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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

DELAWARE DAY

(Ms. McBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a most hallowed occasion in the history of our Republic: Delaware Day, which falls on this Sunday, December 7.

On that momentous day in 1787, the greatest State in the Union became the first State in the Union, boldly seizing the mantle of leadership by ratifying the United States Constitution before any of our hesitant sister States dared to do so.

Officially declared a State holiday in 1933, Delaware Day invites each of us to reflect upon our State's central role in forging a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

We Delawareans celebrate being the first as any eldest sibling would; that is, obnoxiously and with great relish. It is with no small measure of delight that I stand here on the House floor to celebrate my beloved home State and the noble citizens who keep its spirit alive.

What we lack in size, we make up for in endless discoveries. While December

7 may technically be Delaware Day, it is always Delaware Day in my heart.

To all Delawareans, may their Delaware Day be filled with cheer, with history, and with the profound satisfaction of knowing that we beat everyone else to the punch.

Today and every day, it is good being first.

HONORING SUE RYAN

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sue Ryan, who is retiring after 10 years of extraordinary service as the executive director of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

For a decade, Sue has been the steady, principled voice behind a coalition that works every day to prevent domestic violence and support survivors across our State.

With more than 25 years in nonprofit service as an attorney, advocate, and administrator, Sue has devoted her life to advancing justice for people who are too often overlooked: survivors of violence, impoverished families, refugees, and those experiencing homelessness.

It has been an inspiration to watch Sue lead the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Her integrity, compassion, and quiet strength have shaped the way I think about this work and what it means to serve with purpose.

Delaware is safer, stronger, and more compassionate because of Sue Ryan's leadership. We thank her for her vision, her courage, and her unwavering commitment to dignity and safety for all.

I congratulate Sue on a well-deserved retirement.

WE NEED SOLUTIONS

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Delaware families who are still catching their breath after Thanksgiving—a holiday that should bring joy, not undue anxiety over the cost of a single trip to the grocery store.

Last week, too many Delawareans told me that the price of their holiday

meal felt heavier this year, and they are right. Delaware families are paying an average of \$8,745 a year, or 14 percent of their income, just to put food on the table.

Those grocery bills aren't rising in a vacuum. Across The First State, shoppers are seeing coffee up 21 percent and beef up 11 percent. Flour, sugar, and canned fruits are each up more than 30 percent. These are costs that hit parents, seniors, and working people the hardest.

At Our Daily Bread, a food bank in Middletown, they are now serving 240 meals a day, up from just 200 a few months ago. This is a clear indication of how my neighbors are being squeezed by rising prices.

Delaware families are being hit from every direction—by inflation, yes, but also by policies coming out of the Trump administration that are pouring fuel on the fire. Tariffs are driving up grocery prices even higher and contributing to price uncertainty. The one big, ugly bill imposed the largest cut to food assistance in U.S. history. Premium hikes will cost Delawareans an average of \$6,000 more a year in healthcare. Cuts to energy investments are pushing up electricity bills. New limits on student loan repayment hit working people hardest. Interest rates are so high that they put the dream of a first home further out of reach.

Delawareans deserve better than a government that increases their costs while taking away the lifelines that keep them afloat. No matter our politics, we all want the same thing: the ability to feed our families, put a roof over our heads, and find a job with dignity.

That is why I am proud to be a sponsor of legislation that would restore some common sense by banning the President from imposing tariffs without congressional approval, capping the cost of childcare, expanding health coverage, creating new pathways to

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

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



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homeownership, raising the minimum wage, and expanding tax deductions for working-class people.

Mr. Speaker, after Thanksgiving season, where so many families felt the strain, the message from Delaware is clear: We need solutions, not tariffs and cuts to healthcare but policies that make life more affordable.

RECOGNIZING PELLA MARCHING DUTCH

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pella Marching Dutch for their outstanding 2025 season and their well-earned invitation to perform at the celebration of our Nation's 250th birthday in Washington, D.C., next year.

This remarkable ensemble consists of 226 students who represented their community with excellent success, competing across multiple prestigious competitions. The Marching Dutch delivered their strongest performance at the Band of America Regional Competition, where they claimed first place in Class 2A and earned the Outstanding General Effect award.

They advanced to the open class finals and placed tenth overall. They celebrated competitive success in Iowa's largest class size for the first time in the program's history.

Their invitation to perform on the 250th birthday of our great Nation is a tremendous honor. I am proud of all of the members of the Pella Marching Dutch and look forward to watching them represent Iowa at this historic celebration.

RECOGNIZING MARLEY MORRIS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary young Iowan, 8-year-old Marley Morris, whose kindness and compassion are making a meaningful difference in the lives of children battling cancer.

Marley has turned her passion for crafting handmade bracelets into a mission of hope and joy, donating 100 of her creations to young patients at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

Marley began making bracelets at just 3 years old, and she continues today to use that talent to brighten the lives of others. Her generous spirit and heartfelt efforts reflect the very best of Iowa.

Even at such a young age, Marley reminds all of us that one person, no matter how small, can have a powerful impact on their community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Marley Morris for her inspiring generosity, for leading by example, and showing what it means to serve others.

RECOGNIZING COREY LEONHARD

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding Iowan, Corey Leonhard of Muscatine, on his induction into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame.

For more than four decades, Corey has been a proud representative of Iowa in athletic competitions at every level, from local meets to the world stage.

Corey's accomplishments are remarkable. At the 2003 Special Olympics World Games in Dublin, Ireland, he earned a Bronze Medal in the 100-meter dash and a Silver Medal in softball.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years later in Shanghai, China, he brought home a Gold Medal in the long jump, a Bronze Medal in the 400-meter dash, and placed fourth in the four-by-four relay.

Mr. Speaker, Corey's impact extends beyond athletics. In 2015, he served as cocaptain for the United Relay Across America, helping carry the torch from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles.

Today, he remains active in Special Olympics Muscatine, embodying the values of perseverance, dedication, and sportsmanship.

I congratulate Corey, who is an inspiration to all Iowans, and his legacy of excellence and determination is well deserving of this honor.

HONORING JULIE HUMES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Julie Humes of Donnellson, Iowa, a flight nurse with Air Evac Lifeteam and a recipient of the American Ambulance Association's prestigious Star of Life award.

For over 30 years, this award has recognized the best of our EMS professionals, those who go above and beyond the call of duty. Julie was nominated by her peers for her heroism during a severe car accident, volunteering in dangerous icy conditions to help save the lives of multiple trauma victims. Thanks to her quick thinking and courageous actions, every victim survived.

Julie's service is a shining example of the bravery and selflessness of our first responders, and they demonstrate this every day. It was an honor to meet Julie and hear about her incredible dedication firsthand.

I congratulate Julie and thank her for her steadfast commitment to saving lives and protecting Iowans.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA CLARK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Georgia Clark, a student from West Liberty, Iowa, who represented our State with pride and excellence at the 2025 National Civics Bee.

Competing against top middle schoolers from across the country, Georgia placed in the top ten, a tremendous achievement.

Held in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day, the National Civics Bee celebrates civic knowledge and encourages young Americans to engage with their communities and understand their government.

Georgia was 1 of only 39 State champions invited to participate, representing the West Liberty community school district.

Georgia's dedication, leadership, and love of learning reflect the best of Iowa's youth. Her passion for civic en-

gagement and understanding of our Nation's founding principles are truly inspiring.

I thank Georgia for her commitment to excellence and for stepping up as a young leader with ideas that will strengthen our community and our country. Her achievement makes all of Iowa proud.

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I remark that Sunday, December 7, is the 84th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, the day that will live in infamy.

Like 9/11, we must never forget. Always prepared, always ready.

I ask for a moment of silence for those whose lives were lost on that fateful day.

RECOGNIZING OMAIRA ANDINO

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the public service and accomplishments of Omayra Andino, who this week completed two terms, or and 4 years, as mayor of the village of Tuckahoe, with prior service on the village board as trustee.

Mayor Andino, in her professional career, has shown executive skill and leadership as CEO of the Institute for Applied Human Dynamics, an organization that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, helping them to live their lives on their own terms.

Managing that team and its mission across Westchester would be a task enough for anyone, but Mayor Andino added the responsibilities of elected office in Tuckahoe, a village of over 6,000 people in one compact square mile.

Tuckahoe local government has all of the responsibilities of any municipal entity: police protection, sanitation, parks and recreation, planning and land use functions, and more. Her leadership as mayor, chairing the village and the board, and providing policy direction and oversight to the professional village staff brought Tuckahoe into a new era, an era of capital improvement and better service delivery.

Her achievements come as she was the first woman and, as a Latina, the first person of color to lead the village government. She did not seek a third term and has left Tuckahoe in the capable hands of her colleague, new Mayor Cara Kronen, who was sworn in this past Monday.

Omayra has earned the respect of all of us, and we salute her as she completes her exemplary service to the people of Tuckahoe.

FAIR PAY FOR ELLIE

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act, which was recently reintroduced by Congressmen BOBBY SCOTT and PETE SESSIONS.

This bill is a long, overdue modernization of the Fair Labor Standards

Act of 1938. In it, section 14(c) permitted people with disabilities to be paid less than Federal minimum wage with little hope of advancement.

Today, those employed under 14(c) waivers make an average of \$3.50 per hour. While originally well-intended, section 14(c) has not lived up to its promise, and it needs to change.

Two of my constituents recognized this injustice as it relates to their loved one, a high schooler, Ellie, who wants to be paid fairly.

Over 10 days, the father-son duo ran 260 miles from New York City to Washington, D.C., to raise awareness for the bill.

Their run raised national awareness, and it is now up to us to act. Together, we can support those workers by ensuring that they earn the fair pay that they deserve.

RECOGNIZING RYE HIGH SCHOOL GARNETS FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Rye High School Garnets football team as they head to Syracuse to compete in the New York State Athletic Championship for Class A under the JMA Wireless Dome, previously the Carrier Dome.

This Class A State championship game is much watched across the State of New York. Under the legendary 50-year leadership of Coach Dino Garr, Rye High School football teams have won four State championships and are now competing against Brighton for their fifth State championship.

This year's squad is led by quarterback Carson Miller; wide receiver Henry Shoemaker; running back Jagger Fenton; and the aptly named Charlie Garnet, Garnet being the school mascot.

Their strong offense mowed down all of the competitors in section 1 football and through five post-season games with huge margins, winning over Minisink Valley and Cornwall in the earlier games.

We salute the players and the coaches that have made the city of Rye proud. Go Garnets.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING BROTHER GARY MOSES

(Mr. CLOUD of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor one of the most beloved sons of the Texas 27th Congressional District, Brother Gary Moses of Victoria, Texas.

For more than 50 years, Brother Gary has been the heartbeat of Victoria and the entire Crossroads region. As a long-time educator at Patti Welder Middle School, a legendary radio voice on Majic 95.9, and Victoria's undisputed ambassador of joy, he has touched countless lives with his infectious smile and genuine love for every person he meets.

Whether Brother Gary is emceeing the Gorgeous Grandma Pageant, cham-

pioning the Marine Toys for Tots on television commercials, firing up the crowd at Riverside Stadium for the Victoria Generals, or leading the Christmas parade, Brother Gary shows up with enthusiasm that lifts the entire community.

At 73 years young, Brother Gary is always reminding us that, in Victoria, we are all family. His nickname, Brother Gary, is not just a radio handle. It is the truest description of how he treats everyone he encounters. Residents make sure he is invited to every celebration because they know an event simply isn't complete without Brother Gary's presence.

Mr. Speaker, Brother Gary Moses embodies the very best of the Texas spirit: faith, family, and hard work. On behalf of the people of the 27th Congressional District and the countless lives he has brightened, I am proud to recognize him today and thank him for reminding us all of how one person truly can make a difference and make a community feel like a home.

RECOGNIZING MYESHA WATKINS

(Ms. BROWN of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cuyahoga County's Myesha Watkins on her latest and well-earned recognition for serving the people of northeast Ohio.

Last month, Myesha received the Capstone Achievement Award from the University of Chicago's Community Violence Intervention Leadership Academy. This distinction highlights her as a local and national leader when it comes to violence prevention.

As the executive director of the Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance and in her current role as the administrator of the Cuyahoga County Office of Violence Prevention, Myesha has dedicated herself to the hard work of public safety.

For years, she has been there for the people of Cleveland—in our schools, our community centers, our emergency rooms, and our most overlooked and underserved neighborhoods. She has been there taking direct action to mediate conflict, deescalate crises, and stop the cycle of violence.

This work isn't easy, but as Myesha often says, it is a calling, and it makes a difference.

That is why I was outraged earlier this year when the Trump administration rescinded Federal grants awarded to the Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance. Grants that had been awarded by the past administration were stripped away. It was a betrayal of northeast Ohio, but Myesha and our community have never stopped doing the work to make our neighborhoods safer because we know that community-oriented solutions work and are needed.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Myesha on her recognition from the University of Chicago. On behalf of a grateful district and a grateful nation, I thank her

for her service and commitment to making our Cleveland communities safer.

TRUMP'S ATTACKS ON BLACK AMERICA

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying: When America catches a cold, Black America gets pneumonia.

Since January 20, make no mistake, this country has been running a fever, a moral sickness, one that begins at the very top, a twisted agenda that pardons the powerful, protects the predators, and punishes the people. Black Americans are paying the price.

Mr. Speaker, buried in the last jobs report was this number: The Black unemployment rate is now 7½ percent. That is a recession-level rate, the highest rate since the pandemic.

Do you think they care at Mar-a-Lago? I will tell you who does care: the people in the community I represent. They are watching as prices keep going up while funding for programs people need, like SNAP, Medicaid, and the ACA, keep going down.

It doesn't stop at the kitchen table. No, we are witnessing a whole-of-government effort to erase Black history, to diminish Black voices, and to stifle Black progress.

More than \$3 billion in Federal funding has been cut from HBCUs, Black communities, and Black entrepreneurs. Over 6,000 Federal research programs and datasets related to racial disparities have been deleted, putting us in the dark on everything from sickle cell anemia to maternal health.

We have seen Black authors pulled from school shelves and government websites quietly erase information on figures like Harriet Tubman and Jackie Robinson.

Just last month, we learned that memorials honoring the contributions of Black American soldiers during World War II were stripped from a military cemetery in the Netherlands.

This is not a coincidence. This is an all-out attack on our past, our present, and our future.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. Black Americans will not be erased. We will not be silenced, and neither will the millions of people of all backgrounds who are being harmed by this White House.

It is time for us to take up their voice and carry on their fight before this sickness spreads further.

RESTORING SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

(Mr. CLYDE of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of restoring our Second Amendment rights.

Earlier this year, I worked diligently on and proudly voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which was signed into law by President Trump on July Fourth. Due to my hard-fought efforts, this monumental law delivers the most significant legislative win for our Second Amendment freedoms in almost a century.

Throughout the negotiations, I fought to restore our Second Amendment rights, ultimately securing a measure to zero out the \$200 tax on suppressors and short-barreled firearms under the draconian National Firearms Act. This tax had been on the books since 1934, representing both an unconstitutional and financial barrier to our Second Amendment rights. Thankfully, starting January 1, 2026, American citizens will no longer be subjected to this unnecessary and unconstitutional taxation.

However, the burdensome transfer and registration requirements linked to the zero tax have so far remained. Yet, it was Congress' clear intent to repeal the NFA registration by eliminating the NFA taxation. After all, the two are inseparably linked. Without the tax, the associated registration requirements no longer have a legal standing. In fact, had it not been for the radical, partisan Senate Parliamentarian, this intent would have been explicitly written in the bill text.

Apparently, what the Senate Parliamentarian didn't understand is the history and mechanisms of the National Firearms Act. Congress enacted the NFA in 1934, imposing an excise tax of \$200, equivalent to nearly \$5,000 today, on the manufacture and transfer of certain firearms.

Congress enacted the NFA pursuant to its taxing power under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court, in *Sonzinsky v. United States*, 1937, upheld the constitutionality of the NFA's registration and transfer provisions as "supportable as in aid" of Congress' proper exercise of the taxing power. Furthermore, the Supreme Court, in *United States v. Constantine*, 1935, held that a tax that doesn't generate revenue cannot be justified as a tax.

Therefore, NFA registration serves as the mechanism by which ATF accounts for the tax paid on each firearm, identified by its serial number. The tax stamp affixed by the ATF on an NFA application reflects both the firearm's serial number and the amount of tax paid for the transfer.

Moreover, the NFA's criminal provisions pertain exclusively to the failure to pay or register the payment of the tax with the ATF. The registry is a tax registry, a registry of the tax paid on each firearm cataloged by the serial number of each firearm.

Again, NFA registration and taxation are inseparably linked. You cannot have a registration of the tax paid on a firearm when there is no tax.

Last month, on Veterans Day, I led 30 of my House Republican colleagues in sending a letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi to reaffirm congressional intent behind the zeroing out of the NFA tax provision in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, as well as to urge that the DOJ adopt this position in all litigation concerning this matter.

Unfortunately, the DOJ's recent brief in a lawsuit involving NFA registra-

tion defends the draconian NFA firearm registration and ignores congressional intent.

First and foremost, the legal argument to defend and keep the NFA registration simply isn't there, plain and simple. When the One Big Beautiful Bill Act eliminated the tax on a broad class of firearms regulated under the NFA, the constitutional foundation for applying the NFA's transfer and registration requirements to those zero-tax firearms no longer exists. These requirements now improperly operate without any corresponding exercise of Congress' taxing power.

As the Supreme Court upheld the NFA's provisions only as "in aid" of that taxing power, and since the relevant excise taxes have been repealed, the transfer and registration requirements must likewise be understood as repealed with respect to the firearms now subject to the zero tax.

The Department's recent filing ignores this reality and instead offers a theory that would convert the NFA from a tax statute into a freestanding gun registry, an outcome Congress has never authorized and has repeatedly rejected. Even the 1986 Firearm Owners' Protection Act prohibited a Federal registration scheme: "... nor that any system of registration of firearms, firearms owners, or firearms transactions or dispositions be established."

In addition, when Congress reduced the ObamaCare penalty to zero during President Trump's first term, the Department of Justice refused to defend the underlying flawed law. Clearly, the DOJ is fully empowered to decline to defend statutory provisions that no longer rest on a valid constitutional basis. It has exercised that authority before and must do so again here, this time in defense of Americans' Second Amendment rights.

When I came to Congress, I promised my constituents that one of my top priorities would be to not only fight to protect our Second Amendment rights but to restore what we have lost. The National Firearms Act of 1934 is an unconstitutional relic that has infringed on these liberties for far too long. We must take this historic opportunity to ensure both taxation and registration on suppressors and short barrels are gone for good.

RECOGNIZING SARAH DULLY, RHODE ISLAND TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarah Dully, Rhode Island's 2026 Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Dully began her work as an educator in 2012. She joined Narragansett High School as an English language arts teacher in 2020, where she is admired and respected by her fellow teachers, students, and administrators alike. At Narragansett, she also serves

as the National Honor Society adviser and the Class of 2025's adviser.

When asked about Ms. Dully, one of her students said: "My favorite thing about [her] is just how active and excited she is every class."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Dully on this honor. I have no doubt that she will represent our State well in the National Teacher of the Year award program.

RECOGNIZING DAVE CHENEVERT

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dave Chenevert, who is retiring after 14 years as executive director of the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association and 41 years in the manufacturing industry.

Dave built RIMA into a powerful advocacy organization for the manufacturing industry, championing workforce development and education, and working with State leaders to bring more people into the profession. In his role, Dave built on Rhode Island's manufacturing legacy so that it will endure for future generations.

On his retirement, Dave said: "When I first joined RIMA, my goal was to strengthen our voice, expand our reach, and build a solid foundation for the future." He has certainly done that, stabilizing the industry after years of decline, with more than 1,500 manufacturing companies in Rhode Island now employing over 41,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dave for his many years of service to Rhode Island. His impact will long endure, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

CONCERNS OVER HIGH COST OF HEALTHCARE

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, while Donald Trump and congressional Republicans spend time building a billion-dollar ballroom, bailing out Argentina, and lavishing tax cuts on billionaires, Rhode Islanders and Americans continue to struggle with the high cost of healthcare.

□ 1030

I wish that our colleagues would spend as much time worrying about how they are going to lower healthcare costs as they seem to spend building up Donald Trump's ballroom, sending billions of dollars to Argentina, and sucking up to their billionaire donors.

All across the country, people are getting letters like this from their insurance companies telling them how much more they are going to have to pay next year because of Republican inaction in extending the Affordable Care Act tax credits, letters like this one received by Susan from South Kingstown. She, her husband, and her college-aged son are going to see an increase of \$1,700 a month, \$20,000 a year more that they are going to pay for their health insurance for three people if Republicans don't do the right thing and extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

Kim, from East Greenwich, runs a small business with her husband, an appraisal company. She has a family of four with two teenage daughters. The

letter she received from her health insurance company told her that she is going to be paying \$1,300 more a month next year, \$16,000 a year for a family of four.

People cannot afford this. We have heard all the excuses from those on the other side of the aisle who are determined to stop funding the Affordable Care Act. They say it is just a subsidy for the health insurance companies. Really?

Are you going to tell Kim that she is a health insurance company because she is going to be paying thousands of dollars more a year for her health insurance? Is she a health insurance company? Is Susan from South Kingstown a health insurance company?

No. These are real people who are going to be impacted by the lack of Republican action to lower the cost of healthcare.

We have a plan: Extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits and reverse the cuts to Medicaid so that people do not have to pay thousands of dollars more for their health insurance.

What have we heard from the other side? Nothing. They have no plan. The best they can come up with is they will give everybody a few thousand dollars. We will cut them a check.

Do they have any idea how much it costs to go to the emergency room? Does President Trump have any idea how much an emergency room bill costs? I don't think so.

It is time for our Republican colleagues to do the right thing. It is time to come together in a bipartisan way and listen to the American people. Let's extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits, reverse the Medicaid cuts, and lower costs for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, stop wasting time with ballrooms and bailouts, and instead deliver for the American people.

PROVIDING AN UPDATE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. STRONG of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide an 11-month update to the American people.

While most media outlets struggle to be honest with the American people, under the administration of President Donald Trump, a Republican House, and a Republican Senate, America is back.

It is a fact that inflation is down from 5 percent to 2.5 percent. Gas prices have hit a 4-year low, averaging \$2.95 a gallon. Advanced manufacturing and industry are returning to U.S. soil.

President Trump has secured over \$8 trillion in investments that will fuel job growth and create opportunity. The stock market continues to set new all-time highs.

It is a fact that Republicans are committed to making sure hardworking Americans keep more of what they

earn. The Working Families Tax Cut delivered the largest tax cut for middle- and working-class Americans in history, like no tax on tips and no tax on overtime.

It is a fact that the southern border is closed. Drug dealers, sexual predators, human traffickers, and those who illegally invaded our country during the Biden administration from over 160 countries are being returned to the country of their origin.

Under Biden, our emergency departments and local hospitals became the preferred free healthcare provider for illegal aliens, driving healthcare costs through the roof while the American taxpayers footed the bill.

We didn't need legislation to put America first. We needed a new President.

It is a fact that the spirit of cutting waste, fraud, and abuse is alive in Washington, D.C. Funds being sent to foreign countries that hate America have been cut off. Republicans cut \$100,000 for climate resilience in Ghana; cut \$360,000 for gender nonconforming, nonbinary, two-spirit farmers in New York; cut \$24 billion to USAID; cut \$22 billion from Health and Human Services to provide housing and cars for illegal aliens; cut \$45 million for diversity, equity, and inclusion scholarships in Burma; cut \$8 million to promote LGBTQ in Africa; cut \$10 million for male circumcision in Mozambique; cut \$20 million for the Arab "Sesame Street" in the Middle East; and we cut \$600 million from National Public Radio. Free enterprise in America is alive and well.

President Donald Trump is the President of peace, ending eight wars in 8 months. Tell me who in history has ever done this.

The war between Israel and Hamas is over. The hostages were returned home. The Iranian nuclear program has been set back for decades, and the Middle East is more stable than it has been in years.

To gain peace through strength, we have invested in America's national defense. We have increased pay for our troops. We are making generational investments in our defense industrial base. We are filling our stockpiles. We are making our soldiers the most lethal fighting force the world has ever seen.

We will never apologize for keeping America safe. Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, the people of America are now seeing through Biden's 4 years of smoke and mirrors here in D.C.

It is a fact that the Clinton-Steele dossier was proven a hoax.

It is a fact that the Department of Justice was weaponized against President Trump.

It is a fact that the Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act raised the United States debt to more than \$38 trillion. It raised inflation to its highest level in 40 years.

It is a fact that Biden's Green New Deal was nothing more than another

scam on the U.S. taxpayers, and ObamaCare, known as the Affordable Care Act, is not affordable to anyone in America.

It is a fact that Space Command is coming to Redstone Arsenal in north Alabama and the Golden Dome is on the horizon.

It is a fact that President Trump and our Republican majority is making America better for the people. America is back.

HEALTHCARE CRISIS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, with only 10 voting days left in this year's calendar, Congress must act if we are to avert a full-blown healthcare crisis. I rise today to bring attention to the affordability and healthcare crisis that is pending upon us.

I think this is what Americans want us to do as opposed to bailing out Argentina or figuring out how to finance a \$300 million ballroom that will dwarf the size of the White House.

What Americans are concerned about is premiums that are climbing.

What Americans are concerned about is the increase in their grocery bills.

What the Americans I represent in the San Joaquin Valley are concerned about is bearing more and more of this burden and not seeing any potential light at the end of the tunnel.

Families are forced to make impossible choices between putting food on the table or whether or not they should keep their healthcare coverage.

In July, President Trump's one big—I never thought it was beautiful—bill became law. It slashed over \$1 trillion from Medicaid, from children's healthcare coverage, from Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act, adding \$4.2 trillion to our national debt.

Programs that protect children, seniors, and working families are being gutted. In my district alone, over 65,000 people risk losing their Medicaid coverage, threatening access to essential healthcare for vulnerable populations.

Now, despite the passage of the fiscal year 2026 continuing resolution, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, once again, have failed us, I think.

Republicans are threatening the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits that will expire at the end of this year in just four weeks. Open enrollment is now, and Americans are seeing the cost that they are paying for this effort, which has failed so far. But there is still time.

There is still time when families can avert the stark choice of having to pay more for their healthcare or make sacrifices elsewhere in their lives. There is still time to continue these tax credits, so that we can avoid the dramatically higher healthcare costs that our constituents are paying in copayments and deductibles, which is impacting up to

22,000 people in my congressional district alone.

To illustrate what this means, a couple who are 60 years old in Fresno earning \$82,000 a year will pay \$18,000 more per year for coverage. A family of four in Tulare County earning \$64,000 a year will pay \$2,500 more.

This is not fiscal responsibility. This is a Republican healthcare tax hike on working families, imposed in the richest country in the world. I think it is unacceptable. These are not just numbers on a page. These are real people.

It is a mother in Fresno who has to choose between filling her prescription and paying rent. It is a father in Tulare County who may have to decide whether his children can see a doctor when they are sick. It is seniors who have delayed care, skipped medications, or avoided preventive screenings because of these rising costs. These are the consequences of inaction. But there is still time.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have a plan.

Our plan is to keep the premiums affordable.

Our plan prevents Republican healthcare tax hikes.

Our plan requires President Trump to carry out a bipartisan budget. That is what we are supposed to do, a bipartisan budget.

We know healthcare cannot wait, and our families cannot wait. Our Nation needs certainty, affordability, and leadership more than ever.

Let us come together at the table in a bipartisan fashion. That is what my constituents expect of us.

Let us extend the Affordable Care Act tax premiums.

Let us keep healthcare affordable for Americans.

Let us show the American people that Congress can act responsibly, that we can protect our families, that we can deliver on the promises to ensure that no one has to choose between healthcare and their basic needs of the safety net that is a contract that we have with the American people.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents are counting on us. Let us not fail them. Americans deserve affordable healthcare, and we have until the end of this month to make that happen.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENNY "RAY" ADKINS

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and a great patriot, Benny Ray Adkins.

Mr. Speaker, over my 15 years of service in this wonderful Chamber, I have given many speeches. I have eulogized and talked about many great people.

Today is a very special speech for me and for our great Nation.

I knew Benny Ray Adkins back when I practiced law. He worked for the

Hamilton County Courts. He worked for the Sunshine Biscuit Company for years, and Ray was my friend.

When I got elected to Congress, Ray Adkins really stood out to me not only as a mentor but as someone who loves his country. Ray loved the United States Army. He was Army proud. He was a lieutenant colonel. He served 36 years in the United States Army and Army Reserve.

Time and time again, when I needed Ray, whether it was to get advice on active military, veterans affairs, and the like, he was there.

Now, the largest city in my district is Chattanooga, and Ray was from a part of Chattanooga called Lookout Valley, Tiftonia. It is on the western side of Chattanooga.

Ray was always there whether it was Wreaths Across America, Memorial Day, or Veterans Day. He was omnipresent. He was always there for the veterans. It didn't matter if it was World War II, Korea, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, he was always there. He would show up in his uniform.

For the past decade or so, Mr. Speaker, he struggled health-wise, but he would always show up in his uniform. He would always show up Army proud, and he participated in so many different things.

We had a situation where we put together a Military Advisory Board, and I had people from all branches. Ray was so well-respected by everyone, whether it was the Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or the Marines. In that room, he was Ray, the great colonel.

He loved the Army. He loved our country. He loved our veterans. He was a member of the VFW. He was a member of The American Legion. He was named Veteran of the Year in Chattanooga in 2017 and received the Hometown Patriot Award in 2018.

This man was so well revered in Chattanooga and rightfully so. He was honored with the Ray Adkins Interchange by the Tennessee General Assembly, our State assembly in 2021. I drive past that on occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I will end by saying this: I thank Ray for his friendship. I thank him for his service to our great Nation, and I thank him for being a great American. America is a greater nation because of him.

HORRIFIC MASS SHOOTING IN STOCKTON

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this weekend my community in Stockton, California, was shaken by a horrific mass shooting.

Families were gathered at a banquet hall for a 2-year-old's birthday party. They were about to cut the cake when gunshots rang out. Four people were killed, including three kids. They were 8, 9, and 14 years old. Thirteen more

were injured. Think about that for a second.

As a dad, I cannot fathom the pain these families are feeling right now. This was supposed to be a moment of celebration, and instead it became a nightmare that has rocked our community to its core.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence to honor the victims, including Amari, Susano, Maya, Journey, and their families as they navigate this tragedy.

My wife, Pam, and I are praying for the victims, their families, and our community. We are and always will be Stockton Strong.

