child Protection Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 5349	Tax Court Improvement Act, as amended	None	Increase by at Least $500K.	Would increase revenues by $6 million over 2026–2036.
S. 616	Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Charter Amendments Act of 2025.	None	None	

Source: Congressional Budget Office; Joint Committee on Taxation

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

For reasons I explained earlier, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and 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. DAVIDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4429, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING CAPITAL ALLOCATION FOR NEWCOMERS ACT OF 2025

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4431) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 with respect to the definition of qualifying venture capital funds, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4431

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 ''Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. QUALIFYING VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS.

Section 3(c)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–3(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''250 persons'' and inserting ''500 persons''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

(A) by striking ''$10,000,000'' and inserting ''$50,000,000''; and

(B) by striking ''beginning from a measurement made by the Commission on a date selected by the Commission'' and inserting ''beginning from a measurement made on the date of the enactment of the Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act of 2025''.

SEC. 3. STUDY AND RULEMAKING.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation, in consultation with the Investor Advocate, shall conduct a study on the effect of the amendments made by section 2 on the businesses and startup entities in which qualifying venture capital funds invest, specifically including, with respect to such businesses and startup entities, changes or trends relating to—

(A) the geographic distribution of capital to portfolio companies;

(B) the socio-economic characteristics of founders or controlling persons;

(C) the veteran status of founders or controlling persons;

(D) the industry sector, size, stage of development, and related details; and

(E) other factors or metrics determined by the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation.

(2) AUTHORITIES RELATED TO REQUIRED STUDY.—For purposes of conducting the study required by paragraph (1), the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and the Investor Advocate shall have authority to—

(A) obtain from the Securities and Exchange Commission (in this section referred to as the ''Commission'') and utilize any

data or information necessary to carry out the study;

(B) request and receive assistance from any division or office of the Commission, including the Division of Economic and Risk Analysis; and

(C) enter into agreements with third parties to assist in data analysis.

(b) REPORT.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall issue a report to the Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required by subsection (a)(1), and make such report available to the public on the website of the Commission.

(c) PUBLIC COMMENT.—During the 180-day period beginning on the date the report is issued under subsection (b), the Commission shall solicit feedback from the public on the findings and determinations contained in the report.

(d) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, in consultation with the Investor Advocate and the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation, may, after considering all comments received under subsection (c) and only if the Commission determines in such report that the amendments made by section 2 have had a demonstrable effect on increasing the geographic distribution of capital to portfolio companies, increasing the variety of the socio-economic characteristics of founders or controlling persons, or increasing the number of founders or controlling persons who are veterans, issue rules to—

(A) increase or decrease the 500 person threshold described in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of section 3(c)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, but such threshold may not exceed 750 persons or be reduced below 250 persons; and

(B) increase or decrease the $50,000,000 dollar figure in section 3(c)(1)(C)(i) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, but such dollar figure may not exceed $100,000,000 or be reduced below $10,000,000.

(2) DEADLINE FOR RULEMAKING.—The rulemaking authority in paragraph (1) only applies to a rule with respect to which the proposed rule was issued during the 180-day period beginning at the end of the public comment period described in subsection (c).

(3) NO EFFECT ON INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.—A rule issued under this subsection shall have no effect on the requirement under clause (i) of section 3(c)(1)(C) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–3(c)(1)(C)), as amended by section 2, to index the first dollar amount in such clause for inflation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS).

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise for my bill, H.R. 4431, the Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act, also known as the ICAN Act.

I am proud to partner with my colleague Representative BRITTANY PETTERSEN on this bipartisan legislation that expands access to venture capital far beyond our Nation's traditional financial hubs.

H.R. 4431 updates the qualifying venture capital fund exemption by raising the capital cap from $10 million to $50 million and by increasing the allowable number of investors from 250 to 500.

These updates allow venture funds to raise more capital from more individuals. This will support the growth of startups located outside of Silicon Valley and other major financial centers.

Today, nearly half of the United States' venture funding goes into companies in California alone, and more than 70 percent is concentrated in only four States. Meanwhile, many entrepreneurs in other regions struggle to secure critical Series A funding, which limits their ability to grow and attract later-stage investments.

Mr. Speaker, an entrepreneur in Spartanburg, South Carolina, deserves the same access to capital as an entrepreneur in Silicon Valley. This bill democratizes venture capital by enabling more Americans to invest in their own communities, drive innovation, and create good-paying jobs. It is about expanding opportunity and fostering economic growth in regions that are much in need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation and to help ensure that investors and entrepreneurs in every one of our districts have a fair and level playing field.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4431, the Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act of 2025, or ICAN Act, offered by Mr. TIMMONS and Ms. PETTERSEN.

Like the DEAL Act, the ICAN Act also amends the definition of ''venture capital fund'' under the Investment Company Act. Currently, in order to qualify as a venture capital fund under this act, a private fund must hold $12 million or less in assets and have no more than 250 investors. This bill adjusts those figures upward, raising the cap to $50 million and the investor limit to 500.

It also requires the SEC to conduct a study 5 years after enactment to determine the bill's impact on how capital is being allocated to companies owned by these venture funds. Based on the results of the study, the SEC could further adjust the $50 million and 500 beneficial owner limit upward or downward.

The ICAN Act should help venture funds to more widely invest in small and growing businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all colleagues to support H.R. 4431 to make it easier for capital to flow to startups and small businesses. This bill does so by increasing the dollar size and number of investors for venture funds.

Additionally, it requires the SEC to conduct a study that examines how funds are invested across several metrics, including the veteran status of a company's founders, geographical location, and industry sector, size, and state of development. Based on the results of this study, the SEC would be authorized to adjust the bill's limits upward or downward by a tailored amount, if needed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO estimate for this bill.

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives announces bills that will be considered under suspension of the rules in that chamber. Under suspension, floor debate is limited, all floor amendments are prohibited, points of order against the bill are waived, and final passage requires a two-thirds majority vote.

At the request of the Majority Leader and the House Committee on the Budget, CBO estimates the effects of those bills on direct spending and revenues. CBO has limited time to review the legislation before consideration. Although it is possible in most cases to determine whether the legislation would affect direct spending or revenues, time may be insufficient to estimate the magnitude of those effects. Tf CBO has prepared estimates for similar or identical legislation, a more detailed assessment of budgetary effects, including effects on spending subject to appropriation, may be included.

EFFECTS ON DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUES OF LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Bill Number	Title	Effect on Direct Spending	Effect on Revenues	Additional Information on Direct Spending and Revenue Effects
H.R. 176	No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act of 2025, as amended.	Reduce by Less Than $500K.	None	
H.R. 225	HUD Transparency Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 1262	Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act, as amended	Increase by at Least $500K	Increase by at Least $500K	Section 3 would increase revenues by an insignificant amount. Section 10 would reduce direct spending and increase revenues for a net $1.219 billion reduction in the deficit. Section 11 would appropriate $1.219 billion to the Medicare Improvement Fund. On net, the bill would reduce the deficit by an insignificant amount over the 2026–2035 period.
H.R. 2066	Investing in All of America Act of 2025, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 2159	Count the Crimes to Cut Act, as amended	Increase by Less Than $500K.	None	Includes insignificant costs for Postal Service Fund, which are classified as off-budget direct spending.

EFFECTS ON DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUES OF LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Continued

Bill Number	Title	Effect on Direct Spending	Effect on Revenues	Additional Information on Direct Spending and Revenue Effects
H.R. 3174	Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 3716	Systemic Risk Authority Transparency Act	Increase by Less Than $500K.	Reduce by Less Than $500K.	
H.R. 4313	Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act, as amended.	Change by Less Than $500K, Direction Unknown.	None	
H.R. 4323	Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 4423	No New Burma Funds Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 4429	Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 4430	Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 4431	Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 4491	SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act	None	None	
H.R. 4495	SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act	Reduce by at Least $500K	Increase by Less Than $500K.	
H.R. 4549	Office of Rural Affairs Enhancement Act	None	None	
H.R. 5284	Claiming Age Clarity Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 5345	Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 5346	Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act, as amended	None	Increase by at least $500K	Would increase revenues by $117 million over 2026–2036.
H.R. 5348	Social Security Child Protection Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 5349	Tax Court Improvement Act, as amended	None	Increase by at Least $500K	Would increase revenues by $6 million over 2026–2036.
S. 616	Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Charter Amendments Act of 2025.	None	None	

Source: Congressional Budget Office; Joint Committee on Taxation

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

For the reasons I explained earlier, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and 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. DAVIDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4431, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPANDING WKSI ELIGIBILITY ACT

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4430) to lower the aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity necessary for an issuer to qualify as a well-known seasoned issuer, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4430

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 ''Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF WELL-KNOWN SEASONED ISSUER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Federal securities laws, and regulations issued thereunder, an issuer shall be a ''well-known seasoned issuer'' if—

(1) the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the issuer is $400,000,000 or more (as determined under Form S–3 general instruction I.B.1. as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act); and

(2) the issuer otherwise satisfies the requirements of the definition of ''well-known seasoned issuer'' contained in section 230.405 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act) without reference to any requirement in such definition relating to minimum worldwide market value of outstanding voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates.

(b) REPORT ON WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS RELATED TO WELL-KNOWN SEASONED ISSUER STATUS.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall, not later than 90 days after the end of each calendar year, publish the total number of applications submitted during such calendar year where the applicant—

(1) submitted the application under section 230.405 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, for a determination by the Commission that the applicant not be considered an ineligible issuer under such section;

(2) requested such determination in order to meet the definition of a well-known seasoned issuer under such section; and

(3) withdrew the application.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIDSON. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL).

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague Mr. DAVIDSON for his broad work in the capital market space and for leading us here on the floor today.

I rise to urge my colleagues to support the Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act. I thank my co-leads, Mr. FIELDS, as well as Chairman HILL and Ranking Member WATERS, for their support.

We have far too many regulations in the United States, and this bill is about rightsizing our regulations in support of investments and jobs.

This commonsense bill will help more well-run companies responsibly raise money in the public markets. It rightsizes regulatory burdens and frees up more resources for companies to invest in American jobs and American innovation.

The well-known seasoned issuer—also known as WKSI—status was first implemented around 20 years ago. It allows qualified public companies in good standing to use automatic shelf registration. This reduces the cost and complexity of a public offering and allows companies to be more responsive to market conditions.

The WKSI construct has a track record of success in expanding access to public markets while protecting investors.

According to Joel Trotter, one of the authors of the JOBS Act, ''Decades of successful experience show that the well-known seasoned issuer category is long overdue for expansion.''

I couldn't agree more, and this bill does exactly that. It lowers the size threshold for WKSI qualification while maintaining all the existing good governance requirements.

In other words, more small and midsized American public companies will be able to benefit from the privileges that already exist for larger businesses with similar compliance records.

The Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act also includes a helpful reporting requirement for the Securities and Exchange Commission. This report will provide Congress and the public with a better understanding of how many previously ineligible companies are trying to regain their WKSI status. Doing so will gain the insight needed to make future legislative adjustments.

□ 1830

The Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act is a tailored, regulatory improvement

that will support small and midsized businesses, job creators, and investments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4430, which expands the number of public companies that can qualify as a well-known seasoned issuer, or WKSI. This designation is a special status conferred on companies that frequently raise money by issuing securities from the public.

Think of WKSI status like having frequent-flyer privileges. It allows companies that are well known to regulators and the public to raise money without needing permission. These companies are widely followed in the markets, so there are a lot of eyes, so to speak, watching what they are doing. The main requirement for a company to meet WKSI status is that it has previously issued $700 million or more in securities.

The current bill would lower that threshold to $400 million. By reducing the current WKSI threshold, the bill allows an additional 400 companies to qualify on top of the 2,000 or so companies that qualify today.

One final thing this bill does is provide transparency around companies that have been disqualified from operating as WKSIs. Notably, a company can lose its WKSI status if it has been convicted of a securities-related felony or a misdemeanor or has violated the antifraud provisions of the securities laws. Notable examples include UBS and Bank of America, which each previously lost their WKSI status due to fraud violations.

However, even if a company loses their status through such a violation, it can ask the SEC for a waiver to continue operating as a WKSI. UBS and Bank of America both sought and received such waivers.

Importantly, though, waivers are rarely formally denied because SEC staff normally gives a company a heads-up that their waiver is likely to be denied, so many companies simply withdraw their waiver requests. The final provision of this bill provides investors on an annual basis a view into the number of waiver requests that have been withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and urge all Members to do the same.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO estimate for this bill.

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives announces bills that will be considered under suspension of the rules in that chamber. Under suspension, floor debate is limited, all floor amendments are prohibited, points of order against the bill are waived, and final passage requires a two-thirds majority vote.

At the request of the Majority Leader and the House Committee on the Budget, CBO estimates the effects of those bills on direct spending and revenues. CBO has limited time to review the legislation before consideration. Although it is possible in most cases to determine whether the legislation would affect direct spending or revenues, time may be insufficient to estimate the magnitude of those effects. If CBO has prepared estimates for similar or identical legislation, a more detailed assessment of budgetary effects, including effects on spending subject to appropriation, may be included.

EFFECTS ON DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUE OF LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2025

BIII Number	Title	Effect on Direct Spending	Effect on Revenues	Additional Information on Direct Spending and Revenue Effects
H.R. 176	No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act of 2025, as amended.	Reduce by Less Than $500K.	None	
H.R. 225	HUD Transparency Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 1262	Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act, as amended ..	Increase by at Least $500K	Increase by at Least $500K	Section 3 would increase revenues by an insignificant amount. Section 10 would reduce direct spending and increase revenues for a net $1.219 bllion reduction in the deficit Section 11 would appropriate $1.219 billon to the Medicare Improvement Fund. On net, the bill would reduce the deficit by an insignificant amount over the 2026–2035 period.
H.R. 2066	Investing in All of America Act of 2025, as amended ..	None	None	
H.R. 2159	Count the Crimes to Cut Act. as amended	Increase by Less Than $500K.	None	Includes insignificant costs for Postal Service Fund, which are classified as off-budget direct spending.
H.R. 3174	Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 3716	Systemic Risk Authority Transparency Act	Increase by Less Than $500K.	Reduce by Less Than 500K	
H.R. 4313	Hospital Inpatlent Services Modemlzation Act, as amended.	Change by Less Than $500K. Direction Unknown.	None	
H.R. 4323	Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 4423	No New Burma Funds Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 4429	Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 4430	Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 4431	Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 4491	SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act	None	None	
H.R. 4495	SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act	Reduce by at Least $500K	Increase by Less Than $500K.	
H.R. 4549	Office of Rural Affairs Enhancement Act	None	None	
H.R. 5284	Claiming Age Clarity Act, as amended	None	None	
H.R. 5345	Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 5346	Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act, as amended	None	Increase by at least $500K	Would increase revenues by $117 million over 2026–2036.
1H.R. 5348	Social Security Child Protection Act of 2025, as amended.	None	None	
H.R. 5349	Tax Court Improvement Act, as amended	None	Increase by at Least $500K	Would increase revenues by $6 million over 2026–2036.
S. 616	Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Charter Amendments Act of 2025.	None	None	

Source: Congressional Budget Office; Joint Committee on Taxation

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and 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. DAVIDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4430, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 5348; and

H.R. 4423.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5348) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 306]

YEAS—386

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Arrington
Auchincloss
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barragán
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Begich
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Burchett
Burlison
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
García (IL)
García (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luttrell
Lynch
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McCaul
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Messmer
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rutherford
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Larson (CT)

NOT VOTING—44

Babin
Barr
Bell
Bishop
Casar
Craig
Davis (IL)
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Gillen
Gonzales, Tony
Greene (GA)
Haridopolos
Jayapal
Johnson (SD)
Luna
Mace
Massie
Meng
Nadler
Norcross
Norman
Ogles
Onder
Pelosi
Pettersen
Randall
Reschenthaler
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rulli
Salazar
Simpson
Sorensen
Spartz
Stutzman
Swalwell
Thanedar
Tiffany
Titus
Whitesides
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Zinke

□ 1857

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306.

NO NEW BURMA FUNDS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4423) to continue the pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 385, nays 0, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 307]

YEAS—385

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Arrington
Auchincloss
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barragán
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Begich
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Burchett
Burlison
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman

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

NOT VOTING—46

Babin	Johnson (SD)	Rose
Barr	LaMalfa	Rulli
Bell	Luna	Salazar
Bishop	Mace	Simpson
Casar	Massie	Sorensen
Crank	Meng	Spartz
Crenshaw	Nadler	Stutzman
Davis (IL)	Norcross	Swalwell
Garamendi	Norman	Tiffany
Garcia (CA)	Ogles	Titus
Gillen	Onder	Whitesides
Gonzales, Tony	Pelosi	Wilson (FL)
Gonzalez, V.	Pettersen	Wilson (SC)
Greene (GA)	Randall	Zinke
Haridopolos	Reschenthaler	
Jayapal	Rogers (KY)	

□ 1905

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during the time of votes today due to minor health concerns. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306 and YEA on Roll Call No. 307.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306 and YEA on Roll Call No. 307.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed Roll Call Nos. 306 and 307. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306 and YEA on Roll Call No. 307.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Nos. 306 and 307, I am not recorded because I was absent due to official business. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306 and YEA on Roll Call No. 307.

□ 1910

RECOGNIZING MATT HARRIS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the unanimous appointment of Matt Harris as president and chief executive officer of the Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority.

Mr. HARRIS brings a strong track record of innovation and leadership in education and community development. Previously, he served as principal and coordinator of innovation for Walker County Schools, where he led Gilbert Elementary to national recognition by establishing Georgia's first public school forest kindergarten and earning U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon status. Beyond his work in public education, Mr. HARRIS has private-sector experience as a businessowner and operator.

In his new position, Mr. HARRIS is charged with advancing business recruitment, strengthening site and infrastructure readiness, and fostering prosperity across northwest Georgia. The board of directors noted his professionalism and commitment as key reasons for his selection.

Please join me in congratulating Matt Harris on this important appointment and thanking him for his service to our region.

ENSURING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, this weekend marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. At the time, that was a landmark piece of legislation that made sure our children with disabilities had what they needed to succeed in the classroom.

The IDEA hasn't been fully funded for decades, meaning these kids aren't receiving all the support that they need. On top of that, President Trump is dismantling the Department of Education and threatening programs that protect civil rights and expand access to opportunity for our kids. I will not stand for that.

Mr. Speaker, my North Star is America's children. That is why, earlier this Congress, I introduced the IDEA Full Funding Act to help our students with disabilities. I will continue fighting in Congress to ensure that our children and our children's children and our children's children's children have access to the education they deserve.

COMMEMORATING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC ARREST OF ROSA PARKS

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the historic arrest of Rosa Parks, which took place in Montgomery, Alabama, exactly 70 years ago today.

Rosa Parks' legacy is one of remarkable bravery and moral fortitude. By refusing to give up her seat on the segregated bus, she took a stand for the values that this Nation holds dear. Her quiet and dignified courage set the stage for the historic Montgomery bus boycott and galvanized a movement that changed our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to lead legislation to designate December 1 as a national Federal holiday, commemorating her historic arrest. This bill is critical, given the attacks by the Trump administration on our history.

In times like these, it is especially important for us to tell our stories and to recognize the contributions of amazing African-American leaders like Rosa Parks. Her legacy is proud Alabama history and proud American history, and it should always be that way.

As Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, I know that I stand on the shoulders of amazing freedom fighters like Rosa Parks, who are unafraid to challenge the status quo.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no one more befitting to honor with a new Federal holiday than Rosa Parks, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

HONORING RAFAEL BUENO

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rafael Bueno, a devoted public servant and pillar of the village of Haverstraw.

Rafael dedicated more than 20 years to the community he loved. First elected in 2003, he made history as the first Dominican councilman in Haverstraw. He quickly became a steady and trusted voice on the village board, helping guide decisions on infrastructure, public safety, and community services with a real understanding of what local families needed.

Rafael's connection to Haverstraw started long before he entered public service. A barber by trade, he was someone generations of residents knew, respected, and relied on. His leadership extended to the fire department, as well, where he served as fire commissioner and strengthened emergency response and protection efforts. A proud Rockland Community College graduate, Rafael never stopped giving back to the place he called home.

Those who knew him speak of his humility, his constant presence, and his willingness to help anyone who needed it.

Mr. Speaker, may his memory be a blessing for his family, his friends, and the Haverstraw community he so loved.

HONORING ROSA PARKS

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa Parks, an American hero.

Mr. Speaker, it was 70 years ago today, in Montgomery, Alabama, that Rosa Parks was arrested for not surrendering her bus seat to a White man, igniting a 381-day bus boycott.

On December 5, more than 500 community leaders and guests will join me and Congressman JAMES CLYBURN, the president of The Ohio State University, and the president and CEO of the Central Ohio Transit Authority.

Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago, I wrote the legislation for Ohio to become the first State in the Nation to designate December 1 as Rosa Parks Day.

Lastly, as America approaches its 250th birthday, we must also honor the mothers of our democracy and carry forward their courageous examples.

□ 1920

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

(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 want to recognize an important faith institution in the city of White Plains celebrating its 90th year of worship and service: Calvary Baptist Church.

The leadership and congregants have been a bedrock for worship and values since its founding in the 1930s.

Its involvement in the community has been impactful and significant. The pastor for the last 13 years, Reverend Erwin Lee Trollinger, has been a true leader for the people of faith both inside and outside the church family.

Calvary Baptist sponsors weekly worship services, Bible study, Sunday school, and external outreach to assist the needy of the community. Pastor Trollinger and the team of ministers work tirelessly to bring a message of love and service to all. He is the latest in a long line of dynamic Calvary pastors who played a role in social justice efforts in the city of White Plains and in Westchester County.

Ninety years young and still growing in membership and in love, we salute Calvary Baptist Church for its important role in the life of our community.

JUAN ORLANDO HERNÁNDEZ, FORMER PRESIDENT OF HONDURAS

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, last Friday President Trump said he would give a full and complete pardon to Juan Orlando Hernández, the corrupt former President of Honduras. It is disgusting.

Trump is going to erase a major drug trafficking conviction against Hernández, who is serving 45 years in Federal prison for his crimes. He was convicted by an American jury for working with drug cartels to move 400 tons of cocaine through Honduras to the United States. He got millions of dollars in kickbacks and bribes.

What the hell is the President of the United States doing giving this thug a full pardon?

He is a man who helped bring deadly drugs into our communities. Trump is literally rewarding a narco-terrorist.

What will it take for my Republican colleagues to speak up?

There is no way to spin this. He is literally standing with a drug trafficker and against us.

PIES OF THANKS

(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, members of my team and I have recently traveled to all 22 counties in North Carolina's First Congressional District, all on the same day, in what we call Pies of Thanks.

At each stop we delivered pecan, apple, and pumpkin pies to law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS professionals, and our 911 telecommunicators.

These dedicated public servants are the backbone of safety and emergency care in our communities. They work long hours, often on weekends and holidays, answering the call during some of life's most difficult times for families.

Thanksgiving offered us a moment to pause and to honor these heroes. A simple pie may be small, but it carries a heartfelt message: To all of our first responders, the people of eastern North Carolina see you, appreciate you, and are grateful for you.

PRICELESS COIN COLLECTION HEADS TO THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a story of renewal, of history and heritage rediscovered, and of deep respect for heritage in the American heartland.

For 167 years, one of the world's greatest collections of coins—doubloons, silver dollars, and denari—that tell the story of civilization and economic progress itself sat largely unseen in vaults in Manhattan, New York. These coins crossed oceans, witnessed empires rise and fall, and marked the turning points of human history, and they rested largely unseen.

In New York, this priceless collection had few visitors, little space, and no real home, but now these treasures are coming to northwest Ohio to the world-class Toledo Museum of Art.

The American Numismatic Society has chosen Toledo, located on beautiful Lake Erie, as the place where its future can flourish. We are so grateful that the society saw what we know so well: a community that opens its doors wide to history and also a world-class museum that inspires.

Mr. Speaker, children will be able to learn about heritage in this great location. I will thank and congratulate Adam Levine, the director of the museum, and the inspired board of the Toledo Museum of Art. We give Mr. LEVINE a salute and congratulate him.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a New York Times article titled ''After 167 Years in New York, a Priceless Coin Collection Heads to Toledo.''

[From The New York Times, Nov. 20, 2025]

AFTER 167 YEARS IN NEW YORK, A PRICELESS COIN COLLECTION HEADS TO TOLEDO

(By Dan Barry)

On the 11th floor of a downtown Manhattan building, just around the corner from the Holland Tunnel, sits one of the world's finest collections of coins. Stored behind a series of locked doors in a massive, climate-controlled vault, the coins tell the story of civilization, from antiquity to today.

A Sumerian clay tablet from about 2000 B.C.E. Early Chinese forms of money shaped like miniature tools. A silver French penny from the age of Charlemagne. A medal given by the Lincoln administration to a Native American chief, pierced by a bullet. More than 800,000 other telltale coins, medals and objects of wonder.

But apart from scholars, members and the occasional enthusiast, almost no one sees this treasure, which is one reason its guardian, the American Numismatic Society, is

leaving the city where it was founded in the mid-19th century—and moving to Toledo, Ohio.