HONORING DEPUTY TERRI SWEETING-MASHKOW

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of Deputy Terri Sweeting-Mashkow of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office, who was tragically slain in the line of duty.

Deputy Sweeting-Mashkow served the community with courage, professionalism, and deep compassion. She was the kind of public servant every community hopes for, steadfast in her duty, kind to those in need, and unwavering in her commitment to keeping Indian River County safe.

Her loss is felt not only by her brothers and sisters in law enforcement, but by every family she protected, every neighbor she reassured, and every life she touched. Today, we honor not only her heroism, but the legacy she leaves behind.

We also hold in our prayers her husband, Casey; her daughter, and her family; and the entire Indian River County Sheriff's Office as they face this heartbreaking tragedy of a person who served our community for over 25 years. May they find strength in knowing that this Nation stands with them as they face this very difficult time.

I thank our sheriff in Indian River County, Sheriff Flowers, and his incredible team who put together a dignified funeral yesterday honoring her life.

Deputy Terri Sweeting-Mashkow gave her life in service to others. For that, we are forever grateful. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her memory and supporting all those who continue to answer the call to protect and serve their communities.

HONORING DAVID LONG

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of David Long, a local locksmith in Indian River County, an Army veteran who was tragically killed in Vero Beach while assisting deputies during a court-ordered eviction. David was simply doing his job, fulfilling a legal obligation, supporting law enforcement, and helping keep the process orderly and safe.

By every account, he was a kind, dependable member of the community.

He served his country in uniform and continued serving it in civilian life through honest work and quiet professionalism. What happened to him should never happen to anyone.

This tragedy is a sobering reminder of the risks that not only our deputies, but our civilians take in working alongside them when they face the realities of simply upholding the law.

May we honor his memory by standing firmly with those who keep our communities safe and recognizing that everyday heroes come not always in uniform.

We remember David Long today for his service and as a person who makes America the great Nation that it is. May David Long rest in peace.

AFFORDABILITY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today about this issue of affordability.

I find it shocking that the Democrats actually have the gall to talk about the issue of affordability after 4 years of failure: 9 percent inflation, higher interest rates, just challenges across the board for everyday Americans.

I think one of the reasons why our party has the majority today is simply because they failed for 4 straight years. They never cut taxes on overtime or tips, let alone Social Security. Republicans did, and we think this is going to help turn around a very challenging situation which we inherited.

I look forward to the debate over the next month in how we take down even more prices so Americans can have a more affordable life. This is the challenge of our day. I am glad that we are talking about affordability because for too long Washington, D.C., has turned its back on the issue.

REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE CRISIS

(Ms. RANDALL of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to raise the alarm on the Republican healthcare crisis.

Speaker JOHNSON shut the government down for 43 days and kept the House out of session, effectively running out the clock to find solutions to address the healthcare affordability crisis created by my Republican colleagues.

Now we have just 11 session days left before recessing for the holidays, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have offered zero solutions.

At the end of the month, the Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credits will officially expire, leaving 24 million Americans who currently purchase healthcare on the exchange in an unimaginable position. While MIKE JOHNSON may be sleeping soundly and enjoying the holidays with his family, millions of Americans will be up at night worrying about how they are going to pay for health insurance on top of the affordability crisis the Trump administration created with reckless policies.

My family knows what this feels like. My sister, Olivia, was born with microcephaly, which means her brain was small and the doctors didn't know why. Even with insurance provided by my dad's civilian job at the Department of Defense, Olivia wouldn't have gotten the care that she needed to live for 19 years as healthy as possible if it weren't for the Washington State Legislature expanding Medicaid the year she was born.

My family would have faced dire choices about which bills not to pay in order to meet Olivia's needs if it weren't for Medicaid access. Would we give up heating, groceries, school lunches?

Neighbors of mine in Washington's Sixth District are already sick to their stomachs, looking at their monthly costs. For example, a couple in Clallam County, ages 60 and 55, with a household income of \$85,000, for them the least expensive plan available would jump from \$127 per month to \$1,485 per month. That is a 1,062 percent increase.

That same couple in Kitsap County, where I grew up, would go from paying \$56 to almost \$1,500 a month under the least expensive plan. That is an annual insurance bill of \$24,000 without even having to go to the doctor for a medical emergency or routine healthcare.

I recently heard from a neighbor in Port Townsend who said: "My husband is retiring in a few weeks." She retired years ago. "So although we currently have a good benefits package through his work, we will be on our own for coverage soon. Only yesterday we learned of the substantial increase through Healthplanfinder. We have now determined that the best way to cover our upcoming healthcare costs will be for me to take my Social Security early."

She says: "It is upsetting to me that my Social Security will not be used for other living expenses or be as much per month as it would have if I could hold off taking it a few more years."

She is worried in her last line about not being able to use her Social Security for other living expenses because she is going to have to use all of it for healthcare coverage.

Under this administration, costs are up across the board. Groceries are more expensive. Housing is more expensive. Childcare is more expensive. Gas prices are soaring. Today, the average price for a gallon of gas in Washington State is over \$4, one of the highest in the Nation.

Healthcare costs are only one aspect of why millions of Americans are needlessly suffering under this administration. We don't have to keep living like this. It is time for my colleagues to get serious about solving the ACA tax credits, as serious as they were about extending tax breaks for billionaires in July, and get back to delivering on their promise to lower costs for Americans, which Trump promised to do on day one of his administration.

CONGRATULATING SALPOINTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS' FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Salpointe Catholic High School's girls' flag football team for winning the 4A State championship in its first season.

On November 22, the Lancers took home the State title in a fierce match against Mesa Eastmark. Even a 2-hour weather delay couldn't stop the Lancers from taking down the number two ranked Eastmark 17-0, winning them the 4A title in the first year of the girls' flag football program. In an impressive season, they finished 16-1.

Freshman quarterback Isla Collins, who is a youth national team player for the United States, led her team with two rushing touchdowns, scoring her first at the end of the first quarter and adding her second touchdown in the middle of the fourth quarter. Additionally, junior Andie Tkalecivic added a 21-yard field goal, extending the Lancers' lead.

To Coach Barrie Pedersen, the entire team, and everyone who played a part in this successful first season, I congratulate you. There are undoubtedly many, many more to come ahead. They have made their school and our community incredibly proud.

Lancers, enjoy this victory. You earned it. Congratulations once again.

CONGRATULATING IRONWOOD RIDGE GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ironwood Ridge girls' cross country team for winning the 2025 Division 2 State title. This is the fourth time that the Nighthawks have taken home a State championship title.

Senior Sorella Natale was the D-2 runner up, with a finishing time of 19:23.4, securing the Nighthawks' win. Additionally, sophomore Sophia Simmons finished in 9th place, with a time of 20:05.5. Sophomore Kylie Lederhos finished in 10th place, with a time of 20:08.9.

Congratulations to coaches Michael Smith and Bob Jones, the whole team, and everyone who made this win possible. They have made their school and our community very, very proud.

Nighthawks, enjoy this victory. You have earned it.

CONGRATULATING SALPOINTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Salpointe Catholic High School's girls' volleyball team for winning the 4A State championship for the first time in 5 years.

The number one ranked Lancers took home the 4A conference State title against the number three ranked American Leadership Academy-Queen Creek, with a score of 3-1. After a struggle to maintain the lead, they prevailed in the end, including an impressive 6-0 run in the fourth set.

Senior Kate Mobley earned the tournament's MVP title, with a powerful performance of 11 kills, 22 digs, 25 receptions, and 5 solo blocks.

On their way to the top, the team took down the number 16 Sahuarita, as well as other teams around the region and across the State.

This thrilling victory marks Salpointe's fourth State championship win and caps off an amazing season in which Salpointe Catholic went 24–2 overall.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Keith Rubio, the team, and everyone who played a part in this successful season. There are undoubtedly many more wins ahead. They have made their school and community incredibly proud. The Lancers should enjoy this victory. Once again, they have earned it, and I congratulate them.

□ 1100

CONGRATULATING NJROTC CADETS

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 28 NJROTC cadets from Cienega High School, Andrada High School, Empire High School, and Mica Mountain High School who competed at the Area 20 Stars and Stripes field meet in El Paso, Texas, under the leadership of Commander Micah Brewer.

These cadets did an amazing job and brought home a number of impressive awards. They placed number one overall, as well, for personal inspection, physical fitness team, armed drill team regulation, and unarmed drill team exhibition. They placed second for unarmed drill team regulation and color guard. They placed third for academic team and armed drill team exhibition.

Additionally, Madelyn Michael won the individual award for most sit-ups for girls, completing a total of 178.

Mr. Speaker, to these 28 cadets and all who took part in this special competition, I congratulate them. They have worked hard and made their schools and our community extremely proud. I congratulate them once again on all their wins. They are all well-earned.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Sovereign God, receive us into Your presence, as each one who enters this Chamber seeks Your guidance in ensuring the welfare of this Nation. Though disparate voices and conflicting opinions, we want the best for our compatriots and our communities.

We ask for Your assistance in ensuring that we do not just settle for tolerating one another but commit to communicating respectfully and carefully in our proceedings. In so doing, may we discover what binds us together in the mission that You have set before us.

In our kinship, our friendship, or just our shared citizenship, we pray together for the peace that transcends not just our differences but our individual understandings. In Your peace, may we find our peace. In our engagements and our arguments, may we rid ourselves of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander, and together show respect for the people with whom You have called us to serve.

In awe, even fear of the judgment that is Yours, we humbly offer this day and ourselves to You.

We pray this in Your merciful name. 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. DESAULNIER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DESAULNIER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WELCOMING PENN STATE LION CAUCUS TO CAPITOL HILL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the Penn State Lion Caucus to Capitol Hill.

Lion Caucus is a university-affiliated student organization connected to the Office of Government and Community Relations. Lion Caucus promotes the official message and positive impact of

Penn State University to local, State, and Federal elected officials. It also educates students about legislation and policies that impact the university and students. Each year, Lion Caucus organizes and executes Capital Day, Penn State's annual State advocacy event.

The organization also hosts seminars for students across campus, holds meetings in Harrisburg with legislators and lobbyists, and welcomes elected officials to University Park.

Lion Caucus is made up of a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students from any background or major.

As a graduate of Penn State, I am proud of these students for devoting their time and resources to educating and advocating for their fellow students, promoting civic engagement, and showcasing the Penn State community—We Are.

RECOGNIZING GWEN REGALIA

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and public service of a mentor of mine and many people in California and in the bay area, and a wonderful human being, a dedicated public servant from Walnut Creek, California, in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay.

Gwen Regalia began her career as a fourth grade teacher—she was a teacher all her life in many ways—before serving on the Walnut Creek School District governing board for almost a decade.

Gwen later served on the city council for 21 years and also served regionally on the Association of Bay Area Governments. She had five terms as the mayor of the city of Walnut Creek, during which time she championed the development of local institutions, like the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek and the Walnut Creek Library, two remarkable local institutions.

Sadly, Gwen passed away in November. She will be remembered for her outstanding leadership, her indelible mark that she left on Walnut Creek and the San Francisco Bay Area, the State of California, and, indeed, the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Gwen, for her service and incredible personality.

RECOGNIZING HARBOR BEACH FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Harbor Beach High School football team for winning the Michigan Division 8 State championship last week.

The Harbor Beach Pirates took home their second State championship in football. Never trailing in the game, they won 31-20 at Ford Field in Detroit, and, I might add, they had a perfect 14-0 season.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Schelke and his talented young group of men on their incredible accomplishment at Ford Field. They have made Michigan's Ninth District proud. I really hope they cherish this memory and all of the hard work that they dedicated this season. I again congratulate the Harbor Beach Pirates.

HONORING FRED DURHAL, JR.

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Fred Durhal, Jr. He was a former colleague and a remarkable public servant who devoted decades of his life to fighting for Detroiters.

Throughout his years in the Michigan statehouse and as the chair of the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus, Fred carried with him passion, courage, and a deep commitment to public service. He was so kindhearted.

From his advocacy for working families to his dedication to mentoring the next generation of leaders, Fred truly helped shape our communities and uplift countless lives. His impact can be seen in the people he guided, the change that he championed, and the lives he inspired.

I join our community in mourning his passing during this difficult time and send my deepest condolences to his family, his children, and all who were touched by his life.

Mr. Speaker, may his legacy continue to live in the city he loved so dearly, and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING ARMY CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW ANDREW GEORGE

(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, I am grateful to recognize Army congressional fellow Captain Andrew "Andy" George for his service to America and the citizens of South Carolina.

Throughout his dedication to the office, Andy has been a valued team member for legislation supporting the military and veterans.

After graduating from Virginia Tech, Andy served in leadership positions within the 101st Airborne Division, including deployment to Syria with Operation Inherent Resolve. Andy later served as a special operational detachment commander for multinational exercises in Central and South America. Impressively, Andy is a White House military social aide.

The only unfortunate quality about this Massachusetts native is that he is a fan of the New England Patriots.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, and mocking Trump envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner in Moscow today as Putin threatens expanded war in Europe.

□ 1210

GOBBLE AND WADDLE

(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, Thanksgiving brought families together to enjoy delicious meals and some of us are still recovering.

There were two fortunate turkeys, one named "Gobble," the other "Waddle," from Travis and Amanda Pittman's farm in Wayne County, North Carolina, and they were selected for a Presidential pardon.

They went on a journey from the East to the White House. They even stayed at The Willard InterContinental hotel and now at North Carolina State University.

Although, Gobble and Waddle survived the dinner table, they shine a light on the dedication of our agriculture community and the hard work that is taking place with companies such as Butterball and the National Turkey Federation.

Farmers allow for these longstanding traditions, and we must never forget it. Let us take a moment to recognize eastern North Carolina farmers and those across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to honor the Pittmans and Gobble and Waddle as they strut their stuff now with the Wolfpack.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker Johnson on Wednesday, December 3, 2025:

H.R. 970, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes;

H.R. 983, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1912, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment

by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary, and for other purposes;

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I hereby appoint as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress the following person: Mr. Benjamin Francis-Fallon, Washington, DC.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

COMBATING THE LIES OF AUTHORITARIANS IN SCHOOL SYSTEMS ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 916, I call up 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, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 916, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce, printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 1005

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 "Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems Act" or the "CLASS Act".

SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF FOREIGN FUNDING AND CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of Federal financial assistance under any applicable program by a public elementary school or a public secondary school, the school, not later than 30 days after receiving funds in excess of \$10,000 in the aggregate from a foreign source, or entering into one or more contracts with an aggregate value in excess of \$10,000 with a foreign source, shall submit to the Secretary of Education a written disclosure that identifies—

(1) the name and country of origin of the foreign source;

(2) in a case in which a school receives funds from a foreign source—

(A) the amount of funds received from that source; and

(B) any terms or conditions applicable to the receipt of such funds; and

(3) in a case in which a school enters into a contract with a foreign source, the terms and conditions of such contract.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “applicable program” has the meaning given that term in section 400 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1221).

(2) The terms “elementary school” and “secondary school” have the meanings given those terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(3) The term “Federal financial assistance” has the meaning given that term in section 7501(a)(5) of title 31, United States Code.

(4) The term “foreign source” has the meaning given that term in section 117(h) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011f(h)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. 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. 1005.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1005.

For much of the 20th century, the United States bravely confronted the threat of communism worldwide.

As the Soviet Union oppressed its own people and extended its influence abroad, countless Americans dedicated their lives to stopping the spread of repressive ideology.

In 1987, President Reagan famously called on Secretary Gorbachev to “tear down this wall” at the Brandenburg Gate. A few short years later, the Berlin Wall fell, the Soviet Union collapsed, and democracy gained ground across the globe.

In the years that followed, democracy and Western values flourished, but authoritarian regimes like the Chinese Communist Party have chosen repression over freedom, indoctrinating their citizens to embrace socialism and communism, ideals fundamentally opposed to American values of liberty, freedom, and self-determination.

Now, we are seeing those same authoritarian efforts reach into our classrooms. While some are now closed, the

CCP established Confucius Institutes on college campuses and Confucius classrooms in K–12 schools, funding programs with untold dollars. Marketed as cultural exchanges to teach Chinese language and culture, these classrooms are in reality beachheads in the war for young minds.

That is why I am proud to support H.R. 1005, the Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems, known as the CLASS Act, from Representative DAVID JOYCE and Representative MICHAEL RULLI. It is an important piece of legislation requiring schools to disclose any funding or contracts received from foreign entities above a nominal threshold.

For too long, schools have allowed foreign adversaries to funnel propaganda into classrooms, propaganda that rewrites history and undermines American values. These programs are funded and directed by the CCP’s propaganda arm, targeting children for indoctrination.

No lesson from an authoritarian regime comes without strings attached. The CCP seeks to shape American students’ views of communism and tyranny, softening opinions toward authoritarianism, and potentially fostering replication of those same ideas here.

Already, we see these influences on college campuses. Instead of free speech and open debate, we see censorship. Instead of independent thought, we see indoctrination.

This is why we must pass the CLASS Act. Confucius classrooms and similar programs pose real risks to both national and academic security while promoting authoritarianism over freedom and democracy.

As the saying goes, sunlight is the best disinfectant. Greater transparency in education will reveal where school funds come from and whether foreign adversaries are exploiting financial ties to influence students.

By requiring disclosure, we protect American values, strengthen national security, and ensure our children learn what is right, not what our adversaries dictate.

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

□ 1220

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1005, the Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems Act.

This bill would compel schools to implement new reporting mechanisms, monitoring procedures, and compliance structures despite the complete absence of any factual verified threats.

Under current law, K–12 schools are not required to report funding from foreign governments or contracts with foreign entities, as most school funding comes from local property taxes, State formulas, and a little bit from the Federal Government. This bill would require schools to report funding from or contracts with a foreign source.

Let’s be clear. There is no evidence that K–12 schools are under any threat from misinformation or covert influence by authoritarian foreign governments in any measurable way.

If passed, school districts already facing shortages of teachers, counselors, and support staff now will have to divert critical time and resources from instruction to completing bureaucratic paperwork, like what qualifies as a foreign source and who qualifies as a foreign source. Schools have got to have professional development, so every school principal and superintendent knows exactly who needs to be reported and how.

Confucius Institutes were mentioned. We have got 15,000 school systems that will have to comply with this bill. Five Confucius Institute classrooms have been found to exist in the United States at last count. Mr. Speaker, 15,000 school systems are going to have to put up with this paperwork. This is the very definition of unfunded mandate and imposes obligations without offering the capacity or funding to meet the mandate.

Instead of strengthening our school system, it distracts from the urgent challenges our schools are facing, such as widening achievement gaps, as reflected in the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, the NAEP scores, and the growing difficulty of recruiting and retaining quality educators.

Let me underscore the broader point. My colleagues across the aisle have remained silent as the administration has dismantled or is in the process of dismantling the Department of Education, undermining its legitimacy, capacity, and effectiveness. Most recently, the administration announced plans to move six interagency agreements which would offload core functions of the Department of Education and spread them across other Federal agencies.

Yet this bill assigns additional responsibilities to what is left of the Department of Education. It simply doesn’t add up. Who will be left in the Department of Education to enforce these mandates?

For these reasons, H.R. 1005 does nothing to improve our schools and everything to bog down schools in administrative red tape. I strongly recommend a “no” vote.

Mr. Speaker, I inform the chairman that I have no additional speakers. I reserve the balance of my time until closing.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RULLI), the bill’s co-lead. I say that as a gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, especially after last weekend, I take a second to thank the chairman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, the CLASS Act prohibits K–12 schools from accepting funds or contracting with the People’s Republic of China or the CCP. Let’s just let that sink in for a second. My

honorable friend on the other side of the aisle is literally defending the Chinese to invade our schools. That is what this is about.

It will also prohibit any person or entity acting on behalf of other such governments or parties. It also requires K-12 schools to submit a report to the Secretary of Education with the name and country of origin, the amount of funds that are being put into our public schools, and any terms of that contract.

The CCP is anti-American to its core. We stand for freedom of speech, expression, and religion. They stand for none of our values. Confucius classrooms are propaganda, and they are often set up near our military bases, just to give it another layer.

There are CCP and Chinese affiliations in 143 schools throughout this country. Honorable Speaker, I was shocked myself to realize that one of them sits right outside our capital city of Columbus, Ohio. This is unacceptable.

They could be coming to a school near you very soon. That is why I urge a "yes" vote from all my colleagues, especially from the other side of the aisle. We do not want them to be labeled as pro-Chinese, but as pro-American.

This is not going to have a lot of cost that will be put onto a school district. I was a school board member. This bill contains very, very few requirements to actually log in and say where this money is coming from.

I urge a "yes" vote today on H.R. 1005, otherwise known as the CLASS Act.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), the bill's sponsor. As a Member coming from the Wolverine State, I congratulate him on Saturday's victory.

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from the State of Michigan for yielding. He certainly is a class act.

I am proud to join my friend Representative RULLI in supporting this effort to protect our children and national security from dangerous foreign actors.

For years, China has been attempting to exert soft power over our country by forging ties with American schools and universities. In an attempt to influence our future generation, the People's Republic of China has been establishing Confucius classrooms in our K-12 public schools. Styled as language and cultural programs, these classes and their teachers are funded and vetted by the Chinese Government, a fact that is rarely disclosed to the parents.

A report from Parents Defending Education revealed that over 140 K-12 schools across the country had contracts with a Chinese Government entity. Attached to these contracts are a variety of incentives, including fully

funded teacher exchanges, Chinese language programs, and opportunities for American students to learn in China.

However, this funding comes with strings attached. These teachers could also be terminated if the CCP deems that they violate Chinese laws or go against the national interest of China.

The CLASS Act combats this foreign interference by preventing our public schools from accepting these funds. It also ensures that the Department of Education will be notified of these contracts.

As China seeks greater influence in education across the globe, we should take commonsense steps to protect our children and maintain the integrity of the U.S. system of schools.

These Confucius classrooms are just another example of the CCP trying to exert influence outside their borders. The fact that they are targeting our kids should be a significant cause for concern.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and demonstrate that Congress will always fight to protect our children and national security.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not limited to China. This bill says "foreign source," and under the definition of foreign source, it includes any individual who is not a U.S. citizen or national of the United States, so if you have a plumbing contract over \$10,000, you have got to check out the owner of the plumbing company's citizenship to know whether you have to document and report the contract.

Every one of the 15,000 school systems, every school, every contract over \$10,000, you have got to report, and you have to ascertain the citizenship of who you are contracting with. I don't know how you do that. If you order something over the internet, you have got to check out somebody's citizenship. I don't know how you comply, but that is just a little gap in the bill.

Every school system, every school would have to comply with this. It is just not China. It is any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, there is actually no credible evidence that this bill is even needed. We are under no threat of misinformation or covert influence by authoritarian foreign governments.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill. This bill does nothing to improve our schools, close the achievement gaps, or increase teacher pay. It burdens schools with bureaucratic red tape due to imagined covert influence from foreign governments.

It is so broad that it covers every contract over \$10,000. If we don't know the citizenship of the other side, I don't know how we find out the citizenship of the other side.

We have real issues that we need to address, and we should address those

issues. For those reasons, I urge a "no" vote, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1005, the CLASS Act, is a critical step in limiting foreign influence in our classrooms. Too often, foreign funding comes with strings attached—maybe in every case—especially when those dollars come from adversaries like the Chinese Communist Party.

Students deserve strong education without indoctrination. I would hope my esteemed colleagues on the other side of the aisle would agree with me on that. Cultural exchange is valuable, but it should never mean sitting through lessons created by the CCP propagandists attempting to rewrite history and change our minds.

Our classrooms are becoming front lines in a battle of ideas, and the CLASS Act provides the transparency needed to protect our students and uphold American values. Students deserve better than indoctrination. That is why we must pass the CLASS Act, send it to the Senate, and, ultimately, to the President's desk, defending both our children and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representatives JOYCE and RULLI, for their clear-eyed attention to this important and credible concern, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 916, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

TRANSPARENCY IN REPORTING OF ADVERSARIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, Pursuant to House Resolution 916, I call up the bill (H.R. 1049) to ensure that parents are aware of foreign influence in their child's public school, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 916, the

amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 1049

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 “Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act” or the “TRACE Act”.

SEC. 2. PARENTS’ RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT FOREIGN INFLUENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 2 of part F of title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 8549D. PARENTS’ RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT FOREIGN INFLUENCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving funds under this Act, a local educational agency shall ensure that each elementary school and each secondary school served by such agency provides to each parent of a child attending the school, at a minimum—

“(1) the right (in a manner consistent with copyright law) to review, and make copies of free of cost, at least every four weeks and not later than 30 days after submission of a written request by the parent, any curricular material or professional development material used at the school that was purchased, or otherwise obtained, using funds received from the government of a foreign country or a foreign entity of concern;

“(2) the right to know, by written response provided not later than 30 days after submission of a written request by the parent, how many personnel of the school are compensated, in whole or in part, using funds received from the government of a foreign country or a foreign entity of concern; and

“(3) the right to know, by written response provided not later than 30 days after submission of a written request by the parent, of—

“(A) any donation received by the school or local educational agency from a foreign country or a foreign entity of concern;

“(B) any agreement in writing (such as a contract or memorandum of understanding) between the school or local educational agency and a foreign country or a foreign entity of concern; and

“(C) any financial transaction between the school or local educational agency and a foreign country or a foreign entity of concern.

“(b) DONATIONS, AGREEMENTS, AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.—The information described in subsection (a)(3) shall include, at minimum, the following:

“(1) The name of the foreign country or foreign entity of concern.

“(2) In any case in which funds were received by the school or local educational agency from a foreign country or a foreign entity of concern—

“(A) the amount of such funds; and

“(B) any terms or conditions applicable to the receipt of such funds.

“(c) NOTICE OF RIGHTS.—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency receiving funds under this Act shall ensure that each elementary school and each secondary school served by such agency posts on a publicly accessible website of the school or, if the school does not operate a website, widely disseminates to the public, a summary notice of the rights of parents described in subsections (a) and (b).

“(d) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—At the beginning of each school year, the Secretary shall notify State educational agencies about the requirements of this section. As a condition

of receiving funds under this Act, State educational agencies shall, at the beginning of each school year, notify local educational agencies of the requirements of this section.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘foreign country’ means a foreign country or a dependent territory or possession of a foreign country. Such term does not include any of the outlying areas.

“(2) The term ‘foreign entity of concern’ has the meaning given such term in section 10612(a) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19221(a)).”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8549C the following:

“Sec. 8549D. Parents’ right to know about foreign influence.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1049.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1049.

We need greater transparency in American education. In recent years, foreign governments have increasingly sought to influence our K–12 schools. It is not for their stated purpose of cultural exchanges or diplomacy, but to push propaganda.

The Chinese Communist Party, for example, has spent untold sums across hundreds of schools to indoctrinate or influence thousands of children. These so-called little red classrooms were sold as opportunities to teach Chinese language and culture. In reality, they required teachers to omit discussion of human rights abuses, present the CCP in a positive light, and rabidly celebrate the regime.

Students in these classrooms rarely learn about events such as the Tiananmen Square massacre or the ongoing genocide of Uyghur Muslims. Students don’t learn about these despicable crimes because the CCP doesn’t want them to. This one-sided approach extends beyond K–12 classrooms.

While the CCP operates programs in U.S. schools, American educators are not allowed to expose Chinese students to American culture. The goal is clear. The Chinese Communist Party wants to control information and shape young minds.

Over nearly two decades, the CCP has demonstrated a persistent effort to influence the minds of our children. According to a 2020 State Department report, many of these classrooms are funded and operated, in part, by the CCP’s United Front Work Department, a known overseas propaganda and influence operation.

Foreign experience in our schools threatens not only student learning but also our national security. H.R. 1049, the Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act, or the TRACE Act, by Representatives AARON BEAN and RYAN MACKENZIE, addresses this problem by giving parents the right to review course materials funded or provided by foreign governments and entities of concern.

Students perform better when parents are involved in their education. Yet, in recent years, parents have often been silenced or forced to navigate bureaucratic hurdles just to understand what their children are learning.

The TRACE Act ensures transparency, strengthens parental rights, and protects students from foreign indoctrination. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and defend the role of families in safeguarding our children’s education.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1049, the Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act, the TRACE Act. This bill suffers from many of the same shortcomings in the earlier bill we just discussed. This bill, H.R. 1049, would require schools to allow parents to access certain information if it was paid for by a foreign entity of concern. It doesn’t say “China.” It says “foreign entity of concern.”

This includes all teachers’ and administrators’ professional development material and salary information, as well as the school districts’ contracts and records for all materials purchased from or paid for by a foreign entity of concern. While this is not currently required by law, parents now already have access to their children’s records, including their curriculum, under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, or PPRA.

It is worth noting that there is no evidence that foreign entities of concern are contributing to public schools at any scale. We have already noted that there are five Confucius Institutes throughout the United States, throughout 15,000 school systems.

H.R. 1049 would impose new layers of reporting, auditing, and bureaucracy on every school district in the Nation. Yet, once again, this is without allocating a single dollar to support these added responsibilities.

For years, my Republican colleagues have warned against unfunded mandates. They have rightly criticized Federal actions that impose requirements on States and local communities that cannot afford to implement those policies.

□ 1240

Yet, H.R. 1049 is precisely that, another unfunded mandate wrapped around rhetoric but lacking in substance. At a time when our schools need smaller class sizes, they need to pay teachers more, and they need more academic support for students, the last thing they need is a new stack of new Federal compliance paperwork.

That would include the professional development to inform every school official what a foreign entity of concern is and where they can get the most recent list.

Let me underscore the broader point though. At the same time as congressional Republicans are creating additional bureaucratic hurdles for K-12, the Trump administration is actively dismantling the Department of Education.

Who is going to enforce these mandates anyway?

I challenge my colleagues, many of whom privately acknowledge that abolishing the Department of Education is a mistake, to actually oppose those actions publicly. Our schools need stability and support, not disarray and mixed messages.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would remind my friend and colleague from Virginia that the U.S. Department of Education has been in place while our concerns with foreign influence have been developed and, ultimately, caused the concerns that we address today. We believe that what is being done with reshaping how we deal from the Federal level with our local community schools will, in fact, be more conducive to the ability for them to deal with key issues of concern such as national security when we see that as necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN), who is a world-class auctioneer and who is unwilling to auction off our children's future to any malign actor.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WALBERG for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the saying: There is no such thing as a free lunch. It turns out mom and dad were right. Everything comes at a price, and nothing is free.

Every dollar that flows into American classrooms from foreign countries comes with strings attached. This is particularly true for China, whose strategy is to gain a foothold in America's educational system to steal personal data and to manipulate the material children are being taught.

Millions of dollars of Chinese funds have flowed into America's K-12 classrooms where students are subject to

Chinese Communist Party propaganda under the guise of Chinese language and culture programming.

In fact, a recent Parents Defending Education investigation found that 143 schools across 34 States hosted a Confucius classroom or otherwise had ties to the Chinese Communist Party. But wait, Mr. Speaker, there is more. Disturbingly, the same investigation found that the CCP specifically targets schools around 20 U.S. military bases.

China is not the only country making sizeable investments in K-12 classrooms across the country. The Qatar Foundation allocated \$30.6 million to various schools around the Nation.

What did they get, Mr. Speaker?

What do you get for \$30 million invested in our schools?

It is a clear act of anti-Semitism. Classroom maps where they funded omitted Israel and instead labeled it Palestine. Following a congressional hearing last year, New York Public Schools acknowledged receiving large donations from Italy and South Korea. These blatant attempts to inject foreign ideologies into our schools undermines the fundamental purpose of American education. It goes without saying that we should be teaching American values in American schools.

This is what happens when institutions of learning accept the Trojan horse of foreign funding. It shouldn't take an act of Congress or a congressional investigation hearing for parents to know who is funding their schools.

My bill, H.R. 1049, the Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act, or let's just call it the TRACE Act, solidifies the rights of parents to know how foreign influence may be impacting their child's classroom and stops foreign nations from reaching America's youth.

Specifically, the TRACE Act requires that as a condition of receiving Federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, public schools would be required to provide each parent the right to review any curricular material provided or purchased with funds from a foreign government or foreign entity of concern.

The bill also guarantees parents the right to know how many personnel at their child's school are being compensated by foreign sources or any donation of foreign transactions between the school and a foreign entity.

The dangers of foreign influence in American K-12 schools cannot be overstated. They threaten our national security, compromise our geopolitical interests, and erode our academic freedom.

American schools are not for sale, and they are for education, not espionage. We cannot allow our students, the future of our great Nation, to be corrupted by foreign adversaries who are systematically and aggressively attempting to influence our Nation's K-12 schools.

Chairman WALBERG has been a warrior on this issue to make sure that

American schools remain American. I thank Congressman MACKENZIE for his partnership on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1049, the Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act, and let's give parents the right to know just who is funding their kids' school.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Representative BEAN for introducing this important legislation. Again, anytime we have legislation that makes a foundational principle, an actual fact, that we support parents having transparency about what is going on in their schools, for anything, it is important as a discussion and ultimately important to make sure in law that is put into motion in every way possible.

It is also a fact that we look at the malign influence that comes from the CCP, yes, but there are other entities equally determined to undermine America, and they are starting in its educational system. Because if you control the minds of young people and you shape their teachers even before that, so when they enter the classroom, even if it isn't a Confucius classroom, those teachers have been impacted in what they point out about some of these malign actors in the world, even if it puts down some of their concerns, is a problem for the United States.

If there is complete transparency, where we talk about all of the entities with truth, then that is fine. That is America. We can take it, having our students know about the Chinese Communist Party and how they have taken Uyghur Muslims and committed genocide on them for years. If we can talk about the Tiananmen Square massacre that went on, that is not a problem. However, that is not what these malign actors want. They want to cover that over.

Mr. Speaker, there is significant evidence of ongoing threats to U.S. schools from malign actors. They may change names and they may change approaches, but they are there. We wouldn't have seen the type of demonstrations and attacks on our Jewish students on college campuses all over this country if there weren't malign actors changing the focus of our students' minds on key issues.

China strategically deployed and expanded their Confucius classrooms rapidly going from only a few in 2008 to over 1,000 worldwide by 2019. More than 500 American K-12 schools have hosted Confucius classrooms. A 2023 Defending Education report identified 143 schools across 34 States with Chinese ties, with at least 7 still active as of this publication.

The report also found that many of these schools are located near military bases.

□ 1250

My Democrat colleagues are correct that the known number of Confucius classrooms has declined after attention from media and advocacy groups increased, including from Congress, but that doesn't prove the CCP threat is gone.

There are 500 Chinese Communist Party-affiliated Chinese nationals—I say “affiliated” because they are required when coming over to work in a new production center in my district that will be opened up very soon by a major corporation. These 500 employees have signed a contractual agreement with the Chinese Communist Party to provide any information back to China that they come up with. Who knows what type of influence will take place within 15 minutes of a National Guard base and a key drone wing of the United States military.

These are concerns that we ought to have, but this doesn't prove that we have done enough yet. I think what we have seen causes us to be concerned about what is taking place. It may be that the CCP has found more covert ways to influence our schools. Schools may still be making contracts with CCP entities. If not, great. We will find that out, just without easily identifiable keywords such as “Confucius,” but what else will take place. That is why we need these bills.

Under these bills, schools must avoid contracting with the CCP or its agents. Schools must report gifts from or contracts with foreign governments, and resources must be available for parents to review.

We know this can go on right now. We know contracts are undertaken with all of our school districts now. We know that the lawyers on staff have means by which to make sure that the appropriate t's are crossed and i's are dotted. They can follow the law. We must do that.

Advocacy groups, such as Defending Education, have done tremendous work to ensure we know about the CCP's influence, but it shouldn't take a third-party nonprofit to tell us who is teaching our children.

The CCP remains a threat to American interests. I have no doubt that they would still like to indoctrinate American children and teachers, and that is why we must be vigilant and pass these bills.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR), who is also the chairman of the Select Committee on the CCP.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for this time.

China is our Nation's greatest adversary, and it seeks to harm our country on a daily basis. It thrives in the shadows. It uses fantanyl precursors, predatory trade practices, and cyberattacks to hurt us.

China also uses informational warfare, and it would love to influence what American students learn in classrooms, from kindergarten through college.

The CCP uses our free and open society against us, bankrolling civil organizations with nice-sounding names to sponsor exchange programs and curriculums that hide the truth about China.

Earlier this year, my committee highlighted how Montgomery County in Maryland has sent 31 students to China on a trip paid for by the People's Republic of China. That is just one example of why the legislation the House is considering this week is urgently needed.

The CCP does not want Americans to learn about the horrific Cultural Revolution in their history classes. It does not want young Americans to know that it slaughtered innocent students at Tiananmen Square, nor does it want students to learn about the CCP's ongoing Uyghur genocide and the slave labor that affects the supply chains of clothes and other products they use every day.

Parents may think the Chinese Communist Party isn't interested in what their kids are learning, but the CCP wants to influence every American.

These bills will empower parents, protect students from Chinese propaganda, and shine a light on how China tries to influence our education system.

I thank my colleagues for their work on this legislation and my good friend Chairman WALBERG from Michigan for moving the bills through the committee and bringing them to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for the bills.

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

Mr. Speaker, if there was real evidence of influence, I think we would have heard specifically what that evidence is. We haven't.

My colleagues keep talking about China, about the Confucius Institute. At last count, there were only five active programs in 15,000 school divisions. There used to be more. There are only about five now.

This bill is going to be hard to manage. It is difficult, if not impossible, to easily access the most recent list of foreign entities of concern.

As we have pointed out, this bill doesn't talk about China. It talks about foreign entities of concern. That list can change without notice. In fact, the most recent list from the Department of State has 91 listings, 12 added since Labor Day of this year. Good luck to those 15,000 superintendents who have to keep up with that list, with the added problem that the Departments of Energy and the Treasury also keep separate lists. Those 15,000 superintendents have to keep up with those lists, too.

At its core, this is just another unfunded mandate, where you have to train 15,000 superintendents and unlimited numbers of principals so they will know what a foreign entity of concern is and how to deal with it with this new legislation. It burdens our already

overstretched schools with new reporting requirements, new paperwork, and new bureaucratic hurdles, all without adding a single dollar to help them meet their obligations. Our educators deserve meaningful support, not legislative gestures that create more problems than they solve.

For these reasons, I will be voting “no” and urge my colleagues to reject this measure and refocus our efforts on policies that will actually strengthen our public schools.

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

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

H.R. 1049, the TRACE Act, sends a clear message: Parents have a right to know what their children are learning, especially when curricula are funded by authoritarian regimes.

Foreign influence in classrooms not only undermines our cherished American values but also our national security. The TRACE Act allows parents to review foreign-funded materials and raise concerns when needed. Concerned parents should not be labeled as terrorists, domestic or otherwise, or treated like criminals when they stand up for their children.

By empowering parents, we strengthen student outcomes and protect our schools, which should be in the business of public service to our homes, our families, our children, and our parents.

I urge my colleagues to support the TRACE Act and stand with families in defending the integrity of American education from foreign tyranny.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 916, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KNOTT) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- Passage of H.R. 2965;
- Passage of H.R. 4305; and
- Passage of H.R. 1005.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY
REDUCTION ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage 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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 223, nays 190, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 310]

YEAS—223

Aderholt	Cuellar	Gosar
Alford	Davidson	Gottheimer
Allen	Davis (NC)	Gray
Amodei (NV)	De La Cruz	Griffith
Arrington	DesJarlais	Grothman
Bacon	Diaz-Balart	Guest
Baird	Donalds	Guthrie
Barr	Downing	Hageman
Baumgartner	Dunn (FL)	Hamadeh (AZ)
Bean (FL)	Edwards	Haridopolos
Begich	Ellzey	Harrigan
Bentz	Emmer	Harris (MD)
Bergman	Estes	Harris (NC)
Bice	Evans (CO)	Harshbarger
Biggs (AZ)	Ezell	Hern (OK)
Biggs (SC)	Fallon	Higgins (LA)
Bilirakis	Fedorchak	Hill (AR)
Boebert	Feenstra	Hinson
Bost	Fine	Houchin
Brecheen	Finstad	Hudson
Bresnahan	Fischbach	Huizenga
Burchett	Fitzgerald	Hunt
Burlison	Fitzpatrick	Hurd (CO)
Calvert	Fleischmann	Issa
Cammack	Flood	Jack
Carey	Fong	Jackson (TX)
Carter (GA)	Fox	James
Carter (TX)	Franklin, Scott	Johnson (LA)
Ciscomani	Fry	Johnson (SD)
Cline	Fulcher	Jordan
Cloud	Garbarino	Joyce (OH)
Clyde	Gill (TX)	Joyce (PA)
Cole	Gillen	Kean
Collins	Gimenez	Kelly (MS)
Comer	Golden (ME)	Kennedy (UT)
Crane	Goldman (TX)	Kiggans (VA)
Crank	Gonzales, Tony	Kiley (CA)
Crawford	Gonzalez, V.	Kim
Crenshaw	Gooden	Knott

Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClintock
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Min

Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perez
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Scallise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson

NAYS—190

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragan
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreh
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Friedman

Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters

Watson Coleman
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—19

Babin	Garamendi	Perry
Balderson	Graves	Pettersen
Barrett	Greene (GA)	Strickland
Buchanan	Kelly (PA)	Swalwell
Casar	McClain	Williams (TX)
Crockett	Nadler	
Foushee	Nehls	

□ 1632

Ms. DEGETTE changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I missed a vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 310.

DESTROYING UNNECESSARY, MIS-
ALIGNED, AND PROHIBITIVE RED
TAPE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 269, nays 146, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 311]

YEAS—269

Aderholt	Comer	Garbarino
Alford	Correa	Gill (TX)
Allen	Costa	Gillen
Amodei (NV)	Courtney	Gimenez
Arrington	Crane	Golden (ME)
Bacon	Crank	Goldman (TX)
Baird	Crawford	Gonzales, Tony
Barr	Crenshaw	Gonzalez, V.
Baumgartner	Cuellar	Gooden
Bean (FL)	Davidson	Goodlander
Begich	Davis (NC)	Gosar
Bentz	De La Cruz	Gottheimer
Bera	DesJarlais	Graves
Bergman	Diaz-Balart	Gray
Bice	Donalds	Griffith
Biggs (AZ)	Downing	Grothman
Biggs (SC)	Dunn (FL)	Guest
Bilirakis	Edwards	Guthrie
Boebert	Ellzey	Hageman
Bost	Emmer	Hamadeh (AZ)
Brecheen	Estes	Haridopolos
Bresnahan	Evans (CO)	Harrigan
Budzinski	Ezell	Harris (MD)
Burchett	Fallon	Harris (NC)
Bynum	Fedorchak	Harshbarger
Calvert	Feenstra	Hern (OK)
Cammack	Fine	Higgins (LA)
Carbajal	Finstad	Hill (AR)
Carey	Fischbach	Himes
Carter (GA)	Fitzgerald	Hinson
Carter (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Horsford
Ciscomani	Fleischmann	Houchin
Cline	Flood	Houlihan
Cloud	Fong	Hudson
Clyde	Foster	Huizenga
Cole	Fox	Hunt
Collins	Franklin, Scott	Hurd (CO)
	Fry	Issa
	Fulcher	Jack

Jackson (TX) Messmer
 James Meuser
 Johnson (LA) Miller (IL)
 Johnson (SD) Miller (OH)
 Johnson (TX) Miller (WV)
 Jordan Miller-Meeks
 Joyce (OH) Mills
 Joyce (PA) Min
 Kaptur Moolenaar
 Kean Moore (AL)
 Kelly (MS) Moore (NC)
 Kennedy (NY) Moore (UT)
 Kennedy (UT) Moore (WV)
 Kiggans (VA) Moran
 Kiley (CA) Moskowitz
 Kim Mrvan
 Knott Murphy
 Kustoff Nehls
 LaHood Newhouse
 LaLota Norman
 LaMalfa Nunn (IA)
 Landsman Obernolte
 Langworthy Ogles
 Latimer Onder
 Latta Owens
 Lawler Palmer
 Lee (FL) Panetta
 Lee (NV) Pappas
 Letlow Patronis
 Levin Perez
 Loudermilk Perry
 Lucas Peters
 Luna Pfluger
 Luttrell Pou
 Lynch Quigley
 Mace Reschenthaler
 Mackenzie Riley (NY)
 Magaziner Rogers (AL)
 Malliotakis Rogers (KY)
 Maloy Rose
 Mann Rouzer
 Massie Roy
 Mast Rulli
 McBride Rutherford
 McCaul Ryan
 McClain Delaney Salazar
 McClintock Scalise
 McCormick Schmidt
 McDonald Rivet Schrier
 McDowell Schweikert
 McGuire Scott, Austin

NAYS—146

Adams Fields
 Aguilar Figures
 Amo Fletcher
 Ansari Friedman
 Auchincloss Frost
 Balint Garcia (CA)
 Barragán Garcia (IL)
 Beatty Garcia (TX)
 Bell Goldman (NY)
 Beyer Gomez
 Bishop Green, Al (TX)
 Bonamici Grijalva
 Boyle (PA) Harder (CA)
 Brown Hayes
 Brownley Hoyer
 Carson Hoyle (OR)
 Carter (LA) Huffman
 Casten Ivey
 Castor (FL) Jackson (IL)
 Castro (TX) Jacobs
 Cherfilus-McCormick Jayapal
 Chu Jeffries
 Cisneros Johnson (GA)
 Clark (MA) Kamlager-Dove
 Clarke (NY) Keating
 Cleaver Kelly (IL)
 Clyburn Khanna
 Conaway Krishnamoorthi
 Craig Larsen (WA)
 Crow Larson (CT)
 Davis (KS) Lee (PA)
 Davis (IL) Leger Fernandez
 Dean (PA) Liccardo
 DeGette Lieu
 DeLauro Lofgren
 DelBene Mannion
 Deluzio Matsui
 DeSaulnier McBath
 Dexter McClellan
 Dingell McCollum
 Doggett McGarvey
 Elfreth McGovern
 Escobar McIver
 Espallat Meeks
 Evans (PA) Menendez
 Meng

Self Sessions
 Sessions Shreve
 Simpson Simpson (MO)
 Smith (NE) Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ) Smith (NJ)
 Smucker Smucker
 Sorensen Sorensen
 Soto Soto
 Spartz Spartz
 Stanton Stanton
 Stauber Stauber
 Stefanik Stefanik
 Steil Steil
 Steube Steube
 Stevens Stevens
 Strong Strong
 Stutzman Stutzman
 Subramanyam Subramanyam
 Suozzi Suozzi
 Sykes Sykes
 Taylor Taylor
 Tenney Tenney
 Thompson (PA) Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany Tiffany
 Timmons Timmons
 Titus Titus
 Torres (CA) Torres (CA)
 Tran Tran
 Turner (OH) Turner (OH)
 Valadao Valadao
 Van Drew Van Drew
 Van Dwyne Van Dwyne
 Van Orden Van Orden
 Vasquez Vasquez
 Vindman Vindman
 Wagner Wagner
 Walberg Walberg
 Wasserman Wasserman
 Schultz Schultz
 Weber (TX) Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL) Webster (FL)
 Westerman Westerman
 Whitesides Whitesides
 Wied Wied
 Wilson (SC) Wilson (SC)
 Wittman Wittman
 Womack Womack
 Yakym Yakym
 Zinke Zinke

Underwood
 Vargas
 Veasey

Velázquez
 Walkinshaw
 Waters

Watson Coleman
 Williams (GA)
 Wilson (FL)

Kiggans (VA)
 Kiley (CA)
 Kim

Knott
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 LaMalfa
 Landsman
 Langworthy
 Latta
 Lawler
 Lee (FL)
 Letlow
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luna
 Luttrell
 Lynch
 Mace
 Mackenzie
 Magaziner
 Malliotakis
 Maloy
 Mann
 Massie
 Mast
 McCaul
 McClain
 McClintock
 McCormick
 McDonald Rivet
 McDowell
 McGuire
 Messmer
 Meuser
 Miller (IL)
 Miller (OH)
 Miller (WV)
 Miller-Meeks
 Mills

Moolenaar
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (NC)
 Moore (UT)
 Moore (WV)
 Moran
 Moskowitz
 Mrvan
 Murphy
 Nehls
 Newhouse
 Norman
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Ogles
 Onder
 Owens
 Palmer
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Patronis
 Perez
 Perry
 Pfluger
 Reschenthaler
 Riley (NY)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rulli
 Rutherford
 Ryan
 Salazar
 Scalise
 Schmidt
 Scholten
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Self

Sessions
 Shreve
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Sorensen
 Soto
 Spartz
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Strong
 Stutzman
 Suozzi
 Taylor
 Tenney
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany
 Timmons
 Turner (OH)
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Dwyne
 Van Orden
 Vasquez
 Vindman
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Westerman
 Wied
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Yakym
 Zinke

NAYS—176

Adams Frankel, Lois
 Aguilar Friedman
 Amo Frost
 Ansari Garcia (CA)
 Auchincloss Garcia (IL)
 Balint Garcia (TX)
 Barragán Goldman (NY)
 Beatty Gomez
 Bell Green, Al (TX)
 Bera Grijalva
 Beyer Harder (CA)
 Bishop Hayes
 Bonamici Himes
 Boyle (PA) Houlihan
 Brown Hoyer
 Brownley Hoyle (OR)
 Budzinski Huffman
 Bynum Ivey
 Carbajal Jackson (IL)
 Carson Jacobs
 Carter (LA) Jayapal
 Casten Jeffries
 Castor (FL) Johnson (GA)
 Castro (TX) Johnson (TX)
 Cherfilus-McCormick Kamlager-Dove
 Chu Keating
 Cisneros Kelly (IL)
 Clark (MA) Kennedy (NY)
 Clarke (NY) Khanna
 Cleaver Krishnamoorthi
 Clyburn Larsen (WA)
 Cohen Larson (CT)
 Conaway Latimer
 Correa Lee (NV)
 Courtney Lee (PA)
 Craig Leger Fernandez
 Crow Levin
 Davis (IL) Liccardo
 Dean (PA) Lieu
 DeGette Lofgren
 DeLauro Mannion
 DelBene Matsui
 Deluzio McBath
 DeSaulnier McBride
 Dexter McClellan
 Dingell McCollum
 Doggett McGarvey
 Elfreth McGovern
 Escobar McIver
 Espallat Meeks
 Evans (PA) Menendez
 Fields Meng
 Figures Mfume
 Fletcher Min
 Foster Moore (WI)

Morelle
 Morrison
 Moulton
 Mullin
 Neal
 Neguse
 Norcross
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Olszewski
 Pallone
 Pelosi
 Peters
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Pou
 Pressley
 Quigley
 Ramirez
 Randall
 Raskin
 Rivas
 Ross
 Ruiz
 Salinas
 Sánchez
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schneider
 Schrier
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Simon
 Smith (WA)
 Stansbury
 Stanton
 Stevens
 Strickland
 Subramanyam
 Sykes
 Takano
 Thanedar
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tokuda
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres (NY)
 Trahan
 Tran
 Underwood
 Vargas

NOT VOTING—17

Babin
 Balderson
 Barrett
 Buchanan
 Burlison
 Casar
 Crockett
 Foushee
 Frankel, Lois
 Garamendi
 Greene (GA)
 Kelly (PA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1647

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMBATING THE LIES OF AUTHORITARIANS IN SCHOOL SYSTEMS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 176, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 312]

YEAS—242

Aderholt
 Alford
 Allen
 Amodei (NV)
 Arrington
 Bacon
 Baird
 Barr
 Baumgartner
 Bean (FL)
 Begich
 Bentz
 Bergman
 Bice
 Biggs (AZ)
 Biggs (SC)
 Bilirakis
 Boebert
 Bost
 Brecheen
 Bresnahan
 Burchett
 Burlison
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Carey
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Case
 Ciscomani
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyde
 Cole
 Collins
 Comer
 Costa
 Crane
 Crank
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Davids (KS)
 Davidson
 Davis (NC)
 De La Cruz
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Donalds
 Downing
 Dunn (FL)
 Edwards
 Ellzey
 Emmer
 Estes
 Evans (CO)
 Ezell
 Fallon
 Fedorchak
 Feenstra
 Fine
 Finstad
 Fischbach
 Fitzgerald
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Flood
 Fong
 Foxx
 Franklin, Scott
 Fry
 Fulcher
 Garbarino
 Gill (TX)
 Gillen
 Gimenez
 Golden (ME)
 Goldman (TX)
 Gonzales, Tony
 Gonzalez, V.
 Gooden
 Goodlander
 Gosar
 Gottheimer
 Graves
 Gray
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Hamadeh (AZ)
 Haridopolos
 Harrigan
 Harris (MD)
 Harris (NC)
 Harshbarger
 Hern (OK)
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill (AR)
 Hinson
 Horsford
 Houchin
 Hudson
 Huizenga
 Hunt
 Hurd (CO)
 Issa
 Jack
 Jackson (TX)
 James
 Johnson (LA)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kaptur
 Kean
 Kelly (MS)
 Kennedy (UT)

Veasey	Wasserman	Whitesides
Velázquez	Schultz	Williams (GA)
Walkinshaw	Waters	Wilson (FL)
	Watson Coleman	

NOT VOTING—14

Babin	Crockett	Nadler
Balderson	Foushee	Pettersen
Barrett	Garamendi	Swalwell
Buchanan	Greene (GA)	Williams (TX)
Casas	Kelly (PA)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1703

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to require public elementary and secondary schools to disclose certain funds received from, or contracts with, a foreign source, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to an official engagement, I was unable to vote on H.R. 2965, H.R. 4305, and H.R. 1005. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 310, YEA on Roll Call No. 311, and YEA on Roll Call No. 312.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING WEST DE PERE PHANTOMS FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate the West De Pere Phantoms football team for winning the WIAA Division 2 High School State Championship.

Following an impressive regular season and dominant performance in the playoffs, the West De Pere Phantoms traveled to Camp Randall Stadium in Madison to compete in the 2025 WIAA Division 2 State Football Championship.

In a hard-fought matchup, the West De Pere team won its third State title in program history. The Phantoms' defense held their opponent to zero points in the second half, and the offense broke records on the way to a 28-14 victory.

I commend the coaching staff and the entire Phantoms team for their hard work and dedication that led to this unforgettable season.

I also want to give a special shoutout to the father-son duo of West De Pere

Head Coach Chris Greisen and all-star quarterback Patrick Greisen, who set the Division 2 record for total passing yards in a championship game, an extraordinary achievement on an already memorable day.

Mr. Speaker, I once again congratulate the team on this accomplishment, and I look forward to seeing many more championship wins in their future. I am proud to recognize this talented team, and I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding their outstanding season.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF BRYAN TYNER

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minneapolis Fire Chief Bryan Tyner for over 30 years of selfless, heroic, and dedicated service to our city.

Serving as the second Black chief in the department's history, Fire Chief Tyner led Minneapolis Fire through some of the city's most significant public safety challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to advocate for the department's health and safety initiatives, improve operations, and promote inclusion within the ranks. At the end of this year, the chief will be transitioning into a new role, continuing his devoted service to our city as executive director of the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center.

It has been an honor to work alongside such a dedicated public servant, and I am incredibly grateful for his work keeping our community safe.

□ 1710

RECOGNIZING FUTURE ASTRONAUT YURI KUBO

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a fellow Hoosier and Purdue University engineer, Mr. Yuri Kubo. Yuri is a native of Columbus, Indiana, back in my district. He was recently selected as one of just 10 candidates from a field of 8,000 to join NASA's next astronaut program. That is rarefied air by any measure.

Over the next 2 years, Yuri and an elite cohort will train at NASA Johnson Space Center down in Houston as they prepare for missions to the International Space Station, the Moon, and whatever comes next. Yuri reflects the kind of scientific talent that Indiana grows.

Purdue, my own alma mater, has long been a launchpad for many of America's sharpest engineers and explorers, and he is rocketing that tradi-

tion forward. We are filled with Hoosier pride back home to see Yuri representing our State on a stage that is literally out of this world.

RUSHING TO BUILD AI DATA CENTERS

(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, citizens nationwide and across our district are pushing back on AI data centers. They are concerned these facilities demand massive amounts of energy and water, driving up rising regional utility costs even more.

How much more will our citizens be forced to pay for power and water? They have a right to know.

Will our building trades be true partners in economic growth or just temporary labor, while facing higher utility bills at home?

How many permanent jobs will these largely opaque facilities actually provide? Exactly which out-of-town interests will get the profits if these firms succeed?

Residents across our region complain State and local approvals are moving too quickly. In Ohio, the crooked PUCO and Ohio's Legislature have granted giant tax breaks to data centers, while local township officials remain in the dark about details. That is not fair.

Ohioans know what secrecy and inside deals bring. FirstEnergy scandals led to indictments, prison terms, and even suicides. Ohio Statehouse corruption rewards big business and harms the public. The American people deserve to know how AI data centers will affect their communities. Public hearings must be more robust and factual, not merely road shows by proponents.

THE FIGHT AGAINST SUICIDE

(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 recognize a rising tradition out of the University of Georgia. It is The Fight Against Suicide. Born out of a student movement, this charity boxing event was created to spread mental health awareness, particularly among young men.

What began in Athens now spans across eight universities with the proceeds benefiting the Sam Asbury Foundation in Atlanta Georgia, and other local charities.

Sam Asbury was a proud graduate of the University of Georgia and a diehard Bulldog. He lit up every room with his smile and unique sense of humor. No one knew of the pain and battles he faced daily. Tragically, in 2020, Sam lost his silent struggle. His story is a powerful reminder to check in with friends and family. Though he left us

too soon, Sam's kindness and the life he lived are inspiring change.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the students at the University of Georgia for their leadership in suicide prevention and for starting conversations that can save lives.

HONORING BEN BOYKIN AND CATHERINE PARKER

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators who will each leave office at month's ends, as they have completed 12 years in their positions and have reached their term limit. They are the Honorable Ben Boykin of White Plains and the Honorable Catherine Parker of Rye. They have provided exemplary service to their districts and beyond and to all the residents of Westchester County.

Ben Boykin is a financial professional who previously served on the White Plains school board. He has also served as councilman and president of the White Plains Common Council. Since 2014, he has served as the legislator for the 5th County Legislative District of White Plains, Scarsdale, and West Harrison. He served two terms as chair of the county board, as well as chair of important committees, and more recently as president of the New York State Association of Counties.

Catherine Parker has owned her own retail business on Purchase Street in Rye, served as leader of her co-op apartment board, and served for 6 years as Rye City councilwoman. She was a majority leader of the board of legislators and has been the author of major environmental legislation. She represents the 7th District, which includes Rye, Mamaroneck, Larchmont, and part of Harrison.

Both Ben and Catherine will bring their public service skills to new challenges, but we salute them for their legislative accomplishments on the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

ADDRESSING SOUTH CAROLINA'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

(Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Anderson County is facing a heartbreaking reality. They have experienced 55 suicide deaths this year alone, the highest number ever recorded.

Mr. Speaker, 55 families are shattered; and a community is left grieving. The pain reaches across South Carolina's Third District and across America.

Having counseled hundreds of patients and as a psychiatric mental

health nurse practitioner, I have seen what suffering looks like when it hides behind a smile. We often notice the physical scars, but we miss the wounds below the surface, the inward scars, the ones that ache in silence. We don't like asking the hard question: Are you thinking about ending your life? We have to, though.

I ran on the promise to help heal our Nation, and that healing starts with the unshakeable belief that every single life and every soul is created by God and with a purpose.

Mr. Speaker, if someone is hurting right now, I ask them to please reach out. They are not alone. They are seen. They are loved. They are worth it.

FIGHTING DHS IMMIGRATION RAIDS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ONDER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, as a Chicagoan, I know firsthand the terror that Trump's mass deportation agenda and the Department of Homeland Security's immigration raids are having on our communities.

My constituents have been surveilled, threatened, teargassed, hit with pepper balls, and shot. They have been subjected to warrantless arrests, rammed with Department of Homeland Security vehicles, kidnapped, and disappeared. People keep asking us why DHS agents are allowed to behave this way. Why isn't Congress doing something about it?

Let me start by saying that DHS was intentionally established with an overbroad mission and, some would argue, unchecked power. Yet, Republicans have expanded that power with a blank check and unlimited personnel.

With his authoritarian tendencies, his power grabs, his overreach, and his willingness to shamelessly use DHS as his own terror force, Trump is only making visible what so many communities have already known to be true: Terrorizing is the point. Violating our rights is the point. Fear is the point.

Creating a public enemy is meant to convince Americans to sacrifice our freedoms for the promise of security. Let me be very clear. Nothing that the Department of Homeland Security is doing is making us any safer.

In this moment, under Secretary Noem and under Donald Trump, DHS has become the single greatest threat to public safety. DHS agents used

chemical weapons on protesters and bystanders at least 49 times across 18 incidents in Chicago and the suburbs since October 1. Bovino and CBP agents are violating court injunctions and agency rules. They are lying in court about incidents where civilians have been put in danger.