The society announced today that it will be making a ''strategic'' relocation to an Art Deco building on the spacious campus of the Toledo Museum of Art. The $20 million plan, to be completed in 2028, would make possible its long-harbored vision of a state-of-the-art money museum, a dream that has proved elusive in New York.

''One of our members said that this will mean a terrible loss to New York City,'' the society's executive director, Ute Wartenberg Kagan, said. ''But if no one uses it, what's the loss?''

Wartenberg Kagan, a scholar of ancient Greek coinage, left the British Museum in 1998 to join the American Numismatic Society and someday establish a proper money museum where one belonged, in the city of Wall Street. But exorbitant costs and space constraints conspired against those plans, as did an apparent indifference to the charms of numismatics.

So: Hello, Toledo!

Wartenberg Kagan said that she and several other colleagues are eager to make the 560-mile move west, where the society has already bought the building that will house its collection as well as a library, auditorium and education center. The population of the Toledo metropolitan area is about 650,000, less than one-tenth that of New York City, but there are many buts.

The cost of living is lower. The campus has plenty of space to accommodate the school buses that never pulled up to the current location because there was nowhere to park. And there is the opportunity to work in concert with the museum, integrating collections to produce dynamic exhibits for an engaged community.

''We're not just buying real estate,'' Wartenberg Kagan said. ''We're buying a relationship.''

But as one relationship begins, another ends. The American Numismatic Society traces its origins to 1858, when a teenage boy named Augustus B. Sage invited other coin obsessives to his family's Manhattan home to discuss the creation of a society dedicated to all matters numismatic. Sage, who would go on to serve in the Civil War and die young, of pneumonia, donated the first object: an 1825 American half-cent.

In 1908, the society built a neoclassical building at 155th Street and Broadway, in the city's Washington Heights section, to accommodate its growing membership, library and collection. The numismatic cognoscenti gathered there for lectures and exhibits, for celebrations of National Coin Week and debates about the aesthetics of the buffalo nickel.

But as the years passed, fewer people traveled to Upper Manhattan to see and discuss coins. Mentions of the society sometimes appeared in newspaper roundups of out-of-the-way places to visit in Manhattan.

Excitement occasionally paid a call. In 1977, four armed men overpowered two society guards, meticulously taped cloth over display cases to muffle the sound of glass being broken and made off with about 300 rare coins worth as much as $100,000. As they calmly exited the building, the thieves told three impatient visitors at the door that the place was closed.

And in 1989, a heart surgeon and coin collector from California arrived in New York to be honored by the society for his beneficence, only to be arrested—and later convicted—instead. During his occasional visits, the good doctor had been pocketing rarities worth about $1 million: a gold coin of the Roman Emperor Hadrian here, six gold coins of the Visigoths there.

Facing a yawning deficit, the society sold its Washington Heights building and moved to the Wall Street area in 2004, with plans to open a money museum. But the plan never came to fruition.

In 2008 the society moved again, to leased space on the 11th floor of an old building at 75 Varick Street. Over eight hours one late-spring Saturday, its entire collection, cocooned in bubble wrap and packed in more than 400 plastic crates, was transported to the new location as quietly as can be done with a police escort.

Both the appeals and challenges of the society's current home were evident during a recent tour. An extensive library all but begged the visitor to pause and flip through a book, any book: on heraldry or mythology, shipwrecks or excavation. Then, once past the several locked doors that guard the vault, Wartenberg Kagan and Peter van Alfen, the chief curator, shared with glee just the smallest hint of the society's immense treasure.

In this sliding drawer, a silver coin from the reign of Alexander the Great, one of many, portraying him in battle in India. And in this drawer, the famous silver denarius, minted to commemorate the murder of Julius Caesar and depicting two daggers and the bust of his assassin, Brutus. Here, a 1787 doubloon made by a New York City goldsmith, and here, a rare 1861 Confederate half dollar, struck in New Orleans.

A year could be lost in the vault of the American Numismatic Society.

But the society's leased space is too expensive ($1.8 million a year, including taxes), too small to accommodate its ever-growing holdings and not conducive to public engagement. A few years ago, a travel guide included the society among its list of free attractions—open by appointment and closed on weekends—in Lower Manhattan. Even then, only a half-dozen or so tourists might wander in every week.

''This is both a big and a small place,'' Wartenberg Kagan said. ''That's one of its problems.''

For the last several years, the society—which has 1,400 members, including 265 outside the United States—has searched for more suitable quarters. Plans to move to the University of Chicago fell apart, as did those to move to the University of Pennsylvania, Long Island City in Queens and a warehouse in Fall River, Mass.

Then came a bit of numismatic serendipity. It just so happened that Adam M. Levine, the president and director of the Toledo Museum of Art, had spent the summer of 2009 at the American Numismatics Society, studying the iconography of Justinian II coinage. He contacted Wartenberg Kagan, whom he knew, and suggested that she consider Toledo, where he just happened to know of a four-story building on the museum's 37-acre campus that would soon become available.

Levine, who grew up in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, expressed great affection for his native city. But he is now imbued with what he called the ''zeal of the convert,'' and he vouched for Toledo's cultural amenities, community spirit and easy, relatively short ride to the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

''I feel very confident that there is life after New York,'' Levine said. ''And Toledo is made special by being the only place where you can pretty much guarantee that you'll like the next person you meet.''

A dubious Wartenberg Kagan visited Toledo—and came away persuaded. It checked every box for the society's trustees, including a supportive, good-sized city, reasonable housing costs and proximity to major research facilities.

Other staff members also made the trip to Toledo and liked what they saw. About half of the 17-member staff will be making the move, including Wartenberg Kagan and van Alfen.

''They will be welcomed with open arms,'' Levine predicted. ''And they'll have more visitors in their first year than they've had in the last five.''

''Probably 10 years,'' Wartenberg Kagan added.

OREGON'S THIRD DISTRICT CONSTITUENT SERVICES

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share how my office has been hard at work for the people of Oregon's Third Congressional District.

Since coming to Congress, our office has helped constituents recover more than one-half million dollars owed to them by the Federal Government through our casework services.

That is one-half million dollars returned to veterans waiting on care, to families caught in bureaucratic limbo, and to seniors who depend on their Social Security checks to live with dignity.

If my constituents need help navigating a Federal agency, my team is here for them. Visit dexter.house.gov or call 503–231–2300.

I certainly cannot reverse every agency decision, but I can ask questions, and I can press for answers and work to move stalled cases forward.

We do that every day for veterans seeking care, for seniors needing benefits, for families waiting on tax refunds, and for neighbors who simply need someone in their corner.

That is what representation looks like.

MEDICAL BILLS ARE TOO HIGH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. MCCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, today is December 1. At midnight and 30 days, at least 5 million Americans could lose access to their health insurance, and 22 million Americans who benefit from enhanced premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act—as they began open enrollment 1 month ago—started to see their health insurance premiums spike.

Last week, in honor of Prematurity Awareness Month, I stood on this floor

to talk about how the Affordable Care Act expanded insurance to millions of Americans, how Medicaid expansion expanded insurance to millions of Americans, and how critically important that health insurance coverage is to a full-term birth with a nonfatal outcome for mother and child.

In the middle of the week, with several other mothers of preemies, I talked about my birth story.

Ten years ago, when I woke up one morning and my placenta ruptured and after almost bleeding to death, my daughter, Samantha, was born by emergency C-section. It was the scariest moment of my life. The hardest moment was the fact that I could not hold her, see her, or touch her for 24 hours, as she was in the NICU, and then the moment when I walked out of the hospital and had to leave her in the NICU for 6 more weeks.

I don't remember how much that NICU bill was because I was one of the lucky ones who had health insurance to cover that stay. On average, a NICU stay is $70,000 a day. That is more than a single person who qualifies for the enhanced premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act at the maximum rate of 400 percent of the Federal poverty line makes in a year. That person makes $62,600. The average NICU stay is $70,000.

□ 1930

I was lucky not only because I was able to take my daughter home 6 weeks later, but that entire 6 weeks I didn't have to worry about how I was going to pay that bill. All I had to worry about was her and my recovery. There are a lot of people that aren't that lucky.

There are a lot of people trying to decide right now whether to start a family. There are people right now who are in the process of starting a family who wonder if they will be able to afford their health insurance come January 1. They are having to make really tough decisions now, as they are in the middle of open enrollment, as to whether or not they can continue to afford health insurance.

Tonight, members of the Congressional Black Caucus will bring you stories from our constituents, from the States that we represent, of people who will be priced out of the insurance market, who will be one illness or accident away from economic devastation if Congress does not act to extend the enhanced premium tax credits beyond December 31.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), our chairwoman and the Representative from New York's Ninth District, to tell some stories.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for her steadfast leadership and for hosting our Special Order hour this evening.

Mr. Speaker, good evening. I am Representative YVETTE D. CLARKE, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, proudly representing New York's Ninth Congressional District, located in Brooklyn, New York.

I thank my colleague, Congresswoman JENNIFER MCCLELLAN, for anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

I rise tonight with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to bring awareness to the fast-approaching ACA tax credit funding deadline, 30 days to go, and to give voice to everyday Americans who will be harmed by the Republican-led healthcare crisis.

The enhanced ACA tax credits are set to expire on December 31 unless congressional Republicans join Democrats to extend them.

Without an extension of the ACA tax credits, tens of millions of individuals and families can expect to pay significantly higher health insurance premiums for marketplace plans.

Without these tax credits, Americans will see their healthcare costs skyrocket, increase by hundreds if not thousands of dollars per month, which will force families who are already struggling with the cost of living to face unaffordable premium spikes or lose coverage altogether.

The ACA tax credits have ensured that families, seniors, young adults, and workers in every CBC district could afford quality healthcare.

In our districts, we have heard from countless constituents who receive their healthcare on the ACA marketplace who are now worried about the cost of their healthcare going up.

One of my constituents, Lilah Wilson, a small business owner who depends on the ACA marketplace said: ''My heart dropped when I got an email earlier this month stating that I might lose my insurance benefits. I already struggle to afford the city that I have grown up in and contributed to as a small business owner.''

She continued: ''Shopping for health insurance through the marketplace created by the Affordable Care Act was the first time that I had assurance of affordable, good insurance. We must protect this program. It is a matter of survival.''

At every turn, Republicans have turned their backs on the American people. President Trump and congressional Republicans promised the American people that they would take swift action on day one to address our Nation's affordability crisis by lowering the high cost of living.

Well, instead, they unleashed the most aggressive assault on our Nation's healthcare in history, and the damage has been devastating.

Across the country, we are already seeing hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics that serve our communities closing their doors, and now Republicans' refusal to extend ACA premium tax credits is driving up costs and pushing coverage out of reach for many in our communities.

The CBC and House Democrats stood united for more than 40 days to prevent exactly this outcome while Republicans refused to negotiate and left working families to bear the consequences.

We are calling on our Republican colleagues to join us in putting the well-being of the American people above partisanship, to put people over politics.

This is not an abstract policy debate. It is about real lives. It is about parents deciding whether to fill a prescription or pay the rent. It is about seniors choosing between a doctor's visit and groceries. It is about young adults, gig workers, caregivers, and small business owners who depend on the ACA marketplace for the coverage that keeps them healthy and financially secure.

Let me be clear: Allowing these tax credits to expire is a choice. It is a choice of greed. It is a choice of cruelty. It is the wrong choice.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank our chair for those remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), the Representative from Georgia's Fourth District.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MCCLELLAN for running point on this Special Order hour for the CBC. She is a legislative champion both in the State house and in the Federal House. It is good to be with her tonight, and I thank her for recognizing me.

I also give a shout-out to our beloved leader of the CBC, Representative YVETTE CLARKE, who is doing a fine job leading us through these difficult times.

These are difficult times for us. We here in Congress are having a difficult time. You see it. But the difficulties we face are nothing to what you face out there. You are the ones who are struggling to put food on the table. You are the ones who are struggling to keep a roof over your head as the head of your family. You are the ones struggling to work 8 hours a day for an honest day's wage only to come up short and having to work second and third jobs in order to make ends meet while you see others living lavishly surrounded by gold ornaments on everything that they can touch, building ballrooms for the rich and wealthy after knocking down the historic east wing of the White House, and doing it without anybody's consent, just waking up and deciding I am going to do this.

□ 1940

We live in a democracy, not someplace where a king is in charge, and that king is playing politics with the people.

The other day, he floated the idea that he wanted to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits, or ObamaCare tax credits. He floated that idea but got some pushback from a few Representatives on the Republican side of the aisle, and so he snatched it back.

He doesn't realize that real people are depending on those tax credits in

order to make insurance affordable for them. People like Vivian in my district, who I had a phone conversation with recently about the rising cost of her healthcare premiums due to the Republicans' cruel refusal to extend ObamaCare tax subsidies, are depending on those tax credits.

She told me: That is just an amount I simply cannot afford.

Mr. Speaker, her premiums are going from $50 a month all the way up to $1,260 a month. From $50 a month to $1,260 a month. There is no way that she can afford that.

Vivian has suffered from psoriatic arthritis since she was 27, and she now has vision problems in one eye. She relies on specialty medications to deal with her conditions.

While Vivian faces skyrocketing healthcare costs, her husband is dealing with cancer. Luckily, he is on Medicare and is receiving the care that he needs, but if Vivian is cut off from her access to care, there is no way that she can keep going and take care of him at the same time.

She said: Without the ObamaCare subsidies, my quality of life will be nonexistent.

Vivian told me that without healthcare and access to her medications, she would lose vision in one eye, and because the medications help keep her arthritis at bay, it allows her to do seemingly simple things, such as to tie her shoes or walk without pain.

She said: ObamaCare subsidies have saved my life. I don't know what I will do without it. People are people. Access to quality, affordable care shouldn't be a partisan issue.

I agree. Americans like Vivian who are out there, those are the people who Democrats are fighting for.

In the wealthiest country in the world, no one should have to worry about affording medical care. That is why I will work with anybody in Congress, including MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, who believes that access to quality healthcare is a human right and not a privilege reserved only for those who can afford it.

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of other testimonials from people in my district, the Fourth District of Georgia, who have written and emailed what their situations are all about. They are many, and they are excruciatingly painful to listen to.

Over 1.5 million Georgians are in the health exchange, in the marketplace, and 340,000 of those, or about one-quarter will lose their coverage if we don't do something about these expiring tax credits.

A family of four earning $82,000 a year will see their annual premiums double to around $7,000 per year. It is just unsustainable for people to have to go through this month after month, and so we need to do something.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate our caucus for hosting this Special Order hour.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

To hear more stories from Georgia, I now yield to the Representative from Georgia's Seventh District, Congresswoman LUCY MCBATH.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out on the rising costs of healthcare, which are putting undue burdens on the American people. I thank my colleague Representative JENNIFER MCCLELLAN for consistently continuing to elevate the voices of the Congressional Black Caucus members as we talk about the stories of our communities and the stories of our people and those who we represent, highlighting the needs of those in our Nation who are suffering right now.

I thank our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, YVETTE CLARKE, for her earnest, continued work to also make sure that the Congressional Black Caucus is standing on the front lines and trying each and every day to make sure that we are defending people's rights to exist in this country freely and fairly without these undue burdens.

Earlier this year, we watched as this Republican congressional leadership reached historic new lows in their inability to work in a bipartisan fashion to meet the needs of the people who we were elected to serve.

For 43 days, Speaker Johnson refused to come to the table and extend the healthcare subsidies which will prevent premiums from skyrocketing for the millions of Americans who get their insurance from the Affordable Care Act marketplace. That is approximately more than 70,000 people, constituents, in my district alone.

During that same time, we watched President Trump and his administration play politics with Federal food assistance, jeopardizing benefits for hungry families.

I heard a story in my district in Georgia from Rich about the impact that these cost increases would have on his livelihood. I have heard many stories, but this one really struck me.

He writes: I am the self-employed, sole provider for a family of four where two of us have preexisting conditions. If the Republicans get their way and remove the subsidies, my very basic catastrophe plan-style HMO will literally increase tenfold. I am currently spending 39 percent of my income on healthcare, including the subsidized ACA policy. Removing subsidies will ultimately lead me to financial bankruptcy.

There are more stories just like this, and they are a window into how the chaos and unpredictability of this administration is making it harder on working families to succeed and thrive.

Since January, we have dealt with the uncertainty and the chaos that has been brought by this second Trump administration. From the unpredictability of the tariffs, the rising costs of healthcare, and the increasingly unattainable goal of homeownership, what is going on in Washington should concern every single American in this country.

Congress and the Trump administration should be doing more to lower costs and improve outcomes for our hardworking families.

As I have continued to do since I first came to Congress, I have been committed to addressing the concerns of the families who I am very honored to represent. No family in this country should ever be forced to choose between paying their insurance premiums or for prescription drugs over paying their mortgage. That is unconscionable, and that is most definitely un-American.

We must identify solutions to put the dream of homeownership back into reality for young Americans, and we must make it less expensive for Americans to get the skills necessary to provide a decent life for themselves and for their families, but they can't do that if they are sick. They can't do that if they can't go to work. They can't do that if they can't pay their bills, such as their hospital bills or other medical bills.

I am a two-time breast cancer survivor myself, and not a day goes by that I don't think about how egregious not extending these ACA tax subsidies is to the American people. I am a lucky person.

□ 1950

I am very grateful that I had the ability to have private insurance, group insurance, where I could pay for all of my healthcare and didn't have to sit there and worry about how I was paying the bills while I was getting healthy and well.

There are people all over this country who, if they ever get sick, that is the absolute demise of their ability to be able to live in this country and care for their families, and that is un-American.

I am so grateful to Chairwoman CLARKE and my fellow CBC member, Representative MCCLELLAN, for convening us again tonight as we look ahead to the year 2026. I truly look forward to working with every single one of my colleagues to build a better life for the hardworking families that we are privileged to represent, but I honestly pray every single day that everyone here, every one of us in this Chamber, truly is committed to the same ideals.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK), who represents the 20th District.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MCCLELLAN for hosting this tonight and for hearing the cries of our district, what they are suffering and the political anxiety that they are living in just thinking that healthcare for them and their families will be stripped from them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a woman named Maria. Maria lives in

Broward County. She is a home health aide who works full time, raising two children, and still cannot afford health insurance without the tax credit from the Affordable Care Act.

Because of those credits, Maria can take her blood pressure medication, and her son can see a specialist for his asthma. These are not extras. These are basic human survival and dignity matters.

If these credits expire, Maria's premiums will more than double. She will be forced to choose which child sees a doctor and which child stays home and waits to get better.

Mr. Speaker, that is not a choice any mother should have to face. That is not freedom. That is fear.

Maria is not alone. In Florida's 20th District, more than 200,000 people depend on these tax credits, and many are already dealing with serious gaps in their healthcare.

This is not a policy debate. This is not a question of who we choose to value. This is a question of dignity for all Americans and their right to survive.

I am calling on every Member in this House to look beyond party politics, party games, and trying to get the limelight to actually put human beings' lives front and center.

The shutdown may be over, but our responsibility to protect the health and dignity of the American people is not.

If we do not pass the ACA tax credits, we will be guilty of political malpractice for each person who goes without healthcare and has an unfortunate demise.

Once again, I stress to every Member in this body to make sure we retain healthcare and the dignity of all Americans in this country and their right to have healthcare and survive like anyone else.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY), who represents the Fourth District.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Virginia for yielding to me and for putting this together. I appreciate the fact that she took the leadership and initiative to bring this forward. I also thank my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, as well, for taking a stand on this issue and the House Democratic Caucus overall.

This is the issue that we fought about with respect to the government shutdown. This is the issue that has not gone away. I suppose the White House and my Republican colleagues were hoping that it would, but it is worse now than it was even then.

In fact, the Republicans knew this problem was coming all the way back on January 20 when Mr. Trump first took office. To much fanfare, they began moving forward with his legislative agenda, the big, beautiful bill and other pieces of legislation. I don't even know how many executive orders they put together and put out undermining the government from the standpoint of government employees and making damaging impacts across the board.

They failed to address this particular issue. In fact, I will come back to that in a moment. Not only did they not address extending the tax credits for the Affordable Care Act, but they made the problem even worse. The big, ugly bill that they passed included a $1 trillion cut to Medicaid.

The healthcare safety net in this country, to the extent it is a safety net, was damaged terribly by what they have done, and it is about to get infinitely worse when these tax credits expire at the end of the month.

I know my Republican colleagues have been fighting against ObamaCare for years now. I can remember back when it was first passed 15 years ago in this Chamber. There were over 60 votes to repeal and replace the ObamaCare piece of legislation. They kept going year after year after year. Somewhere along the way, about 5 years in, they found out that the American people actually like ObamaCare. They don't call it ObamaCare. They might call it the Affordable Care Act, but they kind of liked not having pregnancy treated as a preexisting condition, and they kind of liked having the ability to have their kids stay on their family insurance plans until they turned 26.

The efforts to repeal it not only failed, but it has gotten stronger over the years because people have come to realize that without it, they might not be able to afford healthcare at all.

I have decided to bring in a couple of comments from people in my district. There are too many to read all of them, but this one is from Beth, who lives in Greenbelt, Maryland, which is in my district. She is looking at her premiums going up $9,372 this year. She has major health conditions that require ongoing healthcare that she can't avoid. They were brought on by a major surgery that she underwent several years ago.

Her case isn't unique. In the State of Maryland, it is estimated that the impact will be on 14,000 or so members of my district. A 60-year-old couple with an $82,000 income is looking at a 168 percent increase if these affordable care tax credits are allowed to expire. A family of four, ages 45, 45, 15, and 10, is looking at a 200 percent increase in their monthly premiums. Obviously, most families can't sustain that.

I am going to pick one. I read an article in the Washington Post a little while ago. This is a gentleman in Altoona, Pennsylvania. That is not my district, obviously; that is the district of Congressman JOYCE. Matt Hornberger is 61 years old and from Altoona, Pennsylvania. Monthly payments for him and his wife will rise from $670 to $2,054. He said this: ''Between the high deductible and $25,000 in premiums, this is 40 percent of our income. I am just trying to live a life here and be able to go to the doctor when you need to go to the doctor.''

He ought to be able to do that. In fact, every American ought to be able to do that.

What have we gotten from our Republican colleagues in the 9 months or so since they took over the White House, the House, and the Senate? Not much. I remember the President saying in the debate that he didn't have a plan, that he had a concept of a plan. I am not sure we have gotten much past the concept point 9 months later, but he did talk about HSAs.

I was looking at that, doing a little research, and an economist, Doug Holtz-Eakin, who works for the American Action Forum, a conservative think tank, said this: ''There is a place for health savings accounts to augment insurance and fill things out around the edges, but it can't be the core insurance product.''

The reason for that is because it is not designed to be the core insurance product. As a matter of fact, we have HSAs in place now, but 66 percent or so of these have only $1,000 or less in the account.

As you heard from my colleague from Virginia, $1,000 doesn't go a long way in our healthcare system. It is $70,000 a day for the NICU system. I am a kidney cancer survivor. A thousand dollars sure wouldn't have covered my insurance for the surgery that I underwent. As a matter of fact, it wouldn't have even covered the MRI that allowed us to find it, fortunately, very early on.

□ 2000

Now, what is the path forward?

Mr. Speaker, I have to complain a bit because we have been talking about this issue the whole time. I am a father. I have six kids, and this reminds me a little bit of one of them.

He came home from school one day and he looked at his mom, of course, and said: Mom, will you help me with this project I have? She said: Honey, I am a little tied up right now. Can I help you out later? He said: We can't really wait on this. She said: Why not? He said: It is because it is a big part of my grade. It is a huge part of my grade. She said: Okay. I will help you out with it, but when is it due? He said: Tomorrow. She said: When did you know about this project?

As it turned out, he knew he had this assignment months ago, but he hadn't done anything to get ready for it. He hadn't let us know that he needed the help to work on it, and he certainly hadn't done any work to prepare the project.

That is what our Republican colleagues are doing right now. They came into office on January 20th knowing that these ACA tax credits were going to expire. They didn't do anything to address it. Not only that, but we brought it to their attention when this bill was moving through, the big, ugly bill. We tried to address it then, but they refused to extend the tax credits then. We tried to offer amendments at the committee level. I am on the Appropriations Committee. We offered four of those to try and amend

this piece just to extend it. Let's try and fix it. If you have other things you want to do it with it, let's extend it now so it doesn't expire.

They refused to do it. They voted it down four times on a party-line vote over and over again just like they had done over the previous 15 years when they were trying to get rid of it. Maybe this is death by a thousand cuts in their minds, but something strange happened along the way.

The American people started getting these notices in the mail that their premiums were about to double or triple. The American people, millions of them across the country, started realizing that there is no way they can afford to pay that. They are going to be forced into the choice of either dropping the insurance or take some other drastic measure like selling their house. One lady said she might have to pull her kid out of college to pay for this healthcare coverage.

It is absolutely outrageous, but the failure to do something until the eleventh hour is a total abdication of their responsibility of leadership, not just in the House, not just in the Senate, not just in the White House but entirely across the board.