□ 1720

The government alleges that Marimar Martinez used her car to assault and impede Federal law enforcement, but then, Federal prosecutors filed a motion to dismiss their own case.

Why?

It is because while she didn't assault the agents, they did shoot her five times, and then they went on and bragged about it.

You see, Mr. Speaker, President Trump and DHS are lying. They are acting with impunity. They are rejecting checks and balances, and they are ignoring Congress and the courts.

Here is my question to this House: If DHS cannot be held accountable, if we are obstructed from conducting oversight, and if they are systematically undermining our civil rights and perpetrating violence in our communities, then what, in fact, is Congress' responsibility?

You see, Mr. Speaker, the answer is clear. We must strip away every tool they are using to terrorize us, starting with the taxpayer dollars that they are using to harm Americans.

Today, in our Special Order hour, I am going to be yielding to my colleagues who will highlight stories of victims of Trump's enforcement overreach, discuss our ongoing work to hold the administration accountable, and uplift how we are pushing back against the abuses of this President, Secretary Noem, and of the entire administration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington State (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative RAMIREZ for her incredible leadership on this issue and so many others. I thank the Congressional Progressive Caucus for the Special Order hour and the Hispanic Caucus for all the work that has been happening at this very, very serious moment in time.

I stand here as the top Democrat on the Immigration Integrity, Security and Enforcement Subcommittee on the Judiciary Committee. I have been conducting shadow hearings both here in D.C. and across the country.

In October, we had a shadow hearing in Chicago, Illinois, in the gentlewoman's home State. I really appreciate all the work she did to help us facilitate that. We had 18 Members of Congress from all over the country come to that shadow hearing, and it was the largest act of congressional immigration oversight since Donald Trump took office.

What we heard was alarming, and I have worked in this space for a very

long time. Border Patrol Commander Gregory Bovino and his rogue immigration agents are terrorizing everyone regardless of immigration status.

We heard from an Active-Duty servicemember, someone who has put his life on the line for this country, who was heartbroken because he had to fly back to this country because his father had been deported and was gone before he even got back from his deployment. He said: I have put my life on the line for this country, and my father who has done nothing wrong was deported.

It was outrageous.

On Halloween weekend alone, Bovino deployed tear gas in a residential neighborhood as children were gathering for a Halloween parade. Border Patrol agents dragged a 67-year-old U.S. citizen from his car, breaking six of his ribs, while children in Halloween costumes watched in horror.

What was his crime?

Turning down a street to get home. That is what he did.

Bovino then went south to Charlotte, North Carolina, to continue his reign of terror. Masked agents raided a church. Charlotte-Mecklenburg school records show that over 27,000 students were absent the first school day following Border Patrol's arrival in the city. One U.S. citizen reported Border Patrol tried to arrest him twice within 5 minutes.

In my home State of Washington, we have seen green card holders taken, people who have lived in the United States for decades with deep roots in our communities and U.S. citizen family members. In Issaquah, Washington, agents kidnapped a mother outside her child's preschool and quickly deported her. This is not unique. Since Trump rescinded the practice of avoiding enforcement actions at sensitive locations, we have seen a daycare worker snatched in front of children in Chicago and a father arrested outside his child's preschool in Oregon.

Let's not forget that many care workers are immigrants. Among early educators, 26 percent, close to one-half million people, are immigrants. Many are being forced out of their jobs, whether it is through Trump's mass forced layoffs when he has abruptly cancelled entire categories of legal statuses or workers forced to step back from care work after a loved one's detention and deportation.

Trump's assault on our communities is not possible without the U.S. immigration incarceration system. Since Donald Trump took office, people in detention have skyrocketed to unprecedented levels with over 66,000 people incarcerated in immigration facilities. ICE plans to increase its capacity to detain an average of 107,000 people by the end of the year using \$45 billion that was in the Republicans' big, bad betrayal bill.

How did Republicans finance that unprecedented spending?

They did it by stealing healthcare from 16 million Americans.

This is cruel and unnecessary. First, let's be clear that immigration is a civil matter, not a criminal matter. People are held pending immigration proceedings, and ICE itself has said that detention is not supposed to be punitive. ICE's own numbers show that 73 percent of those who have been detained have no criminal record and the vast majority of the remaining 27 percent have minor convictions, like traffic violations.

People are detained in horrific conditions. Facilities are overcrowded, and people are sleeping on the ground next to toilets. Folks are denied medical care. If the private prison companies running the facilities provide any protein in meals, it is often undercooked and, yes, sometimes bloody. Dinner is often served after midnight.

So it is no surprise that these conditions are so poor because about 90 percent of people who are imprisoned are imprisoned in for-profit facilities which have a record of cutting corners on essential services to reap profits. Trump has decimated oversight, including by illegally blocking Members of Congress from doing unannounced inspections.

That is why today, with Representative RAMIREZ and 124 Members as original cosponsors, we introduced my Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, transformative legislation that would completely overhaul the system.

What is happening is not normal. We can't allow it to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. RAMIREZ for her leadership.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), who is the chair of the Hispanic Caucus.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman RAMIREZ for her leadership in this special hour, and I thank the Congressional Progressive Caucus, as well as the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and all the other Members associated with this special hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to forcefully speak against the Trump administration's horrific ICE abuses, far beyond an overreach on the immigrant and Latino communities across the country.

Back in New York City, my community is being assaulted, and we are hearing of the fear every single day. Fear has a way of settling into communities and making sure they don't move forward. So we must break with the fear.

Just recently a video surfaced from 26 Federal Plaza in New York City that shows a distraught woman violently shoved to the ground, thrown to the ground, and slammed to the ground by an ICE officer as her young daughter tried to assist her. The woman was unarmed, nonviolent, and posed absolutely no threat to anyone.

According to a recent investigation, more than 170 U.S. citizens have been

detained by immigration agents in recent months. These are U.S. citizens, people who often are telling these officers that they are a U.S. citizen, and they are disregarded and pushed aside, handcuffed and detained for hours. Many reportedly have been kicked, dragged, and detained for days.

As of November 2025, ICE has detained 65,135 people, and roughly 73.6 percent of them have no criminal conviction.

Many in immigrant and Latino communities, including U.S.-born individuals, now report fear, reluctance to go to court, to public services, or even to participate in regular civic life.

The violent incident at 26 Federal Plaza is not an isolated lapse. It reflects a much broader policy of aggressiveness and unaccountable enforcement with little transparency and no due process.

□ 1730

We must demand accountability, transparency, and protection of civil rights to ensure enforcement respects due process and human dignity. The American people are seeing the reality of this enforcement: fear, brutality and injustice. They will not stand for it.

Mr. Speaker, I will echo again what I said in Chicago during the hearing that we had there. Masked agents, without a first name and a last name, without a shield number, anonymous masked ICE agents, patrolling our streets, pushing people up against a wall, slamming to the ground a sitting U.S. Senator for the State of California, Senator PADILLA, slamming a woman to the ground at 26 Federal Plaza in front of her young girl, not representing or respecting sensitive locations like places of worship, houses of worship—this is the State of America today.

This is the Trump dictatorship. It is not tomorrow. It is not next week, next month, or next year. It is happening right now. These are the characteristics of a dictatorship, and we must do everything we can to save our Nation.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ESPAILLAT for his constant leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCIA).

Mr. GARCIA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Trump administration's outrageous overreach on immigration that is tearing families apart in my district and around the country.

Since taking office, Trump has declared war on our communities. Masked ICE and CBP thugs—I call them thugs because they don't identify themselves. In our State, police officers, law enforcement, always identify themselves. They have detained parents on their way to work. They have kidnapped U.S. citizens. They have tear-gassed people, including children. They have deployed the National Guard to our cities and terrorized hard-working immigrants who are following the rules, all without warning, charges, or due process.

This administration is abusing its power to trample on the Constitution and our civil rights. Federal agents have shot two of my constituents, one fatally. In the other, when they brought about charges, the case fell apart and the charges were dropped. That case was alluded to earlier in this presentation.

When agents show up in schools, hospitals, or factories without clear authority or regard for court orders, they send a message to everyone that their rights are conditional.

When agents run into a daycare center and drag out a teacher in front of the children and parents, they are not following the law. They are using gestapo tactics.

None of this is about public safety. More than 4,000 people have been arrested by Federal agents in Chicago, but only about 3 percent have any type of criminal records.

When the government goes after people just because of the color of their skin or the jobs that they hold, they are not going after criminals. They are clearly using racial profiling to meet the arbitrary detention quotas they have been given.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Progressive Caucus are standing up for the people. We are calling for transparency, tracking every incident, and working on laws to curb unchecked power and to restore our constitutional rights.

In the Fourth District and across the country, every family deserves to feel safe and respected, knowing that their government is there to protect their rights and uphold the law. We intend to hold this administration accountable when they don't, every single time.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I represent California's Central Coast where close to half of our residents are Latino and where farmworkers are essential pillars of our community.

Since Trump's return to the White House, our community has experienced an unprecedented level of chaos, fear from ICE raids, and family separations. I witnessed one of these raids myself in Carpinteria, California, where ICE agents unleashed a disproportionate show of force.

What I saw was completely unacceptable, masked ICE agents in military gear firing tear gas and other projectiles into a crowd of peaceful civilians and reporters. Even a child was injured by shrapnel.

Upon seeing these violent tactics, I demanded to speak to the person in charge, but I was denied.

As the elected Representative of the Central Coast, I have a duty to respond to my constituents and demand accountability for ICE's actions that day.

Sadly, this has not been an isolated incident. Throughout the year, ICE has carried out aggressive, indiscriminate, and often unjustified operations across

our country, actions that erode our freedom and undermine our civil rights and public trust in government.

ICE claims they need to be aggressive to keep us safe, but how does harassing law-abiding farmworkers, families, and children make anyone safer?

While I agree our immigration system is broken, cruelty is not the solution. Harassment is not reform.

We must continue to shine a light on the Trump administration's abuses. We must enact legislation that holds ICE accountable and builds a fair immigration system.

At the end of the day, this is about who we are as a Nation. True reform is possible, and I will keep fighting to make it happen.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS).

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call out the inhumane treatment of immigrants and people living on American soil.

Individuals are missing from work, children are skipping school, and people are too afraid to leave their own homes because Trump has ordered his administration to arrest immigrants at any cost.

This manufactured chaos has resulted in ICE vigilantes arresting U.S. citizens, even children. My own constituents have had to endure this horrific trauma across Oregon's Willamette Valley.

Last week, I visited the Tacoma, Washington, ICE detention facility to visit constituents and to conduct oversight. I wanted the opportunity to see for myself the facility, to understand what my constituents are being put through. I gave ICE their 7-day notice of my arrival, as they had requested, but I knew I would get a sanitized version of the privatized prison I would be shown. But the alternative would be to drive 3 hours, and then they would turn me away. The goal was to meet with my constituents and their attorney and get a tour of the facility.

When I asked about the detainees not being able to access medication, facility officials told me that detainees often lie about the lack of access to medical care. They claimed anyone could get access to the medical care that they need.

However, I know at least one of my constituents who was detained and was not able to access the heart medication he needed. He went 2 weeks without his lifesaving heart medicine.

Why would anybody lie about that, their heart medicine? He had no reason to lie. But he did get it 2 weeks later when he was sent down to Texas.

When I asked about the tuberculosis outbreak in the Alaska detention facility, ICE claimed the news reports got it wrong. I questioned if similar outbreaks happened in the Tacoma facility, and, again, was told flatout lies. The attorney I spoke to afterward told me, yes, there were outbreaks in the Tacoma facility.

When I asked about detainees not being able to access their attorneys, facility officials told me, oh, there are tablets that they can access and there are lots of rooms.

When I was supposed to meet with my constituents on that same day, I was refused access to my own constituents and so was their attorney.

□ 1740

Even with a full 7-day notice, the Tacoma ICE detention facility, the Department of Homeland Security, and the GEO Group couldn't get their story straight. They raised more questions than they could answer. The questions that they did answer were lies, half-truths, and misleading at best.

We should all be holding ICE, Homeland Security, and this administration accountable. It may start at our local or regional detention facilities, but it does not stop there.

We must hold Tom Homan, Kristi Noem, and Donald Trump accountable. They must tell me why a 17-year-old U.S. citizen was arrested, traumatized, and suffered shards of glass in his eye when an ICE vigilante smashed in his driver's side window and arrested him, detained him first, and asked questions later.

This is not justice. This is terror, but I have a voice. I have a voice for the people in my district. I have a voice for those who still believe that the United States is the land of opportunity, just as the Salinas family did in 1945.

I will continue to conduct oversight and publicize the horrific acts of ICE. They cannot continue to operate in the shadows. We must all continue to speak out and hold those who have raised their hands and pledged their oath to the Constitution accountable, but they are failing miserably today.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her leadership.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS).

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my community of Charlotte was under siege by the Department of Homeland Security's campaign of terror last month. They called it Operation Charlotte's Web.

Border Patrol agents engaged in extreme racial profiling, excessive force, and brutal tactics, spreading fear in our community.

It was fear that shattered the car window of a U.S. citizen born in Honduras. He was thrown on the glass-covered ground in handcuffs after he already identified himself to agents.

It was fear when more than 30,000 Charlotte-Mecklenburg students, 21 percent of the student body, were absent from school on the Monday after the raids began because parents were terrified that their children would be victims of CBP's brutality.

It was fear as businesses shuttered their doors to try and protect their customers and employees from being wrongfully targeted by these Federal agents.

Cruelty was the point of their operation, but Charlotte never caved in to their cruelty. Instead, citizens packed churches for training to empower themselves to respond to Border Patrol agents. Parents band together to safely get their children to school, and businessowners patrolled the streets to protect their neighbors, their customers, and their employers.

CBP's actions in Charlotte were deplorable and absolutely unacceptable. I have already reached out to DHS and demanded transparency on exactly what Border Patrol was doing in Charlotte. I am still waiting for answers to my questions.

Make no mistake about it. My constituents want answers. I do, too. They deserve the answers, and I am going to keep fighting for them.

Congress must end these unlawful, un-American, and unnecessary raids on our communities.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY).

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't an abstract issue. I am hearing every single day from constituents who are too afraid to go to the grocery store, to go to school, to go to church, and to go to work. I am hearing from nonprofits that are already stretched too thin while feeding our hungry neighbors and are facing even more demand now that Trump is targeting food assistance and breadwinners are being snatched off of the street.

This is the impact of the Trump administration's cruelty, a yearlong tirade against immigrants in this country that has blown way past just targeting violent criminals.

At home in Louisville, we don't have national troops in our backyard or ICE performing public raids, but it is the quiet, steady increase in arrests and profiling and detentions that has been devastating to our community.

So many Louisvillians, regardless of status, are afraid of being profiled, attacked, or violently detained just because of how they look. Masked agents are targeting parents in the pickup lines of their school. They are dragging mothers out of their cars. They are smashing windows to arrest old men, separating families in the middle of the night, and zip tying children.

They are using immigration hearings and check-ins as setups and defying court orders, and then our neighbors are being shipped off to countries where they have never even been. They are being held in detention centers with unspeakable, inhumane conditions with no due process, no access to attorneys, and no path forward.

This is not immigration policy. This is cruelty for the sake of cruelty and political theater with real-life consequences. Indiscriminate arrests do not make anyone safer. Masked agents

with assault rifles and zero accountability don't give anyone peace of mind. This cruelty doesn't serve anyone.

This isn't just happening in cities that you see on your TV screens. As we have heard tonight, this is happening everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues across the aisle whose districts run on the backs of immigrant labor, whose neighbors are just as scared as mine, who are noticeably silent on this issue, where are you? Why aren't you protecting your constituents? Why aren't you fighting for the people who you represent because what you allow your government to do to someone else, they will one day do to you. Speak up.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for his words.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER).

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ), for her incredible leadership and holding us together today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make one thing clear: Trump's cruel immigration agenda is not about public safety. It is about intimidation and cruelty. The people of Oregon are living with the consequences of that every single day.

A man recovering from surgery was violently pulled from his car and left in excruciating pain. A pregnant mother was taken, separated from her 2-year-old child, and denied comprehensive prenatal care while in custody. Another mother in my district, along with her four U.S.-citizen children, were detained for weeks without access to counsel. They are parents doing school drop-offs, workers heading to their jobs, and longtime neighbors who strengthen our communities.

Trump promises safety, but he delivers chaos. Cruelty is not law enforcement. It is intimidation, and the harm goes beyond our immigrant families.

In Portland, an elementary school had to relocate students because chemical agents deployed by Federal immigration officials drifted onto their campus. Low-income seniors were told to shut off their air conditioning in the middle of summer because those chemicals were entering their buildings' ventilation systems. When Portlanders have peacefully stood against these abuses, they have been met with pepper balls, tear gas, and masked agents using violent force.

Once again, nothing about this agenda is in the pursuit of public safety. It is Federal power turned against the people who it is meant to serve.

Congress must reject cruelty as a tool of policy and restore humanity, transparency, and accountability.

That is why I introduced the Restoring Access to Detainees Act with Senator MURPHY. Every family should know where their loved one is being held. Every detainee must have easy, free access to call legal counsel.

I also authored the CLEAR ID Act with Representative CROCKETT to ensure that our community members are not approached or detained by unidentified Federal agents. Without identification, there is no accountability. That is how democracies erode, and we will not allow it.

Trump wants America to believe that his cruelty makes us safer. It does not. When communities live in fear, they cannot trust law enforcement. When families are torn apart, our Nation grows weaker. Real safety comes from stability, trust, and community, not fear and force.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RIVAS).

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and Congresswoman RAMIREZ for organizing today's important conversation on the Trump administration's cruel and inhumane treatment of immigrant communities.

This is an important discussion to have in front of the American people because, as they have seen, ICE is out of control. All summer, ICE has been terrorizing communities across Los Angeles, sowing fear in our families, and rounding up our most vulnerable.

I have been sharing the story of Benjamin Guerrero-Cruz, a senior at Reseda High School who was detained by ICE while walking his dog. He is an older brother, a loving son, and a valued member of the community.

He is a high school student, just a kid. Benjamin should be in a classroom, not a courtroom.

□ 1750

Benjamin was detained by ICE, separated from his family and friends. He was originally transferred from the Adelanto Detention Facility in California to a detention center in Arizona. Less than 24 hours later, he was on a plane ready to be sent to Louisiana, but instead, he was sent back to California. This all occurred without his family even knowing.

I keep sharing this story because the American people deserve to see how cruelly ICE is treating children, elderly women, and others, even a U.S. Senator.

ICE is incapable of treating our most vulnerable with the respect that they deserve. If this was happening to Benjamin, imagine who else it is happening to.

I have been urging ICE leadership to answer for their chaotic, inconsistent, and cruel decisionmaking processes that have torn apart families across the country.

This is why I introduced the INFORM Act. My bill holds ICE accountable for the nightmare they are forcing families like Benjamin's to live through. Many immigrant families in my district do not know the whereabouts of their loved ones after they are detained

by ICE. My bill respects the dignity of immigrant families and promotes government transparency.

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ).

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, Trump's unhinged immigration raids started in downtown Los Angeles, in my congressional district, not targeting the "criminal" immigrants that he promised he would go after, but targeting anybody that looked like me, looked like my colleagues, looked like my family members, looked like the people who live in Los Angeles.

I don't know any MS-13 members, gang members, who work at a car wash or as day laborers. That is where he was targeting, not focused on people he said he was going to go after.

We warned everybody in this country that this would continue, that they would go on to other cities, using immigration as a pretext to try to intimidate blue cities in blue States and blue cities in red States, and that a violation of the rights of immigrants and the rights of people across the country is not going to be contained in L.A. It is going to spread. They went on to D.C., Chicago, Portland, Charlotte, and New Orleans, just as of today. That is what they are going after.

They want to intimidate people. They want to intimidate people who don't agree with them, and that was before Donald Trump and the Republicans passed the one big, beautiful bill. That included a \$175 billion slush fund that would turn ICE and CBP into its own personal national police force, where he could send it wherever he wants, whenever he wants, without any accountability.

That is dangerous. That is a threat to our Republic. That is a threat to our States. That is a threat to our communities.

We need to stand up and put an end to it. The way we do that is by taking that money away and reinvesting it into something that the American people need.

I introduced a bill called the Make Housing Affordable and Defend Democracy Act. It takes that \$175 billion to tackle the housing affordability crisis in our country by investing that money to help start a 21st century housing boom that will build 1 million units of housing per year for the next 6 years, help renters with assistance to get by, and, at the same time, give first-time home buyers money for a downpayment.

If we want to tackle the affordability crisis that is at the top of the agenda for the American people that is not a con job, then we need to pass the Make Housing Affordable and Defend Democracy

Act. It is about affordability, not authoritarianism. It is about American values, not Donald Trump's wins.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman RAMIREZ for yielding. I appreciate her leadership.

It is so important that we do not allow the hostile acts of this administration to be normalized. We have to condemn, resist, and reject them at every turn.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the targeted and the marginalized, on behalf of our immigrant siblings who have had their bodies assaulted, who have had their lives disrupted, who have had their families separated, who have had their humanity erased and their dignity denied, the men, women, and children who have been ripped from our communities, thrown into cold cells, and shipped off to countries many have never known.

The Trump administration would have you believe that they are pursuing hardened criminals. Yet, according to ICE's own data, 85 percent of the people detained in Massachusetts, my home State, have no criminal record.

Rogue, masked Federal agents are violating people's civil rights, glorified bullies masquerading as public servants. They terrorize our communities in the name of so-called law and order, while detaining and deporting our neighbors without due process.

That hypocrisy is not a coincidence. It is a deliberate, resounding message from an administration that believes that following the Constitution is a mere suggestion.

My office has documented hundreds of cases marked by excessive force, racial profiling, and the unlawful arrest of legal residents.

Just last month, rogue Federal agents descended on the Allston neighborhood in Massachusetts' Seventh District, a diverse community that is home to small businesses and music venues that are welcoming to all. These Federal agents targeted a local car wash to harass and abduct hard-working community members. Among them were five women who were never afforded the chance to show their work permits and a 67-year-old man who had disappeared for 3 days without access to his medication.

Families waited in anguish to hear from their loved ones, many of whom reported not having enough to eat and being unable to shower—cruel, callous, inhumane, and unlawful.

In these trying times, I am not defeated. I am fortified and resolved to fight back. The only way to beat a dictator is with defiance. Together, we will protect our communities and defend our immigrant neighbors and their families.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, as you can hear from my colleagues here, we are living the reality of this nightmare across the country. That is why we are here to push back.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. RAMIREZ for yielding, and I appreciate her leadership in this moment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on this day in opposition to the vicious, violent, unconstitutional, and illegal war Donald Trump and his administration continue to wage against our immigrant neighbors.

On the President's orders, the Department of Homeland Security and its agents of hatred have taken unprecedented, unthinkable, and abusive control over the lives of immigrant Americans. His goon squad has broken up families, torn apart communities, and committed atrocities equal only to the worst sins in the history of our Nation, with extra sins to spare.

Refugees, asylum seekers, and countless other people desperately seeking any semblance of safety beyond our shores have only found more pain here in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Even our neighbors with citizenship have been targeted in this campaign of hatred. In fact, more than 170 U.S. citizens have already been wrongfully detained under this administration, some held for days, many subjected to brutality just for brutality's sake.

It pains me to know and to say that four of these citizens were arrested during ICE's crackdown on New York City's Canal Street. It is disgusting, unconstitutional, and uncivilized.

No matter how desperately he wishes it weren't, I have news for the President: New York City will always be a sanctuary to the oppressed and the powerless, as will other communities like ours across this Nation. Our doors will always be open to those seeking refuge and safety.

No matter how deeply they try to dehumanize immigrant Americans, the people of this country know full well where the inhumanity lies. The President and his masked agents of violence and hatred have seen to that.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman DELIA RAMIREZ so much for your leadership, for your truth telling, and for your standing up.

Mr. Speaker, to all of my colleagues on the Progressive Caucus, we are on the right side of history. This history that we are experiencing right now, this era, will go down in infamy.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, 80 years ago, over 120,000 Japanese individuals were stripped of their rights and forced into barbed-wire camps because of the way they looked and the language they spoke.

My great-grandfather, my GG, was one of them. He was taken from his

home on Maui and imprisoned not for anything that he had done but for who he was. We said then, “never again.” Yet, here we are today.

Now, the very sites where Japanese-American families were incarcerated have been reopened. Fort Bliss, a World War II internment camp, is now the Nation’s largest immigrant detention center.

To add insult to injury, the Trump administration is using the same law, the Alien Enemies Act that was once used to imprison Japanese Americans, to detain and fast track deportations, with zero due process rights.

While this administration insists it is targeting dangerous criminals, we know that more than 73 percent of those in ICE custody have no criminal convictions at all.

This administration is also intentionally dismantling legal pathways and stripping people of lawful status so they can be deported. We just saw this on Kauai recently, where a raid that swept up 44 people ended with six Venezuelan men—who were legally here seeking asylum—self-deporting after the administration revoked temporary protected status for their country. To anyone who thinks this could never happen to me, consider this: Two-thirds of the Japanese imprisoned in camps were American citizens. Their children, like my grandfather, serving in the United States military in defense of a country who saw them as the enemy.

Today, American citizens are also being rounded up, once again, stopped and detained, simply for the way they look, by officers who face no accountability. United States military veterans are being picked up, detained, and deported.

What we are witnessing is a slow methodical erosion of citizens’ rights and a cold indifference towards treating entire communities as national security threats.

We are in the midst of history in the making, and history has already shown us the dangers of what this country can do when given unchecked, unfettered immigration authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on all sides of the aisle: How much are we willing to tolerate before we say enough is enough?

Eighty years later, this Nation still reflects with shame at what it did to our Japanese-American families. We apologized. We vowed to learn. We vowed to do better, and we have failed. “Never again.” “Nidoto nai.”

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) to talk more about how enough is enough.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. I rise today to join my colleagues in sounding the alarm on Trump’s out-of-control immigration crackdown.

Since January, Trump has unleashed a mass deportation agenda and indis-

criminate immigration enforcement that has pushed past all moral and legal boundaries.

In Chicago, Federal immigration agents tear-gassed kids and fired pepper balls at a pastor.

In Charlotte, ICE agents descended on the grounds by a church and forced terrified congregants to flee into the woods outside.

At home in San Diego, we had a horrific incident where Federal agents stormed into a local restaurant frequented by families. They handcuffed all the employees and flash-bang grenades were used outside.

There are stories like this from communities all across the country about what this administration has done. We heard them today. Stories of Trump’s immigration agents causing fear and chaos. Stories of violent raids turning quiet neighborhoods into places that feel more like war zones.

Trump’s out-of-control immigration enforcement is terrorizing our communities and putting our civil liberties under threat. Undocumented immigrants are not the only ones affected. It is also harming U.S. citizens, people with legal status, and those who have been here for decades contributing to our country.

We cannot turn away. We cannot be silent. We must continue to fight against these abuses. Communities deserve policies that protect families, protect peace and safety, and uphold rights.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Catholic church and the bishops for their courageous, unwavering support for the immigrant community in our country. I ask all other religions and leaders of faith to come forward.

Why are you silent in this shameful moment?

We should hear your voices as it is commanded in Leviticus very clearly. Leviticus 19:33-34 says: “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

Please come forward. Don’t be silent.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, may those that quote Scripture remember what the Scripture says.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. GRIJALVA).

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of his second term, Donald Trump has directed an enforcement machine that is not only cruel but unconstitutional, targeting longtime residents, law-abiding visa holders, U.S. citizens, and even veterans who have fought for this country.

In border communities like the one I represent in Arizona’s Seventh Congressional District, we see the impact of these abuses every single day. We have seen Border Patrol waiting outside of hospitals, literally arresting women after they have given birth—no

due process, no regard for human rights.

Last week, we saw a disturbing example near the ranching community of Arivaca. Humanitarian volunteers with No More Deaths reported that Border Patrol agents forced their way into their desert aid station known as Byrd Camp, without a warrant and arrested three migrants who were resting inside a trailer. Volunteers told agents they could not enter without a warrant. Agents left, then returned claiming that they were in hot pursuit, even though there was no chase, no threat, and no legal justification that would allow entering a protected structure.

This camp has existed for decades to keep people from dying in the desert. More than 4,400 men, women, and children have died crossing the border in Arizona since 2000. The camp has been raided before, but previously with a warrant. What happened on November 23 was different. It was lawless, intentional, and part of a broader pattern of unchecked enforcement that treats border communities as if the Constitution does not apply.

Let me say this clearly. The Fourth Amendment does not disappear in southern Arizona. Due process does not disappear because someone is a migrant. And humanitarian aid is not a crime.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the narrative being promoted about immigrants, portraying them as rapists, drug dealers, and murderers.

These claims are nothing more than a self-reflection of our country’s leaders who promised to protect Americans and enforce the law, yet whose actions have violated basic human rights, the Constitution, the rule of law, and are now costing our country economically.

Under these policies, DHS is targeting people because of the color of their skin, the language they speak, and where they come from. Families are being separated, children are traumatized, and communities live in fear. These actions are weakening our labor force, shrinking our tax base, and threatening industries that rely on a stable workforce.

Members of Congress should not be targeted with CS gas, shoved, or have false charges filed against them simply for performing oversight.

Citizens should not be shot at simply for raising concerns about the safety of children in the presence of armed men in their neighborhoods.

This approach doesn’t make us safer. It disrupts local economies, increases costs for taxpayers, and undermines the workforce that keeps our country running.

Every day these policies continue, businesses lose workers, consumers lose purchasing power, and taxpayers pay for the unnecessary enforcement. We need transparency, fair treatment,

and laws that reflect reality, not fear or political theater.

□ 1810

Let me remind this Chamber, undocumented immigrants—the same people being targeted—contributed \$96.7 billion in Federal, State, and local taxes in 2022, including \$25.7 billion into Social Security benefits they will never receive, \$6.4 billion into Medicare, \$1.8 billion into unemployment insurance.

If some Members don't care about the human cost, consider the financial one. Removing these workers weakens our economy and raises costs for everyone. Protecting them protects our bottom line.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her remarks.

May we remember, I think she said \$96.7 billion is what undocumented immigrants give in tax revenue every single year.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI) to close the speakers for the day.

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman RAMIREZ for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump regime's mass deportation agenda is not about public safety. It is part of a much bigger story of corruption, cruelty, and abuse of power that defines Trump's America.

Earlier this year, Congress authorized a massive slush fund under Trump's so-called big, beautiful bill, pouring more than \$170 billion of taxpayer money into enforcement and detention center expansion without any sort of meaningful oversight.