The Republican Party didn't wake up to this until the American people started screaming in their ears. Well, now, here we are. What is the path forward?

Senator SCHUMER back during the government shutdown at the end of it said: Tell you what. Why don't we just extend it for a year. Let's put a task force together to try and work out the differences because I understand the Republicans don't agree with everything. Let's take a year and extend it and try and work it out.

Not only did the Republicans and the Senate reject that, they actually said: This is stupid. I can't believe he would propose this. Those were the types of comments he got from his Senate colleagues for proposing a 1-year extension.

Right now, there is a 3-year discharge petition that would extend the tax credits for 3 years. I don't know if there are any Republicans who have signed on to that, but I think we have about 9 legislative days left. At least my kids were only in their early teens. However, if they want to do the big fixes they have been talking about with respect to healthcare, they are not going to be able to do it in 9 days.

Now, I know they are going to try and do something to save face, but at the end of the day, the extension is really the only realistic way we have to go here.

I have to say this: If they don't do the extension, it is going to be devastating for families across the country, millions of them.

We were talking a little bit about how much these things could cost. The HSA is a thousand-dollar average. Look at the average cost for heart surgery. Just the surgery, not even the stay, is between $30,000 and $200,000 just for the procedure. I don't even know how much my cancer surgery cost because I had health insurance. I didn't have to check it like that. We had to pay some deductible, but nothing dramatic. We wouldn't have been able to afford it. I wouldn't have gotten the surgery because I wouldn't even have known I had cancer because we wouldn't have gotten the MRI.

That is where we are putting the American people right now. Actually, not we, the Republicans are putting the American people right now.

It is time to end this. The clock is running out. The calendar says the time has come to do something and put some kind of proposal on the table.

I have to say this, too, on the proposal piece. When the Speaker passed the bill, I think it was, if I recall correctly, July 25th, we left town for the August recess, came back, passed the bill, and then left town again. There was a stretch there where I think we had been in session between July 25th and when the government finally reopened, I think it was 12 legislative days.

To my friends out there in the country, how many of you could only work 12 days in July, August, September, and October and still have a job and still get paid while you are out? That is what they did.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to get this done finally, to make some kind of an effort to reach a bipartisan solution and resolve this crisis that was created entirely by my Republican colleagues, that was totally avoidable, that they decided to run into the fire anyway.

Let's fix this. Let's protect the American people. Let's allow them to go at least 1 year, maybe 3, so we can extend this so they can make sure that they continue to have healthcare coverage while we are working on this bill. Let's get it done.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCGUIRE). The gentlewoman from Virginia has 20 minutes remaining.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I will take a personal privilege to close this Special Order hour with some stories from Virginia, which I know you, Mr. Speaker, care a lot about. You and I served together in the State legislature there where we were able to find common ground across the aisle a little more easily than we are able to do in Congress.

In Virginia, about 350,000 people benefit from the Affordable Care Act premium tax credits, enhanced premium tax credits, 30,000 in my district, the Fourth Congressional District.

For a family of four that earns $129,800 a year, they are looking at premiums that will increase by $4,675. A family of four earning $64,000 a year will see their annual premiums increase $2,571. A 60-year-old couple earning $82,800 a year will see their annual premiums increase $11,968. That is a 174-percent increase. That is what Virginians are facing if we can't find common ground to solve this problem, even temporarily.

Our former colleagues in the General Assembly have predicted that at least 60,000 Virginians would end up canceling their insurance coverage due to affordability if they lose access to the enhanced premium tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, last week, Cardinal News—which covers the Southwest and Southside, Virginia, both of us represent portions of that part of the Commonwealth—told several stories.

There was one from Reagan Fisher Wyssbrod from Salem. Reagan and her husband, who is self-employed, have two children.

□ 2010

Wyssbrod works three part-time jobs to help support the family while keeping the flexibility needed for her children. She spends some days as a substitute teacher and as a business manager for a library association. She does some bookkeeping on the side. None of these jobs offer benefits.

She has a bachelor's degree in psychology, roughly two decades of experience in health insurance and accounting, and she is willing to take almost any job that will offer benefits, she said, even if that means working at McDonald's because she doesn't want to let her children go without healthcare.

Her projected monthly premium increase is $400, which would raise her monthly out-of-pocket costs to $1900. On top of that, her longtime doctor has moved out of network. It is astonishing, she said.

She spent 3 weeks combing through plans and eventually found one that would save the family about $100 a month, bringing their premium down to $1,800, allowing her to keep her doctor, but it has a higher deductible. She said the worst case scenario is her out-of-pocket costs would be $20,000 on top of the monthly premium.

Ultimately, it came down to: I don't go to the doctor that often, my kids don't go to the doctor that often, so we will just roll the dice.

She said: We will wrap some bubble wrap around us, I guess.

I don't think bubble wrap is going to help if they get in a car accident.

Victoria Cassels, an accountant in Roanoke, worries about her adult daughter who lives in Richmond, who is a self-employed graphic designer with an autoimmune disease. Her condition limits how much work she can take on, and she depends on marketplace coverage. Her monthly premium rose by $400, about three times higher than it was last year.

Cassels is going to do what she can to help her daughter cover the costs if she can't take on enough work to meet this new expense. Cassels prepares taxes for individuals and small businesses and says more of her younger clients are

talking about dropping health insurance all together because they just can't afford it.

In the last few years, she has had a slew of clients in their twenties and thirties who have started their own businesses. Just getting started in life, they don't have the savings to afford the increasing cost of health insurance. Without health insurance, it is going to be very difficult for them to start a family.

Ben Pearman, financial adviser from Bent Mountain in Roanoke, runs his own business which is well established, and he has a steady income, but higher monthly costs have led him to reconsider his options.

As a single man in his fifties, he pays for his own health plan. Next year, his monthly premium will jump from $724 to $935. He can absorb the higher cost but is considering switching to concierge care, a model in which the patients pay a flat monthly fee, but that would leave him without insurance if an accident happens.

Linda Bartlett, 64, entered semi-retirement last year, and now works part time at Roanoke's Mast General Store. She turned to the marketplace until she qualifies for Medicare. Her premium is about to double, bringing her monthly payment to $1,200, which is nearly all of her Social Security check.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from Illinois' Second District, Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust to urge my colleagues across the aisle to extend the ACA tax credits.

As you know, they are set to expire at the end of the year and will cause monthly health bills to skyrocket for millions of Americans. The rising cost of healthcare goes beyond the individual. It affects Black small business owners.

A small business owner in my district owns several coffee shops and worries about her employees being able to afford healthcare. She feels responsible for her employees, but healthcare is a large expense for a small business. The ACA premium tax credits provide affordable care to her employees, allowing her coffee shop and her employees to thrive.

Another small business owner in my district runs a wine production business that sells nationwide. Despite her success, she has to rely on her husband's job for healthcare. These are two small business owners who have created their own success, and through their businesses created jobs for other people.

Republicans love to say they support our economy. It is time to actually support the healthcare of small business owners, who are the backbone of our economy. Republicans also love to say the best option for healthcare is a job.

My constituents have a job. They also provide jobs for more people, but they all receive affordable healthcare through the ACA. Without the ACA tax credits, their employees may have no other option but to go uninsured or find another job. If they decide to leave, my constituents' businesses won't be able to run.

It is simple: We all do better when we all do better. We are all healthier when we are all healthier. Let's extend the ACA premium tax credits. Let's make healthcare more affordable and accessible.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to put this debate in a larger context. I was in the State legislature where the Affordable Care Act passed. It wasn't perfect. Our healthcare system has never been perfect, but what it did, between the marketplace and expanding Medicaid, is it got the number of uninsured to record lows, at least in Virginia. I can't speak to nationwide, but in Virginia, we saw our uninsured rate go to record lows.

We were able to expand Medicaid on a bipartisan basis because it didn't just benefit urban cores, but suburban centers and rural communities, rural communities that had high numbers of uninsured, that were worried about how their healthcare centers, their hospitals were going to have the volumes to stay open.

We expanded Medicaid. During the—I call it the big, ugly bill, we put millions of Americans at risk of losing their health insurance through cuts to Medicaid. We saw a list of over 300 hospitals in rural areas identified as being at risk of closing.

During the August recess, I traveled all over Virginia not just to talk to my constituents, but as one of only two members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to talk to a wide cross-section of Virginians. I visited a dental clinic in Abingdon. Eighty percent of their patients are covered by Medicaid, 80 percent. The other 20 percent are uninsured.

Before that clinic opened, that community got dental services once a year when a mobile dental clinic showed up, and the line was incredibly long to get one day of dental service a year.

When I visited this clinic, I didn't come in with any talking points. I just came to tour. I asked: What keeps you up at night? The director said: I don't know how we are going to keep our doors open with these Medicaid cuts.

Two TV stations were there who were there when the clinic opened because they understood what a big deal this clinic was, not just for Abingdon, but the entire southwest corner of the Commonwealth. My colleague who represents that area in response to that visit said: Democrats are just fearmongering.

Well, lo and behold, less than a month later, three rural clinics closed, citing Medicaid cuts in H.R. 1. A hospital in Farmville closed its labor and delivery unit.

I ran for office because I grew up listening to my parents tell stories when they grew up in the segregated South during the Depression. They saw the best of government and they saw the worst of government.

□ 2020

Mr. Speaker, the best of government was when people came together to solve problems and to help people who were hurting through no fault of their own. These were people who were working day in and day out and couldn't afford to put food on the table. They couldn't afford healthcare when they got sick. They couldn't afford a roof over their heads.

The worst of government is when we sit here and focus more on: How can I score political points? How can I benefit the wealthiest 1 percent on the backs of every other working American?

As I traveled around Virginia in August and October, and in the 54 days that we weren't doing our job here in Washington—not having committee hearings and not voting on the House floor—what I heard was people losing faith that our government knows how to be at its best. We have to get back to that.

Our system is not perfect. That is why in the Constitution it says that our government was formed in order to form a more perfect Union. It is not a perfect union but a more perfect Union.

The beauty of our form of government is when we listen to the people and see that they are hurting, we have an opportunity to do something to stop that hurting, an opportunity to feed the hungry, house the homeless, care for the sick, welcome the stranger, and visit the incarcerated. When we do for the least of these, we are at our best.

We have gotten away from that, Mr. Speaker. We better get back to it because the American people are losing faith that this body, Congress, will do its job. We better do it. They are depending on us to. They have told us they are worried. We heard the stories tonight. This is just one thing people are worried about.

We need to get back to our better nature. We need to come together, find common ground, and help people who are wondering: Come January 1, how am I going to afford this health insurance? What am I going to do when my kid burns his hand and ends up in the burn unit with a bill of $15,000 that I can't afford to pay? What am I going to do if my baby is born prematurely and has to stay in the NICU at an average price of $70,000 a day?

People are wondering: Do we hear them, and are we going to act?

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

HONORING GEORGIA'S FINEST

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the decades of service of Chief Warrant Officer Eric Bryan Williams.

Chief Warrant Officer Five Eric Bryan Williams is a distinguished MH–60 Black Hawk flight leader with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

Williams was born on October 17, 1975, and is a native of Duluth, Georgia. He first enlisted in June 1993 as a combat medic. Later, he was selected for appointment to Warrant Officer Candidate School.

Williams conducted deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Yemen, and Somalia. Throughout his service, Williams went through a variety of training and earned a number of accolades, the highest being the Distinguished Flying Cross.

On December 12, 2025, Chief Warrant Officer Williams is scheduled to retire, concluding 32 years of honorable and dedicated service to the United States Army. His exemplary career within the prestigious 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment reflects a commitment to excellence and unwavering dedication to the defense of our Nation. We thank him for his service.

COMMENDING SERGEANT BOBBY STEWART

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Sergeant Bobby Stewart of the Chatham County Police Department for his outstanding act of bravery that earned him the Medal of Merit.

On a critical day in Savannah, Sergeant Stewart disarmed a suicidal individual who was armed with a firearm, preventing what could have become a tragic outcome. His calm demeanor, compassion, and quick thinking not only safeguarded the life of the individual involved but also allowed that person to receive the help and care they needed.

According to his supervisor, Sergeant Stewart's actions exhibited extraordinary kindness, courage, and unwavering service to the public.

In recognizing Sergeant Stewart, we honor more than just a singular act. We uphold the standards of leadership and humanity that define public service.

Please join me in thanking Sergeant Bobby Stewart for his courageous efforts and in acknowledging the many officers who keep our community safe every day.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER MEDICS KIMBERLY ROYER AND DEREK WILSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bryan County Firefighter Medics Kimberly Royer and Derek Wilson, who were recognized by the 200 Club of the Coastal Empire for their remarkable courage and service.

On June 7, 2024, a domestic dispute in Richmond Hill turned violent when a man shot his wife multiple times. While law enforcement secured the scene, Medics Royer and Wilson negotiated with the armed suspect for over an hour. After convincing him they were unarmed, they entered the house at great personal risk, reached the wounded woman, and carried her to safety for lifesaving treatment.

For their bravery, Royer and Wilson received the 2025 Valor Award at the 200 Club ceremony in Savannah. Their actions reflect the high standards of public service and the courage that defines first responders across Georgia.

Today, we thank Kimberly Royer and Derek Wilson for their valor, compassion, and steadfast commitment to saving lives.

HONORING TAX COMMISSIONER SONYA L. JACKSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chatham County Tax Commissioner Sonya L. Jackson, who recently received the Presidential Award from the Savannah Branch NAACP at their 2025 gala. This award recognizes individuals whose leadership and service strengthen our communities through integrity, innovation, and impact.

Commissioner Jackson earned this honor for her unwavering commitment to public education, exceptional customer service, and operational excellence at one of Chatham County's most vital government offices.

Since assuming office, Commissioner Jackson has led efforts to make tax services more accessible and efficient for all residents. Her Tax Commissioner University initiative empowers citizens with the knowledge and confidence to navigate local government processes, building trust and transparency in government operations.

Commissioner Jackson's leadership exemplifies how public service can strengthen the bonds between government and community.

Today, we celebrate Commissioner Jackson's significant contributions and offer our gratitude for her dedication to improving the lives of Chatham County residents.

HONORING DR. DASHAUN MCGEE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. DaShaun McGee, assistant principal at Bradwell Institute in Hinesville, for being named Georgia's Assistant Principal of the Year by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals.

Dr. McGee stood out among more than 140 applicants, thanks to his servant leadership, tireless energy, and heartfelt commitment to students. He is known for being present in the lunchroom, in the hallways, and among the faculty. He builds relationships, offers guidance, and makes a tangible difference every day.

Serving the students of Bradwell Institute and the wider Liberty County system, Dr. McGee leads with integrity, compassion, and a clear vision for educational success. His work elevates the school, supports his colleagues, and strengthens his community.

Please join me in recognizing Dr. DaShaun McGee for this well-earned honor and in thanking him for his outstanding contribution to education in the State of Georgia.

□ 2030

MARCHESE CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marchese Construction, LLC, a Savannah-based company that has been named one of America's Top 100 Small Businesses by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its small business platform, CO.

Out of more than 12,500 applicants nationwide, Marchese Construction earned this distinction as part of the 2025 CO–100, which highlights exceptional innovation, leadership, and community impact.

For years, Marchese Construction has played a vital role in building not only structures, but also opportunities across our region. Their commitment to excellence and their dedication to local partnerships have strengthened Savannah's economy and showcased the entrepreneurial spirit that drives small business success through Georgia.

This recognition is a testament to their hard work and the values they bring to every project. We are proud to see a business from Georgia's First District receive national recognition for excellence and community leadership.

COMMEMORATING THE 37TH ANNUAL GEORGIA PEANUT TOUR

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 37th Annual Georgia Peanut Tour.

The 37th tour began in Valdosta, Georgia, right around the onset of harvest season, making it the perfect time to showcase some peanuts.

This year's preeminent stop was at Swilley Farms in which the Swilley family has been tilling the land for over 100 years. Danny Swilley continues to honor his family legacy, operating alongside his two brothers and his father.

The Georgia Peanut Tour contacted Swilley and other local farmers, allowing them to showcase their farms and support the industry.

The tour forges relationships, providing these businesses with the opportunity to connect with their customer base. Tourists can gain insight into the peanut harvesting process, infrastructure, production, handling, processing, and utilization.

I want to congratulate the Swilley family for highlighting their stories in the peanut industry, from digging to managing disease that can ruin the harvest.

HONORING POOLER FIRE CHIEF WADE SIMMONS' 36 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary public servant, Pooler Fire-Rescue Chief Wade Simmons, who recently

celebrated 36 years of dedicated service as a career firefighter.

Chief Simmons began his journey in 1989 with the Southside Fire Department, later joining Savannah Fire in 1998 before bringing his leadership to Pooler in 2008. Under his direction, Pooler Fire-Rescue has grown from a small two-station department to a five-station organization operating six companies and a daily shift commander.

Throughout his career, Chief Simmons has been a pillar in the fire service community, known for his mentorship, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to excellence. He has strengthened departments across Georgia through training, consultation, and collaboration, earning the respect of firefighters statewide.

For 36 years, Chief Simmons has dedicated his life to protecting others and preparing the next generation of first responders. His service is an inspiration to us all.

CELEBRATING JOE FUSILE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate excellence that extends far beyond the football field. Joe Fusile, a Georgia Tech student, Richmond Hill High School alumnus, and civil engineering major, has been named a semifinalist for the 2025 William V. Campbell Trophy.

Known as college football's premier scholar-athlete award, the William V. Campbell Trophy honors the absolute best for combined success in academics, athletics, and leadership.

This year, the National Football Foundation announced 177 semifinalists across all of college football. The average GPA among them is an extraordinary 3.60 with more than one-half already holding degrees. To be nominated, a player must be a senior or graduate student, carry at least a 3.2 GPA, excel on the field, and demonstrate strong character and citizenship.

Participating in the Uplifting Athletes organization, a group that raises awareness for individuals with rare diseases, Mr. Fusile exemplifies what it means to be a true Georgia Tech student-athlete on and off the field.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDALL KATO

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Randall Kato.

A native of Hawaii, Randall carried his island warmth all the way to Georgia, where he became legendary for his dedication to surfing. He made the daily drive from Hinesville to Tybee Island just to greet the waves and his friends.

Kato was not only the first one in the water and the last one out, but he was also a devoted father, friend, and mentor, uplifting everyone he met with kindness and wisdom. Those who were lucky enough to know him saw him as a role model with a peaceful spirit and a positive outlook on life. Kato fed off the energy from surfing, forming a physical and mental connection with and a respect for nature.

Even in the face of trials, he taught by example that peace and resilience would carry us through. Let us honor that legacy and celebrate the life of a true legend.

CELEBRATING BLAKE RAULERSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an important leadership appointment for the University of Georgia. Go Dawgs.

Mr. Blake Raulerson has been named the University of Georgia's next vice president for government relations, a position he has earned through his dedication and results for the university.

Raulerson has spent the last 4 years representing UGA, first as director of State government relations and most recently as associate vice president. His leadership has been pivotal in securing support for the university's capital priorities, including $50 million in State matching funds for the new school of medicine.

President Jere Morehead praised Blake's decade of experience and ability to deliver results for the university.

Raulerson's career spans service to Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle, Senator David Perdue, Georgia Farm Bureau, and Governor Brian Kemp. He succeeds Kevin Abernethy and will oversee UGA's government relations strategy with State, Federal, and local partners.

We welcome Blake Raulerson's leadership as UGA continues advancing academic excellence for the great State of Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the College of Coastal Georgia, a public college in Brunswick.

The college earned its fourth consecutive semester win of the Chancellor's Cup from the University System of Georgia. This achievement reflects the college's continued momentum in enrollment growth and its commitment to student success.

The Chancellor's Cup is awarded to institutions that have demonstrated the highest increase in full-time enrollment within their sector. Coastal Georgia has consistently led the State colleges sector, enrolling 12 percent more students this summer than the year before.

After the Chancellor's Cup win, the college began the 2024–2025 academic year with its highest first-day numbers and broke last year's dual enrollment record.

As Coastal Georgia continues to expand its reach and academic offerings, the Chancellor's Cup serves as both recognition and motivation. Coastal Georgia is a place where students thrive, and that is a legacy to keep building on.

I congratulate the College of Coastal Georgia.

INDUCTING UGA ATHLETES INTO THE GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three former University of Georgia athletes on their induction into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

As an avid sports fan, it is great to see these impressive athletes recognized for their prowess.

Leah Brown is a 14-time All-American gymnast who rose to the national number one in the all-around, vault, and floor in 1997. She was the first to record a 10.0 in her collegiate debut.

John Kasay was a 4-year letterman from 1987–1990 on the football team. He earned second-team All-SEC and third-team All-American honors in his senior season before a career in the NFL.

Bunny Fuller Harris was a star at Taylor County High School, leading her basketball team to four State titles and 100 straight wins while averaging 22 points per game. She became the leading scorer during the Georgia Lady Bulldogs' first winning season.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these athletes on their recognition of a lifetime.

□ 2040

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF RITZ THEATRE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true jewel of Georgia's cultural heritage, the Ritz Theatre in historic Brunswick, marking its 125th anniversary this year.

Since its opening in 1899 as the Grand Opera House, the Ritz has entertained generations through vaudeville, silent films, live theater, and modern performances.

Despite years of challenge, including a roof collapse and threat of demolition, the city and community rallied, secured the theater, and restored it to its former glory.

For more than a century, the Ritz has been a gathering place where art, music, and shared stories bring communities together. It embodies resilience, creativity, and faith in the power of culture to unite us.

On this milestone, we honor everyone who preserved this landmark: past leaders, art advocates, volunteers, and citizens of Brunswick. May the next 125 years see the Ritz grow stronger, welcome new audiences, and continue to light up hearts across our State.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARK VANN STEWART

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Dr. Mark Vann Stewart of St. Marys, Georgia, who passed away peacefully on September 25, 2025.

Dr. Stewart was a devoted husband, father, brother, and friend whose life was marked by faith, service, and kindness. A proud graduate of the University of Georgia, he went on to earn advanced degrees from Valdosta State University and the University of Sarasota.

For over 30 years, Dr. Stewart served Camden County Schools as a teacher, coach, administrator, and assistant superintendent, later continuing his work with Coastal Plains High School.

Through his leadership, he touched countless lives and shaped the future of education in his community.

Beyond the classroom, he was a man of faith who loved the Lord, his family, golf, and the Georgia Bulldogs. His generosity, quiet strength, and compassion left a lasting impact on all who knew him.

We honor his life and celebrate his legacy of faith and service.

HONORING DAWN BAKER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dawn Baker, a news anchor from WTOC-TV in Savannah. She was inducted into the Georgia Association of Broadcasters' 2026 Hall of Fame class.

The GAB Hall of Fame requires that one spend at least 20 years in broadcasting and have a meaningful connection to Georgia, significant contributions to Georgia broadcasting, and a strong record of achievement.

Dawn joined WTOC as a reporter in 1989 and has been elevating the station's standards ever since.

She is a strong leader in the newsroom, guiding hundreds of younger journalists in her time at WTOC.

She believes the best part of being a reporter is having the chance to help.

Her involvement and dedication to community is second to none, making her very deserving of this honor.

The 2026 Hall of Fame class reflects the true spirit of Georgia broadcasting. Their contributions have strengthened local journalism, inspired future broadcasters, and enriched our State.

Congratulations to Dawn.

CELEBRATING DR. DESHAUN MCGEE AS GEORGIA ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. DeShaun McGee, assistant principal at Bradwell Institute in Hinesville, for being named Georgia Assistant Principal of the Year by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals.

Dr. McGee stood out among more than 140 applicants, thanks to his servant leadership, tireless energy, and heartfelt commitment to students.

He is known for being present in the lunchroom, in the hallways, and among the faculty building relationships, offering guidance, and making a tangible difference every day.

Serving the students at Bradwell Institute and the wider Liberty County system, Dr. McGee leads with integrity, compassion, and a clear vision for educational success.

His work elevates his school, supports his colleagues, and strengthens his community.

Please join me in recognizing Dr. DeShaun McGee for this well-earned honor and in thanking him for his outstanding contribution to education in the State of Georgia.

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Danny Swilley continues to honor his family legacy, operating alongside his two brothers and his father.

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The tour forges relationships, providing these businesses with the opportunity to connect with their customer base.

Tourists can gain insight into the peanut harvesting process, infrastructure, production, handling, processing, and utilization.

I congratulate the Swilley family for highlighting their stories in the peanut industry, from digging to managing diseases that can ruin the harvest.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. JEFFRIES) for today on account of flight delays.

BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 1, 2025, the following bill and joint resolutions were presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.J. Res. 105. 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 ''North Dakota Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan''.

H.J. Res. 106. 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 ''Central Yukon Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan''.

H.J. Res. 104. 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 ''Miles City Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment''.

H.R. 452. To award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic ''Miracle on Ice'', revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

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. GRIFFITH: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 916. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4312) to protect the name, image, and likeness rights of student athletes and to promote fair competition with respect to intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1005) to prohibit elementary and secondary schools from accepting funds from or entering into contracts with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1049) to ensure that parents are aware of foreign influence in their child's public school, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1069) to prohibit the availability of Federal education funds for elementary and secondary schools that receive direct or indirect support from the Government of the People's Republic of China; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2965) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure that the small business regulatory budget for a small business concern in a fiscal year is not greater than zero, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4305) to direct the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to establish a Red Tape Hotline to receive notifications of burdensome agency rules, and for other purposes (Rept. 119–391). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H.R. 6329. A bill to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. JACK:

H.R. 6330. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for lump-sum relocation payments for Federal employees relocated in the interest of the Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio (for himself, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 6331. A bill to modify certain definitions under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WALKINSHAW (for himself, Mr. COMER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia,

Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. TURNER of Ohio):

H.R. 6332. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10660 Page Avenue in Fairfax, Virginia, as the ''Congressman Gerald E. Connolly Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS (for himself and Mrs. HOUCHIN):

H.R. 6333. A bill to ensure responsible age assurance practices within the mobile ecosystem, particularly concerning the protection of minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS (for himself and Ms. MALOY):

H.R. 6334. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 and the TAKE IT DOWN Act to combat cyberstalking and intimate privacy violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS (for himself and Ms. GOODLANDER):

H.R. 6335. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on digital advertising services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, 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. FEDORCHAK (for herself and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 6336. A bill to prohibit the allocation of costs for a certain transmission facility to consumers of a State the public officials of which did not expressly consent to such transmission facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 6337. A bill to increase the supply of affordable housing in America; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Veterans' Affairs, Appropriations, Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, the Budget, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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. MEEKS (for himself and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 6338. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons and foreign vessels that engage in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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 Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6339. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the District of Columbia to establish the timing of special elections for local office in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H.R. 6340. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include the program of advanced training in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps in the computation of the length of service in the Armed Forces of an individual appointed as an officer on the basis of satisfactorily completing the requirements of such program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Ms. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 6341. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to covered entities to develop, modify, or implement climate adaptation and climate mitigation proposals on agricultural land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 6342. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide assistance for common interest communities, condominiums, and housing cooperatives damaged by a major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 6343. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to extend education grant programs for Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 6344. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to require public housing agencies to disclose contracts entered into, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6345. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish Federal guidelines for point-access block buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 6346. A bill to prohibit the Commandant of the Coast Guard from issuing guidance that is less restrictive on prohibiting divisive or hate symbols and flags than the memorandum titled ''Coast Guard Policy and Lawful Order Prohibiting Divisive or Hate Symbols and Flags'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. JACOBS, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H. Con. Res. 64. Concurrent resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. JAMES, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BARRETT, Ms. MCDONALD RIVET, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H. Res. 917. A resolution congratulating Korson's Tree Farms in Montcalm County in Sidney Township for being selected to provide the 2025 White House Christmas Tree; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. SYKES:

H. Res. 918. A resolution honoring and commemorating 200 years of historic contributions to American culture made by the city of Akron; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H.R. 6329.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. JACK:

H.R. 6330.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 6331.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. WALKINSHAW:

H.R. 6332.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H.R. 6333.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H.R. 6334.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H.R. 6335.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. FEDORCHAK:

H.R. 6336.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H.R. 6337.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 6338.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6339.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6340.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that ''Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 6341.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 6342.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. TOKUDA:

H.R. 6343.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 6344.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 6345.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 6346.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 138: Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 262: Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 269: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 286: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 335: Ms. GREENE of Georgia.

H.R. 349: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 381: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 409: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.

H.R. 516: Mrs. MCCLAIN Delaney.

H.R. 621: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 637: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 717: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 721: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 929: Mr. MACKENZIE.

H.R. 987: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1083: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 1094: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 1106: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. NADLER, Ms. MENG, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Ms. MORRISON.

H.R. 1171: Mr. CARSON and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1178: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1189: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.

H.R. 1227: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 1241: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 1269: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 1299: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. VINDMAN, and Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 1340: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 1349: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 1410: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1415: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 1494: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 1509: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. SHREVE.

H.R. 1510: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1521: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 1566: Mr. CORREA, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. ANSARI, and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1614: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 1659: Mr. ALFORD.

H.R. 1661: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1667: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1668: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.R. 1733: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 1781: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1783: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1845: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1939: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 1945: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 1958: Ms. VAN DUYNE.

H.R. 2028: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2137: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 2199: Mr. BEAN of Florida, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 2213: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 2220: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 2232: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 2253: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. VASQUEZ, and Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 2268: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 2279: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 2426: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 2485: Ms. ANSARI.

H.R. 2491: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. RANDALL.

H.R. 2623: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 2729: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 2743: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 2771: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 2830: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2848: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2880: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 2940: Mr. MACKENZIE.

H.R. 3006: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 3028: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Mr. HURD of Colorado.

H.R. 3051: Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 3071: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3105: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 3112: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 3132: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 3151: Ms. BYNUM.

H.R. 3184: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 3316: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 3376: Ms. ANSARI.

H.R. 3429: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 3514: Mr. VALADAO, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. BENTZ.

H.R. 3533: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 3627: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3674: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 3699: Mrs. LUNA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. HILL of Arkansas.

H.R. 3743: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 3747: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 3753: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 3757: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CASE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 3852: Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 3859: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 3946: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 3950: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 4119: Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 4155: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 4167: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 4168: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 4169: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4204: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 4206: Mr. HURD of Colorado and Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 4231: Mr. TURNER of Ohio.

H.R. 4304: Mr. EZELL.

H.R. 4317: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 4385: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 4397: Mr. COLLINS, Mr. WIED, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. GILL of Texas, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 4398: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 4509: Ms. MCBRIDE.

H.R. 4516: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 4565: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 4588: Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 4696: Mr. CASAR, Mr. GARCIA of California, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.

H.R. 4721: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 4731: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 4958: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5104: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 5106: Mr. SELF.

H.R. 5222: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 5267: Mr. TAYLOR and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 5269: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 5271: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 5325: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 5357: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 5434: Ms. SIMON, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 5439: Mr. CARSON, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 5476: Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 5486: Mr. STANTON, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 5491: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 5527: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 5529: Mr. WITTMAN and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 5604: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 5616: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, and Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 5710: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 5767: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 5776: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 5814: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 5815: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 5888: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 5959: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 5968: Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 5973: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 6000: Mr. MCGARVEY and Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 6010: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 6020: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 6035: Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 6056: Mr. FROST, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. IVEY, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MRVAN, and Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 6058: Mr. SHREVE.

H.R. 6108: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 6109: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 6110: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 6111: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 6112: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 6113: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 6114: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 6115: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 6130: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 6137: Mr. TONKO and Ms. ANSARI.

H.R. 6146: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 6161: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 6165: Mr. TURNER of Ohio.

H.R. 6166: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HOYER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SIMON, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CHU, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. GILLEN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 6181: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 6191: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 6204: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 6225: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 6231: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. CAREY.

H.R. 6243: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 6249: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 6271: Ms. MORRISON.

H.R. 6275: Mr. SHREVE.
H.R. 6278: Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 6297: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6302: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 6322: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. MCCLAIN, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.J. Res. 9: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.J. Res. 132: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. MASSIE.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. LEVIN.
H. Res. 155: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H. Res. 220: Mr. BAIRD.
H. Res. 603: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 635: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. CARSON.
H. Res. 795: Mr. PAPPAS.
H. Res. 841: Mr. SUOZZI.
H. Res. 846: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H. Res. 866: Mr. SELF.
H. Res. 882: Mr. SHREVE.
H. Res. 899: Ms. RANDALL, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ADAMS, and Mrs. FLETCHER.
H. Res. 906: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 909: Ms. TITUS.
H. Res. 912: Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. BACON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. SELF, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

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of America

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *119th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025 *No. 200*

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, You are our refuge and deliverer. We look to You for strength. Send to our lawmakers the power and grace they need today to glorify Your Name in all they think, say, and do.

Lord, give them the purity of heart that will shut the doors to all evil. Keep their feet in the path of integrity, that they may walk securely. Develop in them a perseverance which refuses to leave any task half done. Empower them with a diligence to offer You no less than their best.

And, Lord, be with the families of the two National Guard members who were shot. Comfort these loved ones during this season of distress and grief.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

The Senator from Iowa.

2026 IOWA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as I travel in Iowa throughout the year, I meet some very special people. Last month, in Sheldon, IA, at the high school, I had the honor of meeting Stephanie Pritts, who was recently named Iowa's 2026 ''Teacher of the Year.''

Now, it goes way back to 1958 that Iowa started the ''Teacher of the Year'' award, honoring an exceptional Iowa teacher each year. There is very tough competition each year among Iowa's many outstanding educators to find the one who best represents student learning through evidence-based instruction, empowering students with multiple pathways to postsecondary success; the teacher who learns from and invests in other fellow educators and, at the same time, serves students in partnership with their families.

The annual program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education, and it is funded by an appropriation of the Iowa Legislature.

Now that she is 2026 ''Teacher of the Year,'' Stephanie will serve as an ambassador to schools, an ambassador to higher education, and an ambassador to various communities across the State.

I would like to congratulate Stephanie, again, and thank her for her service to our State. Iowans can be very proud that teachers like Stephanie call our State their home.

I visit about 10 to 12 high schools a year to have a Q&A with young people because they never come to my open town meetings. One of the surprises that happens at a high school is meeting Iowa's ''Teacher of the Year.'' This year, that was Stephanie Pritts, and I congratulate her for a second time.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, I was informed by New York law enforcement of multiple bomb threats made against my offices in Rochester, Binghamton, and Long Island. The bomb threats against my offices came with the email subject line ''MAGA'' and from an email address alleging the ''2020 election was rigged.''

Local and Federal law enforcement responded immediately and are conducting full security sweeps, and investigations are ongoing. Everyone, thank God, is safe, and I am grateful for the quick and professional response of Federal and local law enforcement to ensure that these offices remain safe and secure for all New Yorkers.

As I have said many times, these kinds of violent threats have absolutely no place—no place—in our political system.

No one—no public servant, no staff member, no constituent, no citizen—should ever be targeted for simply doing their job.

VENEZUELA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on Venezuela, Donald Trump has turned the Caribbean into a dangerous tinder box. Today, we have more troops off the coast of South America than we have had in decades. U.S. forces have struck at least 20 alleged drug boats with zero independent evidence, no transparency, and no concrete legal justification.

On Saturday, Donald Trump proclaimed that the airspace above and surrounding Venezuela to be closed in its entirety. What does this mean? We have no clue because Donald Trump said a few hours later not to ''read anything into it.''

● 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 erraticness of his foreign policy is dangerous in itself—saying one thing one day and one thing the next. So Americans are right to wonder, what on Earth is Donald Trump planning in Venezuela? Is Donald Trump nudging America into another war? Is he seeking regime change for Maduro? Will he put U.S. troops in harm's way? Nobody knows. All we have is a bunch of contradictory statements from Trump.

Donald Trump seems to be planning a war totally in secret—without congressional authorization, without any transparency, without any explanation for what his goals even are. And all it takes—all it takes—is one mistake, one miscalculation, one lapse in judgment from either side, and suddenly our troops could find themselves in armed conflict with Venezuela. Lives could be lost. American security could suffer.

So I want to be very, very clear. If Donald Trump proceeds with his plan to conduct strikes against Venezuela, Senators KAINE, PAUL, and I will immediately file a War Powers Resolution to force congressional action to block the use of troops in Venezuela. The power to declare war lies in the hands of Congress, and we intend to exert that authority should the need arise.

Now, I urge my Republican colleagues to work with us to advance this resolution if it becomes necessary because the thought of another forever war makes Americans sick to their stomachs. Americans are tired of seeing troops bogged down in one country after another. Americans do not want a pointless war in Venezuela.

Donald Trump does not have the authority to send our troops into harm's way without authorization from Congress. Should Donald Trump proceed, the Senate will immediately respond. Should a strike occur, we will force a debate in Congress and force a vote to prevent the U.S. troops from being in hostilities against Venezuela. Our troops' safety and our national security are at stake.

I urge both sides to stand ready to assert the powers of Congress on matters of war and peace should the need arise because the rules of the Congress allow us to require a vote on this issue should the need arise.

SECRETARY HEGSETH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Hegseth, I want to say a word about Secretary Hegseth. I don't think we have ever seen someone so unserious, so childish, so obviously insecure serving as Secretary of Defense as Pete Hegseth, and that should alarm every single one of us.

Secretary Hegseth loves to look tough. He loves to boast about the lethality of our forces. He wants to be taken seriously, but yesterday he posted a ridiculous tweet of a cartoon turtle firing on alleged drug traffickers—a sick parody of a well-known children's book. This man is a national embarrassment. Tweeting memes in the middle of a potential armed conflict is something no serious leader would ever even think of doing. The only thing this tweet accomplishes is to remind the world that Pete Hegseth is not up to the job.

But, of course, this is much more serious than memes on twitter. A few days ago, the Washington Post reported that Secretary Hegseth gave a spoken directive to kill all the occupants of the first alleged drug boat struck by U.S. forces. If the reports in the Washington Post are accurate, this may expose those involved to legal consequences.

What we need right now more than anything else is the truth, the facts, which is precisely what Secretary Hegseth has refused to give.

There are tapes in the possession of the Department of Defense that would show exactly what happened during these military strikes. Secretary Hegseth has an obligation to be truthful, so he should release those tapes. He says the Washington Post account is not correct, so why not release the tapes and prove it? If he refuses to release these tapes, it calls into question the truthfulness of his account.

The tapes will show one way or the other what happened and whether Hegseth is telling the truth. If Secretary Hegseth has nothing to hide, he should not fear being truthful.

In the meantime, Republicans in the House and Senate, including the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, have promised ''vigorous oversight'' on these strikes. This is very encouraging, and I thank them for working in a bipartisan way on this matter. But now Republicans in both Chambers must follow through. We need congressional hearings. We need full and transparent briefings from the Pentagon. Most importantly, the committees should continue to demand that Secretary Hegseth release—release—the tapes.

This is such a serious matter that Secretary Hegseth himself should come before the Congress to testify under oath about the nature of his order, the evidence supporting the strikes, and an explanation for what the goals are in Venezuela.

With our troops standing on a knife's edge in the Caribbean, we need a Secretary of Defense who can prove himself to be serious, sober-minded, and someone of high character. Sadly, Hegseth has the opposite of each of these qualities.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, on healthcare, so the holiday season is upon us, and this year, people are wondering how the hell they are going to afford their health insurance. The ACA tax credits the Republicans have refused to extend will expire, and as many as 20 million Americans will see their healthcare costs skyrocket. Many more than 20 million, even if they have private insurance, will see their costs skyrocket as well.

What are Donald Trump and Republicans doing to solve America's healthcare crisis? Absolutely nothing. Absolutely nothing. Donald Trump and Republicans seem to be in no hurry at all to prevent tens of millions of people's premiums from skyrocketing.

After waiting until the last minute to even talk about healthcare, Republicans are now in utter disarray. First, Trump said he would finally release his grand plan to fix healthcare. Then Republicans in Congress threw a tantrum and bullied the President into backing down. Now Republicans in the House and Senate can't seem to get on the same page about how they will fix this crisis that has been brewing under their watch.

So while Republicans are in complete disarray about healthcare, Democrats remain united to lower people's premiums and to bring their costs down.

Until Donald Trump and Republicans show they are serious about working with us to solve the healthcare crisis, Americans will continue to see their healthcare costs skyrocket, and they will know it is Donald Trump and the Republicans who are to blame.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to profess my profound sorrow for National Guard member SPC Sarah Beckstrom. Sarah was one of two National Guard members shot in a targeted attack here in Washington, DC, on the day before Thanksgiving. The other Guard member, SSgt Andrew Wolfe, is hospitalized in grave condition. My prayers are with him and his family, as well as the family of Specialist Beckstrom.

Sarah Beckstrom was just 20 years old. Andrew Wolfe is just 24. They are both at an age when many are quite naturally figuring out their path in life. But Sarah and Andrew chose early, and they chose service—service up to and including the sacrifice of their lives for their country and their fellow citizens. It is a remarkable thing, and may we never forget how much we owe men and women like Andrew Wolfe and Sarah Beckstrom.

Again, my prayers are with the family of Specialist Beckstrom, and I am praying for Staff Sergeant Wolfe's full and swift recovery.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel seasons of the year. More than 80 million

Americans traveled for the holiday last week. And while most of them packed up the car and hit the road, about 6 million Americans boarded planes to spend the holidays with relatives and friends across the country. I am sure all of them were breathing a sigh of relief that the government shutdown was over and air traffic control had resumed normal operations before their trips.

The impact on air travel was one of the most visible aspects of the chaos that ensued during the Democrats' 43-day shutdown. Flights were snarled throughout the shutdown, but it got progressively worse as the shutdown dragged on. By the time Democrats' shutdown entered its second month, the FAA was forced to order cutbacks in air traffic as a matter of safety, and more would have been required if we hadn't been able to finally reopen the government when we did.

I am relieved that air traffic was able to get back to normal levels before the holiday travel surged. I am grateful to the thousands of air traffic controllers who were on duty during the shutdown without pay and who work hard every day to keep planes moving quickly and safely. They have an important job, and I know that every controller shares a commitment to putting safety first, whether it is a normal day, the middle of a snowstorm, or a government shutdown.

Even before the shutdown, our air traffic control system was facing challenges, and modernization efforts had been a priority for both the Trump administration and for Congress this year. Before the holiday, the Commerce Committee's Aviation Subcommittee held a hearing that examined operations during the shutdown, as well as the challenges that existed prior to the shutdown and that still exist today. I appreciate Chairman MORAN's attention to these important issues. I am grateful that my colleagues are taking the time to delve into the challenges facing air traffic control.

At least our Republican colleagues are taking the time. The lead Democrat on that panel called the hearing ''political theater,'' and the Democrats' witness for the Aviation Subcommittee talked only about—get this—ObamaCare. That is right—ObamaCare. A hearing to examine air traffic safety and air traffic control, and that was the only witness the Democrats asked to come and testify.

I am hoping that this was a one-time political stunt and not an indication of the attitude Democrats are going to take going forward, because we have a lot more work to do on this issue. Republicans remain focused on improving air travel and safety, and that hearing was just one part of our continued efforts.

Earlier this year, Republicans took a major step forward in air traffic modernization with the One Big Beautiful Bill, which made a significant investment in technology improvements for the air traffic system. The systems being used in air traffic control towers today are in desperate need of an update. This funding will help to deploy state-of-the-art technology to towers across America.

One example of the need for modernization is what happened at the Newark airport—one of the busiest airports in the country—earlier this year. In April and May, Newark experienced equipment outages that led to major flight delays and significant disruptions in air travel. The Trump administration moved quickly to address these issues and bring Newark back to full strength, but the underlying issue is aging technology across the air traffic control system—issues that are only exacerbated when adverse conditions strike, such as severe weather or the recent government shutdown.

The investment from the One Big Beautiful Bill will go a long way toward solving the underlying technology problems and will strengthen the entire system.

Another challenge is the shortage of air traffic controllers. We are almost 4,000 controllers short of full strength, which means that controllers at a number of airports need to work longer hours and more shifts to keep the system going. Addressing the shortfall has been a priority for the Trump administration, which has devoted attention to hiring and training additional controllers.

I appreciate that the administration managed to keep hiring and training operations going throughout the shutdown, which lessened the potential long-term consequences for America's skies.

Republicans and Democrats here in Congress are focused, too, on supporting hiring and training efforts, and this year's transportation funding bill, which I hope to take up in the near future, supports sustained hiring and training to add 2,500 new controllers next year.

Upgrading outdated technology and adding new air traffic controllers will make a big difference for the traveling public and for supply chains that rely on air cargo, and it will help deliver a more modern air traffic system, capable of providing more efficient and safer skies for all Americans.

Things won't be fixed overnight, but thanks to the Trump administration and our continued efforts in Congress, we are making progress toward a state-of-the-art air traffic control system for America.

I am glad that the system is back at full strength after the shutdown, and we are working to make it stronger every day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me pick up where the Republican leader left off on air traffic controllers.

The biggest, busiest airport in the United States is O'Hare, when you count both passengers and cargo traffic. After the government reopened, I went to O'Hare, and I met with the air traffic controllers. I have known them for years, dating back to the first government shutdown during President Trump's first administration.

There are roughly 10,500 air traffic controllers nationwide in America. We need 14,000. What does that mean if you are understaffed by that 40 percent figure?

It means that those who are presently working work extraordinarily long hours. In fact, the normal routine at O'Hare with the air traffic controllers who manage that airport is to work 6 days out of 7, 10 hours each day. So in one of the most stressful possible jobs in America, they are working 6 days a week, 10 hours a day. The stress is overwhelming.

I told them that, with the closure of the government behind us, we have to do something, and I hope we agree on a bipartisan basis to do it quickly. We need not only more air traffic controllers, well-trained and ready to work—and that will take some time to find those people—but we also need new technology. We waited too long. We have talked about this issue over and over again. It is time to do something.

I want to salute those air traffic controllers. They have gone through a tough weekend, with Americans traveling for Thanksgiving, and I know that many of them have worked hard to make sure we have safe air travel.

I want to echo the comments of the Republican leader. This is an issue that should not go away. It is an issue we should address.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to start by acknowledging, as well, the horrific—horrific—shooting of two National Guard members in Washington, DC, last week.

As was reported, 20-year-old SPC Sarah Beckstrom tragically passed away on Thanksgiving Day, and 24-year-old SSgt Andrew Wolfe remains in critical condition. We pray for his recovery and, as one Nation, we send our deepest condolences to the Beckstrom family.

Whether or not you agree about the delegation of National Guard troops to Chicago or Washington or any other place, that is really beside the point. We should make a note today that this is an acknowledgement of the importance of the National Guard to America's defense at home and abroad many times.

Time and again, those guardsmen and guardswomen have served our country and served them well. Living proof of that statement is my colleague in Congress, TAMMY DUCKWORTH, who was injured in a helicopter incident

over Iraq and today serves with me as my colleague in the Senate. She speaks for all of the members of the National Guard when she says they are dedicated to our Nation and our States.

There must be a full investigation into the attack on Sarah Beckstrom and SSgt Andrew Wolfe. I implore the President to lower the temperature on political rhetoric and try not to exploit this to demonize immigrants, including many who make the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Instead, the President should work with Congress on commonsense and evidence-proven strategies to reduce crime and reform our broken immigration system.

My wife and I send our deepest condolences to the Beckstrom family, and we pray that Staff Sergeant Wolfe makes a full, speedy recovery.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on an unrelated issue, last week, families gathered around the table to give thanks and enjoy a plate or two of turkey, mashed potatoes, casserole, cranberry sauce, and more. Except, this year, the Thanksgiving feast cost more than last year—because of what? President Trump's economic policies are driving up the prices of groceries. The President claims the opposite, but that is not a fact.

In a social media quote, President Trump said, ''Prices for a Thanksgiving Dinner is now down 25% . . . since 2024.'' ''AFFORDABILITY,'' he said, ''is a Republican Stronghold.''

Does the President of the United States actually have any conversations with families who are shopping for groceries?

Here is the truth: Costs are going through the roof because of President Trump and his MAGA policies. The American people know this. Recent polling from none other than FOX News shows that nearly two-thirds of Americans blame President Trump for higher prices—FOX News.

Listen to my constituent Tria, who wrote to me from Chicago. After experiencing the sticker shock at a South Loop grocery store, she said:

> No matter if it's organic or not . . . it's still going to be an arm and a leg for it. It's like you're spending your soul on groceries.

Another constituent Esther said:

> A loaf of bread costs us $4, and it looks like it's getting smaller.

I know what she means. Tria and Esther are not alone in their shared frustration. Working families across the country are feeling the squeeze at the checkout counter and are having to cut back on spending for the holidays.

This struggle has been exacerbated for several reasons, one of them being the President's massive cuts to the SNAP program—used to be known as food stamps—in his Big Beautiful Bill—not so beautiful—that will reduce or eliminate food assistance for more than 22 million families. This is America. This President gives 20 million bucks to Argentina, but he can't find the money for American citizens.

Another is the administration's attacks on immigrant workers, which is fueling a labor shortage, thereby hurting farmers in Illinois and across the Nation, who are already struggling, and driving up prices on the products they grow. Even President Trump's own Labor Department agrees, saying that his war on immigrant workers is ''threatening the stability of domestic food production and prices.''

Now let's get to the bottom line here and be honest about it. The farmers in my State are great men and women, and I thank them for what they do. When it comes to the political scene, after a lifetime of dealing with them, I know that they are very courteous and kind, come to see me with regularity, give me a lot of things to seriously consider, and usually vote for the other party. I get it. They are more conservative, and they just don't see things politically the way I see them. But when you close the door and there is no press around and you ask them what is going on, they are scared to death.

They see China stopping purchases of soybeans. Why is that important? Illinois is the No. 1 soybean-producing State in the United States, and it is a major cash crop for farmers all across the country. So when China stops buying, what do we do? Unfortunately, our buyers, like China, turn to other countries, and they use those countries as sources when they used to rely on us. That worries these farmers behind closed doors, but they don't say much publicly.