At the heart of this system sits a vast network of privatized detention facilities run by private prison corporations, like CoreCivic and GEO Group, whose bottom lines depend on filling these beds. These companies are awarded government contracts worth billions of dollars, yet their facilities are notorious for cutting corners on healthcare, food, and safety in order to maximize shareholder profits.

I have seen this firsthand at the Eloy Detention Center in Arizona run by CoreCivic. I have talked to dozens of women who have been detained there. They shared with me their testimonies about lack of clean drinking water, lack of air conditioning during Arizona's extreme heat, racist inhumane treatment, and of course my constituent Yari, who was a green card holder who has leukemia, has been detained there and refused access to an oncologist for 6 months until direct outreach from our office and the community's input as well.

This is all, again, all about shareholder profit. CoreCivic, for example, had a revenue of \$530 million during the second quarter of this year alone, an almost 10 percent increase from 2024.

Meanwhile, GEO Group's chairman said: Republicans' new slush fund for

ICE would provide "unprecedented growth opportunities."

CoreCivic's CEO Damon Hininger stated in shareholder calls that this is a "pivotal moment," and that "business is perfectly aligned with demands of this moment." That is disgusting.

Donald Trump's cruelty against immigrants has transformed human misery into both a political spectacle and a business model. The more people that are detained, the more money private corporations make, and the more campaign contributions and political power flow directly back to Donald Trump and those who fund this system.

This is Trump's corruption machine turning our immigration system into a pay-to-play racket for his donors. Meanwhile, families across the country are paying the price, and parents are torn from their children, leaving households and communities economically devastated. Taxpayers in this country are footing the bill for a system not designed to keep us safe, but to funnel money into the pockets of a powerful few.

It does not have to be this way. We can invest in alternatives to detention centers that are proven to be more humane and effective. We can end blank checks for ICE and stop the privatization of immigration detention centers once and for all, and we can finally reject the lie that Trumpian cruelty is security because in America, our safety should never come second to a billion dollar corporation's profit.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this: What is happening today in our communities is not an accident, it is not new. DHS is not rogue. From its establishment, DHS has always been empowered to violate our rights under the pretense of securing our safety.

It is why they wear masks, why they refuse to wear badges, why they won't identify themselves, and why they resist oversight and accountability.

They were designed to operate in shadow and secrecy because they are waging a war against the American people. You may not know it because they just haven't come for you yet. Trump's authoritarian fascist tendencies, his power grabs, his overreach, and his willingness to shamelessly use DHS as his own terror force is only making visible what so many communities have already known to be true: DHS is a democratic liability and a tool for authoritarian control.

Nothing that DHS is doing is making us any safer, and Americans, frankly, they are done. We see through the lies. We cannot assure our security by sacrificing our humanity, our dignity, or our liberty. We have seen what DHS can do with its unlimited resources and unchecked power, and we say enough. DHS has to be held accountable.

Today, as you have heard the stories from my colleagues of Trump's immigration enforcement overreach, I want to encourage you to remember history and context. We brought DHS into this

world less than 25 years ago. We can build a world without it as well.

I thank my colleagues who joined today's Special Order on Trump's immigration overreach. We understand that true security is built by investing in people, and as Members of Congress we must actively build that world through policies that defend and expand our rights and civil liberties, not crush them. That is the work we must do, and we must resist the fear that would tell us that we must surrender our rights and forfeit our values in order to protect the little we have when we deserve so much more.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BAUMGARTNER). I thank the good ladies for their spirited comments and remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to direct their remarks to the Chair.

FUN WITH MATH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, to begin, I am going to yield to Chairwoman FOXX, and then we will have some fun with math.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague Mr. SCHWEIKERT for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the wonderful opportunity to stop in at Top of the Mountain Farms in Ashe County and support a local small business selling Christmas trees and wreaths.

Becky and Bill Fairchild, the owners of this Christmas tree farm, were very welcoming. I was fortunate to meet their three daughters—Bailey, Brooke, and Blair—along with other members of the family during my visit.

Western North Carolina for many years has produced impeccable Christmas trees that have been featured at the White House and are the most beautifully grown anywhere. The Fraser fir, the true Cadillac of Christmas trees, is what our area is known for producing.

Christmas tree farms play such an important role in the economy of North Carolina, and I want to highlight them especially during the Christmas season.

The beautiful tree that I picked up that day is now in my living room, and I will be enjoying it until January.

I thank the Fairchild family for such an enjoyable visit and for helping me pick out a tree of my own. I look forward to stopping in again to see all of them in the future. May God continue to bless them and may He bless our country with a very happy and joyous Christmas season.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, the good news for the team here, I am not going to use the rest of the hour. I

promise you I am not going to go that long. That is the only happy part of this I have for you because I thought I would actually use this week, I would come and show you all the creative ideas we have to take on debt and deficit and get wages growing.

□ 1820

Mr. Speaker, we had an incident today where the Budget Committee was inviting Members to come in and sort of give our priorities.

My comments to the Budget Committee—I brought them some work that has been done by the Joint Economic Committee economists. One of my only joys I have here anymore is I am blessed to chair the Joint Economic Committee. I have a handful of Ph.D. economists. It turns out they are really good at math. I handed it over. I said that we need to tell the truth about math. I say this almost every week, and I beg for someone out there to hear it.

Regarding debt and deficit, we are buried in debt, but it is primarily interest and demographics. I would love to blame the Democrats. They want to blame us. I have shown over and over that, as a country, 40 years ago, our fertility rates started to fall. I am going to show it on the board.

This year, we functionally have double the number of 65-year-olds as we had 20 years ago, but we have the same number of 18-year-olds. It gets worse next year. The year after that, it gets worse. The year after, it gets worse. Yet, we built Social Security, Medicare, and these things on a model that had population growth.

Mr. Speaker, I am only one-third through the paper. It is always dangerous to come behind the microphone and act like I know what the hell I am talking about. Let's actually walk through it.

This was brought to me by some of my economists. The National Bureau of Economic Research has a number of folks from Cambridge. It is not Cambridge, England. It is Cambridge, Massachusetts. There are little institutions hanging around there such as Boston University, MIT, Harvard. Apparently, they are freaking good at math.

The headline here should actually make us pucker up, "Measuring What Matters: Why Italy May Be in Better Fiscal Shape than the U.S." Then, we go in here and start to understand the punch line of this paper. I will do my best to describe this.

Please, someone out there, if there is anyone listening, it basically says that if we keep things the way they are—the current tax policy, spending policies, and pension policies—to cover Social Security, Medicare, military retirement, and Federal employee retirement, it will require 104 percent of the income of the next generation.

This isn't building bridges. This isn't modernizing the military. This is just the retirement system of the United

States. Doing so requires levying lifetime net tax rates exceeding 104 percent.

We need 104 percent of the next generation's income. It is not 100 percent of their income but 104 percent of their income to meet our pension healthcare obligations. Is that going to work? We have the research.

How many people are going to come behind this microphone the rest of this year and the next year and actually say: Hey, we have a demographic problem. We have a spending problem.

Let's actually walk through some of the things we do know. Every day, I send out something called the "Daily Debt Monitor." It is a text message. We have a few thousand people who subscribe to it. We have probably a lot more people who don't want to get it. It tells us how much we have actually borrowed.

Mr. Speaker, this always goes on. This is the conflict between the White House, Congress, and those of us who actually have some responsibility on spending, budget, economics. They say: DAVID, you are scaring people by telling people how much we are borrowing so far this fiscal year.

Think of this. We are what? I should have calculated this in my head before I got behind this microphone. What are we, 73 or 74 days into this fiscal year, Mr. Speaker? In that 70-some days, we have already borrowed \$788 billion as of yesterday. If we stay at this rate, we will click off another \$1 trillion of borrowing. From October 1, the beginning of this new fiscal year, to before Christmas, it is another \$1 trillion of borrowing.

Once again, the left will blame us. We will blame them. No one wants to have a conversation of how healthcare costs are exploding on us, and we refuse to do the things to lower healthcare costs. Instead, we will spend months around here debating subsidies because we have turned healthcare into financing and not the actual price of services and healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I need my colleagues to think about this. That \$788 billion in that 73 days or so is like \$148,000 a second in borrowing so far this fiscal year. If we average it out over 12 months—I did see the number. It is like \$73,000 a second if we take the last 12 months. That is what we are borrowing.

Don't worry. Be happy. Don't tell the truth. Yet, I have done presentation after presentation over these years, saying that in 8 years, 8 budget years, 30 percent of all of our tax receipts in this country go just to pay interest. If interest rates go up 1 percent, 45 percent of all tax receipts in 2034 or so go just to pay interest.

Yet, the clown show—excuse me—the Congress will find shiny objects and will find things that will enrage them. They will go really hard on getting on cable television tomorrow night and say something inflammatory so the dopamine hits.

Mr. Speaker, how often do we go home and have meetings with our con-

stituents? There will be this one person who found something on the Internet, and it sounds like a conspiracy theory. I would argue the greatest conspiracy in our society is the unwillingness to tell the truth about basic math.

Once again, let's go back. Let's go double down. I was told "double down" is actually saying when I have a good hand. Maybe it is not appropriate for this. Let's see what the report says. Assuming the current generation makes no contributions to reduce the U.S. fiscal gap—that basically means taxes, contributions, and incomes stay on the track they are on, and there is not suddenly much higher taxes or much further paydown—a newborn today, a new generation today, would pay a 104 percent net tax rate.

Mr. Speaker, 104 percent of their income would be required just to cover Social Security, Medicare, military retirement, Federal pensions, and railroad retirement pensions. It will not cover the rest of government. It will not cover a new building, a new bridge, the State Department, the FBI, or the military. It is just to cover our unfunded liabilities, Mr. Speaker.

Where is the fiscal commission? Where is telling the truth?

What will happen if we don't get our act together and adopt the technology, adopt the revolutions in healthcare, adopt the things that make our brothers and sisters healthier, adopt the things that actually raise wages, or adopt the policies on immigration that maximize growth instead of the importation of poverty?

□ 1830

We are being handed reports that say, if you actually look at the underlying math: You are worse than Italy.

When Greece has a better credit rating—Greece, right now, can sell a 10-year bond cheaper than the United States—I struggle. Greece can sell a 10-year bond cheaper than the United States. I keep trying to find out ways to describe this. Yet, in this place we call Capitol Hill, I will walk into a room with some of the budget documents and say: Hey, I am here not only as a Ways and Means member, I am number four on Ways and Means; I am the Oversight chairman, so I chair the Joint Economic Committee, our economists have come up with some numbers we really should talk about. I look around and everyone is getting up and leaving because we don't want to know.

So let's actually deal with a couple of other facts.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, last summer, I think it was July 4 this last summer, we raised the debt ceiling by \$5 trillion. We have already burnt \$2 trillion. So we borrowed \$2 trillion of that \$5 trillion of authorization.

We are doing a calculation by April 27, so in 1 year and a few months, we will hit the debt ceiling again.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, the debt ceiling is just the authorization to borrow what you have already obligated.

When you get the clown show that says: You can't raise the debt ceiling. Then I say, okay, I can do that. Tell me the portion of government you want me to cut, Mr. Speaker? Because this fiscal year, for every dollar of taxes we take in, we are going to spend \$1.43. I am happy to work with you. Let's not raise the debt ceiling.

Tell me the functioning half of government—because, Mr. Speaker, you have to understand the economic effects if you stop the spending. So, Mr. Speaker, what is the 50 percent of government you want me to cut tomorrow?

Consider that only about one-quarter of U.S. spending is actually voted on by Congress. We vote on defense and what they call nondefense discretionary. The rest of the spending, the rest of the 75 percent of the spending is Social Security and it is Medicare. They are the things that we call entitlements. They are earned benefits that are on autopilot.

Well, DAVID, they stole my money.

No, they didn't. We just stopped having children.

The number is a couple of years out-of-date, but the average couple in America gets about \$73,000 more from Social Security than they put in. It is a crap rate of return, but Congress, the AARP, and the union groups back in the Bush administration—this was W—when there was discussion of: Hey, can we take maybe a small sliver and put that into markets? If we had done that 25 years ago, then today's retirees and those moving into retirement would be dramatically better off.

It is too late. Remember, in only a couple of more years all the baby boomers are 65 and up. So the demographic curve is here. It is just math. It is just math. These numbers get worse. So that is the debt ceiling.

Let's actually have a little bit more fun.

Medicare. There is a trust fund with Medicare. You pay it on your FICA tax, Mr. Speaker, your payroll tax. Except we have a little problem. We calculate in early August 2032, so 7 some years from now, the Medicare part A trust fund is gone.

Hospitals are probably the largest lobbyists here in Washington, D.C. They are all up and down the hallways.

Are they ready for the 11 percent cut in spending?

Because in less than 7 years this is coming.

So let's add something else on top of that. This is the one—and I am told I need to stop cussing behind this microphone. It shocks me because I will get some very important people around Washington, D.C., who get upset with me for this portion because apparently—particularly as a guy who is in the 50/50 district—we are never, ever, ever, ever supposed to use the word Medicare or Social Security.

So let's actually have some fun here.

The Social Security trust fund is projected to be depleted in late 2032, so 7

some years from now. When this happens, then we double the poverty of seniors in America.

Mr. Speaker, if you are on Social Security, then you will get a 24 percent cut in your check. There is math and there are models out there, and you will double the poverty of seniors, and we will double the number of baby boomers on the street.

Do these two things together, the trust fund for Medicare and the trust fund for Social Security, being gone in 7 years, to capitalize it—so that is happening in 2032. If you took 2033—and I am sorry but the dates are important—and said for that full year, we are going to just reach into the general fund. We are just going to use the general fund. It is over \$600 billion, and then the next year it is bigger and the next year it is bigger. So it is functionally about 60 percent of the entire defense budget, just to make up that shortfall for that first year.

Mr. Speaker, you would think something this—to use my little girl's term—ginormous would be a big deal around here. Yet, what happened in this place, because it is so perverse, is that right now there is some leftist political consultant saying: Hey, Schweikert used the words Social Security and Medicare, let's design our attack ads for the next campaign.

They spent millions of dollars in the last campaign beating the ever-living crap out of me because I cared enough to want to fix this.

When this place cares more about what the political consultants can design as an attack ad, then where is our fiscal commission?

Where is the fact that we are putting people who can do math into a small room, turning off the air-conditioning, and saying: Come up with a plan to save the future? Or is just doubling poverty of seniors functionally our political plan?

The left says that we are just going to raise taxes. I have done presentation after presentation on the floor here. I have shown the math. Every tax hike of the Democrats—so a tax on capital gains, a tax on income, a tax on corporate taxes, you can go grab the entire BERNIE SANDERS playbook, and we have had it scored, and you do its economic effects, and we do the maximum tax rate before the tax receipts roll over—produces about 1.5 percent of GDP of the economy.

I am so sorry for the staff because they have all heard me say this a dozen times: When we do the cuts, the actual spending cuts and their economic effects, it produces about 1 percent of GDP.

So what is that, Mr. Speaker?

It is 2½ percent.

If we do the borrowing we did from the trust funds last fiscal year, we borrowed almost 7.2, 7.3 percent of the entire economy, then does anyone see the problem?

We borrowed over 7 percent, but all the solutions of raising taxes and cut-

ting spending over here come in at 2½ percent. It is called a fiscal gap.

But, DAVID, you are not allowed to talk about these things. We need to just pretend.

What sort of pretending is it going to be in 7 years when grandma gets a 24 percent cut in her check and when the hospital won't see her because they had an 11 percent cut in their Medicare compensation and they no longer can afford to see seniors?

This is coming. This is real. This isn't pretend. This isn't feelings. It is called math.

Please understand. I am giving up. I have spent one-and-a-half decades of my life behind these microphones running around here and actually producing actual legislation to fix it. I can't even get my fellow Members of Congress to cosponsor the legislation just to take on fraud in Medicare part C, let alone fix things. You know, DAVID, it has the word Medicare, and we are not allowed to say that.

I need to do a correction from last week because I was going so fast at one point, I didn't describe this chart well enough.

I was actually trying to just say that tax collections are up, but capital gains are up 64 percent. Remember, Mr. Speaker, capital gains are only about 7 percent, where income taxes and taxes on wages are up 5½ percent. That is amazing. However, remember, Mr. Speaker, income taxes are over one-half of all income into the Federal Treasury. I didn't want to say: Hey, 64 percent of all tax collections are up because of capital gains. That is only the little sliver that is capital gains.

□ 1840

A 5.5 percent increase in wages is amazing. The problem is that spending is up about 9 percent. If we could just hold our spending flat—except our problem is our demographics. This year, every day we have 13,000 of our brothers and sisters turn 65, they move into their earned benefits. We made a social contract.

In 1990 or 1991, when the fertility rates in the United States started to roll over pretty hard, we never built a model saying, oh, heavens what happens when you don't have enough young people.

Let's make some more people mad with the truth. The customs duties, the tariffs, have actually been very helpful. They are important. I actually think we need to come up with a much broader scheme on international tax collections, particularly imports and dealing with other countries and their value-added tax, what we call a VAT tax, and how they arbitrage or they refund it when you export to the United States. However, if we send them something, they attach their VAT back on. It gets a little confusing.

We actually held a hearing today in Ways and Means on the international tax system because if the Supreme Court, whether it be this month or in

the coming months, changes the President's authorities on tariffs, maybe those of us on the tax writing committee should step up and do our job.

I need to tell you the truth about the math. Let's have a moment here. Let's do 2025. That is the chart here. The \$77 billion you see right there on the chart, that was already the law. That was before the Trump Presidency. That was tariffs. Customs duties is the proper term.

The President added other rules, mechanics, tariffs, customs duties. They gave us another—a total of \$155 billion. That means we collected, in the 2025 fiscal year, an extra \$118 billion. That is a lot of money.

Remember, in 2025, we were borrowing \$6 billion a day. You can do the basic math. That is like 18 days of borrowing, was the increase we took in 2025.

It is helpful. It is helpful. Do not walk away from it, but also don't make up numbers that it is going to pay off the debt.

In 2026, we modeled that the base tariffs, base customs duties, would produce about \$84 billion. Wonderful. The total we model is \$324 billion, meaning we are going to get an extra \$240 billion this year, if President Trump's tariffs are allowed to stay in. It is really helpful, but it is basically 1 month of borrowing. It is 1 month of borrowing.

If you go on cable news tonight or cable talk and you say: We are going to get a refund—math is math, and I really wish this body would get better at telling the truth about it.

Just a couple more boards, then I am going to give everyone back their life. Then I will go home and deal with the angry text messages I am going to get from people who don't like it when I tell the truth.

You don't want that one, but it basically says CBO actually did some re-modeling, and we calculate that total customs duties over the next 11 years will bring in about \$3 trillion. That is a lot of money, very helpful.

But you have got to understand, over the next 10 years, what took us 240 years to build up in debt, we almost double in the next 10. It is estimated by 2035, we are somewhere around \$63 trillion to \$65 trillion in debt. You actually start to see the squeeze where publicly sold debt, compared to borrowing from the trust funds, goes because we are depleting the trust funds so there is less money so borrow out of them. In the next 10, 11 years, we almost double what took us 240 years as a country to build up in debt.

Here is the thing that is really hard to talk about. I actually saw Elon Musk this last week saying: We have got to have the productivity. We have got to not be afraid of AI.

I wish he would also talk about synthetic biology and all the cures and the fact that we are curing diseases. The President did an amazing thing of getting the prices down on glutides. We

know obesity is almost 47 percent of U.S. healthcare spending. If we could cut that in half, could you imagine the growth of the economy, the family formation, the savings to the debt and deficits, if we helped our brothers and sisters get healthier.

There are policies that will work, but you never hear them evangelized behind these microphones because either they are complex or they don't set off a dopamine fit of anger.

We have got to deal with this reality, and this basically says demographics. We have fewer 18-year-olds than we did 20 years ago and almost double of number of 65-year-olds. That is going to continue. It is happening all over the industrialized world. We are actually in much better shape than so many other places in the world.

But we don't tell the truth, saying, hey, it is math. We are going to have to find a way, because we are magically not going to have millions and millions and millions of people in diapers, little people.

I am 63 and my wife is 63, and we have a 3-year-old and a 10-year-old. I am optimistic about the future. I had better be. Either that or my kids are coming to my nursing home. Sorry. I didn't mean to say that. This is the reality we are up against.

Just one more board. This is hard to see. It is important for anyone who is actually listening, who actually has a fondness for basic math. This isn't that complicated.

We now model, in the Joint Economic Committee Republicans, that there is over a 50/50 chance that the United States, this calendar year—so 2025, the calendar year we are in—will be close to zero population growth.

Why is that a big deal? We built our Social Security system, we built our Medicare system, and we built much of our entitlement, our earned benefit system, on a concept that we grew population-wise and therefore grew economically, therefore we grew in GDP, therefore we grew in productivity, and therefore wealth grew in the country for everyone.

What we are trying to show in these charts is, you can see from 2004 to 2024, the difference—this was under 18. We functionally have the same, but the number of those 65 and up going from 36 million to 61 million. Yet what is fascinating is if you go with no immigration, or even with immigration, we still end up upside down. It is just demographics.

Yet when the President tries to talk about this, he gets attacked. When people like me try to say there is a way to set off productivity so we don't live poor, that the future is prosperous, that this is another American century, instead we engage in sort of clown-show type politics because we want to satiate the theater instead of the economics.

□ 1850

There is a path to do amazingly good things for your retirement and for my

kids, but the fact of the matter is that, Matthew, my 3-year-old, when he hits 23 or 24 years old, every tax in the United States has to be doubled just to maintain baseline services.

Have we really made the moral decision that the next generation lives poorer or will be poorer than we are? Is that what America has become about? It doesn't have to be that way.

Are we on the cusp of an amazing productivity curve with artificial intelligence, with synthetic biology curing diseases, and with robotics being able to produce products cheaper and faster? Possibly, but you have to understand that we have lots of laws that this place has made that it is illegal to modernize a port. It is illegal to modernize a rail system. It is illegal to actually adopt technology that can read your body at home and prescribe to you.

We have barrier after barrier so that when we talk about deregulation to make the economy grow, we also have to talk about the deregulation that the armies of lobbyists in our hallways are here to stop us from doing because it will force a change in their business models.

Once again, it can be another American century. The future can be absolutely amazing, but we need to get our act together and stop lying about the numbers, tell the truth about the demographics, and then actually think boldly. We can do amazing things. I just haven't had an amazing conversation around here in years.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to go and apologize to all of the people I have just made mad.

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

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker on Wednesday, December 3, 2025:

H.R. 970. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 983. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1912. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 130. 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”.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 9 a.m.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 6370. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require certain health centers to equip restrooms with baby changing tables, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. DELUZZIO, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 6371. A bill to prohibit certain uses of automated decision systems by employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, 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. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROSE, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. BOST, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CRANK, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. GUEST, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H.R. 6372. A bill to repeal the Human Rights Sanctuary Amendment Act of 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 6373. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish authority for the President to waive the requirement for an advanced manufacturing facility or a critical mineral facility to offset increased emissions of any air pollutant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself and Mr. CRANE):

H.R. 6374. A bill to prohibit the admission of aliens to the United States for 10 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BELL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BROWN, and Mrs. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 6375. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 6376. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Vet-

erans Affairs to provide health care for family members and other individuals who resided at or worked at locations where there is a presumption of service-connection for certain illnesses and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 6377. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility of siblings of certain veterans for educational assistance under the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. GRIJALVA, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H.R. 6378. A bill to confirm and clarify the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's obligation to assess and mitigate the impacts to climate change and environmental justice communities from projects approved pursuant to the Natural Gas Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 6379. A bill to enhance the effectiveness of the Shadow Wolves Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 6380. A bill to establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 6381. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to study the feasibility of a program to recruit individuals to serve for one year on active duty in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 6382. A bill to direct the Secretary of a military department to submit a briefing on promotions for enlisted members of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary and in certain military occupational specialties; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CISNEROS (for himself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 6383. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategic plan to address mental health of members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 6384. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to brief the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives on the feasibility of consolidating covered prevention services into a single facility for each military installation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 6385. A bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the Commission on Farm Transitions-Needs for 2050, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 6386. A bill to limit engagement with the Government of Mexico unless Mexico provides water to the United States pursuant to its obligations under the Treaty relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. EVANS of Colorado:

H.R. 6387. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to require revisions to regulations governing the review and handling of air quality

monitoring data influenced by exceptional events or actions to mitigate wildfire risk; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 6388. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modernize the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CASAR, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. SIMON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CORREA, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. LOFGREEN, Ms. MENG, Ms. CHU, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. ROSS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MORRISON, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. CROCKETT):

H.R. 6389. A bill to amend Public Law 119-21 (commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) to repeal or amend certain provisions that undermine protections and heighten dangers for unaccompanied children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. GOMEZ (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CARSON, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CHU, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LIEU, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. DELUZZIO, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. LICCARDO, Ms. SIMON, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. FROST, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. SOTO, Ms. BALINT, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 6390. A bill to rescind certain immigration enforcement funds and amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide for new credits related to expanding access to housing; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Homeland Security, and 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 Mrs. GRIJALVA (for herself, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TRAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 6391. A bill to repeal section 3003 of Public Law 113-291, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):
H.R. 6392. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to recognize students who have completed secondary school education in a home school setting as high school graduates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 6393. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a permanent disproportionate share hospital allotment to Tennessee for fiscal year 2026 and succeeding fiscal years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Mr. GRAY):

H.R. 6394. A bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 6395. A bill to implement a strategy to relocate the headquarters of the United Nations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JAMES (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. SALAZAR, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 6396. A bill to amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to authorize the use of certain grants to prevent suicide or overdose by children, adolescents, and young adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. JAYAPAL (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. RIVAS, Ms.

ROSS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, and Mrs. SYKES):

H.R. 6397. A bill to provide standards for facilities at which aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security are detained, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6398. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act relating to review by the Environmental Protection Agency of proposed legislation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 6399. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Highland City, Utah; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. LUTTRELL, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 6400. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to certain medications under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 6401. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit to Congress a report on the option to elect to pay cost-sharing under a prescription drug plan or MA-PD plan in monthly capped amounts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILEY of California:

H.R. 6402. A bill to require the National Academy of Sciences to establish a grant program to develop safe AI models and safe AI research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Ms. BYNUM, and Mrs. RAMIREZ):

H.R. 6403. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. STEUBE, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 6404. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the work opportunity tax credit with respect to hiring veterans who are receiving educational assistance under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or Defense; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6405. A bill to modify the expedited procedures in the House of Representatives under section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act with respect to consideration of joint resolutions prohibiting proposed sales of defense articles or services, prohibiting proposed licenses for exports of defense articles or services, and prohibiting approval of United States commercial technical assistance or manufacturing licensing agreements; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SIMON, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 6406. A bill to establish a grant program to provide assistance to eligible individuals to cover the costs of childcare services; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 6407. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to maintain the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 6408. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a State option to provide medical assistance to certain individuals with serious mental illness or substance use disorder; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 6409. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to clarify standards for emissions emanating from outside of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself, Ms. GILLEN, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 6410. A bill to establish navigation safety corridors for shipping safety fairways and complementary port approaches, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 6411. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to prepare a report on the treatment of ethnic minorities in Serbia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. BICE, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY):

H.R. 6412. A bill to establish an Independence Investment Fund to facilitate investments in companies developing critical and emerging technologies, such as biotechnology, that significantly enhance the national security and economic security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TAYLOR:

H.R. 6413. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to remove a requirement that 75 percent of certain funds be used to provide youth workforce investment activities for out-of-school youth; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. TIFFANY (for himself, Mr. WIED, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. GOODEN):

H.R. 6414. A bill to limit resettlement in certain States or localities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 6415. A bill to assist Indian Tribes in protecting Native American seeds; to the

Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 6416. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a digital skills at work grant program; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6417. A bill to modify the eligibility requirements and account contribution maximum for pension-linked emergency savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6418. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for executive compensation unless the employer maintains profit-sharing distributions for employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. STEVENS):

H. Res. 922. A resolution expressing support for the designation of December 3, 2025, as the "National Day of 3D Printing"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Mr. MOORE of West Virginia):

H. Res. 923. A resolution a resolution honoring the service and sacrifice of United States Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom and United States Air Force Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe, who were tragically shot in Washington, D.C., in a targeted assault against United States service members on November 26, 2025; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. MANN):

H. Res. 924. A resolution recognizing December 2025 as "Impaired Driving Prevention Month" and promoting efforts to help prevent tragic and preventable crashes, deaths, and injuries caused by impaired driving; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VASQUEZ, and Mr. YAKYM):

H. Res. 925. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority in Iran and the continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

tion to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 6370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6371.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CLYDE:

H.R. 6372.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17: To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 6373.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"Air Permitting Improvements to Protect National Security Act of 2025"; Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 6374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 6375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 6376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 6377.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 6378.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 6379.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 6380.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 6381.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 6382.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 6383.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 6384.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 6385.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18; To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 6386.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. EVANS of Colorado:

H.R. 6387.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 6388.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 6389.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution for the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. GOMEZ:

H.R. 6390.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Clause 4, and Clause 18 of Section 8 and Clause 7 of Section 9 of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 6391.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, §1 and §8

By Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 6392.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 6393.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6394.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 6395.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JAMES:

H.R. 6396.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 6397.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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 Constitu-

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6398.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 6399.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 6400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 6401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One Section Eight of the United States' Constitution.

By Mr. KILEY of California:

H.R. 6402.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause, XVIII

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6403.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 6404.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 6405.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 6406.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 6407.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 6408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 6409.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 6410.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 6411.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 6412.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TAYLOR:

H.R. 6413.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 6414.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 6415.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. VINDMAN:

H.R. 6416.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Clause 8, Section 18

By Mr. VINDMAN:

H.R. 6417.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6418.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 253: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 381: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 433: Mrs. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 451: Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 637: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 857: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 945: Mr. BELL and Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 964: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BELL, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, and Ms. SIMON.

H.R. 999: Mrs. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1028: Mr. FRY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. HUDSON, and Mrs. HOUGHIN.

H.R. 1065: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1078: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 1106: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 1144: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1197: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 1227: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. EZELL.

H.R. 1232: Mr. HARRIGAN.

H.R. 1269: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1299: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 1340: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1410: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 1464: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 1521: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 1522: Ms. McBRIDE.

H.R. 1564: Mr. WALKINSHAW and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 1566: Ms. GOODLANDER and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 1645: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1661: Mr. BELL.

H.R. 1667: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 1695: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.

H.R. 1810: Mr. BERA, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. IVEY, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 1848: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 1908: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1970: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.