They don't like tariffs. They tell me that behind closed doors too. They don't want to be open in public about their criticism of President Trump, but the tariffs are taxes that they know are going to make it difficult for them and their exporters and importers of important goods.

In addition to all of that, they need workers on the farm. It is a fact. Whether it is an orchard or a dairy farm or any other farm operation, many of them need workers on the farm, and there aren't a lot of local people volunteering for that job. The President's policies against immigrants are not only denying them the source of these workers, but they are also creating an attitude in other adjoining countries that have served us in the past that it is too dangerous to try to come and work in the United States. That is the reality.

Nationwide, for example, the costs of a lot of basics just keep going up. Orange juice is up 29 percent compared to last year. Ground beef is up 14 percent. Coffee is 26 percent more. None of these developments have occurred in a vacuum. They are a direct response to the President's chaotic tariff policies. He changes his mind every 15 minutes. Is it 10 percent? Is it 15 percent? Is it 100 percent? Wait a minute. The Premier of Ontario just ran an ad during a baseball game. Let's raise tariffs on products from Canada by 50 percent. Is that any way to run a country? Already, families in Illinois have paid more than $700 just this year, on average, because of these policies.

In a Supreme Court hearing last month on the legality of these tariffs, Justice Sotomayor said to the lawyers defending the President:

> You say tariffs are not taxes, but that's exactly what they are.

Justice Sotomayor is absolutely right.

We are paying for Donald Trump's failed economic agenda—an agenda which runs back and forth, helter-skelter, day by day. The President recognizes it too, really. That is why a few weeks ago he watered down his own economic proposal when he suspended certain tariffs on bananas, coffee, beef, and clothing. You just can't keep up with him. Why backtrack? Because he knows that the voters and consumers in America are fed up with rising costs and place it by a factor of 2 to 1 at his feet. My source again? FOX News. The President sees the writing on the wall, and he is scrambling to undo the damage he has caused, but it is too little, too late, unless he moves quickly and changes dramatically.

The damage goes beyond food prices. Thanks to this President, Americans are now confronting higher utility bills. Just ask them. On the campaign trail, the President promised to slash electricity prices in half. ''Drill, baby, drill'' will take care of everything. It ain't working. On average, Illinois households are paying more than $1,500 annually for lights and heat in their homes—up more than 15 percent from last year. Cause and effect.

Under President Biden, with the support of a Democratic Congress, we signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act. This historic law provided tax credits to help households and businesses install energy-efficient windows, insulation, HVAC, and solar panels to lower their bills. I know because I put solar panels on my home in Springfield. Our monthly electric bill was cut dramatically because of that policy decision from the Biden administration.

Earlier this year, President Trump and congressional Republicans scrapped these credits for solar energy with their so-called Big Beautiful Bill. So while utility bills go up, people who want to go to cheaper forms of sustainable energy, such as solar, are told the tax incentives are no longer there, which is just the opposite of what we should be doing. Then they went further, eliminating incentives for wind and solar projects, meaning fewer jobs and less power to the grid. It is supply and demand. Less power equals higher prices. And the consequences of these policies are already taking effect.

According to the Century Foundation, past-due utility balances have jumped 10 percent this year. They are 10 percent more than they were the year before. People can't afford to pay these utility bills.

Just like SNAP cuts, Trump's energy policies harm those who are already struggling the most. One example is his budget proposal that calls to eliminate LIHEAP—a program that helps millions of low-income Americans pay their energy bills on time.

Between the sky-high cost of rent, groceries, and utilities, Americans are being hit from all sides.

The President has recently floated $2,000 tariff rebate checks as an idea. Not only are these checks unlikely to see the light of day, but the hole he has put American families in is far greater than 2,000 bucks. The American people see right through the dumb scheme, and they know that the sole reason they are facing higher prices is because of his policies.

While Republicans ignore higher costs at their own peril, Democrats are still going to keep fighting to lower costs for the American people. We know that there is an opportunity that is going to come before the Senate in just a few days to do something about the high cost of health insurance premiums. I am hearing it back home. People understand what is happening. They are getting notices about what these premiums are going to be as of the first of the year. Some 24 million Americans are affected by the ''Big Beautiful Budget Bill'' of Donald Trump and the elimination of these tax credits.

It is time for us to do something for American families that makes a difference. Help them pay their health insurance. For goodness' sake, that should be a high priority not only for the Senate but because it is a high priority for every family.

I hope we can work on a bipartisan basis to extend these tax credits and to make sure the American people understand that both Democrats and Republicans can work together to solve this problem. I think some want to on the other side of the aisle. We should do that in the spirit of bipartisanship.

The last point I want to make is almost impossible to understand or explain. Can you imagine that the former President of Honduras—his name is Juan Orlando Hernández—was prosecuted by the Federal Government of the United States for his involvement in the trade of narcotics? He was found guilty of having been involved and was sentenced to some 45 years in prison as a result. He once boasted as President that he would ''stuff the drugs up the gringos' noses.'' He accepted a $1 million bribe from El Chapo—one of the leaders of narcotics international—to allow cocaine shipments to pass through Honduras that were destined for the United States. This former President Hernández had a man killed in prison to protect him.

Honduras has become a bastion of the global drug trade. This former President Hernández orchestrated a vast trafficking conspiracy that prosecutors said raked in millions of dollars for cartels while making Honduras one of Central America's poorest, most violent, and most corrupt countries.

So they prosecuted him and found him guilty of being involved in selling narcotics through these cartels in the United States. Can you think of anyone more reprehensible than that—selling drugs to this country—and finding more victims by the day, many of them children, who become addicted to cocaine? Well, of course, it is terrible. It is so terrible that he was found guilty and sentenced to 45 years in prison.

Then what happened? Well, you won't believe it. Donald Trump pulls out his pardon pen.

> [O]n Saturday, Mr. Trump said in a statement to the New York Times that ''many friends'' had asked him to pardon Mr. Hernández. ''They gave him 45 years because he was the President of the Country.''

Then Donald Trump said:

> ''[Y]ou could do this to any President.''

I won't go into President Trump's own criminal convictions, but I will tell you this: When this man who was President of Honduras was facilitating the sale of narcotics in America, we thought so much of the effort to prosecute him that we assigned an assistant U.S. attorney by the name of Emil Bove. Ring a bell? Emil Bove was chosen by President Trump to serve on the circuit court of the United States. He was approved by this Chamber. I was at the hearing where he was considered, and I will tell you this: He was proud of the fact that he was tough on crime—so tough that he helped prosecute Hernández and ended up seeing him sent to jail for so many years.

Then along comes President Trump with his pardon pen, and he releases Hernández from jail. He releases him after years and years of prosecution, evidence, and hard work in stopping this man who was facilitating the sale of narcotics in the United States.

Once he started serving the prison sentence, President Trump said that ''many friends'' had asked him to pardon Mr. Hernández. ''They gave him 45 years,'' President Trump said, ''because he was the President of the Country—you could do this to any President.'' And he then pardoned him.

Hard to imagine, isn't it? But it isn't hard to imagine if you were here on January 6 and saw the insurrectionists come roaring through this Capitol, storm this Chamber, and drive the Senate into recess as we went to an adjoining building so that law enforcement could take over the situation. There were 149 law enforcement officers who were seriously injured, and several died as a result of that experience. It was a terrible day in the history of the United States and a terrible day in the history of this magnificent building I am honored to serve in.

What did Donald Trump do as soon as he was reelected President? He issued a full and unconditional pardon to all of the people who stormed the Capitol.

So it comes as no surprise when it comes to drug kingpins like former Honduran President Hernández. He got his pardon pen, and he decided—because he had heard from so many friends, the President said, he decided to pardon Mr. Hernández and release him.

This is not an action by a President who is trying to keep America safe from narcotics. It is a strange understanding of his power that he would use this and not end up penalizing those who are responsible for the narcotics coming into the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from West Virginia.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today with a very heavy heart, one shared by all West Virginians and by so many across our country, including the Presiding Officer. This past Wednesday, two members of the West Virginia National Guard were targeted and shot in the line of duty right here in Washington, DC.

In the days since this horrific attack, our entire State has been praying, grieving, and rallying around these heroes, their loved ones, and their families.

Today, I want to speak about these two brave, fine guardsmen: U.S. Army SPC Sarah Beckstrom, who passed away on Thanksgiving day, and U.S. Air Force SSgt Andrew Wolfe, who remains in critical condition, still fighting for his life.

This was a deliberate and senseless act of violence—an attack not only on two individuals but on the very values and the country that they took an oath to protect. These young soldiers put on the uniform to protect all of us, and on Wednesday, they were ambushed and attacked because they were U.S. servicemembers, because of that sense of duty that led them to serve their country.

SPC Sarah Beckstrom was just 20 years old. So think about it. I am looking at the young people here. Just think about that—20 years old. She had her whole life ahead of her.

We are so proud to claim her as one of our own. Sarah was a West Virginia girl. She served with honor, distinction, and a deep sense of responsibility—qualities that her family, her fellow soldiers, and her community have all recognized.

Those who served alongside of her talk about her leadership and her very bright spirit, and you can see that in her smile from her photographs.

They talk about somebody who showed up every single day. They describe her as a peacemaker, and that is what she was doing on the streets of DC. She was being a peacemaker; and that is exactly what she was. Her loss is immeasurable.

On a holiday that means to bring many families together and create joyous moments, her loved ones instead

faced the unthinkable. My prayers and deepest condolences are with them.

Sarah's service, her sacrifice, and her example will not be forgotten by her Guard family, by the State—by her own family, by the State of West Virginia, which we so proudly shared, or by this Nation.

U.S. Air Force SSgt Andrew Wolfe remains in the hospital, and we are all praying hard, hard for him, his family, and his fellow guardsmen. Andrew volunteered to serve and to take on missions that protect our country and our communities while he was still in high school. Andrew is 24 years old.

I spoke with his mother Melody this morning, and my biggest takeaway is that Andrew is a fighter.

My other takeaway in talking with Melody is that she and the entire family, including Andrew, are very devout. They believe in the power of prayer. They believe in the power of the God Almighty to weave his way and his will, and they have gathered much strength from that.

There are so many people in his community and in our State and really across the country and around the world who are praying for him.

His family has shown extraordinary strength during these painful days, and I want them to know this, as I told her this morning: Andrew is not alone. West Virginia stands behind him; the National Guard stands behind him; and this country stands behind Andrew. Powerful and plentiful prayers are offered to Andrew and to his family.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the West Virginia National Guard. This attack has shaken them deeply, as you can imagine. Guard leadership, including Major General Seward, the Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard, has been steadfast, compassionate, and focused on the families and the servicemembers.

Whenever tragedy hits our State, whether it is a flood, fire, storms, or public health emergencies or overseas deployments, the Guard is always there—always there.

Today, as they bear tremendous grief for themselves, they continue to support the families of Sarah and Andrew with the same dedication that they bring to every mission. West Virginia is so proud of our servicemembers. We always have been. And this moment, while it is painful, reminds us again just how much they sacrifice and just how much we depend on them every day.

Let me be perfectly clear: This was an unprovoked and targeted attack on two American servicemembers. It was a horrific act of violence. When our men and women take an oath of office to defend our country, they know they may be called to fight, but I imagine they never really fathomed that they would be attacked right here on our own soil. It is just unthinkable.

This is a moment for unity, for resolve, and for honoring the men and women who serve our country so bravely. It is a moment to stand against violence of any kind, especially violence directed at those who protect us.

Tomorrow, I intend to introduce a resolution in this Chamber to formally honor Specialist Beckstrom and Staff Sergeant Wolfe. This resolution will reflect what every West Virginian already knows—that Sarah and Andrew represent the very best of our State, the very best of the National Guard, and the very best of America.

The resolution also lets their families and loved ones know that the U.S. Senate will stand with them, support them during this terrible time, painful time, and for them to know that they are not alone.

Madam President, West Virginians are tough; we are resilient; but we are deeply—deeply—connected to our communities and to our values. When we lose one of our own, we all feel it.

Today, we mourn SPC Sarah Beckstrom, and we pray—pray hard—for SSgt Andrew Wolfe. We extend our love and support to their families and reaffirm our gratitude for every member of the West Virginia National Guard who continues to serve with courage and honor.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as we all know, we are back from the Thanksgiving holiday where most of us—I hope all of us—had a chance to spend some time with our family and show thanks for the blessings that we have experienced, first and foremost of which is to live in a country like the United States of America. We truly won the lottery when we became Americans by virtue of birth or getting here as fast as we could.

After a weekend of turkey and football, we return to some somber news. As the Senator from West Virginia recounted just a moment ago, on Wednesday, two of our National Guard servicemembers stationed near the White House were shot in a targeted ambush. One of these victims, Army SPC Sarah Beckstrom, was only 20 years old and passed away the following day, while another victim, SSgt Andrew Wolfe, remains in critical condition, and I know we all continue to pray for his recovery.

The perpetrator was an Afghan parolee—that has special significance—who entered the country under the Biden administration's Operation Allies Welcome Program, which was notorious for insufficient vetting of Afghan refugees.

I raised alarm bells about this mass parole of Afghan refugees back in 2024 when I co-led a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas, pressing the Biden administration for their inadequate screening processes for Afghan refugees, including some who were later found to have had ties to ISIS.

I ask unanimous consent to have this letter printed in the RECORD at the end of this statement.

Madam President, I would like to point out that this risk and the threat of these kinds of deadly results was something that many of us were concerned about and raised with the Biden administration a long time before the tragic incidence of this Thanksgiving season.

We wrote in this letter:

> In the chaos following the withdrawal [from Afghanistan], the Biden-Harris administration paroled into the U.S. over 77,000 Afghans with no or significantly incomplete security checks done on them prior to their arrival.

The reason why ''parole'' is an important word is because this particular shooter who shot these two West Virginia guardsmen did not come into the country on any one of the Special Immigrant Visa Programs. He was simply paroled, which is an exercise of Executive or Presidential authority allowing an immigrant into the country without adjudicating any sort of asylum or refugee claim or anything else.

As we point out in this letter of October 18, 2024, we raised concerns about the Biden administration passing this massive parole of 77,000 Afghan nationals with no or insignificant or significantly incomplete security checks done on them prior to their arrival.

The letter goes on to say:

> In the three years since, the Department of Homeland Security . . . has failed to conduct proper vetting of these parole recipients.

People like the shooter who shot the two West Virginia National Guardsmen.

> A DHS Office of Inspector General report from May of 2024 found that [the Department of Homeland Security] has no established process or dedicated component for monitoring parole expiration for the Afghan parolee population, and that there are significant gaps in how DHS responds to potential derogatory information discovered in the recurrent vetting process.

But here is perhaps the most important line in this letter. We said:

> This ongoing failure to protect Americans from potential terrorist threats is unacceptable and it is only a matter of time before it yields deadly results.

Well, unfortunately that prediction of this massive parole of 77,000 Afghans into the United States under the Biden administration's Operation Allies Welcome Program, that prediction proved to be true and come to pass.

Our prayers continue to go out to the family of Sarah Beckstrom, an American hero who gave and made the ultimate sacrifice for her country, and we continue to pray for the full recovery of Andrew Wolfe. These young men and women in uniform put their lives on the line day in and day out so that the rest of us can sleep safe and secure.

When tragic events like this take place, it is a reminder to all of us of

the sacrifices they make in order to protect our freedom and public safety.

I am grateful to President Trump and to FBI Director Patel for their swift response and for their commitment to bring the perpetrator of this heinous event to justice; but even more than that, we need to make sure it does not reoccur through other poorly or insufficiently vetted Afghan parolees. Unfortunately, this is part of the legacy of the Biden administration's open borders and immigration policies where they defied the law which reserves parole through a case-by-case basis to do it on a categorical basis along the southern border and now with the Afghan parolees.

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

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, October 18, 2024.

Hon. ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY MAYORKAS: We write today to request more information about the immigration status of Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, the Afghan national who was recently arrested in connection with a plot to commit a violent attack on behalf of ISIS in the United States on Election Day. According to the criminal complaint filed by the Department of Justice, Tawhedi ''entered the United States on September 9, 2021, on a special immigrant visa and is currently on parole status pending adjudication of his immigration proceedings.'' However, according to reporting from Fox News, Tawhedi was never approved for a special immigrant visa and was not ''well known to the US government'' when he was brought to the United States.

We remain deeply troubled by the increasing likelihood that foreign extremists may successfully exploit the weaknesses of our immigration system or our southern border to commit an act of political violence or an act of terror here on U.S. soil, and the policies of the Biden-Harris administration have only made matters worse. It was President Biden and Vice President Harris disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan that led to Tawhedi being in the United States in the first place. In the chaos following the withdrawal, the Biden-Harris administration paroled into the U.S. over 77,000 Afghans with no or significantly incomplete security checks done on them prior to their arrival. In the three years since, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has failed to conduct proper vetting of these parole recipients. A DHS Office of Inspector General report from May 2024 found that DHS has no established process or dedicated component for monitoring parole expiration for the Afghan parolee population, and that there are significant gaps in how DHS responds to potential derogatory information discovered in the recurrent vetting process.

This ongoing failure to protect Americans from potential terroristic threats is unacceptable and it is only a matter of time before it yields deadly results. As part of our ongoing oversight of DHS's use of immigration parole and its response to the heightened threat environment the U.S. finds itself in, we are requesting that you provide to us for review a copy Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi's alien file (a-file) and any other records related to his parole and vetting he received prior to his arrest, no later than November 1, 2024.

Thank you for your prompt attention and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,
Lindsey O. Graham, John Cornyn, Mike Lee, Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Marsha Blackburn.

SENATE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, on another matter, we have only three scheduled workweeks before Christmas. Compared to what the Senate had left on its plate last year, I think a great deal of praise is in order for our leadership—Senator THUNE and Senate Republicans generally—for getting so much done in the last 11 months.

We started the year off with an impressive clip, confirming President Trump's Cabinet at a record speed. We successfully passed a reconciliation package, which will extend President Trump's tax cuts for working families, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill or the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, which contains far more than just tax relief for the American people. We passed our first draft of the National Defense Authorization Act in the Senate.

In addition to these impressive accomplishments, the Senate has also passed the first tranche of government funding bills and a continuing resolution to keep the lights on through January. While it may seem odd to commend Congress for just doing its job, this has become a notable achievement because it means we will not be here on Christmas Eve voting on a massive omnibus spending package. That, unfortunately, has happened too often in the past.

Suffice it to say, the first year of the 119th Congress, led by Republicans, has been far more productive than recent years, but now we have more work to do because we are not quite finished. We have a few more tasks to complete before Saint Nick comes to fill up our stockings.

First and foremost, we need to finish the National Defense Authorization Act. This is a must-pass piece of legislation. It is absolutely critical to providing the men and women who protect this country with the finances and the resources and the training they need in order to do their job.

The House and the Senate have passed their own respective versions, which means now, the task is for a conference between those two versions to reconcile any differences and pass that version in both Chambers. Then the final version, of course, as we all know, can go to President Trump.

As part of the process to finalize the NDAA this year, I remain adamant in my provisions to address outbound foreign investments that they be included in the final version.

We all know that the Chinese Communist Party is the greatest national security threat—not just to the region but globally—at this time. What many of us did not fully appreciate is how American investors are directly supporting the Chinese economy and the Chinese military through outbound investments to the tune of billions of dollars.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission noted that the United States is ''the most important single source of investment to semiconductors, quantum computing, and AI in China.'' In other words, we are funding our principal competitor, and that competitor is not only an economic competitor but is vying for hegemony in the Indo-Pacific and threatening a military conflict to take Taiwan any day, week, or month in the future.

So why in the world would we engage in willful blindness, not knowing what American investors are doing to help prop up the Chinese economy and the Chinese military?

Failure to address outbound investment transparency is to pretend that national security doesn't matter. And we don't have any more time to procrastinate. The best time to act on this was years ago when my initial outbound investment legislation was proposed and passed as part of the Senate NDAA, but now, we need to finish the job we started back then in this year's NDAA.

The last item on our plate, in addition to securing our national defense, is to address our Nation's healthcare. The so-called Affordable Care Act—better known as ObamaCare—was as dubiously named as the Inflation Reduction Act, which did not reduce inflation, just like the Affordable Care Act did not make healthcare affordable.

When ObamaCare was crafted, debated, and passed, Democrats refused to work with Republicans to make it a bipartisan law.

So this failed experiment in ObamaCare that is now proposing 18 percent premium increases in places like the State of Texas this upcoming year has been a complete failure.

President Obama said that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor; he said that if you like your healthcare plan, you can keep your healthcare plan; and he also said that it would reduce healthcare costs by an average of $2,500 per American consumer—none of which has proven to be true. Democrats preferred to write the bill all by themselves and then misrepresent to the American people about their being able to keep their doctor or existing insurance plans.

ObamaCare was a massive failure that left Americans disappointed and our healthcare system virtually bankrupt. Ignoring this reality, Democrats came back for more during the COVID pandemic, using a national healthcare crisis as an opportunity to serve up more of the same bad recipe for our healthcare needs.

Of course, we all know the Senate's secret sauce is deliberation and debate. That is what we are supposed to do. The Senate is a forum where colleagues

who may have different party affiliations and different ideas about how we should solve problems can come together to try to build consensus and to work through our differences to arrive at a policy framework that gets at least 60 percent support in this body. The result of that process is a product that has been stress-tested by Members on both sides and one that works out better in the long-term for the American people.

But with the COVID-era enhanced ObamaCare credits set to expire according to a timetable set by Democrats since no Republican voted for it in the first place—instead of working through the regular order to come up with a bipartisan solution, the Senate Democrats have chosen to play hardball. They shut down the government, denying paychecks to millions of Americans, in an attempt to beat Republicans into accepting their terms unilaterally. This is simply not the way the Senate is supposed to work.

The Democrats' use of a government shutdown as a tactic to get what they wanted—to extend this failed policy in ObamaCare—is a shameful tactic, but now that the shutdown is over, Democrats have an opportunity to reconsider and do the right thing.

President Trump has already given us some great ideas about how to accomplish this and made the point, which I think is an important one, that rather than send the money to insurance companies that have, by the way, done very, very well and made a lot of money, let's send the money directly to the consumer so they can choose what suits their needs the best.

There are many good ideas that have been circulated. Senator BILL CASSIDY, a physician from Louisiana and a member of the Finance Committee, has put forward a framework based on the administration's proposals—bypassing the insurance companies and sending the money directly to the consumer. I know others who have a lot of experience in the healthcare field, like Senator RICK SCOTT of Florida, have introduced legislation as well. So there are a lot of great ideas out there.

We know that ObamaCare itself has failed and is unsustainable in its current form, so we have a lot of work to do and not much time to get it done. The goal, of course, is to make sure that everybody in America can get access to healthcare and to make sure we don't bankrupt the country in the meantime.

So all these ideas are a solid step in the right direction toward righting the wrongs of ObamaCare and ensuring we put dollars in the hands of the consumer or American families rather than in the coffers of insurance companies and insurance company executives.

But to actually solve the healthcare challenges that this country faces, we need to have a robust debate between our Members, and I hope our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will approach this discussion in good faith. Based on history, I am not overly confident that will happen, but I remain hopeful.

So I look forward to working with all of our colleagues, as well as President Trump, to come up with the right solution for healthcare that actually relieves the burden of rising health costs on American families, primarily caused by the abomination known as ObamaCare.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Bragdon nomination.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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. 472, David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Jon A. Husted, John R. Curtis, Tom Cotton, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Markwayne Mullin, Kevin Cramer, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, 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.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 624 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—9

Curtis	Kim	Sanders
Fetterman	McConnell	Schiff
Gallego	Risch	Warnock

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Bragdon nomination at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the Freeman nomination ripen following disposition of the Bragdon nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Freeman nomination, the Senate vote on the nomination at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the

President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. Res. 520

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 520) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 474.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 474, Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Jon A. Husted, John R. Curtis, Tom Cotton, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Markwayne Mullin, Kevin Cramer, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 475.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 475, Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Jon A. Husted, John R. Curtis, Tom Cotton, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Markwayne Mullin, Kevin Cramer, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks.

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.

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS UNDER RULE XLIV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. President, the information required by rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate related to congressionally directed spending items is included in the committee reports (Senate Reports 119–44, 119–46, 119–47, and 119–55) that are referenced in Senate amendment No. 3951 to H.R. 4016. I hereby incorporate that information into this disclosure by reference.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 623, H.J. Res. 130, 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.''

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I am thrilled to recognize the centennial of Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The American Friends of Hebrew University, AFHU, is helping to celebrate 100 years of accomplishment and toast the next generation of visionaries who will carry forward this tradition to the next century and beyond.

Hebrew University is home to over 23,000 students and 1,400 researchers across six campuses. Faculty and alumni have received 9 Nobel Prizes and registered more than 11,000 patents. Its impact has shaped not just Israel but the whole world, including in Virginia through the Mid-Atlantic Branch of AFHU. Benefactors of HU and this celebration include so many whose legacy can be seen across Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region: the family and descendants of Charles E. Smith, the Theodore and Annette Lerner Family Foundation, Sheryl and Bradley Schwartz, Susie and Michael Gelman, and many more.