H.R. 1987: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2028: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 2036: Mr. JACK and Mr. AMO.

H.R. 2071: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 2253: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BELL, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, and Mr. CAREY.

H.R. 2333: Ms. SIMON.

H.R. 2347: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 2362: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 2484: Mr. RILEY of New York and Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 2487: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 2528: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2531: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2728: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2794: Mr. MILLER of Ohio and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 2849: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 2862: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 2882: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 2891: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2937: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 2941: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2964: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3036: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 3056: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 3071: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 3104: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3164: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Ms. ROSS, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 3178: Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 3188: Mr. BEYER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3277: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 3442: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 3463: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 3470: Mr. HERNANDEZ.

H.R. 3474: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 3569: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. BARRAGAN.

H.R. 3609: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 3680: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 3699: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 3740: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. LATIMER.

H.R. 3757: Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mrs. MCIVER.

H.R. 3954: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 4004: Mr. GARCIA of California.

H.R. 4168: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4206: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 4267: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 4270: Mrs. FLETCHER and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4283: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 4317: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 4327: Mr. ALFORD.

H.R. 4348: Mr. PETERS.

- H.R. 4393: Mr. MOYLAN and Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 4397: Mr. GIMENEZ and Mr. ALFORD.
H.R. 4624: Mr. MCGARVEY and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 4682: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 4687: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. MIN.
H.R. 4696: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 4717: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4733: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 4792: Ms. TENNEY and Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 4821: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 4862: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 4966: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 4982: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 5021: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 5081: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 5106: Mr. NORCROSS and Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 5127: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 5133: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 5178: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
H.R. 5267: Mrs. HINSON, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 5271: Ms. STRICKLAND and Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 5298: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 5309: Mr. WALKINSHAW, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 5369: Ms. RIVAS.
H.R. 5434: Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 5453: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 5490: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AMO, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 5508: Mr. FIELDS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 5515: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 5563: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 5572: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 5604: Ms. RANDALL and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 5616: Mr. BEGICH and Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 5643: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 5684: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 5705: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
H.R. 5718: Ms. SIMON and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5784: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 5815: Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 5840: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 5874: Mr. BEGICH.
H.R. 5908: Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 5950: Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 5969: Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 6015: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 6036: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6046: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6050: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 6056: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 6069: Mr. GARCIA of California.
H.R. 6075: Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 6079: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 6094: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6123: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6132: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6143: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6147: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 6148: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 6151: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. MFUME, Mr. BERA, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 6155: Mrs. KIM.
H.R. 6161: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6166: Mr. DELUZIO and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 6176: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6177: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6181: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LATIMER, and Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 6182: Ms. ANSARI.
H.R. 6190: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.
H.R. 6215: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 6230: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6242: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 6249: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 6252: Mr. GARCIA of California and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 6262: Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 6271: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. RIVAS, and Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 6332: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 6347: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 6349: Ms. SIMON and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 6350: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 6358: Ms. RIVAS and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 6364: Mr. BARR.
H. J. Res. 9: Ms. HAGEMAN.
H. J. Res. 54: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H. J. Res. 108: Mr. VINDMAN and Mr. HIMES.
H. J. Res. 122: Ms. OMAR.
H. J. Res. 127: Mr. HARRIGAN.
H. Con. Res. 51: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H. Con. Res. 61: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. RYAN.
H. Con. Res. 64: Ms. NORTON and Mr. DOGGETT.
H. Res. 70: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H. Res. 297: Mr. GARCIA of California.
H. Res. 410: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 768: Mr. AMO.
H. Res. 841: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H. Res. 850: Ms. RANDALL.
H. Res. 866: Mr. CLOUD.
H. Res. 912: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. LaLOTA, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. FALLON.
H. Res. 920: Mr. BOST and Mr. MACKENZIE.



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No. 202

Senate

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will now report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). The Senator from Iowa.

NIGERIA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, if you watch television, you are hearing a lot of reports from Nigeria about kidnappings and murders, other reports of violence, and particularly you are hearing it about Christians in Nigeria.

This violence has grown more frequent and more troubling as time goes on. The enforcement of blasphemy laws by the Nigerian Government coupled with the rise of violent attacks by terrorists against religious communities represents a serious infringement upon the freedom of religion that you are supposed to have in that country.

Blasphemy laws are enforced in 12 Nigerian states and also at the Federal level. That enforcement is resulting in the prosecution and imprisonment of Christians, Muslims, traditional practitioners, and even humanists. Furthermore, violence by terrorists like Boko Haram and the other organization called the Islamic State West Africa Province continues to pose serious security challenges.

Unfortunately, these challenges are not new developments. For years, we have been hearing from our own government Agencies, particularly the FBI and the Department of Justice, urging our own State Department to designate the terrorist group Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization, a step that was delayed until 2013.

For my part, I have consistently sought information and action to address this ongoing threat. Going way back almost 10 years in 2016, I sent a letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch requesting information regarding the yearslong process of designating the Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization.

In 2020, I wrote to then-Secretary Pompeo and Ambassador Sam Brownback asking what steps were being taken to protect Christians in Nigeria and whether a Special Envoy might be appointed.

At that time, the Department assured me that they were actively addressing the issue at multiple levels with the Nigerian Government, but now, years later, we continue to see concerning reports about violence and religious prosecution in Nigeria.

That is why I was so very happy to see our own President Trump take long-awaited action in designating Nigeria a country of particular concern. That designation puts Nigeria on a watch list, puts Nigeria on notice that if they don't take care of this situation, other things can intervene.

The Nigerian Government must take immediate action to end this violence, and the United States should do all it can to support and encourage those efforts. Once again, I am proud to see President Trump on television, at his news conferences and things like that, speaking up for the Nigerian Government to take action and supporting the plight of Christians in Nigeria.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God our shield, the giver of victory and honor, shine on us with Your kindness that brings a rich harvest of joy. Today, guide our lawmakers with Your Spirit. Complete the work You have begun in them and lead them by the power of Your prevailing providence. May they trust You completely, permitting You to remove obstacles from the road ahead.

Lord, train them in Your school of humility so they will walk safely without stumbling. Help them to remember that all efforts to defend themselves will fail without Your grace and mercy. Inspire them to seek Your will in all they do.

We pray in Your magnificent 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

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



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S8455

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The majority leader is recognized.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are 4 weeks away from the new year and from the date that the 2017 tax relief for Americans was set to expire. Back in 2017, of course, Republicans passed a huge tax-relief package. We lowered tax rates for every income group, we doubled the child tax credit, and we nearly doubled the standard deduction.

But all of that was scheduled to expire at the end of this year. Without action, Americans would have seen their tax rates increase and the child tax credit shrink by 50 percent. A typical family would have seen their taxes go up by about \$1,700 a year. In my State of South Dakota, a typical family would have seen a \$2,500 tax increase.

Republicans were determined not to let that happen, so a priority for 2025 became extending the 2017 tax relief—but not just extending it, making it permanent. We didn't want hard-working Americans to have to worry every few years that their tax bills were suddenly going to soar. So in July, we passed the Working Families Tax Cut to make permanent the 2017 tax relief. We made those lower tax rates permanent, we made the increased standard deduction permanent, and we made the increased child tax credit permanent. But we didn't stop there. We expanded the child tax credit even further and indexed it to inflation so that its value will never go down.

We also further increased the standard deduction, exempting additional money from Americans' taxable income, and we added a new \$6,000 bonus deduction for seniors, allowing Americans on Social Security to keep more of their money.

That is still not all. We eliminated taxes on tips for millions of tip workers: Uber and Lyft drivers, hair stylists, delivery drivers, servers at restaurants. We also eliminated taxes on overtime pay for millions of hourly workers. Thanks to this provision, everyone from nurses and police officers to firefighters and paramedics will be able to keep more of their hard-earned money.

We did still more because one aspect of prosperity is being able to keep more of what you earn. Another aspect is being able to earn more, so in addition to the individual tax relief, we also made permanent some of the 2017 tax law's business tax relief to help businesses grow and create new jobs and opportunities for workers. That included the lower tax rates for small and medium-sized businesses, the job-creating 199A small business deduction, and full expensing for new equipment and for domestic research and development.

Again, we went beyond the 2017 tax relief and added full expensing for new factories and factory improvements, so we can expect to see more goods made in America and, again, more jobs and opportunities for American workers.

We also acted to protect countless family farms, ranches, and small businesses from the punitive death tax and all of the headaches and expense that come with planning for it.

I am incredibly proud of what we were able to accomplish for hard-working Americans. We not only averted a massive tax hike on American families but were able to further lessen Americans' tax burden. Hard-working Americans can be assured the Republicans will continue to work to enhance affordability, expand opportunity, and increase prosperity.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

AFFORDABILITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, Americans once again went to the polls in an election where affordability—how much people have to pay for the things they really need—was the driving issue. A deep-red Tennessee district that Trump won by 22 points swung by double digits in Democrats' direction.

Last night was the latest flashing red light indicating Americans are fed up with Republican policies—particularly how much they have to pay for the things they really need.

Donald Trump doesn't get it. At yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Donald Trump once again doubled down on the bizarre claim that the affordability issue is somehow a hoax. Yeah, maybe it is a hoax for a billionaire like him and all of his cronies, who never have to worry about how much they have to pay for the things they need, but American people have to worry and worry about it every week when the bills come in, and they say: My income isn't equal to what I need to buy.

The costs are going up and up and up, in large part—in good part—because of Donald Trump and his administration's policies.

So when Donald Trump says that affordability is somehow a hoax, he is on a different planet than the average American. At his Cabinet meeting, he called affordability “a fake narrative” and “a con job.” He said affordability “doesn't mean anything to anybody.” What a bubble he is in. He doesn't understand how the average person struggles each week, each month, to pay the bills.

Of all the ways Donald Trump could respond to people's worry about the high cost of living, he has chosen the worst strategy. He is telling Americans they are imagining things. Donald Trump—a man who has lived his entire life in the kind of luxury most people

could never wrap their heads around—is pretending that high costs somehow don't exist. The man is a multibillionaire. The President of the United States, who is supposed to know what is on people's minds, is telling people that high costs that they pay each week don't exist. Well, their pocketbooks feel it. Their wallets feel it. Their bank accounts feel it.

Maybe things are going great if you are rich like Donald Trump, but for everyone else, things are getting worse, not better, when it comes to paying for stuff.

In a recent Axios-CBS poll, half of Americans said that food is harder to purchase this year than it was a year ago. That doesn't sound like a hoax—not to people who go to the supermarket every week and have trouble and look at those bills and say: How the hell did they get so high? It sounds, rather, not like a hoax, which Donald Trump seems to think it is, but a big problem every week for American families—the high cost of groceries and what they buy at the supermarket.

Seventy-four percent of Americans now say that the economy is either poor or just fair. Consumer confidence—one of the watch words of how good our economy is going to do in the future—is sinking.

This holiday season, the price of an 8-pound, bone-in spiral ham is up nearly 50 percent compared to last year—50 percent for a traditional Christmas dish. Beef prices are up 15 percent compared to last year. Canned vegetables are more expensive because tariffs made the packaging more costly even when those vegetables are grown here. Even something as simple as aluminum foil is up 40 percent compared to last year.

So, Donald Trump, hear the American people: Affordability—the high cost of paying for things—is not a hoax. People are struggling to pay for the things they need.

It is because of Donald Trump and his disastrous policies. His tariffs have effectively taxed each household around \$2,000 a year. Tariffs sent retail coffee prices up 40 percent in September alone. And those tariffs were placed on places like Brazil. We don't grow coffee here in America, so what the hell is there a tariff doing there? Except it is a tax. That is the way Trump taxes people.

Tariffs have poisoned American manufacturing. This week, the Wall Street Journal reported that manufacturing has contracted for 9 months in a row. Manufacturing, one of the lifebloods of America, has been declining every month for the last 9 months. And what is the reason? Ask manufacturers. Tariffs are the No. 1 cost. Producers say it is getting more expensive to source the material they need to make their products. It is very simple.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, when it comes to paying for things that Americans need, healthcare is way at the top of the list.

Every American knows they want to have healthcare. God forbid they, their spouse, their loved one, their kids, their parents become ill or sick. They want to know there is some kind of safety net there for them. But Trump and the Republicans don't seem to realize that.

In just 28 days, the ACA tax credits are set to expire. Next year, tens of millions of Americans will see their healthcare premiums skyrocket—20 million by an average of 114 percent, those on ACA that need those credits. Millions more—even on private insurance—are going to pay a whole lot more too.

I just had a friend I know who works for a big company—the company told him “You are going to have to pay \$450 more a month for your health insurance” because the insurers are charging the health company more—all because of the expiration of the ACA credit.

This is not theoretical. Higher premiums mean real pain, real suffering for real people—most of them, in fact, in red States.

Yesterday, the American Cancer Society found that virtually every single cancer patient who relies on ACA tax credits—96 percent—96 percent said they will struggle to get the care they need if the credits expire.

Republicans are literally telling cancer patients “You are on your own.” Telling someone with cancer “You are on your own because I want to give tax breaks to billionaires”—how un-American is that? How against what Americans need, want, desire is that?

Republicans have clearly sent America barreling towards a healthcare cliff.

The Republicans are divided. Democrats—we are united on healthcare. One House Republican, though, said that the Republicans are “nowhere on healthcare.” That is right. On healthcare, Republicans are divided; Democrats are united. And the divisions on the Republican side are severe. One day, the White House says they will release some grand plan to address the problem. The next day, congressional Republicans say “hell no” and shoot the White House plans down, and Trump backs off. Republicans can't agree on whether to dismantle the ACA or privatize the whole system or just keep attacking women's health because it plays well with their hard-right, anti-choice base.

Forget not being on the same page on healthcare; Republicans aren't even reading from the same book. And while Republicans continue fighting with each other, the American people are left holding the bill.

So I have said many times before: When it comes to healthcare, Republicans are divided—divided among themselves and divided from what the American people overwhelmingly want. Fifty-five percent of Trump voters—Trump voters—want to restore the ACA credits.

Democrats are united on lowering premiums. We are united on lowering costs. We are united on helping Americans pay for the things they need. Republicans, meanwhile, are paralyzed—paralyzed by their divisions, paralyzed by their own extremism. And it will be Americans who will pay the price when premiums go up. And they know who is to blame. They know why.

SECRETARY HEGSETH

Mr. President, on Hegseth, it has been almost a week since a report came out saying Secretary Hegseth potentially ordered the indiscriminate killings of survivors clinging to a vessel in the Caribbean, and we still—still—do not know the truth because Pete Hegseth has not released the full tapes of the strike.

It is an incredibly serious matter. It is about the safety of our troops. This is an incident that could expose our members of the Armed Forces to legal consequences. Yet the American public and the Congress are still not hearing the basic facts.

So once again, Secretary Hegseth, you need to do the right thing. Tell the truth. Release the full, unedited tapes of the September 2 boat strike.

Only then will Americans know the truth because no one believes Hegseth. Until Secretary Hegseth releases the full tapes, the American people cannot trust what he says.

Secretary Hegseth's story, the White House's story, the Pentagon's story keeps changing every—every—day. How can you believe them when the story keeps changing?

The day after the boat strikes, Hegseth said on FOX News that he watched the operation live. He told us in person that he was in the room and that he was part of the operation. But then yesterday, he totally reversed himself and said he didn't see the second strike everybody is wondering about. He now says that he left in the middle of the operation, that a couple of hours passed before he was made aware that a second strike had even been necessary. He blamed “the fog of war.”

A couple of hours? What could have been possibly more important that Secretary Hegseth went missing for 2 hours during a military strike against alleged drug traffickers?

What is Secretary Hegseth hiding? The American people are asking, Congress is asking, Republican Senators and Congressmen are asking Secretary Hegseth: What are you hiding?

Why does his story keep changing? Why won't he release the tapes? The tapes will show the American people what really happened on September 2, and the American people and every person serving in our military deserve to hear the truth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on Thanksgiving Day, 20-year-old Sarah

Beckstrom should have been at home celebrating the holiday with her family. Instead, she lost her life, murdered 1 day before Thanksgiving. Her killer is an Afghan national—someone Joe Biden flew into this country without proper vetting.

Sarah served in the West Virginia National Guard. She wore the uniform of the U.S. Army. She was murdered on American soil by someone who never should have been here.

This is the tragic cost of Joe Biden's open border policies. It is also a sign of national security weakness. For 4 years, Joe Biden and pro-crime Democrats turned our border into a New York City subway turnstile—no fare enforced; just hop right on in. It was routine for 10,000 illegal immigrants to flood across our Nation's southern border on a daily basis. Criminals, gang members, drug traffickers, terrorists—they all came in. For these failed policies, Americans have paid the price: Laken Riley in Georgia, Rachel Morin in Maryland, and many, many others.

Today, President Trump and Republicans are ending the chaos, securing the border in record time, and getting America back on track. We acted fast. We started here in the Senate with the Laken Riley Act. It was the first piece of legislation President Trump signed into law. It mandates that illegal immigrant criminals be detained and moved.

Republicans ended catch-and-release. We stopped the illegal invasion into our country. For the past 6 months, zero—zero—illegal immigrants have been released into our country. Under Joe Biden, it was often 10,000 a day.

For the first time in 17 years, the backlog of immigration cases is actually going down. Immigration judges can finally do their job. Open border, rubberstamping judges are gone. Interior enforcement is making our communities safer. Seventy percent of ICE arrests are illegal immigrant criminals. They are individuals charged with or convicted of crimes in the United States.

During the week of Thanksgiving, ICE worked overtime. They arrested a convicted murderer in California, a convicted rapist in Tennessee, and a convicted drug trafficker in Delaware. Every one of these arrests makes our country safer. These criminals and many more are off our streets because Republicans have acted.

We didn't just secure the border for today, we secured it into the future because, in July, Republicans passed and President Trump signed into law the largest border security investment in American history, \$170 billion. The law finishes the wall, it provides \$75 billion for ICE, and gives our agents the resources they need to continue to deport illegal immigrant criminals. Our law helps train, hire, and retain Border Patrol agents. It even gives them a bonus.

Republicans have made a generational investment in American border security. Every Democrat in the Senate voted against it. Republicans voted

to deport illegal immigrant criminals; Democrats voted to keep them in our communities. Republicans voted to secure the border; Democrats voted to keep it wide open. Republicans voted to hire Border Patrol agents; Democrats voted for free healthcare for illegal immigrants.

The dangers from Joe Biden's open policies remain today, and it is serious because millions of illegal immigrants are still here. Among them are criminals, cartel members, drug dealers, and terror suspects. We are tracking them down, and we are sending them home.

The damage Democrats have inflicted on our country runs deeper than most Americans realize, more than they know. Let's look at the situation right now in Minnesota. This week, the New York Times reported that immigrants from Somalia living in Minnesota have been defrauding American taxpayers out of \$1 billion—\$1 billion—living in Minnesota, immigrants from Somalia.

Investigators from the magazine City Journal found where the stolen money went. As they say, "follow the money." According to their reporting, the largest funder of al-Shabaab—which, as you know, is a terrorist organization affiliated with al-Qaida—the largest funder of al-Shabaab is the Minnesota taxpayer. How could that be? How could it be that American taxpayers are funding a group affiliated with al-Qaida? Taxpayers didn't know it, weren't aware of it.

Here is how the scheme worked: Fraudsters created fake companies that exist only on paper. They billed the government for services never provided, or they enrolled children in programs that they didn't need. Then they funneled the stolen money out of our country. Some went to buy luxury cars and real estate, some went directly to al-Shabaab. This was organized, systematic theft. It went on for years under Democratic leadership, and then it exploded under Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and her Vice Presidential nominee Tim Walz, the current Governor of Minnesota.

No one stopped it until President Trump was elected. Then, this is what happened: In June, President Trump appointed Joe Thompson as the acting U.S. attorney for the District of Minnesota. Thompson immediately began bringing charges. So far, dozens of defendants have been charged. This is what Thompson discovered.

He said:

What we see are schemes stacked upon schemes draining resources meant for those in need.

"[m]eant for those in need."

Safety net programs, draining those resources.

"The depth of the fraud," he went on, "takes my breath away." It should take away the breath of all Americans when they see what was going on in Minnesota. The most fascinating thing is it doesn't take the breath away of the Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. Oh,

no, on Sunday, he was on "Meet the Press" talking to the Nation. You would think he would have expressed outrage. No, he made excuses. Instead of condemning the fraud, condemning the theft, condemning the funneling of taxpayer money overseas to a terrorist organization, he claimed the problem was President Trump. He must be back on his old talking points from the campaign where Trump won in a landslide.

Walz said we need to be "careful" about how we talk. Think about that. American taxpayer dollars funding terrorism funneled out of the country, and Democrats want us to be "careful" about how we talk. He is worried about our tone.

Here is what the Minnesota Governor will not tell you. Many of those charged have close ties to Minnesota Democrats. He doesn't want you to look over there, oh, no, including the socialist Squad member Representative OMAR. That is why Democrats want to sweep it under the rug, want to hide it from public view: No, no. Look at President Trump. Don't look at us.

This is what is wrong: When Democrats prioritize open borders, what do we get? Waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption. And the Democrats look the other way. Because President Trump won, we are bringing these criminals to justice.

According to the latest Harvard-Harris poll, 8 in 10 Americans support deporting illegal criminals. That includes 7 in 10 Democrats. I am not sure how many of those would fit in this Senate Chamber on the Democrat side of the aisle, but 7 to 10 Democrats across the country are supportive of deportation of illegal immigrant criminals. Three in four Americans want the government to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse and corruption. I am not sure who doesn't want us to eliminate that. Three out of four Americans say get rid of it, and I agree. Seven in ten support closing the border with enhanced security, and that is exactly what we are doing.

It is not complicated. Americans oppose illegal immigration, support border security, and want criminal illegal immigrants removed. Republicans work for the American people, not for the open border activists across the aisle.

Americans deserve secure borders, deserve safe communities. That is what Republicans are continuing to deliver. We are securing Americans borders, protecting American families, and we are making America safer.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Orso and Rodriguez nominations.

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

MR. BARRASSO. I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

IMMIGRATION

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, in my office here in the U.S. Capitol, which is

a few steps away from this Chamber, I have behind my desk a credenza. On that credenza is a document that is dear to me and my family and really defines who I am. It is my mother's naturalization certificate.

Despite all the speeches you hear on the floor about immigrants, we are a nation of immigrants, and my mother was an immigrant from Lithuania to the United States, brought here at the age of 2. Her brother and sister were with her on that boat, and her mom was bringing them along.

They went from Lithuania to Germany and then took the ship to Baltimore, eventually catching a train that took them to what they considered to be the land of opportunity, my hometown of East St. Louis, IL. That is my story. That is my family story. It is an immigrant story, and I am proud of it.

There were problems with immigration throughout our history. But there is also an opportunity with immigration which we have taken advantage of over and over and over again. We are a nation of immigrants. You will hear many of the speeches—and even this morning—from the other side of the aisle on what is wrong with immigrants and immigration. It is not a perfect system by any means.

But I think we can all agree on some basics. Whoever the President may be, whatever political party, we need an orderly process at the border when it comes to immigrants. No. 1. No. 2, we should never knowingly allow any dangerous person to come into the United States. No. 3, anyone who is here seeking citizenship and is a danger to the community or neighborhood they live in should be removed from the United States, period, end of story.

Finally, we need a process that allows people who have the best intentions to come here, work hard, pay their taxes, and be part of America's future. That is the story of my family. It is a story of millions of American families.

About 25 years ago, a young woman in Chicago contacted my office and asked for help. Her name was Tereza Lee—an interesting story. Tereza was born in Korea. She came to the United States through South America, and her father and mother brought her to Chicago where her father, a Protestant minister, was looking for a church to serve.

He spent many years doing that with limited success, and he brought along his little daughter Tereza with him as he visited these churches. Many times, when the services were not taking place, this little girl would go over to the beat-up old piano in each of these churches and start hammering away. Someone noticed that and invited her to be part of something called the Merit Music Program in Chicago. The Merit Music Program provides money for poor kids in public schools to buy instruments and take lessons and learn how to play. They decided to give Tereza that chance. They let her take

lessons in piano. She turned out to be a child prodigy when it came to music.

At the end of her high school years, her friends and those who taught her encouraged her to apply to the very best music schools in America. Tereza applied to the Manhattan Conservatory of Music, but she had a problem. Filling out the application, there was a question: "What is your citizenship?"

She turned to her parents and said: "What do I put here?"

They said: "We don't know. You came here on a visitor visa. We didn't renew the request for a permanent visa. We don't know what your status may be."

"What are we going to do," she said.

They said: "We are going to call the office of a U.S. Senator named DURBIN and see if he can give us advice."

We checked the law. The law was clear. Tereza had overstayed her visitor visa. She was in the United States as a child, grew up here, but she didn't have legal status. She was undocumented. The law was and is very clear. That 18-year-old girl had to leave the United States for 10 years and then apply to come back in.

When we found that out, my staff came to me and said this isn't even possible for her to do. She has never really lived any other place than the United States. So at that point, I decided to address this with legislation. It was 24 years ago that I introduced a measure called the DREAM Act.

What the DREAM Act basically said was these young immigrants brought to the United States as children, like any American child, were destined to grow up dreaming of getting their first job, passing their driver's license test, and applying to college. But they had a problem. Under the current law, they were not legal to do those things. So the DREAM Act gave them a chance—those brought to the United States as children to have a path to citizenship after earning their way in a rather long and rigorous process. Many of them did. These Dreamers have gone on to serve as our Nation's doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, and first responders over the last 24 years. But, unlike many of their peers, Dreamers live in fear that their lives will be uprooted and that they will be deported to a country they don't even call home. That was the threat that faced Tereza.

It was 2001 when I first introduced bipartisan legislation to provide Dreamers with a pathway to citizenship. My cosponsor was Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, who was then the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In fact, we had a little argument as to who would be the lead name on the legislation. Since he was chairman of the Judiciary, I deferred to him, and the first DREAM Act was a Hatch-Durbin piece of legislation. I am sad to say that more than two decades later, Dreamers are still waiting for that bill to pass.

Just over 13 years ago, President Barack Obama created the Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, widely known as DACA. He created DACA in response to a bipartisan request from myself and the late Indiana Republican Senator Richard Lugar. Over those 13 years, DACA has protected more than 830,000 young people from deportation. All of them were brought to this country as children, some as young as a few months old.

Sadly, since President Obama established the program, many Republicans have waged a relentless campaign to overturn DACA and deport these Dreamers back to countries they left as infants, toddlers, and children—countries they may not even remember.

Now this program is hanging by a thread in the courts due to legal challenges from Republican States' attorneys general, and many Dreamers—even those who have protections under DACA—have been caught up in deportation raids by the Trump administration.

What does a person in DACA have to do to qualify for that status? First, they have to report themselves to our government; second, submit themselves to a background check so that if there is any evidence of criminal wrongdoing, it is going to come out, and they will be disqualified. They have to pay a substantial fee, and every 2 years, they have to go through that process again—and again and again. That is what DACA is.

So when we hear stories on the floor about immigrants committing crimes and such, let's make it clear that Dreamers are cleared by review and investigation by our government before they can ever qualify for the program, and every 2 years, they have to submit their names again for review.

I want to tell you about one of these Dreamers. She is a college student with a merit scholarship. She was deported from the United States without due process 2 weeks ago. This is the 150th story of a Dreamer that I have highlighted on the Senate floor. I had hoped that we would have passed the DREAM Act long before I reached this milestone.

Any Lucia Lopez Belloza was brought to the United States from Honduras when she was 8 years old. Any worked hard in high school. She was an honor student. In her free time, she volunteered as a tutor in algebra. Her hard work ultimately paid off. This year, she received a merit scholarship to study at Babson College in Massachusetts.

Like a lot of college students, Any planned to visit her family during the Thanksgiving holiday. Her dad's employer in Texas paid for her travel home to surprise her dad at work. But when Ms. Lopez Belloza arrived at Boston's Logan Airport, she was told there was a problem with her ticket. When she went to customer service, she was surrounded by Federal agents and shackled.

The next day, a Federal district court judge issued an order blocking

her transfer or deportation for 72 hours. Despite this court order, the Trump administration quickly deported her to Honduras, the country she had not been to since she was a little girl. She had nothing but the few belongings she had brought with her for the Thanksgiving holiday at home with her family in Texas.

You will remember the President's campaign rallies and how often he stood before cheering crowds and said that it was time to stop the rapists, murderers, terrorists, and the criminally insane from flowing into this Nation—the worst of the worst. He repeated it over and over again.

Does this young lady look like the worst of the worst? The answer is clearly no. Ms. Lopez Belloza is one of countless Dreamers who have great potential to make this a better country. They are not asking for a free ride; they are hard-working and determined.

Think of the odds against her as she was growing up. She came to know that she didn't have legal status in this country. Her family is a hard-working family with limited income, and the prospects of her ever getting admitted to a college were limited. Yet she was damned determined to do it, and she did. It is that kind of determination and talent and skill that should be part of this country's future. She is going to be someday, I am sure, a leader in America—a small business owner, a teacher, a doctor. I am not certain what it will be.

The vast majority of Americans, including most Republicans, agree that Dreamers like her should have a path to citizenship—to earn her way to citizenship, to work hard and prove that she is part of America's future.

This is not just the right thing to do for Dreamers and their families; it is the right thing to do for America. One study found that if DACA were rescinded, the Federal Government would lose \$60 billion in tax revenue and that U.S. economic growth would shrink.

The time to pass the DREAM Act is now. That is why I am proud to announce that I will be reintroducing the DREAM Act this week on a bipartisan basis with my good friend and colleague Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, a Republican from Alaska.

While I have introduced the DREAM Act in every Congress since 2001, this one is different. This is my last year in the Senate. This is my last opportunity as a Senator to make it a law.

Over the years, I have met hundreds of amazing Dreamers who are American in every sense of the word except on paper.

To those Dreamers who have been with me in this fight, I promise to do everything in my power to fight for you and your future every day that I am here. As I have said to you many times, I am not giving up on you; don't give up on me.

To Senator MURKOWSKI, thank you. It took courage to cosponsor this bill, and I will never forget it.

Can we get to work on a bipartisan basis and agree that if we are going to keep safe borders, we also want to make sure that the right immigrants are here for our future?

Any is one of those people. Without due process, she was sent back to Honduras. Her fate is still uncertain despite a court order. But there are hundreds of thousands like her who, with enough determination, hard work, and opportunity, can make America a greater nation. She is my 150th Dreamer. I hope she is part of America for years to come.

I yield the floor.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

S.J. RES. 91 AND H.J. RES. 131

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have come to the floor this morning as we begin debate on two identical disapproval resolutions. This is S.J. Res. 91—I filed it with Senator SULLIVAN—and then H.J. Res. 131, which is a companion measure filed by our delegation colleague Representative BEGICH. These resolutions would nullify the Biden administration's Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. This was unilaterally rewritten and finalized over our objections back in November of 2024.

We are going to have an opportunity to vote later on a motion to proceed to my Senate resolution. Then, if that succeeds, our final vote tomorrow will be on the House resolution because it can then go directly to the President's desk.

Those of us in the Alaska delegation filed these resolutions because we are again seeking to overturn the Biden administration's effort to effectively shut down resource production across Alaska. We opposed their Central Yukon Resource Management Plan, their integrated activity plan for our National Petroleum Reserve, and their decision to shut down any potential development on a very small part of the Coastal Plain.

So for those who have not followed this, the Coastal Plain is a 1.56 million-acre tract of land. This is on the eastern part of Alaska's North Slope. So if you look at the overlay here of Alaska, across the lower 48 States, the ANWR region is up here in the upper eastern corner. The refuge itself is about 19 million acres. This is approximately the size of South Carolina. The non-wilderness area—this is the 1002 area—is 1.5 million acres, which is approximately the size of Delaware. Again, you see this in that section of the map there.

The Coastal Plain is part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but in designating that as a refuge, Congress specifically reserved this area up at the top, on the slope there, for energy ex-

ploration and potential future development. Congress did this through what was known as section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. We call it ANILCA. So when we refer to the 1002 area, it is this Coastal Plain here within the ANWR region.

Section 1002 of ANILCA starts with a purpose that explicitly authorizes "exploratory activity within the coastal plain in a manner that avoids significant adverse effects on the fish and wildlife and other resources."

So I think it is important that people understand this purpose, this distinction. The 1002 area—this area here, the purple area—is not Federal wilderness. By law—by law—it is a Federal set-aside. This area here is wilderness. This is the refuge area. The 1002 area, again, was specifically set aside to authorize exploratory activity.

Then Congress left the decision on development to be determined later. It was years—it was decades, actually—it was in 2017 that we in Congress agreed as to what should be allowed. I was chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee at the time, and we added a title II to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It drew bipartisan support, but we effectively put an end to a 40-year battle. We opened up a small fraction of the Coastal Plain to responsible development. And under the terms of that act, we required at least two area-wide lease sales over the course of 7 years.

But we provided balance to all that. It wasn't just "open the whole thing for exploration." We limited surface development to just 2,000 acres.

So, keep in mind, in this area that is the size of Delaware, we limited surface development to 2,000 acres, which is one one-hundredth of 1 percent—one one-hundredth of 1 percent—or one ten-thousandth of all of ANWR. That is what we included within that measure in that 2017 act.

We did not shortcut or truncate the environmental review process. The Department of the Interior effectively spent 3 years designing a sound, environmentally protective program, and the result, then, was a record of decision in August 2020 that would have allowed us to safely develop the area's anticipated resources while fully protecting the fish, the wildlife, and the subsistence uses.

We have talked a lot on this floor and in other areas about the resources that we project to be in the ANWR area—prolific resources—an estimated 7.7 billion barrels of oil, which would be enough to add a half million barrels a day to our Trans-Alaska Pipeline System for perhaps the next 40 years and help to fill up our pipeline.

I am one who has been engaged in this battle for decades, and I absolutely understand the concern about whether or not limited development makes sense in the area. And like so much of Alaska, the Coastal Plain is a special place. None of us wants to see it

harmed, and that is why we went to such extraordinary lengths to ensure that energy development and environmental protection could coexist. We didn't trade one for the other. We didn't put energy above the environment.

We had a lot of confidence in the program that was finalized in 2020, but, unfortunately, we never got the chance to, once again, demonstrate how Alaska leads the world when it comes to balanced, environmentally responsible development.

We held our first lease sale in early 2021, but after that, everything seems to have just kind of gone in reverse, because on his first day in office, President Biden suspended the Coastal Plain Program. His Department of the Interior paused all leasing and development activities before arbitrarily canceling every lease in the area.

And the Biden administration didn't stop there, either. They next decided to rewrite the Coastal Plain Program to make leasing unattractive and development impossible. And they claimed deficiencies in the original process, between 2017 and 2020, that they had to somehow go back and remedy, but they never really cited anything specific. Now, keep in mind, the Biden administration in their political agenda did not include energy from Alaska. So they were trying to move forward and address what they said were flaws, but their process was also fatally flawed.

For starters, the Biden administration failed to meaningfully consult with the people who actually live on the North Slope, including those who live in Kaktovik, which is the only community within ANWR's boundaries. When I say "failed," I mean they refused—they flatout refused. I added report language to my Interior appropriations bill directing them to do the consultation, and still they refused.

The Biden administration issued a record of decision for a new Coastal Plain Program in November of 2024. And if you spend time looking at it, you will understand why we are here, because it clearly and repeatedly contradicts Federal law, because the Tax Cut and Jobs Act opened the 1.56 million-acre Coastal Plain to potential development, subject to the 2,000-acre surface limit.

We were very clear in what that law was. The Biden administration took that, flipped it on its head, and finalized the program that allowed leasing on just 400,000 acres—so, gone, immediately. Gone was potential leasing on 74 percent of the 1002 area. And the 400,000 acres that was left available, which is—I question the availability there—but it amounted to less than was bid on at the 2021 lease sale. And even there, 231,700 acres were subject to no surface occupancy, another 84,300 were subject to controlled surface use, and 3,100 acres were subject to timing limitation. So only about 5 percent—only about 5 percent—of the overall Coastal Plain was subject to standard

lease terms and conditions under the Biden plan. So think about that—just 5 percent now.

The Biden administration also restricted seismic surveying—the best way to understand the Coastal Plains resources. They restricted the surveying of the lands that were now theoretically available for leasing. They even reinterpreted the 2,000-acre limit to not be a “saleable feature” of leases. We had discussed this with the Parliamentarians during the budget reconciliation back in 2017, but it was a matter of secretarial discretion to allow development of anywhere between 0 and 2,000 acres. So, again, they flipped that on their head.

So it wouldn't surprise you to learn that the 2024 program contemplates development on a maximum of 995 surface acres. Again, what we had statutorily prescribed—what the law says—was 2,000 acres.

Finally, the Biden administration expanded and created new lease stipulations and required operating procedures to further dissuade leasing interests and clamp down on any potential for development. The goal wasn't hard to understand. It is evident in the 2024 record of decision.

Interior acknowledged that, under their preferred alternative, future oil production from the Coastal Plain would decline nearly 80 percent. They knew it. That was the plan. I think they were probably trying to shoot for closer to 100 percent.

Under the 2024 plan, there would be no leasing, as we clearly saw in a lease sale that was designed to fail and then did fail late last year. There would be no development on the Coastal Plain, regardless of congressional action, support from Alaskans who live on the North Slope and within the Coastal Plain, or our national need for responsibly produced energy.

Bear in mind, this is all taking place right as the Biden administration was relaxing sanctions on countries like Iran, like Venezuela, allowing them to produce more and financially benefit from the development. And it also happened right as California, which is a traditional market for Alaska's oil, was importing more oil from the Middle East, which is a long way from California, but also from other countries in South America, actively deforesting the Amazon rain forests. So if you want to talk about a massive geopolitical and environmental failure, that was it—that was it—happening under that administration.

Less oil from Alaska means a Trans-Alaska Pipeline System that is running mostly empty. It means a west coast that increasingly turns to imports instead of domestic energy, regardless of the terror that that breeds or the devastation that it causes.

It also means fewer jobs for hard-working Alaskans, less opportunity in our communities for the folks who support and benefit from energy development, less revenue for the State of

Alaska, and, in turn, less infrastructure and services. To me, that just makes no sense.

The people of the North Slope, the Alaska delegation, and the State of Alaska were ignored as the Biden administration put its 2024 program into place. From the start, this was a fait accompli. There was no question in my mind what they planned to do, and there was nothing unfortunately that we were able to do to change their minds.

It really didn't matter what Alaskans wanted. It didn't matter what the law required. It didn't matter that they wound up in court and lost—and lost badly—as they did when a Federal judge ruled that their cancellation of the Coastal Plain leases was blatantly illegal.

All of that was their choice, and this is ours. This is our choice—to disapprove and permanently nullify their actions so that they never come back in substantially similar form. So if you care about the rule of law, if you care about our domestic energy security or the consequences of sending our dollars abroad for energy that we have here at home, then I would ask you to join us in supporting this resolution.

I think if you acknowledge that no one cares more about Alaska than Alaskans, you should be with the full Alaskan delegation on this. We can restore the rule of law. We can require Federal Agencies to follow congressional direction. We can return to balanced management on the Coastal Plain, while still protecting 99.99 percent of ANWR's surface acreage. I think the choice is pretty clear.

I would urge colleagues to support the motion to proceed later and the underlying resolution when we vote on it tomorrow.

Mr. President, I would ask, as I wrap here, that unanimous consent be provided for letters of support from those who live on the North Slope, as well as letters from the Resource Development Council and the NFIB, to be printed in the RECORD.

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2025.

Re Support for S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res 131—Congressional Review Act Disapproval of the “2024 BLM Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision”

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAN SULLIVAN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. NICHOLAS BEGICH III,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS MURKOWSKI, SULLIVAN, AND REPRESENTATIVE BEGICH: On behalf of the North Slope Inupiat leadership—including Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS), the North Slope Borough (Borough), and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC), we write in strong support of Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions introduced being introduced by the Alaska Congressional Delegation, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule sub-

mitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to the “2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision.”

BACKGROUND

The North Slope Inupiat have called the Arctic home for over 10,000 years. We are proud of our self-determination efforts to ensure future generations of Inupiat continue to reside in our communities and have access to essential services. Without a stable economy, our communities will suffer, along with our ability to fully engage in and sustain our Inupiat cultural traditions, including our vital subsistence way of life.

The North Slope of Alaska spans an area nearly the size of the state of Minnesota and, within that expansive area, there are eight Inupiat communities—Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. None of our communities are connected by a permanent road system; all supplies must be flown or barged in, making the cost of living extremely high and economic opportunities generally low.

Over fifty years ago, the Federal Government directed Alaska Native people to organize into a new structure of indigenous representation. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) was a dramatically different and transformative approach by the Federal Government to federal Indian policy. The fact that our ancestral lands were claimed by the Federal Government before our people had a right to settle aboriginal land claims should inform every decision the Federal Government makes in managing those lands.

Unlike the Lower 48 model of indigenous representation where tribal governments typically administer the delivery of services such as healthcare, public safety, education, land management, and economic development, the passage of ANCSA created a shared system of Alaska Native representation and delivery of services. Our region has a multitude of Alaska Native entities that work together to effectively serve, provide for, and enrich the lives of the North Slope Inupiat we represent. Our three regional entities, the ICAS, the Borough, and ASRC are three of those entities. While our roles differ, our constituencies overlap, which is why we work closely together to protect the cultural and economic interests of the North Slope Inupiat.

While our leaders over fifty years ago were initially wary of any development on our lands, our Inupiat leaders have spent decades prioritizing open communication and transparency in planning with industry. We have exercised true self-determination through a unique framework of Alaska Native governance—a framework that relies on our tribal governments, municipal governments, and Alaska Native corporations established by Congress to serve our indigenous constituents. For millennia, Inupiat ingenuity has transformed our relationship with industry into a partnership that has both protected our environment and our way of life and has brought significant economic benefits to the region that would have otherwise been absent. Our North Slope residents are keenly aware that advances in our communities—running water, local schools, health care, public safety, electricity, and more—have come because of the coordination and cooperation of Alaska Native leaders and entities across the region.

ICAS

Established in 1971, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope is the federally recognized regional tribal government for the North Slope and represents over 14,000 Inupiat tribal members. The mission of ICAS is to exercise its sovereign rights and powers

for the benefit of tribal members, to conserve and retain tribal lands and resources including subsistence.

BOROUGH

The Borough is a home rule government located above the Arctic Circle that represents roughly 10,000 residents. The Borough's jurisdiction includes the entire National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and the eight villages within it. In 1972, the North Slope Iñupiat formed the Borough, in part, to ensure our communities would benefit from oil and gas development on their ancestral homelands. It was the first time Alaska Natives took control of their destiny using a regional municipal government. The Borough exercises its powers of taxation, property assessment, education, and planning and zoning services to serve our communities. Taxes levied on oil and gas infrastructure, not development, have enabled the Borough to invest in public infrastructure and utilities, support education, and provide police, fire, emergency, health, and other services. Elsewhere in rural Alaska, these services are typically provided primarily by the State or Federal Government, or both.

ASRC

ASRC is a for-profit, land-owning Alaska Native regional corporation formed pursuant to ANCSA. ASRC represents the same region as the Borough and ICAS, and the same eight villages whose residents are predominantly Iñupiat, and who comprise many of our over 14,000 Alaska Native shareholders. ASRC holds the title to approximately five million acres of land on the North Slope, including both surface and subsurface lands. These lands—the ancestral lands of the North Slope Iñupiat—were conveyed to ASRC by the United States pursuant to ANCSA to provide for the economic and cultural well-being of our Iñupiat shareholders.

ASRC is committed to both providing sound financial returns to our shareholders, through jobs and dividends, and to preserving our Iñupiat way of life, culture, and traditions, including the ability to maintain a subsistence lifestyle that supports our communities. In furtherance of this congressionally mandated mission to provide benefits to our shareholders, ASRC conducts and continues to invest in a variety of activities related to infrastructure and natural resource development and other economic initiatives.

ASRC's perspective is based on the dual realities that our Iñupiat culture and communities depend on a healthy ecosystem and subsistence resources, as well as infrastructure and resource development as the foundation of sustainable North Slope communities.

NORTH SLOPE TRILATERAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE 2024 COASTAL PLAIN ROD

It is important to emphasize that our trilateral organizations did not support the 2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision. The primary reason for our opposition was the lack of meaningful consultation with the Iñupiat people, our tribal government, and regional institutions. The previous administration failed to engage in meaningful government-to-government consultation with ICAS, the Borough, or ASRC, despite the fact that North Slope communities are the most directly impacted by decisions in the Coastal Plain.

This failure disregarded the sovereign rights of ICAS, the municipal authority of the Borough, and the land and shareholder interests of ASRC. Federal law requires that agencies conduct meaningful consultation with tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) before issuing decisions that affect our communities. That did not

occur in this case. Instead, the process sidelined the voices of our people, creating a decision that was neither legitimate nor consistent with the principles of self-determination.

For the Iñupiat, consultation is not a procedural box to check, it is a legal obligation that recognizes our relationship to the land and our right to be heard. By ignoring this responsibility, the Coastal Plain ROD failed to account for the subsistence needs, cultural values, and economic stability of North Slope communities. This is why our organizations could not support the ROD, and why we now stand behind its disapproval through the CRA process.

SUPPORT FOR S.J. RES. 91 AND H.J. RES. 131

For these reasons, our trilateral organizations strongly support passage of the CRA which disapproves of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision (issued December 9, 2024). Overturning this rule is necessary to restore balance to federal policy, reaffirm Congress's intent for responsible development in Alaska, and uphold the economic, cultural, and subsistence well-being of the North Slope Iñupiat.

Our identity, resilience, and survival are deeply rooted in our traditional lands, which encompass both the Coastal Plain and the NPR-A. We take great pride in our ongoing efforts toward self-determination, focused on securing a future where future generations of Iñupiat can continue to live in our communities with access to the essential services they need to thrive. We thank you for your leadership on this important resolution and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that federal policies reflect both national priorities and the needs of the people who call the Arctic home.

Sincerely,

NICOLE WOJCIECHOWSKI,
*President, Iñupiat
Community of the
Arctic Slope.*

JOSIAH PATKOTAK,
*Mayor, North Slope
Borough.*

REX A. ROCK Sr.,
*President and CEO,
Arctic Slope Re-
gional Corporation.*

VOICE,
November 18, 2025.

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAN SULLIVAN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. NICK BEGICH,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MURKOWSKI, SENATOR SULLIVAN, AND REPRESENTATIVE BEGICH: Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat (VOICE) writes today in support of Senate Joint Resolution 91 and House Joint Resolution 131, the congressional disapprovals of the Bureau of Land Management's 2024 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). In 2017, VOICE's Board of Directors unanimously passed Resolution 2017-04 in support of the opening of the 1002 Area, also known as the Coastal Plain, of ANWR to oil and gas exploration and development.

VOICE is a nonprofit established in 2015 by the region's collective Iñupiaq leadership to speak with a unified voice on issues impacting the North Slope Iñupiat, and to preserve and advance North Slope Iñupiaq cultural and economic self-determination. Our 21 member organizations collaborate to ensure that our collective voice is heard and respected—locally, regionally, nationally, and

internationally. VOICE's Board Members are elected leaders representing local governments, federally recognized tribes, tribal service providers, and Alaska Native Corporations from across the North Slope.

Our Board of Directors unanimously supports the Kaktovikmiut, the residents of Kaktovik, and their right to self-determination. Since the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980, which was crafted, passed, and signed without consulting the North Slope Iñupiat, the Kaktovikmiut have been fighting for their right to explore and develop their homelands located in the Coastal Plain of ANWR, which they have occupied and which have sustained them for thousands of years. VOICE is proud to support policies that reflect their voices, including this effort to nullify the 2024 ROD.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that the people most affected are included and heard in the policymaking processes.

Quyanapqak,

NAGRUK HARCHAREK,
President.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
Anchorage, AK, December 2, 2025.

Re Support for S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131

Hon. Senator LISA MURKOWSKI,
Washington, DC.

Hon. Senator DAN SULLIVAN,
Washington, DC.

Hon. Congressman NICK BEGICH,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MURKOWSKI, SENATOR SULLIVAN, AND CONGRESSMAN BEGICH: The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) writes to express strong support for S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131, which would disapprove the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 2024 Coastal Plain Oil & Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision (ROD). These resolutions are essential to upholding federal law, restoring congressional intent, and reaffirming Alaska's right to responsible development in the 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

RDC is a statewide, non-profit trade association founded in 1975. Our membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, tourism, forestry, mining, and oil and gas industries and includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

CONGRESS INTENDED THE 1002 AREA FOR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

In 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) expanded ANWR, but in a compromise set aside 1.5 million acres of the coastal plain for study and potential development. When Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, it reaffirmed that intent by directing BLM to conduct two area-wide lease sales by 2024. Congress also limited development to no more than 2,000 surface acres, a footprint representing roughly 1/10,000th of refuge lands.

The Biden administration's subsequent actions including suspending and cancelling valid leases and issuing a 2024 ROD that closes 76 percent of the Coastal Plain to leasing, directly contradicted this mandate. In March 2025, a federal court ruled these actions unlawful, and the Government Accountability Office confirmed that the 2024 plan is subject to the Congressional Review Act. S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131 are necessary to correct this overreach and restore

a lawful, workable program. Restoring the 2020 program is aligned with H.R. 1 and the FY 2025 reconciliation bill, which require four lease sales over the next decade under the terms of the 2020 ROD.

ALASKA'S RECORD OF SAFE, LOW-IMPACT ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT IS PROVEN

Alaska has demonstrated for decades that responsible development on the North Slope can coexist with environmental protection, subsistence resources, and wildlife. Since the 1970s, the surface footprint of oil development has decreased by more than 80 percent due to technological advancements, while drilling reach has increased dramatically. In fact, over the past 40 years of North Slope oil production, many wildlife populations, including caribou, have grown or remained stable. The 2020 Coastal Plain ROD incorporated extensive safeguards, including targeted protections for sensitive habitats and important subsistence areas. It also reflected strong support from North Slope residents, including the community of Kaktovik—the only village within the refuge.

ENERGY PRODUCTION IN THE COASTAL PLAIN STRENGTHENS ALASKA AND THE NATION

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the Coastal Plain holds 7.7 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil, enough to support roughly one million barrels per day for more than 20 years. This resource is vital to maintaining throughput in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), creating jobs across Alaska and the nation, generating billions in revenues to fund essential services and state and federal governments, and strengthening U.S. energy security.

WHY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS NEEDED

Passage of S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131 is essential because these resolutions nullify an unlawful and overly restrictive federal action and reinstate a leasing program that aligns with clear congressional direction. They help ensure that future administrations cannot disregard statutory requirements, while respecting Alaska Native input and local priorities. Restoring a lawful program also provides much-needed certainty for industry, communities, and the state's economy.

For 50 years, RDC has supported responsible North Slope development as a cornerstone of Alaska's economy and an essential component of America's energy security. S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131 uphold the law, defend Alaska's interests, and restore a balanced and environmentally responsible path forward for the 1002 Area.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to Alaska's future. RDC strongly supports passage of these resolutions.

Sincerely,

CONNOR HAJDUKOVICH,
Interim Executive Director.

NFIB,

Washington, DC, November 17, 2025.

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MURKOWSKI: On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business, I write in support of S.J. Res. 91, which would repeal the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s 2024 Coastal Plain Oil & Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision (ROD) that restricted oil and gas leasing on over 1.15 million acres of land in northeast Alaska. This land was specifically set aside by Congress in the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act for oil and gas leasing. Unlocking the 7.7 billion barrels of discoverable oil in this region by repealing this rule is an important step to lowering energy costs for small business owners across the whole country.

NFIB represents approximately 300,000 small and independent businesses across the United States, including more than 1,000 in the state of Alaska. In NFIB's most recent Problems and Priorities survey, small businesses ranked the cost of natural gas, propane, gasoline, diesel, and fuel oil as their 6th most pressing issue. Job creators depend on affordable, reliable, American energy so they can own, operate, and grow their small businesses.

In the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Congress directed at least two lease sales in the "1002 Area" by 2024. Nine tracts were leased out in 2021, but these contracts were promptly frozen on the first day on the Biden administration and cancelled shortly thereafter. To make matters worse, in December 2024, BLM issued a final ROD that permanently closed 76% of the area to further energy development. Thankfully, Congress' 2025 tax package rebuked this plan, and mandated four lease sales in the next decade. Passing S.J. Res. 91 will help achieve this target.

In a recent NFIB member ballot, 88% of NFIB members supported Congress streamlining regulations on the production and transportation of energy sources. Repealing the 2024 ROD would do just that, allowing for the production of more American energy on land owned by the taxpayer.

NFIB supports repealing this burdensome rule and other rules that increase production costs and make energy less affordable and reliable for small businesses. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill and help ensure continued American energy dominance.

Sincerely,

LOUIS A. BERTOLOTTI,
Principal, Federal Government Relations.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western 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 Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and

the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 628 Ex.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Kelly	Sanders
Baldwin	Kim	Schatz
Bennet	King	Schiff
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Slotkin
Booker	Markley	Smith
Cantwell	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	
Hirono	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—4

Boozman	Heinrich	Hoeven
Coons		

(Mr. RICKETTS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 40. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

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

IMMIGRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week, the day before Thanksgiving, our Nation's Capital experienced a horrific tragedy. Just blocks from the White House, two National Guard members were ambushed by a gunman. One of the victims, 20-year-old Sarah Beckstrom, tragically, succumbed to her wounds. The second, 24-year-old Andrew Wolfe, is currently fighting for his life.

We join thousands of Americans who are praying for him and for a full and complete recovery, lifting up his family and also lifting up the family of Sarah Beckstrom.

Now, these two young, brave, patriotic Americans answered the call of duty to serve their Nation in uniform, and, for that, they were gunned down in cold blood.

What do we know about the shooting suspect? He is a 29-year-old Afghan national. He entered the country in 2021 during President Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. He is

among nearly 200,000 Afghan nationals who were relocated to our country by the Biden administration under Operation Allies Welcome. This program was part of Biden's larger effort to make illegal immigration legal.

At the time, my Republican colleagues and I demanded answers from the administration about how they could possibly vet all the evacuees amid this chaotic withdrawal.

We must never forget that 13 U.S. servicemembers were murdered by a suicide bomber at the Abbey Gate during the evacuation, including SSG Ryan Knauss of Tennessee.

The Biden administration, however, insisted that the evacuees were properly vetted. The morning after the Abbey Gate bombings, Biden's Press Secretary Jen Psaki told the American people that all Afghan nationals were "screened and vetted prior to being allowed into the United States."

Well, that was a lie and a lie that has now cost the life of a U.S. servicemember.

In 2022, an inspector general report from the Department of Homeland Security found that the Biden administration "admitted or paroled evacuees who were not fully vetted into the United States," noting that "some information used to vet evacuees through U.S. government databases . . . was inaccurate, incomplete, or missing."

We can be grateful that President Trump is taking decisive action to strengthen vetting and prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again. He has halted visas for Afghan nationals and bolstered the vetting process for aliens from 19 high-risk countries. This is what it looks like when a President puts the American people first, and Congress should do everything possible to work with DHS and to support these efforts.

KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT

Mr. President, we have known for years that Big Tech has sold out children's safety online for the purpose of making a buck. Their algorithms connect children with drug dealers, pedophiles, and flood their feeds with pro-suicide content. Their AI chatbots sexualize children in role-playing fantasies. Their design features allow children to share their precise, real-time location on a map with anyone, including predators eager to track them down. Their entire profit model depends on addicting children to their product no matter the consequences. They are for doomscrolling by our kids.

Every day, we are learning more about this appalling abuse and addiction. A recent brief filed by more than 1,800 plaintiffs—1,800 plaintiffs—including parents and children, shows how Meta knowingly exposed children to unthinkable harms. According to the brief, Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, conducted internal studies showing that social media addiction among minors fuels anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and suicidal thoughts.

We all know that these numbers have soared over the past decade. Anxiety, depression, eating disorders, suicide coming from our kids—the numbers are soaring.

So Meta does some research, but here is the kicker that should disgust every single American: When these findings came out and the results were known, Meta buried the research and misled Congress about the results.

As a matter of policy, Meta allegedly refused to remove individuals who engaged in sex trafficking on its platforms until users reported the offender at least 17 times. This is unbelievable. They should never let them on in the first place. But Meta, whether it is Facebook or Instagram—they know that somebody is sex trafficking kids and women, and they still let them on their site. After they are reported once, they get a hand slap. And 5, 10, 15, 16 times, they get a hand slap. They get a notice, but they can stay in business. On the 17th time, they decide, well, that is too much, so they shut them down. Do you know what? A lot of those people go in, and they set up another account with another name, and they continue this sex trafficking mill.

It is disgusting and deplorable and revolting and every other negative adjective you can apply to this. How dare they do this, and how dare Meta let these human traffickers, sex traffickers, drug traffickers use their site to carry out illegal businesses.

Even when Meta detected child sexual abuse material—that is called CSAM—with 100 percent confidence, Meta often failed to remove the content. So they knew people were exploiting children. It is illegal. They knew they were being exploited, that children were being exploited, but do you know what? They didn't remove it. They let it go.

An internal audit even showed that the company knowingly—knowingly—connected minors with potential pedophiles and predators and groomers through its algorithmic "follow" recommendations. On a single day in 2022, it made such recommendations 1.4 million times. That is an accurate number. You have a website, you have a social media platform, and they know they are connecting kids to people that are going to harm and exploit them. In one single day, they do it 1.4 million times—total disregard for the children, total disregard for their welfare, total disregard for their well-being. They allow the exploitation to take place.

There are a couple of things we have learned about these big tech companies. First of all, they cannot be trusted to make their platforms safe by design because meaningful safety measures would cut into their bottom line. These are selfish, greedy people—people with the motto "Move fast and break things." Do you know what they are doing? They are breaking the lives of children and families.

This is why Congress must step up and ensure that these companies fi-

nally face accountability for the harm they have inflicted on an entire generation of our precious children.

Earlier this year, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I reintroduced the bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act. It would ensure that children are afforded the same protections from harm in the virtual space with laws we have passed that protect them in the physical world. The Senate's version of KOSA would establish a clear duty of care for online platforms to prevent their algorithms from pushing dangers on minors, including sexual abuse, illicit drugs, the promotion of suicide, and eating disorders.

That duty of care is critical. Requiring big tech companies to take responsibility for making their own products safer is essential to protecting kids and giving parents peace of mind and giving parents and kids a toolbox so that they are able to delink from that algorithmic black box.

You know what, Mr. President. It is amazing to me that in the physical world, if you sell alcohol or tobacco to a kid or expose them to pornography, take them to a strip club, the sheriff is going to come over, and they are going to lock your doors, and they are going to take you to jail. We have laws on the books. It is illegal to endanger a child. It is illegal to endanger a child's welfare and well-being. But in the virtual space, these reckless people at these AI companies and social media companies are developing these chatbots that sexualize and carry on sensual conversations with children. These social media platforms that connect kids to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, predators—they go every day about their business, endangering children and using our children as a product every single time they are online.

The need to do something about this is why we have now 70 cosponsors on the Kids Online Safety Act here in the Senate.

Last week, our colleagues in the House released a discussion draft of a new version of KOSA that would strip out the duty of care. I will tell you, when I looked at that, I thought, it looks like they gave it to Meta to mark it up, the way they redlined that, stripping out the duty of care so they could still take care of friends over at the big tech companies.

With the Senate version of the Kids Online Safety Act, social media platforms would be required to "exercise reasonable care in the creation and implementation of any design feature to prevent and mitigate . . . harms to minors where a reasonable and prudent person would agree that such harms were reasonably foreseeable." With the House version, platforms would only be required to "establish, implement, maintain, and enforce reasonable policies, practices, and procedures that address such harms." Without the duty of care to prevent foreseeable harms, this new requirement is completely unenforceable.

Let me give you an idea of what this would equate to and what it would compare to in the physical space. Let's just say that our counties and cities and States and the Federal Government decided that anybody ought to be able to go buy alcohol, tobacco, or drugs anytime they wanted to. Whatever you want to do, go do it. And kids as young as 7 or 8 years old would go and buy alcohol or drugs or go experience pornographic shows. You can't even take a kid into an X-rated or R-rated movie. But let's just say all those laws were stripped. That is what is happening in the virtual space because we do not have those protections in place.

It is so deeply disappointing to me that we have some in the House who say: Let's not worry about it. Let's not put any restrictions. Do you know what? That ought to be left up to parents and teachers and preachers to police this.

What if in the physical world you took away all of those laws? What if you said: We are not going to protect children. What if you said: We are not going to, as a society, put any constraints at all on minor children.

There is a reason children are referred to as "minors." There is a reason they don't get a driver's license until they are age 16 and they can't vote until they are 18. There are reasons we have laws to protect those that are vulnerable, to take care of our children. As you look at what came through the House version, it weakens the standard to prove that big tech companies have knowledgeable harms on their platforms. We know there are harms. We know they have done the research. We know this exists. We know that there are executives who want to bury their heads in the sand and play dumb. They think the American people are dumb. They think they are the gods of Silicon Valley. But do you know what? People have figured this out. They love their kids, and they want the Federal Government to do something about this—to establish standards, to exercise Federal preemption, and to pass the Kids Online Safety Act to make certain that children are going to be protected. Parents want to know that the Federal Government has their backs.