I would be especially remiss not to recognize my friends Bill and Bobbie Kilberg. Bill is president of the mid-Atlantic region of the AFHU and a member of the board of governors, among many other stops in his legal and business career. Bobbie is president and CEO emerita of the Northern Virginia Technology Council, an entity that has done so much to shape the Virginia economy of today.

As I reflect on the interweaving strands of academic excellence embodied by Hebrew University and the economic and technological innovation for which Israel is renowned, I see a story that has played out in Virginia and elsewhere. Virginia's technology economy has blossomed in just a few short decades, largely due to its first-rate higher education sector, careful attention to cultivating a strong workforce, and the efforts of organizations like NVTC and people like Bill and Bobbie to cultivate those resources.

Today, it is home to innovative companies, large and small, and exports its goods and services to the world through an international airport and international seaport. We are economically stronger when we invest in our people. Our people are stronger when we invest in education and workforce.

The change that Hebrew University has seen over the past century is profound, in some ways miraculous. Your steadfast support has produced this positive change, and that change continues today. You have my fondest wishes for the celebration of the century, and I look forward to what the next century will bring.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANNA KO

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to LTC Anna Ko for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow. Lieutenant Colonel Ko currently serves in the Army Congressional Budget Liaison Office.

Lieutenant Colonel Ko was born in the Republic of Korea and moved to New York City when she was 9 years old. In 2007, she attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army's Logistics Branch. She earned a bachelor's degree in TV production from the City-University of Brooklyn and a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University.

Lieutenant Colonel Ko has served in a broad range of assignments during her 18 years as an Army officer, including company executive officer; battalion and brigade operations officer; company commander; and an aide-de-camp to a deputy commanding officer. She has served in multiple countries, including the Republic of Korea; Afghanistan; and Poland, in support of Atlantic Resolve. Prior to her selection to the Army Congressional Fellowship, she served with the 1st Infantry Division as the division supply and services officer, battalion executive officer, and support operations officer for the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

This past year, I had the privilege of working directly with Anna in her role as an Army liaison, and she escorted me on multiple congressional delegations, including to Turkey, Lebanon, and Israel. Her professionalism, performance, and commitment to the mission are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and made a lasting impression on both Members of the U.S. Congress and their staff. Throughout her career, Lieutenant Colonel Ko has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors alike.

Working with Lieutenant Colonel Ko during the 119th Congress has been a genuine pleasure. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession. On behalf of the State of South Carolina, the U.S. Senate, and a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending LTC Anna Ko on her service to our Nation. We wish Anna all the best as she continues her journey in the Army.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS MIOTLA

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH, Representative MIKE SIMPSON, and Representative RUSS FULCHER, we congratulate Dennis Miotla, who is retiring from his position as Chief Operating Officer and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Infrastructure Programs for the U.S. Department of Energy's, DOE, Office of Nuclear Energy, after 35 years of service.

Throughout his extensive career in nuclear energy, Dennis Miotla has served in a number of leadership positions as he has contributed significantly to guiding nuclear operations. Prior to his current position, Mr. Miotla was the Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy. He previously served as the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy. Mr. Miotla also served as the Deputy Director for Nuclear Facility Operations, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Operations, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Power Deployment. Additionally, he was the interim manager of the Department of Energy's Idaho Operations Office where he had full responsibility for DOE operations at Idaho National Laboratory, INL.

Dennis has also worked for the National Nuclear Security Administration and at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in West Mifflin, PA. As Dennis said about himself, ''About 50 years working in various positions in nuclear energy. I think I have pretty much seen it all and done it all.''

His extensive and remarkable work in the field of nuclear energy has understandably been recognized. He is a two-time recipient of the Presidential Rank Award for his outstanding performance in the advancement of nuclear energy programs.

Dennis is generous with his time as he cares deeply about the legacy of Federal service and is invested in those who choose that path. He is known at DOE, the Lab, and the nuclear industry for his leadership, mentorship, and sarcastic humor. He has taught many the importance and intricacies of the Lab's research, and his patience and guidance are deeply appreciated by many who have worked with him.

Dennis' years of service and dedication to nuclear energy and INL have helped support the current fleet of reactors and will help ensure continued research into advanced nuclear reactors, facilitating their commercialization and deployment in the private sector. His contributions are significant. Thank you, Dennis, for lending your knowledge, know-how, direction, and vast experience so extensively to advancing nuclear energy and shaping future leaders in this important field. We wish you all the best on your well-earned retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SISTER KATHLEEN ATKINSON

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, these weeks between Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year are a time of reflecting, giving thanks, and expressing gratitude for the blessings in our lives. Today, I would like to recognize and honor a remarkable woman from Bismarck, ND, who has been a profound blessing to my community and beyond.

I have known Sister Kathleen Atkinson, a member of the Order of Saint Benedict at Annuniciation Monastery in Bismarck, for many years. In 2004 we cochaired the establishment of a Center for Christian Ministry at the University of Mary, which fostered leadership and service between students and the community.

In 2010, Sister Kathleen began leading Bible studies at the North Dakota State Penitentiary. She called the inmates her ''men in the Pen,'' meeting them one-on-one behind the prison doors. Despite any fears she had, she believed in the importance of bringing God's love to the incarcerated and persevered with her ministry.

One day an inmate shared with her how terrified he was about his upcoming prison release. He had no ride, no job, no money, and no place to stay. Despite her own apprehension about taking responsibility for a prisoner she barely knew, Sister Kathleen agreed to pick him up on the day of his release. That was the beginning of her commitment to a prison re-entry program known as Ministry on the Margins, which she founded in 2013. Originally sponsored by the Annunciation Sisters, it later became an independent organization. She has served as its executive director ever since. The ministry has expanded to include a food pantry, street outreach, a nighttime low-barrier coffee house, and other programs serving the most vulnerable among us. What began with one volunteer has now expanded to 15 employees and countless volunteers serving some 1,600 people weekly.

I have watched with admiration her servant leadership in action over these many years. She has grown this ministry by recruiting volunteers regardless of religious denomination or comfort level serving others. Despite her short stature, she is powerful and fearless in her dedication. When she speaks, even the toughest audience listens. She asks for prayers, encourages selfless service, tirelessly fundraises, and testifies on legislation, policies, and solutions. Her success with Ministry on the Margins has inspired others to establish similar programs for

the vulnerable in Bismarck, across North Dakota, and throughout the Nation.

Sister Kathleen announced her retirement effective December 31, and I join the many who know this national leader in thanking her for being the hands and feet of Christ. Her ministry embodies Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount, where He says, ''For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me,''' Matthew 25:35–40.

Mayor Mike Schmidt has designated December 10 as Sister Kathleen Atkinson Day in Bismarck, where the community will be able to come together and personally express their appreciation. The impact of Sister Kathleen's ministry will resonate for decades to come. She is a State treasure and one of Bismarck's most beautiful souls. North Dakota is a better place because of her vision and dedication. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank Sister Kathleen Atkinson for her years of ministry. I wish her many years of health and happiness in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN SHAPIRO

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, the holidays are a great reminder of the joy that comes from giving of our time and talents. It is also a time to reflect on those like LTC Susan Shapiro of New Market, AL, who are willing to spend holidays away from loved ones so that we can celebrate in peace with ours.

Susan grew up in a military family. Her father was a master sergeant in the Air Force, and many of her four older siblings either served themselves or are military spouses. Susan decided to join herself in 1989 as a means to pay for her college. However, this decision led to more than two decades of service. While in basic training in California, Susan met her husband—and fellow Army veteran—Jeff. They later welcomed their son Trent.

Susan spent the next decade going back and forth serving in both Active Duty and in the Army Reserves. During a stint in Oklahoma, she helped in the recovery and investigation logistics from the tragic Oklahoma City bombing. Her work took her all over the country: California, Oklahoma, Kentucky, New York. But the traveling stopped in 1999 when her husband was located to Huntsville, and they knew they had found their home. Shortly upon this move, Susan was assigned an overseas deployment to Iraq.

But before fighting on the battlefield abroad, she had to defeat a battle here at home: breast cancer. And that she did. Just 3 years after defeating cancer, Susan deployed to the Middle East to serve with the Headquarters Company Command and fight in the war on terror. While she was overseas, she connected deeply with two other women—her ''battle buddies'' as she calls them—Tammy and Sabine. One of her fondest memories of her time in Iraq is when her team members coordinated a Cancer Walk with her entire command as her family members back in the States did a Cancer Walk of their own.

The bond Susan formed with her team, Tammy, and Sabine was truly unbreakable. After returning home from deployment, the three remained inseparable. Susan walked with them through their own personal battles with breast cancer and has taken Tammy's family as her own after Tammy sadly lost her fight with cancer.

Susan also played a key part in Redstone Arsenal's Missile Defense Agency until her retirement in 2013. She now spends most of her time with her friends and family and rescuing animals in need of a home.

As we enter into this holiday season, I am honored to recognize Susan Shapiro as the December Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 21, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions:

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.

H.R. 1512. An act to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines.

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

H.J. Res. 133. Joint resolution 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.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the enrolled bills were signed on November 21, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. SHEEHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3109. An act 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.

H.R. 3426. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 58. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism.

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.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3109. An act 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; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3426. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

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

S. Res. 520. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC–2153. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Castor oil, polymer with 2-ethylhexanol, maleic anhydride and soybean oil, sodium salt in pesticide formulations: Tolerance exemption'' (FRL No. 12955–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2154. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fluopyram; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 12909–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2155. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fluazinam; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 12959–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2156. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Various Fragrance Components in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 12962–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2157. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Chlorantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption'' (FRL No. 12973–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2158. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''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'' (FRL No. 12955–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3282. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to significant actions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 3283. A bill to establish that citizens of the United States shall owe sole and exclusive allegiance to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 3284. A bill to amend chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, to allow funding recipients to assume certain responsibilities relating to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HUSTED):

S. 3285. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize unlawful adoption practices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3286. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 3287. A bill to prohibit the allocation of costs for certain electric transmission facilities to consumers in a State the public officials of which did not expressly consent to the transmission facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 3288. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to develop a strategy on intelligence coordination and sharing relating to critical and emerging technologies; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

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

S. 3289. A bill to amend section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to require an electronic, searchable database of the importation, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 3290. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 3291. A bill to require a declassification review for intelligence relating to the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3292. A bill to support research about the impact of digital communication platforms on society by providing privacy-protected, secure pathways for independent research on data held by large internet companies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3293. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. Res. 519. A resolution recognizing the achievements and contributions of the AH–64 Apache attack helicopter to the national defense of the United States and its allies and honoring the dedication, service, and sacrifice of the United States Army aviators, maintainers, and support personnel who operate and sustain the Apache; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 520. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; placed on the executive calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 475

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 475, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 688, a bill to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

S. 926

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) were added as cosponsors of S. 926, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1320

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1320, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's health, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to provide for health coverage with no cost-sharing for additional breast screenings for certain individuals at greater risk for breast cancer.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1541

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1541, a bill to support the national defense and economic security of the United States by supporting vessels, ports, and shipyards of the United States and the U.S. maritime workforce.

S. 1563

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes.

S. 1643

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1643, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1703

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1996

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) 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. 2042

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2042, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2196

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2196, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to define intimate partner to include someone with whom there is or was a dating relationship, and for other purposes.

S. 2207

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2207, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the treatment of digital assets.

S. 2381

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2381, a bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop a framework for detecting, removing, and reporting child pornography in datasets used to train artificial intelligence systems, and for other purposes.

S. 2503

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2594

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2594, a bill to amend section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require immigration enforcement officers of the Department of Homeland Security to display visible identification during enforcement actions and provide privacy enhancing services.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2759

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2759, a bill to enhance our Nation's nurse and physician workforce by recapturing unused immigrant visas.

S. 2915

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2915, a bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an emerging developer fund program to provide competitive grants to nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2950

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2950, a bill to require the Secretary of State and relevant executive branch agencies to address international scam compounds defrauding people in the United States, to hold significant transnational criminal organizations accountable, and for other purposes.

S. 2952

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2952, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue $2.50 numismatic coins and $2.50 circulating coins, and for other purposes.

S. 3062

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3062, a bill to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, and for other purposes.

S. 3087

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3087, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to prohibit certain acts related to fentanyl, analogues of fentanyl, and counterfeit substances, and for other purposes.

S. 3090

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3090, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for an explosive nuclear weapons test.

S. 3209

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3209, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs furnishes certain non-opioid pain medications to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3253

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3253, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service, and for other purposes.

S. 3257

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

RISCH) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3257, a bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition, and for other purposes.

S. 3259

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3259, a bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require remaining funds under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program to be used for deficit reduction.

S.J. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 82, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to ''Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act''.

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 236, a resolution calling for the return of abducted Ukrainian children before finalizing any peace agreement to end the war against Ukraine.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 519—RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AH–64 APACHE ATTACK HELICOPTER TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES AND HONORING THE DEDICATION, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATORS, MAINTAINERS, AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL WHO OPERATE AND SUSTAIN THE APACHE

Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 519

Whereas, on September 30, 1975, the Apache attack helicopter prototype YAH–64 took its first flight, marking a defining milestone in the history of aviation and defense innovation;

Whereas the AH–64 Apache was designed as a twin-engine, tandem-seat, heavy attack helicopter capable of providing close air support, deep strike, and reconnaissance missions under adverse conditions;

Whereas, since its first flight, the AH–64 Apache has become the most advanced, combat-proven attack helicopter in the world, amassing more than 5,200,000 total flight hours, including over 1,300,000 combat hours, in defense of the United States and its allies;

Whereas the AH–64 Apache has undergone continuous modernization, from the AH–64A through the AH–64E, incorporating digital avionics, advanced sensors, and networked weapons systems to enhance survivability, lethality, and interoperability;

Whereas production and sustainment of the AH–64 Apache have been carried out at facilities across the United States, with final assembly in Arizona and a supplier base across 46 States, reflecting decades of leadership of the United States in aerospace design, engineering, and advanced manufacturing;

Whereas the AH–64 Apache has played a decisive role in major combat operations, including—

(1) Operation Desert Storm (1991), where it conducted the opening strikes of the Gulf War;

(2) Operation Allied Force (1999), during the conflict in Kosovo;

(3) Operation Enduring Freedom (2001–2014), providing close air support and reconnaissance in Afghanistan;

(4) Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003–2011), supporting ground operations and counter-insurgency missions; and

(5) Operation Inherent Resolve (beginning in 2014 and ongoing as of the date of the introduction of this resolution), conducting precision strike operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria;

Whereas the AH–64 Apache attack helicopters operate from key United States Army installations around the world, including the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and 4 Army National Guard battalions;

Whereas the AH–64 Apache also serves with 18 allied and partner nations, strengthening global security and coalition interoperability and continuing to prove the indispensable role of the AH–64 Apache on the modern battlefield, including in counter-unmanned system efforts;

Whereas the AH–64 Apache continues to demonstrate versatility, resilience, and decisive battlefield capability in combat operations around the world; and

Whereas, on the 50th anniversary of the first flight of the AH–64 Apache, it is fitting to recognize the extraordinary innovation, dedication, and service that have defined the aircraft and the individuals who have designed, built, and maintained it: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and contributions of the AH–64 Apache attack helicopter to the national defense of the United States and its allies;

(2) honors the dedication, service, and sacrifice of the United States Army aviators, maintainers, and support personnel who operate and sustain the AH–64 Apache;

(3) acknowledges the enduring role of the AH–64 Apache in ensuring that the United States maintains unmatched close air support and precision strike capability; and

(4) respectfully directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

SENATE RESOLUTION 520—AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; which was placed on the executive calendar:

S. RES. 520

Resolved, That it shall be in order to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

(1) Calendar Number 166: Henry Mack III, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(2) Calendar Number 267: James Percival, of Florida, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

(3) Calendar Number 354: Pedro Allende, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

(4) Calendar Number 429: Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

(5) Calendar Number 430: Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

(6) Calendar Number 431: Amy Henninger, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

(7) Calendar Number 432: David Denton, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

(8) Calendar Number 452: Benjamin Hobbs, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(9) Calendar Number 453: Ronald Kurtz, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(10) Calendar Number 454: Jonathan Burke, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury.

(11) Calendar Number 455: Chris Pilkerton, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security.

(12) Calendar Number 456: David Courcelle, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years.

(13) Calendar Number 461: Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

(14) Calendar Number 462: Derek Theurer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

(15) Calendar Number 463: Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

(16) Calendar Number 465: Crystal Carey, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 4 years.

(17) Calendar Number 466: Rosario Palmieri, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(18) Calendar Number 467: James Murphy, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring December 16, 2027.

(19) Calendar Number 468: Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense.

(20) Calendar Number 469: Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(21) Calendar Number 470: James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

(22) Calendar Number 476: Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

(23) Calendar Number 477: Braden Boucek, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years.

(24) Calendar Number 478: Dominick Gerace II, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years.

(25) Calendar Number 479: Jerome Francis Gorgon, Jr., of Michigan, to be United States

Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of 4 years.

(26) Calendar Number 480: Bryan Stirling, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of 4 years.

(27) Calendar Number 481: Thomas Wheeler II, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years.

(28) Calendar Number 482: Thomas Albus, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of 4 years.

(29) Calendar Number 483: Adam Mildred, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years.

(30) Calendar Number 484: Harry Kumar, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

(31) Calendar Number 486: Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

(32) Calendar Number 488: Andrew Veprek, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

(33) Calendar Number 489: John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(34) Calendar Number 509: William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

(35) Calendar Number 510: Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(36) Calendar Number 511: Mitch Graves, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029.

(37) Calendar Number 512: Jeff Hagood, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term of expiring May 18, 2029.

(38) Calendar Number 513: Randall Jones, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2028.

(39) Calendar Number 514: Arthur Graham, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2026.

(40) Calendar Number 516: Douglas Troutman, of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(41) Calendar Number 517: Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor.

(42) Calendar Number 518: Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense.

(43) Calendar Number 520: Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

(44) Calendar Number 521: Stella Herrell, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

(45) Calendar Number 522: Peter Metzger, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

(46) Calendar Number 524: Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services.

(47) Calendar Number 525: Stephen F. Rickard, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

(48) Calendar Number 526: Elana S. Suttenberg, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

(49) Calendar Number 527: John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

(50) Calendar Number 528: Thomas Ferguson III, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years.

(51) Calendar Number 529: Robert Kadlec, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(52) Calendar Number 530: Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(53) Calendar Number 531: Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(54) Calendar Number 532: Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

(55) Calendar Number 533: David Beck, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

(56) Calendar Number 534: Charles Young III, of West Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army.

(57) Calendar Number 535: Michael Borders, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

(58) Calendar Number 536: William Lane III, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

(59) Calendar Number 537: John Noh, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(60) Calendar Number 538: James Caggy, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. (New Position)

(61) Calendar Number 539: Timothy Dill, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(62) Calendar Number 540: Michael Payne, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense.

(63) Calendar Number 541: Maurice Todd, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(64) Calendar Number 550: Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(65) Calendar Number 551: Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

(66) Calendar Number 552: Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

(67) Calendar Number 553: Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

(68) Calendar Number 554: Trent Morse, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2030.

(69) Calendar Number 555: Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring November 30, 2030. (Reappointment)

(70) Calendar Number 557: Francis Cassidy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(71) Calendar Number 558: Joseph Gormley, of Maryland, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association.

(72) Calendar Number 559: Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of 5 years.

(73) Calendar Number 561: 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.

(74) Calendar Number 562: Arjun Mody, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Commissioner Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2031.

(75) Calendar Number 563: Julie Callahan, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

(76) Calendar Number 564: Leo Brent Bozell III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Africa.

(77) Calendar Number 565: Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra.

(78) Calendar Number 566: Brent Christensen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

(79) Calendar Number 567: Morvared Namdarkhan, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs).

(80) Calendar Number 568: Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

(81) Calendar Number 569: John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture.

(82) Calendar Number 570: Andrew Duva, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

(83) Calendar Number 575: Erin Creegan, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of 4 years.

(84) Calendar Number 576: Ryan Anthony Kriegshauser, of Kansas, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas for the term of 4 years.

(85) Calendar Number 577: James Kruger, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years.

(86) Calendar Number 578: Scott Leary, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years.

(87) Calendar Number 579: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(88) Calendar Number 580: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2029.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3954. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3954. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30,

2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter under the heading ''ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FOREST SERVICE'' under the heading ''FOREST SERVICE'' under the heading ''DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'' in title III of division C, insert ''until the briefing requirements described in the paragraph entitled 'Wildland Fire Consolidation' in the report accompanying this Act are satisfied'' before the period at the end.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: George L. Apodaca of Virginia.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 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 Tuesday, December 2; 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 the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Freeman nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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 7:01 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAMES BISHOP, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE SANDRA J. HAIRSTON.

THE JUDICIARY

MEGAN BLAIR BENTON, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE M. DOUGLAS HARPOOL, RETIRING.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL DE BONO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE HEIDI M. PASICHOW, RETIRED.

BRIAN CHARLES LEA, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, VICE JOHN THOMAS FOWLKES, JR., RETIRED.

JUSTIN R. OLSON, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA, VICE JANE E. MAGNUS–STINSON, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

GEORGE A. MESIAS

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

JAROD M. ROSS
ANDREW R. YOUNKLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

JONATHAN B. BERNHARDT
JAMES R. COLLINS
BRIAN W. DUDLEY
JOHN C. ELKINS
NICHOLAS E. FRIEDEN
FAITH L. GAMBOA
PATRICK S. HANLEY
LORALEIGH A. HILD
STEVEN C. MANNION
AUSTIN D. SHUTT
RYAN S. TOWNSEND

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 captain

MICHAEL ADAMS
WILLIAM C. ALBRIGHT
NICHOLAS M. ANDERSON
STEVEN J. BALDOVSKY
JEFFREY C. BARNUM
ROGER B. BARR
NICHOLAS A. BARROW
WILLIAM W. BELCHER
NATALIA M. BEST
SAMUEL A. BLASE
STEPHEN BOR
MATTHEW P. BRINKLEY
MARK H. BROWN
JESSICA J. BURRELL
REY CASTILLO
JOEL C. COITO
THOMAS S. CROWLEY
KRISTEN A. CURRAN
CAREN C. DAMON
HOLLY J. DEAL
ANTHONY M. DESTEFANO
JOSHUA M. DIPIETRO
ADAM J. DISQUE
MEGAN I. DREWNIAK
MICHAEL P. FELTOVIC
MICHELLE FERGUSON
BRIAN M. FINN
PHILIP J. GRANATI
GEORGE F. HALL
JARED A. HARLOW
JONATHAN R. HARRIS
ANNA M. HART
JOSEPH H. HART
TODD E. HARTFIEL
RYAN D. HAWN
KELLY I. HIGGINS
JEFFREY S. HOLM
ELIZABETH A. HUTTON
NOEL H. JOHNSON
MATTHEW V. KEMPE
DANIEL P. KILCULLEN
AMY M. LOCKWOOD
JUSTIN M. MATEJKA
JACOB T. MCMILLAN
DANIEL J. MCQUATE
DAVID A. MIDDLETON
STEPHEN MIROS
KIRA M. MOODY
ELLEN M. MOTOI
SEAN M. MURRAY
GINNY R. NADOLNY
ERICK M. NEUSSL
ELIZABETH J. NEWTON
WAYNE T. ODONNELL
JEFFREY K. PADILLA
TREVOR E. PARRA
KRYSTYN E. PECORA
JONATHAN C. PERRY
KRYSIA V. POHL
DAVID W. RATNER
CORY A. RIESTERER
CHRISTOPHER C. ROSEN
MICHAEL T. ROSS
KYLE T. RUSSELL
JOSEPH R. SEMKE
NICHOLAS C. SENIUK
GREGORY S. SICKELS
JARED I. SILVERMAN
RICHARD S. SLOCUM
JUSTIN C. SMITH
CHARLES B. STANLEY
BRENDAN SULLIVAN
COLLEEN A. SYMANSKY
NICOLE M. TESONIERO
BRYAN D. TILEY
JONATHAN T. TILLMAN
TRACEY I. TORBA
JESSICA A. TRUJILLO
JUSTIN O. VANDENHEUVEL
OSVALDO E. VERA
JONATHAN I. WELCH
JUDSON B. WHEELER
DEWEY W. WORKER

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDNA VERNETTE O. CARRANZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edna Vernette Odell Carranza, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, educator, and health care leader whose steadfast service strengthened the Laredo community for more than half a century.

Born on October 17, 1944, in Austin, Texas, Vernette dedicated her life to caring for others. She served as a school nurse at Nye Elementary, later becoming the Director of Nursing at Laredo Community College, where she helped guide and mentor a generation of future medical professionals.

She went on to serve as President of Texas Health Staffing, providing compassionate home-health care to families across South Texas.

Vernette's greatest joy was her family. She was a devoted wife to Dr. Henry Santos Carranza, and together they built a life of faith, service, and commitment to their community.

She was a loving mother, grandmother, and matriarch whose kindness, patience, and steady presence left an enduring imprint on all who knew her.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Vernette was known for her humility, warmth, and willingness to help anyone in need.

She lived her life guided by compassion and integrity, touching countless lives through both her vocation and her example.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Vernette O. Carranza, a woman whose legacy of service, love, and leadership will continue to inspire the Laredo community for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING MIKE OLTMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT WITH THE WOODFORD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mike Oltman for more than 40 years of public service with the Woodford County Emergency Management Agency. Throughout his career, Mike has demonstrated unwavering commitment, technical expertise, and a deep devotion to protecting and serving his community.

Mr. Oltman began his service as a senior at Roanoke Benson High School when the agency was known as the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency. Throughout his career, he has held key roles in emergency preparedness and response, including serving as Deputy Director, chief storm spotter, and a member of the damage assessment team. In these pivotal positions, he worked closely with the IEMA and FEMA to map disaster areas and support response operations that benefited the county, first responders, and residents.

His extensive experience in emergency operations uniquely equipped him to guide the county through major crises, including his leadership during the activation of the Emergency Operations Center in the COVID pandemic. This expertise made him an essential leader at the county and state levels, where he successfully coordinated emergency procedures and supported critical public safety decisions during one of Woodford County's most challenging periods.

Throughout his service, Mr. Oltman has dedicated himself to strengthening emergency response capabilities and supporting those around him. As a driver and Emergency Medical Responder with the Roanoke ambulance service and as a staff member with the Salvation Army, he has extended his commitment far beyond EMA. His dedication and leadership were further recognized in 2017 when he received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association, leaving a lasting impact on the agency and the community he has faithfully served.

Woodford County is fortunate to have a volunteer whose service, professionalism, and passion for public safety have spanned more than four decades. Mike's commitment to his community is truly inspiring, and his retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable career devoted to serving others. I am honored to recognize him for his extraordinary service and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement. I wish Mike and his loved ones the very best in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELECTIONS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices, like other jurisdictions. This bill would remove a limitation on D.C. that is not only inconsistent with the purpose of the D.C. Home Rule Act, which is to grant D.C. self-government, but is also harmful.

In 2012, I got legislation enacted that gave the D.C. Board of Elections (Board) more flexibility to set the date of special elections for local offices. Although I sought complete authority for D.C. to set the date of special elections, the 2012 law did not include this home-rule principle.

The Home Rule Act originally required the Board to hold special elections on the first Tuesday occurring more than 114 days after a vacancy and allowed the Board to schedule special elections on the same day as the next general election if that election occurred within 60 days from when a special election would otherwise have been held. This inflexibility led to special elections being held on religious holidays and forced D.C. to hold a special election separate from an upcoming general election, costing D.C. hundreds of thousands of dollars. The 2012 law requires the Board to hold a special election on a Tuesday occurring between 70 and 174 days after a vacancy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MAYOR GEOFFREY THOMAS FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES OF DEDICATION TO THE CITY OF MONROE

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Geoffrey Thomas for the eighteen years he has devoted to the City of Monroe. Mayor Thomas began his public service on the city council in 2004 and has served as mayor since 2014. Over the years, he has guided Monroe with steady leadership and a clear commitment to the community's vision through Imagine Monroe, a plan focused on safety, inclusion, and opportunity for every resident.

Beyond his professional experience in local government and the private sector, Mayor Thomas has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to service. He has contributed as a planning commissioner in Olympia and Monroe, a scout leader, firefighter, lacrosse coach, homeowners' association president, and church director. Mayor Thomas and his wife of 32 years, Laura, have lived in Monroe since 2000 and raised their two sons in the community he has worked tirelessly to strengthen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Mayor Thomas for his remarkable service. His dedication has strengthened Monroe, and his legacy of leadership and community engagement will continue to inspire for years to come. I wish him the very best as he begins the next chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regret that I was unable to vote on Friday, November 21, 2025. Had I been able

to vote, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 305, H. Con. Res. 58.

RECOGNIZING JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN JONATHAN D. HOLMES

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jonathan D. Holmes, Chairman of the Jackson Township Board of Supervisors, for his many years of service to Jackson Township, York County, Pennsylvania.

Jon has dedicated his life to serving the great People of Jackson Township. He began in 1990 after being appointed as an alternate to the Township Zoning Hearing Board, where he served for almost two years. In 1992, he became a full member of the Zoning Hearing Board. In April 2003, he was appointed to the Township Board of Supervisors to fulfill another member's term, and became Chairman of the Board in 2005, where he has served for nearly 21 years.

Jon's career as a Civil Engineer has benefited the Township greatly. As a graduate of Penn State's Engineering program, he always understood the Township's infrastructure needs and made efforts to improve the quality of life for all residents. Under his leadership, he took the Township's Public Works Department to the next level. The Township implemented a roadway improvement program that funded proper paving versus tar and chip, thus improving the safety and durability of town roads. He also improved the equipment in the Department, giving town employees the necessary tools to keep things running.

Jon led the Board during the purchase of land titled for Little Creek Community Park, the Township's first park. Today, the park includes a nine-hole golf course, walking trails, playground equipment, and a pavilion; it's a heavily used community center and loved by residents and non-residents alike, yet another tangible example of how Jon's leadership impacted the communities in and outside of Jackson Township.

Jon's leadership was recognized not only by residents, but by other leaders in Pennsylvania. He was honored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2025, which speaks broadly to his leadership abilities and legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to recognize Chairman Jonathan Holmes for his selfless, tireless, and dedicated service to the Citizens of Jackson Township, York County, Pennsylvania. His leadership, professionalism, and fidelity will be greatly missed, and his service sets the standard for all to be judged.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. SCHLEY LOUIS ''BIG LOUIE'' PERRY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and remarkable service of a loving husband, dedicated father, doting grandfather, ingenious advocate for agriculture, and my longtime friend and steadfast supporter, Schley Louis ''Big Louie'' Perry, Jr., who passed away on November 26, 2025, at the age of 86. A memorial service to celebrate his remarkable life will be held on Monday, December 1, 2025, at the Baker Funeral Home in Moultrie, Georgia.

Born on March 10, 1939, on Pineywoods Farms in Colquitt County, to the union of Schley Louis Perry, Jr. and Lois Perry, Big Louie was the fifth generation to steward the family land. Pineywoods Farms, established in 1830, is a Centennial Farm and the oldest continually owned business in the county—a legacy Louie treasured, protected and preserved. Except for his college years, Louie lived and worked on the farm his entire life, and today his children and grandchildren continue that tradition as the sixth and seventh generations.

Louie's devotion to agriculture began early. He joined the Georgia Farm Bureau at 13, was an active FFA member, and earned an associate's degree in agriculture from ABAC in 1959 before studying Agribusiness at the University of Georgia. Returning to Pineywoods Farms in 1962, he modernized operations, expanded production, and partnered with UGA Extension on on-farm research. An early adopter of center-pivot and variable-rate irrigation, Louie transitioned to a nationally recognized Limousin seedstock operation and marketed cattle nationwide. His commitment to innovation and stewardship made him a leader among Georgia producers.

Big Louie believed deeply in service. To him, farming was more than a business—he considered it a duty to the land and the next generation, a sentiment that guided his life. His advocacy advanced producer-driven programs, policy, and markets; he counseled elected officials to include me, Former President Jimmy Carter, Former United States Senator Saxby Chambliss, Former United States Senator Johnny Isakson, and former Governors Roy Barnes and Sonny Perdue, hosted farm tours, and mentored emerging leaders. As I have often observed, ''Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth'' and Louie embodied that truth in every role he held.

His leadership spanned commodity boards and associations—including three decades on the Georgia Cotton Commission (Chair, 2000 to 2012), Cotton, Inc. (Chair, 2006), the National Cotton Council, Georgia and regional Limousin organizations, and more. He served 19 years on the Colquitt County Commission under the slogan ''Young, Able and Willing to Serve,'' and contributed to health care, education, and civic life through the Colquitt Regional Medical Center Foundation, the Pineland School Board, the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club and his church.

Honors reflecting his lifetime of service include the Georgia Cotton Commission Inaugural Trustees Award (2023), ABAC Family Legacy Award (2022), Centennial Family Farm Award (2020), and the J. Lamar Branch Leadership in Agriculture Award (2020).

Louie created the Pineywoods Farms Scholarship at UGA in 2007 and endowed scholarships at ABAC and UGA to support future agricultural leaders. He leaves a legacy of mentorship, innovation, and civic responsibility.

On a personal note, Big Louie was my friend and one of my biggest supporters. His support and loyalty were unquestioned, and he was always brutally honest in his advice and counsel to me. I will be forever grateful for the fidelity of his friendship. The great agricultural chemist George Washington Carver once said that ''How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong, because some day in your life you will have been all of these.'' Big Louie went far in life because he treated all people with dignity and respect, and he followed God's purpose for his life.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rebecca Clark Perry; children Laura Perry Johnson (Scott), Schley Louis Perry, III (Lisa), and Jonathan Johnson Perry (Jackie); and grandchildren Bill and Libba Johnson, Jack and Alex Perry, and Zach and Alli Perry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and I, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Schley Louis ''Big Louie'' Perry, Jr. He lived a life defined by duty to family, land, and community. His work fed our tables, his leadership strengthened the agriculture industry, and his service lifted our people. Moreover, we extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, loved ones and all those who grieve during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING MR. BRUCE HARTMANN

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and recognize Mr. Bruce Hartmann on his retirement.

Mr. Hartmann began his career with the Baltimore Sun in Maryland, where he spent his first six years in the newspaper business. He also held management positions at the Lowell Sun in Massachusetts and the Nashua Telegraph in New Hampshire. Bruce spent 26 years with the E.W. Scripps Company in several roles. He would become the youngest President and Publisher in Scripps history at the age of 36. While in this role, he oversaw the construction of the news headquarters for the Knoxville News Sentinel, founded the KNS Media Group, and launched numerous community-focused initiatives.

For the past eight years, Bruce has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Community Relations Officer for the University of Tennessee Medical Center. He has secured more than $60 million in various grants to expand the facilities and services that the UT Medical Center officers to our community. Bruce played a key role in establishing the Fentress County Emergency Department in 2023 and the Orthopedic Institute at Cherokee Farm in Jamestown, Tennessee, allowing UT Medical Center to expand into communities with health care needs.

It was in his role with E.W. Scripps that I met and became friends with Bruce. Bruce

has been an outstanding citizen and philanthropist. His infinite kindness and professionalism have been an inspiration to me as a member of Congress.

Bruce has been an active volunteer in our community as well. He has served as the Past Chair of the Tennessee Theatre Foundation and has been part of many great organizations, including the East Tennessee Foundation, the United Way Campaign, In Leadership Knoxville, the Knoxville Chamber Partnership, the Board of South College, and Tenn Path. Additionally, he has also served on the boards of Friends of the Smokies and the Bijou Theatre, and currently serves on the boards for South College, the UT School of Nursing, the East Tennessee Foundation, Cherokee Country Club, and Leadership Tennessee. He has left a legacy throughout East Tennessee, and his service to this community will be greatly missed.

Bruce has been married to his wife, Tami, for 44 years and has three children and eight grandchildren. Another testament to them both, their entire family remains close-knit, and all live within the same community.

I am honored to recognize Bruce for his many years of service and congratulate him on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE GARDEN CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA'S CENTENNIAL

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of The Garden Club of Alexandria, which was founded in 1925 and distinguished by a century of hands-on service, civic leadership, and lasting contributions to our community.

For one hundred years, The Garden Club of Alexandria has been a cornerstone of our community, dedicated to inspiring a love of gardening, advancing civic beautification and championing environmental stewardship.

Its members have transformed public spaces—such as the gardens at the Ramsay House Visitor Center and Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria—into vibrant, welcoming places for all to enjoy. They have educated generations on the importance of protecting our natural environment and worked diligently to preserve historic gardens across Virginia, including Mount Vernon and Green Spring in my district.

This centennial marks more than longevity; it also celebrates the enduring impact of The Garden Club of Alexandria. Through their tireless efforts and shared love of gardening, members have enriched our community in countless ways. Their legacy of service exemplifies the very best of civic involvement.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all past and present members of The Garden Club of Alexandria and look forward to their continued impact throughout our community.

HONORING MR. JAMES ANDERSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Mr. James Anderson of Goodman, Mississippi, a centenarian whose story is a testament to faith, humility, and resilience across generations.

Mr. Anderson was born on September 18, 1923, in rural Sallis, Mississippi, in Attala County, the seventh of eight children in a family of sharecroppers. His early life was rooted in the soil, working the fields with his family and attending school part-time when farming allowed. Like many of his generation, he grew up during a time of deep racial and economic adversity but endured with quiet strength and an abiding belief in community.

He later worked on farms, in factories, and as a bus driver, eventually retiring after decades of service. His career included driving for Dick's Drive-In and the local school system, and he served as a custodian and bus driver at Goodman-Pickens Elementary School, where he left a lasting impact on countless children. He retired from the school in 2005, continuing a life of labor, love, and service.

Mr. Anderson was drafted and completed both basic and combat training in the U.S. military during World War II. Although he was never deployed into combat and was discharged without explanation, he has always maintained a deep respect for those who serve, and he continues to honor veterans with dignity and gratitude.

A pillar in both his family and his faith, Mr. Anderson was ordained a deacon in 1947 and remained steadfast in that calling. He was married to the late Annie Lou Anderson for 73 years, until her passing in 1993. Today, at the remarkable age of 102, he still tends his yard, grows vegetables, and lives beside one of his daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Falls, who lovingly cares for him in Goodman, Mississippi.

Mr. Anderson's philosophy is simple yet profound: ''All I know is love one another and be good to each other.'' In those words, and in the quiet witness of his life, lies the essence of what it means to be a good neighbor, a faithful servant, and a great American.

Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. James Anderson, a living bridge between our Nation's past and future and a reminder that love, work, and faith remain the pillars of a meaningful life.

THE TRIUMPH OF LIFE

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

THE JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS 5786

The Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, an ancient people's peak spiritual drama of courageous contemplation and heartfelt contrition, are captured in the life and work of Rabbi Irving Greenberg, acclaimed modern Orthodox rabbi and author. His latest book, The Triumph of Life (A Narrative Theology of Judaism), is Greenberg's own triumphant accomplishment offering Jews and non-Jews alike an encompassing scholarly yet accessible work of theological art, bound to rank high as a pioneering beacon of light, learning and enlightenment in our postmodern new age with revolutionary promise as well as colossal dark threats to human life, the painstakingly garnered civilization and the very survival of all life on our planet Earth. Greenberg attributes the impetus to writing this inspirational guide—which aims to reassure readers from all persuasions that covenantal life of the spirit is worth laboring and fighting for—to his shaking 1961 experience in Israel while attending Tel Aviv University as a Fulbright scholar and encountering the enormity of the Holocaust for the first time.

Referring to the famous Adolf Eichmann trial of the notorious SS officer in Jerusalem, with profound impact on an entire mesmerized nation. I vividly recall as a teenager living then in Israel and myself son of Polish Holocaust survivors, the shock of the horrific events described by shaken witnesses. The author offers us a touching confessional of a crisis of faith of an Orthodox raised Jew, challenging his basic assumptions about God, covenant and life's meaning. ''My loving wife (Blu is a distinguished feminist Orthodox Jew and author) and family saved me from nihilism and despair by showing me the incredible tenacity and unspent power of embracing life. The emergent State of Israel suggested to me that the Divine was still operating in the world, and testified to the human capacity to take power for reestablishing life and reasserting its value.''

Referring to his book with its far-reaching conclusions of ushering in the hoped for messianic era which Greenberg testifies is within human reach in our postmodern era with its new opportunity for creative human unity within enriching diversity, upholding universal human dignity and equality via restoring God's violated image, ''I hope it will appeal to non-Jewish readers as well, especially to Christians, partners in the struggle to overcome millennia of hostility and delegitimization. People of all religions must work together to repair the world politically, economically, and culturally, and turn the Earth into the paradise all humans deserve.'' The admirable Orthodox rabbi who found his way back to faith and his own particular belief structure following a most challenging crisis impacted by the shattering Holocaust, was enabled to reach beyond the confines of his own faith's traditions and give credit where it's due.

His own Jewish people historically have not lacked fracturing divisions among opposing ideologies not allowing for urgently required unity at times of grave danger, such as during the Holocaust. The prosecution of the Gaza War following Hamas's barbarism both united and divided Israelis with a backlash of antisemitism in the United States and Europe. It is evident that events in Israel affect the Jewish Diaspora, even as the author emphasizes the debt of the latter to the Israeli partner. It is clear though that influential American Jewry is the glue to the essential relationship between Israel and the United States. Greenberg hails Israel's 1948 creation as reassuring that God's covenant with the Jewish people yet continues in spite of the Holocaust's heavy toll. The world's only Jewish state's robust democracy with multiple accomplishments benefiting humanity has served as a source of pride and unity to world Jewry even though

challenges to Israel's existence and character persist from within and without. May life's universal blessing yet triumph!

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CLIFTON LEWIS

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Clifton Lewis, a beloved constituent from Bartow, Florida, who passed away on Sunday at the age of 82. Clifton was a veteran, a community leader, a tireless advocate for historic preservation and the driving force behind one of Florida's most important cultural landmarks, the L.B. Brown House.

Clifton devoted more than two decades of his life to preserving and sharing the extraordinary story of Lawrence B. Brown, a man born into slavery who rose to become a respected builder, businessman and community leader in Bartow. When the Victorian home Brown constructed faced demolition in the late 1990's, Clifton stepped forward. He rallied neighbors, secured state support and carefully led the restoration of the structure. Thanks to his conviction and leadership, the L.B. Brown House stands today as one of the only known surviving homes in Florida built by a formerly enslaved person.

But Clifton did far more than save a building, he revived a legacy. He founded and directed the L.B. Brown Heritage Festival, which celebrated its twenty-fourth year in 2025 and now attracts thousands of visitors. Through historical presentations, reenactments, music, food and fellowship, Clifton brought people together to honor the resilience, faith and contributions of African Americans in Polk County and across our Nation.

His work gained national recognition. The Smithsonian displayed artifacts from the site, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., includes an exhibit dedicated to Brown and the Bartow home, a testament to Clifton's perseverance in telling this remarkable American story.

Clifton also served his country honorably in the United States Army and broke barriers as the first Black telephone technician in Washington, D.C. Throughout his life, he remained a man of deep faith, boundless positivity and unwavering commitment to his community. Even as he battled serious health challenges, he continued welcoming visitors to the museum, guiding tours and encouraging others to carry the work forward.

His friends and fellow historians remember him as gracious, diplomatic and always focused on preserving not just facts, but the humanity and soul of a community. His leadership inspired a generation of local preservationists, and his legacy will live on through the museum, the festival and the many lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, Clifton Lewis was a remarkable Floridian and a guardian of our shared history. On behalf of Florida's 18th District, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Vendarae, his family, his friends and all who continue the mission he championed. May his memory be a blessing and may his life's work continue to educate and inspire for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING CALVIN W. SCHMIDT ON HIS SERVICE TO JOHNSON & JOHNSON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Calvin W. Schmidt for his years of service to Johnson & Johnson. Calvin is currently the Sr. Vice President and Worldwide Leader, Government Affairs & Policy, and is retiring after twenty years with the company.

During his tenure, Calvin exemplified the highest standards of advocacy before Congress and engaged the American people on many critical public health and public policy matters. I have had the opportunity to work with Calvin and collaborate with J&J on those pressing issues as well as the work of patient advocates and associations dedicated to the better health of the Nation. Calvin has also been a fierce advocate for Johnson & Johnson's business in Pennsylvania and the thousands of innovators and healthcare professionals that call J&J home.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University, Calvin spent fifteen years at Mars, Inc. His experience at J&J spans many roles including: U.S. President, Internal Medicine; President, Wellness & Prevention Inc., where he was the founding leader of Johnson & Johnson's health and wellness business; and Worldwide Vice President, Human Resources, where he supported the J&J Consumer Family of Companies, Enterprise Supply Chain, Information Technology, and the Law Department. His commitment to purpose-driven leadership, rooted in his commitment to J&J's Credo, has greatly enriched Johnson & Johnson.

His commitment to improving healthcare goes beyond his day-to-day work. Calvin serves on the Foundation Board of Overseers for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, represents Johnson & Johnson on the Healthcare Leadership Council as the associations 2024 to 2025 Chairman of the Board and sits on the Foreign Policy Association Board of Directors, and is a member of the Board of Directors for Mars, Inc.

I hope that he and his wife Christa, and their children Gavin, Caidyn and Alsten, will have many wonderful years ahead of them traveling the world and enjoying a well-earned and much-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING STATE SENATOR ANN REST FOR HER SERVICE TO MINNESOTA

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor State Senator Ann Rest for her decades of dedicated service in the Minnesota Legislature and her deep commitment to improving the lives of all Minnesotans.

For over 40 years, my friend and former colleague Ann Rest has served with distinction. First elected to the Minnesota House in 1984, she served eight terms before being elected to the Minnesota Senate, where I had the privilege of serving alongside her.

During her Senate tenure, she held key leadership roles, including Assistant Majority Leader and President Pro Tempore. In 2023, she made history as the first and only Minnesota legislator to chair the Tax Committee in both chambers.

Her career is marked by legislative achievements that strengthened Minnesota's economy and communities. She championed fairer tax policy, supported investments in public education, and worked to make government more transparent and accountable. Most notably, she played a central role in a $3 billion tax bill in 2023 delivering relief to families, seniors, and small businesses across our state. In 2025, she was honored as a ''Legislator of Distinction'' by the league of Minnesota Cities for her effectiveness and dedication.

Senator Rest is a hardworking, resilient person and an accomplished legislator. She is also a diehard Twins fan and a devoted grandmother. Her legacy is felt not only in her legislative achievements, but also in her care for her constituents. On behalf of countless Minnesotans, I offer Senator Rest my sincere gratitude for her decades of service to our great state. I wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement and a winning season for the Twins next year.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR BRIAN HOLTZCLAW FOR TWELVE YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN MILL CREEK

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Brian Holtzclaw for his twelve years of dedicated service to the City of Mill Creek. Mayor Holtzclaw was elected to the city council in 2013, served as Mayor Pro Tempore, and has led the city as mayor since 2020. During his tenure, he has championed thoughtful city planning and growth, helping Mill Creek expand economic opportunities and enhance tourism while preserving the city's character.

Mayor Holtzclaw has lived in Mill Creek since 2003 and is deeply engaged in the community he serves. He helped advance the South Town Center Project and the DRCC properties, which include four city-owned parcels the city is exploring for a new community campus. He is also an avid cyclist, a hobby he pursues with energy and enthusiasm. His collaborative approach within Snohomish County has strengthened regional partnerships while keeping Mill Creek's unique identity intact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mayor Holtzclaw for his leadership and service. He has left a lasting mark on Mill Creek, and I wish him well as he begins the next chapter of his life.

CONGRATULATING THE MANOR FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Penn Manor Future Farmers of America chapter (Manor FFA), affiliated with Penn Manor High School in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on their accomplishments at the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo.

Prior to the national convention, the Manor FFA was named as a national finalist for the 2025 Premier Chapter Award in the Building Communities category for their Mini-THON Line Dance activity. They were also recognized as a 3-star chapter, which is the highest ranking an FFA chapter can receive. Three of their students—Vita Failla, Molly Gehr, and Carly Railing—also received American FFA Degrees, the highest honor bestowed to FFA members.

The Manor FFA excelled during the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo, which was held from October 24, 2025 to November 1, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana. During the Poultry Evaluation event, Manor FFA students evaluated live poultry, graded carcasses and eggs, and completed a written exam. The Manor FFA team won a gold ranking, and the students—Anna Frey, Jozie Gilger, Leanna Kneisley, and Misty Railing—each earned silver.

The Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management event saw students assess pedigrees, herd records, and live dairy cattle, and presented oral justifications for their decisions. The Manor FFA team earned an overall silver ranking. Katie Charles received a gold ranking, Jayden Buck and Grace Shaielby received silver, and Lillian Walborn received bronze.

The Manor FFA entered the 98th National Convention FFA with accolades and left with even more. Through their commitment to agriculture and their stellar work ethic, these students exemplify the character of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. I congratulate the Manor FFA chapter on their accomplishments, and I wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING JIM BROWN

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary public servant, distinguished leader, and dear friend from Rochester, New York, Jim Brown, who is retiring after more than three decades of dedicated service to the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Jim Brown began his tenure at the Convention Center on April 4, 1994, and over the course of 30 years, built a career defined by professionalism, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the success of Rochester's premier event facility. He held several key positions, including Event Manager, Director of Operations, Building Manager, and Facility Manager, before being appointed Executive Director on October 8, 2014. In every role, Jim led with humility and purpose, ensuring that the Convention Center served as a welcoming, world-class venue for both residents and visitors.

Under his leadership, the Floreano Convention Center strengthened its reputation as a hub for regional and national gatherings, driving economic development and fostering community engagement. Jim's deep understanding of operations, combined with his steady guidance and collaborative spirit, helped modernize the facility and expand its impact across the Greater Rochester region. His ready smile and warm personality have been the hallmark of his tenure, and his decades of service reflect not only professional excellence but also a genuine commitment to the people and institutions that make Rochester thrive.

Across every stage of his career, Jim Brown has exemplified dedication, leadership, and service. His contributions have enriched Rochester's cultural and economic landscape, strengthened professional standards in the venue management field, and supported countless colleagues, businesses, and community partners.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and deep appreciation that I recognize Jim Brown for his remarkable career and his enduring contributions to the Rochester community. His legacy of service will continue to benefit our region for years to come, and his leadership will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO SHARON RANALS

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exemplary public servant who has dedicated her career to serving the residents of my hometown of South San Francisco, California. After nearly five decades in public service our City Manager, Sharon Ranals, is retiring.

Sharon graduated from Reed College and later earned a Master's in Public Administration from San Francisco State University, embarking on a lifelong career in municipal government that commenced in Colorado Springs and continued with steady promotions in South San Francisco, culminating with her appointment as City Manager in 2023. Sharon began her career with the City of South San Francisco in 1980 as a part-time employee in the Parks and Recreation Department. She became a full-time staff member in 1984 and steadily advanced through roles of increasing responsibility. Her experience rising through the organization provided valuable insight into the challenges of local government and the importance of collaboration to achieve results. Over the years, she has hired and promoted dozens of talented City staff and is especially proud of leading high-functioning teams with low turnover, as well as fostering the professional growth and success of her colleagues. Her approach of "take the blame and give the credit" has been one of the keys to her success.

Throughout her tenure, Sharon championed the work of South San Francisco's dedicated City teams and their many accomplishments. Under their leadership, the city has grown as a global hub for biotechnology, accelerated the construction of new housing, and maintained a high standard for public safety and emergency response. South San Francisco has continued to expand access to responsive, technology-driven police services, collaborative library and recreation programming, and reliable public works and infrastructure maintenance—the award-winning Water Quality Control Plant and strong internal operations reflect a commitment to service excellence. Central to these efforts has been a focus on sustainability and on creating a thriving environment for both residents and businesses.

Sharon played a key role in the planning, development, and improvement of many public buildings and spaces throughout the city. Her work helped bring to life the Municipal Services Building, Alice Peña Bulos Recreation Center and Preschool, Terrabay Gymnasium and Recreation Center, Roberta Teglia Senior Center, Community Learning Center, and after-school facilities on South San Francisco Unified School District campuses. At Orange Memorial Park, she supported projects including the picnic shelter, sculpture garden, Joseph Fernekes Recreation Center, new sports fields, and the award-winning water capture system. She was instrumental in securing funding and advancing the vision for the co-located Library with the Parks and Recreation Center and the new Aquatics Center.

Her commitment to public spaces also extends to parks and open space. She contributed to the renovation of Sellick and Westborough Parks, the creation of Avalon and Alta Loma Parks, the expansion of Sign Hill's open space, and improvements at Oyster Point, Civic Campus Park, and neighborhood playgrounds. She led successful grant efforts for projects like Centennial Way and oversaw the development of new amenities along the trail, a preschool in Westborough, and a new park on Linden Avenue.

Beyond infrastructure, Sharon supported the community through special events such as Day in the Park, the establishment of the City's public art program, and advocacy for expanded childcare and senior services.

She has built strong partnerships with outside agencies, the South San Francisco Unified School District, and local organizations. During the COVID–19 pandemic, she and a core team remained on-site at City Hall to ensure continuity of operations and support for both staff and the public. She also led the City's emergency coordination during major storms and flooding in 2022 to 2023.

Her contributions have been recognized by the California Association of Parks & Recreation Commissioners and Board Members with their Outstanding Professional Award, the California Parks and Recreation Society's Professional Merit Award, South San Francisco Historical Society's Victor John Feudale Award, and by the Institute for Local Government as a Local Government Champion—reflecting her professional excellence and community impact.

Throughout her tenure as City Manager, Sharon has exemplified a tireless work ethic, accessibility, innovation, community engagement, and sound stewardship of public resources—addressing pressing challenges including economic resilience, infrastructure renewal, affordable housing, climate adaptation,

public safety, equity, and more. Sharon was Leslie Knope of Parks and Recreation fame before there was a Leslie Knope. She exemplifies the true Leslie Knope philosophy: public service is working hard at work worth doing alongside people you love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues please join me in congratulating Sharon Ranals for an exemplary record of service to the City of South San Francisco, commending her for tireless dedication of time and talent, and wishing her all the best in the years ahead.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 3

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider 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), Yehuda Kaploun, of Florida, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador, and Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, all of the Department of State.
S–116

9:45 a.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to continue consideration of the nominations of Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years, and Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years, and other pending business.
SD–430

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.
SR–253

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lee Beaman, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
SD–562

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine making the health care system affordable.
SD–430

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
To hold hearings to examine the abduction of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation.
SD–138

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights
To hold hearings to examine impeachment, focusing on holding judges accountable.
SD–226

3 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine aging and the impact of community during the holidays.
SH–216

4 p.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine medication management in VA healthcare.
SR–418

DECEMBER 8

5:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar nominations.
S–216

DECEMBER 9

10:15 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine protecting children online against offenders.
SH–216

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the future of the U.S. organ procurement and transplantation network.
SD–430

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8409–8424

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3282–3293, and S. Res. 519–520. **Page S8420**

Appointments:

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: George L. Apodaca of Virginia. **Page S8424**

Bragdon Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina. **Pages S8416–17**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 624), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S8416**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, all post-cloture time be expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:30 a.m., on Tuesday, December 2, 2025; and that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination of Lindsey Ann Freeman, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, ripen following disposition of the nomination of David A. Bragdon; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Lindsey Ann Freeman, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m. **Page S8424**

Orso Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina. **Page S8417**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. **Page S8417**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S8417**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S8417**

Rodriguez Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina. **Page S8417**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina. **Page S8417**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S8417**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S8417**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Megan Blair Benton, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

Christopher Michael De Bono, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Brian Charles Lea, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

Justin R. Olson, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana.

Routine lists in the Army, and Coast Guard. Page S8424

Messages from the House: Page S8419

Measures Referred: Page S8419

Measures Held Over/Under Rule: Page S8419

Executive Communications: Page S8420

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S8420–22

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S8422–23

Additional Statements: Pages S8418–19

Amendments Submitted: Pages S8423–24

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—624) Page S8416

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:01 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8424.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 6329–6346; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 64; and H. Res. 917–918 were introduced. Pages H4965–66

Additional Cosponsors: Page H4967–68

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 916, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4312) to protect the name, image, and likeness rights of student athletes and to promote fair competition with respect to intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1005) to prohibit elementary and secondary schools from accepting funds from or entering into contracts with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1049) to ensure that parents are aware of foreign influence in their child's public school, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1069) to prohibit the availability of Federal education funds for elementary and secondary schools that receive direct or indirect support from the Government of the People's Republic of China; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2965) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure that the small business regulatory budget for a small business concern in a fiscal year is not greater than zero, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4305) to direct the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to establish a Red Tape Hotline to receive notifications of burdensome agency rules, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–391). Page H4965

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Foxx to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H4909

Recess: The House recessed at 12:21 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H4911

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act: H.R. 3174, amended, to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers; Pages H4912–13

SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act: H.R. 4491, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to implement certain recommendations relating to information technology modernization; Pages H4913–14

SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act: H.R. 4495, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs; Pages H4914–16

Office of Rural Affairs Enhancement Act: H.R. 4549, to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs of the Small Business Administration; Pages H4916–17

Investing in All of America Act of 2025: H.R. 2066, amended, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to exclude from the limit on leverage certain amounts invested in smaller enterprises located in rural or low-income areas and small businesses in critical technology areas; **Pages H4918–19**

Trafficking Survivors Relief Act: H.R. 4323, amended, to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking; **Pages H4919–23**

Count the Crimes to Cut Act: H.R. 2159, amended, to direct the Attorney General of the United States to submit to the Congress a report on Federal criminal offenses; **Pages H4923–26**

No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act: H.R. 176, amended, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens who carried out, participated in, planned, financed, supported, or otherwise facilitated the attacks against Israel; **Pages H4926–28**

Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Charter Amendments Act of 2025: S. 616, to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the Federal charter for the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association; **Pages H4928–29**

Give Kids a Chance Act of 2025: H.R. 1262, amended, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations; **Pages H4929–35**

Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act: H.R. 4313, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities, and to require an additional study and report on such flexibilities; **Pages H4935–37**

Claiming Age Clarity Act: H.R. 5284, amended, to require the Social Security Administration to make changes to the Social Security terminology used in the rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Administration; **Pages H4937–38**

Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act: H.R. 5345, amended, to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft; **Pages H4938–39**

Social Security Child Protection Act of 2025: H.R. 5348, amended, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas with none voting "nay" and one answering "present", Roll No. 306; **Pages H4939–40, H4954**

Fair and Accountable IRS Reviews Act: H.R. 5346, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform certain penalty and interest provisions; **Pages H4940–42**

Tax Court Improvement Act: H.R. 5349, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve services provided to taxpayers by the Internal Revenue Service by providing greater judicial review; **Pages H4942–44**

HUD Transparency Act of 2025: H.R. 225, amended, to require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to testify before the Congress annually; **Pages H4944–45**

No New Burma Funds Act: H.R. 4423, amended, to continue the pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 385 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 307; **Pages H4945–47, H4954–55**

Systemic Risk Authority Transparency Act: H.R. 3716, amended, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require reports on the use of the systemic risk authority applicable to winding up a failed insured depository institution; **Pages H4947–48**

Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act of 2025: H.R. 4429, amended, to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the definition of a qualifying investment, for purposes of the exemption from registration for venture capital fund advisers under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, to include an equity security issued by a qualifying portfolio company and to include an investment in another venture capital fund; **Pages H4948–50**

Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act of 2025: H.R. 4431, amended, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 with respect to the definition of qualifying venture capital funds; and **Pages H4950–52**

Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act: H.R. 4430, amended, to lower the aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity necessary for an issuer to qualify as a well-known seasoned issuer. **Pages H4952–53**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4954 and H4954–55.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SCORE ACT; COMBATING THE LIES OF AUTHORITARIANS IN SCHOOL SYSTEMS ACT; TRANSPARENCY IN REPORTING OF ADVERSARIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION ACT; PROTECT OUR KIDS ACT; REGULATORY REDUCTION ACT OF 2025; DUMP RED TAPE ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4312, the "SCORE Act"; H.R. 1005, the "Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems Act"; H.R. 1049, the "Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act"; H.R. 1069, the "PROTECT Our Kids Act"; H.R. 2965, the "Regulatory Reduction Act of 2025"; and H.R. 4305, the "DUMP Red Tape Act". The Committee granted, by a record vote of 7–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4312, the "SCORE Act", H.R. 1005, the "Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems Act", H.R. 1049, the "Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act", H.R. 1069, the "PROTECT Our Kids Act", H.R. 2965, the "Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act of 2025", and H.R. 4305, the "DUMP Red Tape Act". The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4312, the "SCORE Act", under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that, in lieu of the amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committees on Education and Workforce and Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–14 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 1005, the "Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems Act", H.R. 1049, the "Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act", and H.R. 1069, the "PROTECT Our Kids Act", under closed rules. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of each such bill. The rule provides that the respective amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in each such bill shall be considered as adopted and each such bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in each such bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate on each such bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides each such bill one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 2965, the "Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act of 2025", under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Small Business now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 4305, the "DUMP Red Tape Act", under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Small Business now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Van Duyne, Chairman Walberg, and Representatives Bonamici, Bilirakis, Pallone, Bonamici, Velázquez, Baumgartner, and Trahan.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D1151)*

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. Signed on November 19, 2025. (Public Law 119–38)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on naval aviation mishaps, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media, to hold hearings to examine America's communications networks, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 90, to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to finalize and implement certain travel management plans in the State of Utah, S. 91, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 140, to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, S. 451, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to eliminate an administrative fee, S. 764, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 790, to redesignate the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, as the ''Barbara L. Cubin National Historic Trails Interpretive Center'', S. 888, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, S. 902, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a standard for the response time to wildfire incidents, S. 945, to amend the Smith River National Recreation Area Act to include certain additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain wild rivers in the State of Oregon, S. 1005, to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, S. 1175, to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, S. 1195, to promote conservation, improve public land management, and provide for sensible development in Pershing County, Nevada, S. 1228, to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to modify the cost-sharing requirement for conservation projects carried out by a qualified youth or conservation corps, S. 1319, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 1341, to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, S. 1321, to amend the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 to provide for the transfer of the Moab site to Grand County, Utah, S. 1363, to provide for greater cooperation and coordination between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico relating to historical or traditional uses of certain land grant-mercedes on Federal public land, S. 1468, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Incorporated, is recognized as a Village Corporation under that Act, S. 1476, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, S. 1737, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1860, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Brian Head Town, Utah, certain National Forest System land, S. 2016, to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, S. 2033, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on existing programs, rules, and authorities that enable or inhibit wildfire mitigation across land ownership boundaries on Federal and non-Federal land, S. 2042, to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System, S. 2262, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to clarify the nature of public investment for purposes of certain rulemaking, and S. 2273, to amend the Act of July 10, 1890, to modify certain provisions relating to the disposal of public land in the State of Wyoming for educational purposes, 3 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine China's challenge to American AI leadership, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled ''Pension Predators: Stopping Class Action Abuse Against Workers' Retirement'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Legislative Solutions to Protect Children and Teens Online'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''Securing America's Energy Infrastructure: Addressing Cyber and Physical Threats to the Grid'', 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of Prudential Regulators'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity, hearing entitled ''Examining Primary Dealers and Their Balance Sheet Constraints'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Europe Subcommittee, hearing entitled ''Flashpoint: A Path Toward Stability in the Western Balkans'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 4671, the "Ensuring Casualty Assistance for our Firefighters Act"; H.R. 4931, the "National Park System Long-Term Lease Investment Act"; H.R. 5063, the "Safe Beaches, Safe Swimmers Act"; H.R. 5103, the "Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act"; and H.R. 5254, the "Gateway Partnership Act of 2025", 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, December 2, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 151, the "Equal Representation Act"; H.R. 5750, the "Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2025"; H.R. 5749, the "Official Time Reporting Act"; H.R. 5810, the "Federal Supervisor Education Act of 2025"; legislation on the "Federal Relocation Payment Improvement Act"; legislation on the "Information Quality Assurance Act of 2025"; H.R. 3766, to prohibit the District of Columbia from requiring tribunals in court or administrative proceedings in the District of Columbia to defer to the Mayor of the District of Columbia's interpretation of statutes and regulations, and for other purposes; H.R. 5457, the "Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act"; H.R. 5235, the "Skills-Based Federal Contracting Act"; H.R. 5578, the "Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act of 2025"; H.R. 143, the "Unauthorized Spending Accountability Act"; H.R. 5831, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 South Main Street in Waupaca, Wisconsin, as the "Master Sergeant Melvin O. Handrich Post Office Building"; H.R. 5773, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 1300 East Northwest Highway in Palatine, Illinois, as the "Bernie Bluestein Post Office Building"; H.R. 5717, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 Frelinghuysen Avenue in Newark, New Jersey, as the "Mildred Joyce Coleman Crump Post Office Building"; H.R. 5058, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46164 Westlake Drive in Sterling, Virginia, as the "Firefighter Trevor Brown Post Office Building"; H.R. 4707, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1019 Avenue H in Fort Madison, Iowa, as the "Martin L. Graber Post Office"; H.R. 4635, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 890 East 152nd Street in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "Technical Sergeant Alma Gladys Minter Post Office Building"; H.R. 4089, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3401 12th Street Northeast in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "Chuck Brown Post Office"; H.R. 3393, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12208 North 19th Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona, as the "Officer Zane T. Coolidge Post Office"; H.R. 2466, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5225 Harrison Avenue in Rockford, Illinois, as the "Jay P. Larson Post Office Building"; H.R. 2175, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 South Patterson Avenue in Santa Barbara, California, as the "Brigadier General Frederick R. Lopez Post Office Building"; H.R. 1706, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1200 William Street, Room 200, in Buffalo, New York, as the "William J. Donovan Post Office Building"; H.R. 1461, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 521 Thorn Street in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, as the "Mary Elizabeth 'Bettie' Cole Post Office Building"; H.R. 1431, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2407 State Route 71, Suite 1, in Spring Lake, New Jersey, as the "James J. Howard Post Office"; legislation on designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3570 Olney Laytonsville Road in Olney, Maryland, as the "Edward L. Ramsey Olney Post Office Building"; and H.R. 6317, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12109 New Kent Highway in New Kent, Virginia, as the "Patricia Paige Post Office", 10 a.m., HVC–210 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Main Street Under Attack: The Cost of Crime on Small Businesses", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled "Strengthening the Workforce of Veterans in America", 10:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled "Lives at Stake: Holding Tax-Exempt Organ Procurement Organizations Accountable", 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 2 through December 5, 2025

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11:30 a.m.), Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Following disposition of the nomination of David A. Bragdon, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lindsey Ann Freeman, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: December 3, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine the abduction of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation, 2 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: December 2, to receive a closed briefing on naval aviation mishaps, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: December 2, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media, to hold hearings to examine America's communications networks, 10 a.m., SR–253.

December 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: December 2, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 90, to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to finalize and implement certain travel management plans in the State of Utah, S. 91, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 140, to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, S. 451, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to eliminate an administrative fee, S. 764, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 790, to redesignate the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, as the ''Barbara L. Cubin National Historic Trails Interpretive Center'', S. 888, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, S. 902, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a standard for the response time to wildfire incidents, S. 945, to amend the Smith River National Recreation Area Act to include certain additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain wild rivers in the State of Oregon, S. 1005, to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, S. 1175, to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, S. 1195, to promote conservation, improve public land management, and provide for sensible development in Pershing County, Nevada, S. 1228, to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to modify the cost-sharing requirement for conservation projects carried out by a qualified youth or conservation corps, S. 1319, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 1341, to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, S. 1321, to amend the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 to provide for the transfer of the Moab site to Grand County, Utah, S. 1363, to provide for greater cooperation and coordination between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico relating to historical or traditional uses of certain land grant-mercedes on Federal public land, S. 1468, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Incorporated, is recognized as a Village Corporation under that Act, S. 1476, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, S. 1737, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1860, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Brian Head Town, Utah, certain National Forest System land, S. 2016, to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, S. 2033, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on existing programs, rules, and authorities that enable or inhibit wildfire mitigation across land ownership boundaries on Federal and non-Federal land, S. 2042, to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System, S. 2262, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to clarify the nature of public investment for purposes of certain rulemaking, and S. 2273, to amend the Act of July 10, 1890, to modify certain provisions relating to the disposal of public land in the State of Wyoming for educational purposes, 3 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: December 3, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lee Beaman, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Foreign Relations: December 2, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine China's challenge to American AI leadership, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

December 3, Full Committee, business meeting to consider 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), Yehuda Kaploun, of Florida, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador, and Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, all of the Department of State, 9:30 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: December 3, business meeting to continue consideration of the nominations of Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years, and Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years, and other pending business, 9:45 a.m., SD–430.

December 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine making the health care system affordable, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: December 3, Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights, to hold hearings to examine impeachment, focusing on holding judges accountable, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: December 3, to hold hearings to examine medication management in VA healthcare, 4 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: December 2, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH–219.

December 3, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: December 3, to hold hearings to examine aging and the impact of community during the holidays, 3 p.m., SH–216.

House Committees

Committee on the Budget, December 3, Subcommittee on the Budget, hearing entitled ''Member Day Hearing'', 10:15 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Workforce, December 3, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled ''Public Funds, Private Politics: Examining Bias in the Truman Scholarship Program'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

December 3, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled ''Safeguarding Student Privacy and Parental Rights: A Review of FERPA and PPRA'', 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

December 4, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''In Their Corner: Creating More Opportunities for American Boxers'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, December 3, Full Committee, 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 Act''; H.R. 1731, the ''Standard FEES Act''; H.R. 6046, the ''Broadband and Telecommunications RAIL Act''; H.R. 2289, the ''American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025''; 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 Enhancement and Readiness Act of 2025'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, December 3, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Building Capacity: Reducing Government Roadblocks to Housing Supply'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 3, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5490, to establish an interagency Task Force to dismantle and shut down transnational criminal syndicates perpetuating mass online scam operations against Americans; H.R. 6297, to require the Department of State to provide briefings on antisemitism in Europe; H.R. 4291, to require a review of whether individuals or entities subject to the imposition of certain sanctions through inclusion on certain sanctions lists should also be subject to the imposition of other sanctions and included on other sanctions lists; H.R. 1848, to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Houthis, and for other purposes; legislation on reauthorizing the Global Child Thrive Act of 2020, and for other purposes; H.R. 5021, to require a sports diplomacy strategy to strategically leverage the major sporting events being hosted in the United States in the next decade to enhance United States soft power, diplomatic relationships, and global leadership, and for other purposes; H.R. 4413, to provide for nonapplicability of a policy of denial for exports, re-exports, or transfers of defense articles and defense services destined for or originating in the Republic of Cyprus; H.R. 6230, to designate certain individuals as specially designated global terrorists; H.R. 4397, to require the President to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, to direct the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress regarding such designation, and for other purposes; and legislation on authorizing the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons or vessels that engage in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, December 3, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''When Badges Become Targets: How Anti-Law Enforcement Rhetoric Fuels Violence Against Officers'', 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, December 3, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, hearing entitled ''Balancing the Federal Budget: Examining Proposals for a Balanced Budget Amendment'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, December 3, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing entitled ''Sea Lion Predation in the Pacific Northwest'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

December 3, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Unleashing American Energy Dominance and Exploring New Frontiers'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, December 3, Full Committee, business meeting on approval of updated Subcommittee Rosters; and approval of revised leadership of the Subcommittee on Aviation, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

December 3, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''America Builds: The State of the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Industry'', 10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, December 3, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 6047, the ''Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2025''; and H.R. 4077, the ''GUARD Veterans' Health Care Act'', 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

December 4, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''119th Congress Member Day'', 9:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, December 4, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled ''Strategic Trajectories: Assessing China's Space Rise and the Risks to U.S. Leadership'', 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, December 3, Subcommittee on Tax, hearing entitled ''Promoting Global Competitiveness for American Workers and Businesses'', 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

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 November 30, 2025

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in Session	185	150	..
Time in Session	1180 hrs 3′	505 hrs 19′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	S8407	H4908	..
Extensions of remarks	..	E1127	..
Public bills enacted into law	14	25	..
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	..	1	..
Measures passed, total	375	433	808
Senate bills	69	10	..
House bills	24	297	..
Senate joint resolutions	13	6	..
House joint resolutions	16	18	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	6	4	..
House concurrent resolutions	7	11	..
Simple resolutions	240	87	..
Measures reported, total	*224	386	610
Senate bills	192	..	..
House bills	5	339	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	26	43	..
Special reports	11	4	..
Conference reports	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	210	181	..
Measures introduced, total	3,902	7,428	11,330
Bills	3,264	6,317	..
Joint resolutions	97	133	..
Concurrent resolutions	23	63	..
Simple resolutions	518	915	..
Quorum calls	3	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	623	229	..
Recorded votes	..	75	..
Bills vetoed	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 96 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 390 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through November 30, 2025

Civilian nominees, totaling 563, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	311
Unconfirmed	196
Withdrawn	56

Other Civilian nominees, totaling 316, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	290
Unconfirmed	26

Air Force nominees, totaling 6,041, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	5,953
Unconfirmed	87
Withdrawn	1

Army nominees, totaling 6,041, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	6,030
Unconfirmed	11

Navy nominees, totaling 5,195, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	5,185
Unconfirmed	10

Marine Corps nominees, totaling 1,485, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	1,483
Unconfirmed	2

Space Force nominees, totaling 415, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	410
Unconfirmed	5

Summary

Total nominees carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominees received this Session	20,056
Total confirmed	19,662
Total unconfirmed	337
Total withdrawn	57
Total returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 2

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11:30 a.m.), Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Following disposition of the nomination of David A. Bragdon, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lindsey Ann Freeman, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lindsey Ann Freeman, until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 2

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration H.R. 2965—Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act of 2025 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of H.R. 4305—DUMP Red Tape Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Beyer, Donald S., Jr., Va., E1131
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E1130
Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E1129
Davids, Sharice, Kans., E1129
DelBene, Suzan K., Wash., E1129, E1132
Fitzpatrick, Brian K., Pa., E1132
Fleischmann, Charles J. ''Chuck'', Tenn., E1130
Franklin, Scott, Fla., E1132
Kiggans, Jennifer A., Va., E1131
LaHood, Darin, Ill., E1129
Morelle, Joseph D., N.Y., E1133
Morrison, Kelly, Minn., E1132
Mullin, Kevin, Calif., E1133
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E1129
Perry, Scott, Pa., E1130
Smucker, Lloyd, Pa., E1133
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E1131

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