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

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

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, when Republicans tell you over and over, over a period of generations, that they have no interest in protecting people's healthcare, you should take them seriously.

For decades, since the days of Ronald Reagan, they have argued that Medicare is socialism, that Medicaid creates cycles of dependency, that the Affordable Care Act is making healthcare more expensive when, in fact, it is doing the opposite. So you should not be surprised that, given the opportunity to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits and prevent people's premiums from more than doubling starting next month, Republicans do not have the votes to prevent that.

Look, this is not complicated. If Congress doesn't act this month, millions of Americans will lose their healthcare next year because they simply will not be able to afford to pay hundreds of dollars more every month for the same healthcare, and tens of millions of people will be forced to cut back on groceries or afterschool activities for their kids just so they can keep seeing their doctors.

The only way—the only way—to prevent the suffering that is about to happen is to pass a clean extension of these credits. There is no other plan. There is a lot of conversation—even on the left but also on the right—about how to reform the healthcare system. Nobody seriously thinks that can be accomplished in the month of December.

If we want to have a bipartisan conversation about how to fix the American healthcare system, count me in. This thing is a mess, between managed care and all of the subsidies and all of the sort of rent-seeking and the idea that most—maybe not most of the money but a substantial portion of the money in the American healthcare system goes to people and institutions and processes that don't deliver healthcare. There is utilization management. There is billing. There are pharmaceutical benefits managers. There are all kinds of rent seekers—people in the American economy, institutions in the American economy, and publicly traded companies in the American economy that take a cut out of your money that should be going to healthcare. That is a very important point.

If there were a bipartisan opportunity to fix that, count me in; count 47 of us in. But let's not kid ourselves: No one is getting that done by next week. So the question in front of us is a little more crisp and a little more uncomfortable than "Does the American healthcare system work efficiently?" Of course it doesn't. But these subsidies allow people to stay alive. These subsidies allow people to stay insured. These subsidies allow people to afford their healthcare so they can pay their rent or their mortgage or buy their groceries.

The question in front of us is not some big abstraction about public policy. We are not at some Axios event about what we should do about the American healthcare system. The vote in front of us next week is, do you want people to pay double and triple, or do you not want people to pay double and triple?

So let's stop messing around. Let's stop pretending there is some magical solution that will emerge over the weekend. We have got 47 votes. We have got 47 votes. I take some pride in being able to count. It is a weird business I am in that being able to count is such a unique skill, but I can tell you we have got 47 votes. So what does that mean? We need 13 votes over there. I can't even find 13 people who will verbalize that they would like to avoid this spike in premiums.

We have run out of time, and if Republicans want to solve this, there is a very straightforward path.

KIDS OFF SOCIAL MEDIA ACT

Mr. President, this week, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce is considering a package of bills aimed at protecting children on social media. For years, children and families across the country have been suffering from the mental health crisis precipitated by social media platforms, and it is well past time that Congress acted.

But I want to make one thing clear: This is not a question of retooling the settings or empowering users. We know—we know—from scientific research and data, as well as anecdotal evidence from every parent, teacher, or kid, that this is too big of a challenge to be solved by tinkering around the edges.

Tech companies have specifically designed their platforms to hijack the frontal lobes of impressionable children and feed them a never-ending stream of content that keeps them scrolling for hours. That is not simply going to be undone by more algorithmic choice or more conversations between parents and children at the dinner table.

Parents are asking for a very simple thing from their government—from their government—because these things are literally built in a lab to hijack a kid's frontal lobes before they are fully formed. Their profit motive is—we all know this—the longer they linger, the more eyeballs, the more revenue, the more money, the more profitability. So the more they addict your kid, the more money they make. And these things are more powerful than a 14-year-old's brain. They just are.

So the question in front of us is not to mandate that when you go into your social media account and you are 12 or you are 15, that you have the ability to tweak the algorithm. They are not going to do it—maybe 1, 2 percent. You know, some fancy-pants kid of a professor or of a Silicon Valley magnate is going to be, like, no phones and blah, blah, blah, but the rest of us need some help from our government to protect these children.

That is why Senator CRUZ and I and many others have developed the Kids Off Social Media Act. There is no good reason—no good reason—for an 8- or 9-year-old to be on Instagram or Snapchat, and until or unless companies are mandated by law to enforce

some basic rules and stop profiting off of children, they will continue padding their bottom lines.

The Kids Off Social Media Act is not some intensely complicated piece of legislation. That is the problem in the Commerce Committee and in the Energy and Commerce Committee on the House side. There are so many smart lawyers and staffers who are going back and forth and doing 500-page bills, who tweak this and tweak that and have causes of action over it. This is what this bill does: There is a minimum-age threshold for children to get on social media, OK? Then, if you are still a minor but are permitted to get on social media—so from the ages of 13 to 18—algorithmic browsing is banned. So it is like the old Facebook where it is, like, just your friends. It is like a big group chat: “I made a cupcake.” “Look how cute my dog is.” “This is a sunset.” “I had a wipeout while surfing”—whatever. It is fun and useless but not damaging.

I promise you that parents across the country left, right, and center—TED CRUZ and I have a hard time finding areas of agreement. And I like TED. KATIE BRITT and I have a hard time finding areas of agreement. Yet parents across the political spectrum and across geography believe that the way to protect kids is to simply delay the onset of the use of social media, which we have a perfect right to do under statutory law, and then, for those minors who are on social media, to turn off the algorithm. That is what we should pass.

Some of those House bills are constructive moves in the right direction, but they are nibbling around the edges. When we send something to the President's desk, it cannot be nibbling around the edges. This is not just a mental health crisis—and it is—it is a societal emergency.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

PAROLE AUTHORITY AND OPERATION ALLIES
WELCOME

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I spoke earlier this week about the tragic incident that happened over the week of Thanksgiving here in Washington, DC, when two National Guardsmen were shot in the line of duty, and one of them died of her wounds.

Today, I would like to spend a little bit more time discussing the perpetrator of this act of violence and how he happened to be in the country in the first place.

The man who committed this crime was a 29-year-old Afghan national by the name of Rahmanullah Lakanwal. The Biden administration paroled him into the United States in 2021 as part of Operation Allies Welcome. He was not the recipient of any special immigrant visa process or processed through the overseas Afghan SIV Program. He was later granted asylum after his parole period expired.

But I would like to dwell on the word “parole” for a minute so that people

understand exactly how this shooter made his way into the United States and how he had come to stay here and commit these crimes.

Ordinarily, under immigration law, Congress would be engaged and pass certain immigrant visa legislation saying that you need to meet these criteria, these standards, in order to qualify. That is not what happened to the shooter of these two West Virginia National Guardsmen. He was paroled into the country, which means that the Biden administration simply allowed him into the country without any sort of background check or any sort of vetting.

We are more familiar with the word “parole” in the criminal law context, which comes to mind when people are released from prison following demonstrating good behavior, but in immigration law, “parole” is a provision under U.S. law that allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to allow certain aliens—and that would be foreigners—on a case-by-case basis—and that is important. It would allow certain aliens, on a case-by-case basis, to temporarily enter the United States.

Aliens who have been paroled into the United States are usually not eligible for entry into the United States or for a visa because they are barred by certain grounds of inadmissibility or removal that apply.

Parole is not a lawful immigration status or formal admission to the United States. I know this is fairly technical, but it is really important in this context. This shooter was not admitted into the United States as a result of any legislation that Congress passed or any of us voted for. It was solely done by the Biden administration and by the Department of Homeland Security during his administration.

Just as importantly, this power—this parole power—is only to be used in very limited circumstances, such as a medical emergency or because we find it is in our Nation's best interests, such as an individual alien cooperating with law enforcement or in a criminal prosecution.

Aliens who are paroled into the United States are only allowed to be here temporarily and under certain conditions prescribed by the Secretary of Homeland Security. Significantly, they do not—they do not—undergo the same formal screening process as those who apply for a green card or a visa.

Parole was never meant to be a vehicle for massive numbers of immigrants coming into the country or the sort of categorical parole done by the Biden administration, where people from certain countries were admitted by the tens of thousands, literally, each month. It is supposed to be done on a case-by-case basis.

So what I am suggesting is these sorts of categorical paroles that the Biden administration issued—including the parole which resulted in this shooter being in Washington, DC, and at-

tacking these two National Guard members—were illegitimate. It was an illegitimate use of this parole authority under U.S. law.

The Biden administration's abuse of the immigration laws, of course, is well known, and their abuse of parole authority. The very notion of mass parole is what you might call an oxymoron. In other words, it is inconsistent—mass, or categorical, and parole. There is an inherent contradiction. Using this authority illegitimately to allow massive numbers of immigrants into the country defies the very nature and purpose of this authority.

The Biden administration created a number of programs to extend parole status to immigrants from around the world. Under a program known as the CHNV, the Biden administration allowed as many as 30,000 individuals per month from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, as well as their immediate family members. They were admitted under this program of the Biden administration, again, illegitimately, using the parole authority to grant categorical or massive entry of these individuals into the United States. Under that program, they were allowed into the United States for a 2-year period of time and received a work permit. The Trump administration rightfully terminated this program in March of this year.

But that was not the only misuse of parole. After the disastrous fall of Afghanistan and the bungled evacuation, the Biden administration added insult to injury. Under Operation Allies Welcome, the Biden administration rolled out the welcome mat to Afghan nationals. As of 2023, the Biden administration had brought more than 70,000 Afghan nationals into the United States under this claimed parole authority. Again, parole is only supposed to be used on a case-by-case basis. But the Biden administration, by illegitimately exercising this authority, allowed 70,000 Afghan nationals into the country.

What that also means—and in particular relevance to this crime committed against these two National Guardsmen—is that there was not the normal sort of vetting process that you would see for refugees or anybody else coming into the country. We knew very little about these individuals, and we didn't check up on them once they got here. We didn't know whether they were criminals, whether they had ties to radical terrorist groups or anything. Of course, that is pretty consistent with the Biden administration. Their open border policies for 4 years let basically anybody and everybody who wanted to come into the United States in, including people who were determined to commit crimes and do us harm.

For some of these parolees, the U.S. Government under the Biden administration even allowed them to collect cash welfare benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income, SSI; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,

TANF; and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. So not only did they come in unvetted and were allowed to stay here for 2 years, but they were given a work permit and given benefits that are paid for by you and me and the rest of the American taxpayers.

A video on the DHS website with information for Afghan nationals details that U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services will expedite asylum applications for those paroled under Operation Allies Welcome and that they may not even need to comply with the regular application filing deadline.

A cursory review of this program on the website—the Operation Allies Welcome website—exposes that the Biden administration was much more concerned with testing these immigrants for COVID-19 than ensuring they would not otherwise pose a threat to the American people.

The Department of Homeland Security inspector general reported that DHS paroled in at least two people who were known national security risks—known national security risks. And the Department of Defense inspector general wrote, in another report, that “Afghan refugees were not vetted by the National Counterterrorism Center using all DOD data prior to arriving in” the continental United States.

Now, when I have learned about this abuse of parole authority within Operation Allies Welcome, I raised the alarm bell. In October of 2024, I co-led a letter, along with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, back in the Biden administration. In this letter, we pressed the administration for answers on how foreign extremists, such as one Afghan national, Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, who was arrested for his connection to an ISIS plot to commit a violent attack within the United States on election day—how people like that were slipping through the cracks in our immigration system. I guess the answer is there weren’t cracks; there were yawning gaps that you could drive a truck through—that anybody and everybody who was determined to come here could abuse and commit acts of violence and harm against the American people.

The Biden administration had claimed that Tawhedi, who had ties to ISIS, had a special immigrant visa, but that was not true. He never had been vetted for a special immigrant visa and was allowed into the country on parole. Here we go again.

And throughout the criminal investigation, the Department of Homeland Security continued to say that “no red flags were raised” during the parole vetting process. Well, of course not—if the parole vetting process is virtually nonexistent, how do you expect red flags to be raised?

The fact that a foreign national, who would later collaborate with ISIS on a terrorist plot within the United States, raised no red flags during DHS’s parole vetting process tells us all we need to

know about what that vetting process consisted of. It was obviously not sufficient. At minimum, it was insufficient to ensure that those entering the country did not pose a threat.

The letter I referred to a moment ago also referenced the Office of Inspector General report that found that the Department of Homeland Security had no established process for monitoring the Afghan parolee population as their parole periods expired. In other words, they were allowed into the country, ostensibly, for a 2-year period of time, given a work permit, given social service benefits, and no followup to make sure that, after their parole period ended, they returned to their country of origin or pursued some other legitimate pathway to allow them to stay legally in the United States.

Now, we sent this letter back in 2024 because of our concern that another foreign extremist might make their way into our country via this parole process and commit some act of violence. And it became increasingly clear, during Thanksgiving week, that our concerns were not unwarranted.

A 29-year-old Afghan national entered our country through the Biden administration’s abuse of parole authority under Operation Allies Welcome and murdered one of our National Guardsmen on duty.

Last week, Attorney General Bondi, alongside Federal and State law enforcement, arrested another Afghan citizen residing in Fort Worth, TX, for threatening to build a bomb and carry out a suicide attack against Americans.

There are many lessons to be learned from this sad experience, this sad episode. We simply cannot ignore the importance of thoroughly vetting for each and every person who enters our country to make sure that we are keeping out radicals who may want to harm Americans or criminals or other people who have no business being in the United States in the first place.

These horrific incidents should be a reminder to all of us that the decisions that are made here in Washington have real life implications on the lives of the people that we represent. And, I must say, the Federal Government failed this young National Guardsman who lost her life during Thanksgiving week, and we don’t know how many more potential threats are still out there because 70,000 Afghan nationals were paroled under this bogus Operation Allies Welcome program by the Biden administration. We don’t know how many more potentially dangerous individuals are spread around the country.

Last week, an American service woman lost her life because of the Biden administration’s abuse of parole authority. President Biden is no longer in office, but the consequences of his reckless immigration policies are still with us. And I fear they will be with us not for days, not for weeks, not for months, but for years and possibly longer.

I commend President Trump for freezing the processing of asylum and visa applications from Afghan nationals while we figure out what happened and figure out how to fix it. We have to get to the bottom of this in order to make sure that such a tragedy never happens again.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from New Mexico.

S.J. RES. 91

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, nestled in the far northeast corner of Alaska is one of the wildest and most untouched places left in North America: The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I have been blessed to see this refuge with my own eyes. I have seen its towering peaks; I have seen the critical habitat on the Coastal Plain where caribou drop their calves; and I have seen its polar bears.

Over the course of a year in the Arctic Refuge, you might also see one of the last great spectacles of migrating caribou, dueling musk ox straight out of the Pleistocene, or rare spectacled eiders nesting on the Coastal Plain.

In fact, the Arctic Refuge is home to hundreds of iconic wildlife species, including 200 species of birds that have called this landscape home since long before humans stepped on this continent.

Simply put, the Arctic Refuge is the crown jewel of the American National Wildlife Refuge System, and it has been ever since it was set aside in 1960 by President Eisenhower to protect its wildlife and habitat values.

But that is only part of its story.

The Arctic Refuge is also deeply connected to the traditions and daily life of the people who have lived there for thousands of years—longer than this building, this city, this country have existed—because the refuge is not just land.

For wildlife, it is essential habitat. For many people who live there and are sustained by its caribou, this place is literally their grocery store. It is not just a reminder of the past, it is hope for the future. But that future is at stake.

The Arctic Refuge is under threat from the Trump administration’s relentless attacks on public lands, attacks that put so-called energy dominance above every other use, every other value.

Today, the Senate will vote on a congressional resolution of disapproval to overturn the management plan for the Arctic Refuge. And instead of a targeted approach that emphasizes things like subsistence hunting, wildlife conservation, and a focus on Tribal consultation, a vote for this resolution will—redundantly—open up the entire Coastal Plain of the refuge to be leased for oil drilling without local input.

I say “redundantly” because the Trump administration has already overturned this management plan. The Republicans in Congress have already

passed legislation requiring this area—a national wildlife refuge—requiring it to be drilled for oil, despite a complete lack of interest by legitimate industry players.

Now, we could be discussing ways to lower electricity costs, which are spiraling out of control or doing something about the skyrocketing healthcare costs in this country right now. But instead, we are talking about industrial oil and gas development in the beating heart of our greatest wildlife refuge, literally developing the place where the porcupine caribou herd drops their calves every year.

Now, when Congress first debated whether to allow oil development in the Arctic, America's energy landscape looked very different. We were importing significant amounts of oil, much of it from our political adversaries. Oil prices were rising, and U.S. energy could not meet demand.

Yet, even in that context, in those challenging years, for decades and across both political parties, Congress recognized the irreplaceable, ecological, and cultural importance of the Arctic Refuge.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle understood that some places are sacred, some places are simply too unique and important to sacrifice, and together they kept these lands closed to industrial development.

In fact, it was not until 2017 that a Republican majority reversed that longstanding commitment and opened this refuge to exploitation. They turned their backs on the American people who own this refuge and embraced the development-anywhere-and-at-any-cost approach, doing so despite the fact that the United States was already experiencing record oil production and was on its way to being a net energy exporter.

And now they have done it again in their "Big Bad Bill." But this time they want more and more. To what end? We know this hasn't worked before. We know previous efforts to offer leases here have actually been a failure.

Now, they told us that development of the Arctic Refuge would bring in a billion—billion with a "b"—a billion dollars to the Treasury to pay off the tax cuts that were in the 2017 bill for billionaires. But as we all remember, that came up a little short. In fact, it came up \$993 million short to be exact. And it is because development in the refuge is so complicated and so expensive.

It is costly in time. Seasons are short. Days can be even shorter. There is not a lot of time to break new ground. There are no roads, no infrastructure even remotely close to this part of the Coastal Plain.

That is why it is estimated that oil prices would have to be at least \$75 a barrel just to break even on oil from the refuge. Compare that to today's average cost for a barrel, which is hovering around \$60. Legitimate investors knew these pitfalls.

In 2023, the six largest banks in the United States, the five largest banks in Canada, and 29 other international banks all issued policies against financing drilling in the Arctic Refuge. The banks, insurers, too, followed suit, which is why the second justification that they are using to do this just doesn't make sense—that producing oil in the refuge will make gas cheaper for everyday Americans.

You can see from the map that this is not remotely true. If construction and drilling costs are so high that a barrel of oil has to be almost \$20 more expensive just to break even, what do you think that does to the prices at the gas station when you fill up your car? It doesn't mean cheaper gas. The last thing that they will tell you is that we have to drill everywhere in America because we are "in an energy emergency." But the truth is, the only energy crisis in America is the one that President Trump has created himself.

It is the skyrocketing utility bills that Americans are facing because of the Republicans' relentless attacks on affordable American-made clean energy.

Opening precious wilderness to industrial development is not going to fix that, especially when it is to drill for oil that costs so much to produce. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge is not going to make energy more affordable, and it seems to me, as I stand up here to speak about yet another attack on our public lands, that no place is sacred from this extract-at-all-costs playbook—not even wildlife refuges.

So what is next? Are we going to develop geothermal energy in Yellowstone? Maybe more uranium mining in the Grand Canyon. I think Teddy Roosevelt must be tired from rolling over in his grave.

The bottom line is that the Arctic Refuge is too unique, too globally important to develop. It is a wildlife refuge for a reason.

Now, proponents love to hide the fact that this is, in fact, a national wildlife refuge. They call it all kinds of things so that they don't have to use the phrase "wildlife refuge." They will call it the 1002 area. They will call it ANWR. It sounds like someplace in the Middle East that you would expect oil and gas production.

They don't want us to pay attention to how crazy a prospect developing one of our last remaining untouched landscapes is.

The Arctic Refuge provides subsistence fish and game for people who live in the region. It serves as a seasonal home to species you might see in your own State, species like Arctic terns and all sorts of waterfowl. And it is a remarkable, vast, and breathtaking wilderness that should inspire us to be better stewards of our wildlife heritage.

The Arctic Refuge is the crown jewel of our National Wildlife Refuge System, and it belongs to every single American and deserves our protection.

So I would urge colleagues to vote no on the CRA today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

S.J. RES. 91

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am coming down on the Senate floor, once again, to talk about another Congressional Review Act resolution that I am encouraging all of my colleagues, Democrats, Republicans—by the way, our last one on the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska, right here, was bipartisan. I want to thank Senator FETTERMAN for his support here.

This is a really big one, and some people are like: Geez, Senator SULLIVAN, Senator MURKOWSKI, you are down here a lot on these CRAs. We are down here a lot on these Congressional Review Act resolutions because of this. All right? I have trotted out this chart a lot, but it bears repeating. The Biden administration decided, because the far-left, radical environmental groups say: Hey, when Democrats get in power—that will mean the minority leader, if he ever became majority leader, that would include him—when they get into power, what do they do? They want to make sure they shut down the great State of Alaska. I won't go into all of the reasons, but they do it, and they are aggressive on it.

So, as I have said before, during the 4 years of the Biden administration, we had this last frontier lockup. Here is the actual list. It is shocking. I don't think, in the history of America, the Federal Government, the White House, ever used its powers so much to try to crush one State. They did it during the 4 years of the Biden administration with the support of my friends on the other side of the aisle—70 Executive orders and Executive actions, singularly and exclusively focused on the great State of Alaska—by the way, 10 on day one.

So when Joe Biden got inaugurated, man, he was raring to go to crush Alaska, kill thousands of jobs—by the way, great union jobs, by the way. Nobody ever talks about that. These are all great union jobs to develop resources for the great State of Alaska. So that was it. Seventy—can you imagine any other State in America having their own Federal Government crush them? We got sanctioned more than Joe Biden sanctioned Iran and Venezuela, and they are terrorist states. But that is what we dealt with.

So the reason I am down here so often on these CRA, Congressional Review Act, resolutions is, it is our chance—it is the Republican Senate, with a Republican President and a Republican House—to say: Now, wait a minute. We don't think the power of the Federal Government should be used to crush any State like this, especially one with all these great resources and great Native people.

I am going to get to all of this, but the Democrats do that.

So I am asking my colleagues on one of these—I can't remember which one;

there are several dealing with ANWR—to rescind the Biden rule, get it over to the President, and sign it into law.

Now, I am going to talk about the ranking member from New Mexico who just came down and spoke against this. He is the No. 1 guy in the Senate who loves to crush Alaska. But I am going to go into a little bit about his State and maybe something—the word called “hypocrisy” that we are going to get to here in a minute.

But this one is really big. The CRA that the Biden administration did to lock up ANWR—because out of all of the CRAs, a lot of these were illegal. They are illegal. They go against what Congress says the law is, and the executive branch just wouldn’t do. It wouldn’t follow suit. But the ANWR one was particularly illegal.

So, in 2017, in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the Congress of the United States, after debating this topic for almost 40 years, said the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is going to be open for resource development—responsible resource development. We have the highest standards on resource development in the world in Alaska.

So the Congress, in a law, didn’t “suggest” that we do it. The Congress mandated two lease sales—have to do it, Executive branch—offering no fewer than 400,000 acres in this area, what we call the 1002 area. That is named after section 1002 of ANILCA. We finally got it done.

This is a hugely bipartisan issue in Alaska. We know how to develop our resources. By the way, the Native people, great, heroic Native people, Inupiat Natives who live on the North Slope of Alaska in NPR-A, in ANWR—I just did a townhall, by the way, with the great people, our North Slope Borough, and the one community actually lives here, just last night. They all, the leadership almost unanimously, wanted this resource development.

I am going to get into that in a minute.

So the law of the United States—the President signed the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Section 1 was about tax cuts and jobs. Section 2 was about opening ANWR. That is what it said: Shall do it, must do it. OK? That was the law.

So imagine when the Biden administration came in, and they started saying: Eh, we are not going to follow the law. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of the Interior of the Biden administration, she announced at a press conference that through a regulation—that we are going to rescind today—they were going to lock up and shut down ANWR. No lease sales. They were going to cancel the lease sales of the Trump administration.

This is blatantly illegal. None of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said: Wait a minute. You can’t do that. You are violating the law.

They talk about a lot of administrations violating the law, but when it came to Alaska, Joe Biden violated the law every day almost.

So this is a quote from Secretary Haaland. Despite the law—she was a former Congresswoman—saying you have got to develop this—shall, must, Congress is telling you—she said that “with today’s action” on an Executive order “no one will have the rights to drill” in this area.

Whoa. Well, that is pretty darn illegal when the Congress said: No, you have to do that.

So it is not just me saying that. In 2025, after litigation by the State of Alaska against the Biden administration, one of our Federal judges in Alaska, Judge Gleason, wrote that the “Federal Defendants”—that is the Biden administration—“cancellation of the [ANWR] leases,” which they did illegally, “was not in accordance with the law.” I am quoting the judge. The Department of the Interior error is serious. The Department of the Interior canceled these leases without following congressionally mandated procedure.

So there you go. It is not just me, one Senator, saying that what Joe Biden did was illegal. It was a Federal judge.

This vote today is actually to vindicate the rule of law. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle like to talk about the rule of law a lot. So I certainly hope that we can do that.

To Senator HEINRICH, the senior Senator from New Mexico, and his colleague Secretary Haaland, I think they need special recognition on what I would just refer to as hypocrisy, because as soon as that 2017 law was passed saying, “hey, you can now develop this area,” the senior Senator from New Mexico led a letter with dozens of Democrat Senators, writing to all the investment banks and all the insurance companies, saying: We are a bunch of Senators. We have a lot of power. Don’t invest in Alaska. Don’t invest in ANWR—don’t.

I mean, I could threaten businesses and stuff. We are a bunch of powerful Senators. Don’t do it.

Could you imagine if every Senator in the Senate decided, “hey, I am going to pick on New Mexico; I am going to make it my point in life to just go after New Mexico, shut down their economy, kill thousands of jobs”? This place wouldn’t work at all.

But the senior Senator from New Mexico has made it a career of shutting down my great State. In one of those letters, he said: We have to do this. Shut down Alaska. Don’t invest in Alaska.

He is down here on the floor arguing against voting for this CRA because he said we have to “meet America’s climate goals.” So that is one of his arguments: Let’s shut down the great State of Alaska so we can “meet America’s climate goals.”

So here is how I am talking a little bit about hypocrisy. During the time of the Biden administration and these 70 Executive orders—right there, to crush my State, kill thousands of jobs—what was going on with New Mexico, where

the senior Senator is from and where Secretary Haaland is from? Well, the press never writes this story. I have given a speech on this many times. It was “drill, baby, drill” in New Mexico—“drill, baby, drill.”

You want to talk about climate goals? You want to talk about a climate bomb?

My State barely has 500,000 barrels a day of production. New Mexico, under Joe Biden and Secretary Haaland and the senior Senator from New Mexico, they went from a million barrels a day to 2 million barrels a day, all on Federal lands. Was that hypocrisy or what?

There were 9,366 applications for permits to drill during the first 2 years of the Biden administration. My State got zero from these guys. Over half of all permits to drill on Federal lands in the first years of the Biden administration went to what State? Oh, shoot, New Mexico. “Drill, baby, drill.” Climate bomb.

But the senior Senator is going to come down here and continue what he has done throughout his career, which is try to shut down my State. It is outrageous. It is outrageous.

Like I said, New Mexico has increased oil production since 2019 from 1.2 million barrels a day to 2 million barrels a day, all on Federal lands. They are the second most oil-producing and climate-producing State in the country. Last year, the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee took the tax receipt from all its “drill, baby, drill” oil, and do you know what they are doing with the money? Free college, tax cuts, infrastructure, childcare, healthcare, you name it. Yet this guy wants to shut down my State—hypocrite, hypocrite.

Mr. President, let me end with one final point because I heard the senior Senator from New Mexico coming down to say: Well, the Native people really want to keep this area locked up.

That is so wrong. That is not correct at all. It is frustrating as can be when I hear another Senator try to speak on behalf of the Native people I have the privilege of representing. The vast, vast majority of the people who live on the North Slope of Alaska, the Inupiat Natives, they want to develop the resources. Why? For the same reason that New Mexico is giving healthcare and childcare and infrastructure from oil revenues to their people.

I find it very frustrating when I have Senate colleagues, particularly the senior Senator from New Mexico, come down on the floor and say: Well, we have to shut down Alaska. We have to keep them from developing. We will kill thousands of good union jobs. But, hey, don’t look. It is “drill, baby, drill” in my State—which it is. It has been.

I will submit to the RECORD the Native voices of my State who want to develop their resources. There are a lot of reasons for that. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle love to talk about how there are poor people of

color, indigenous people, minority communities. But there is a big asterisk—not if it is Native Alaskans, no way. They love to keep them down, keep their economic prospects limited, and take away opportunity.

That is why, Mr. President, I would like to submit this letter for the RECORD in support of this CRA, in support of this Senate resolution. This is from the trilateral group of the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope. This is the Tribe—all the Tribes on the North Slope of Alaska, right here. They are for it, the North Slope Borough.

I did a townhall and presentation in front of them. That is the borough here, the North Slope Borough. That is the elected officials. Almost all are Alaska Natives. Maybe all of them are Alaska Natives, including the mayor, including the president of the borough—good friends of mine. By the way, that borough, I think, is about the size of Montana. So it is pretty big. And there are the Alaska Native corporations too. This is the trilateral. They say this is a really important Senate resolution.

These are the Native people of my State who live where this action that we are taking here on the Senate floor is going to take place. They are saying this is absolutely critical to their sovereignty, to their economic development, to their cultural heritage. It is a very powerful letter.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have this letter printed in the RECORD.

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2025.

Re Support for S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res 131—Congressional Review Act Disapproval of the “2024 BLM Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision”

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAN SULLIVAN
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. NICHOLAS BEGICH III,
U.S. Senate, Washington DC.

DEAR SENATORS MURKOWSKI, SULLIVAN, AND REPRESENTATIVE BEGICH: On behalf of the North Slope Inupiat leadership—including Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS) the North Slope Borough (Borough), and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC), we write in strong support of Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions introduced being introduced by the Alaska Congressional Delegation, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to the “2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision.”

BACKGROUND

The North Slope Inupiat have called the Arctic home for over 10,000 years. We are proud of our self-determination efforts to ensure future generations of Inupiat continue to reside in our communities and have access to essential services. Without a stable economy, our communities will suffer, along with our ability to fully engage in and sustain our Inupiat cultural traditions, including our vital subsistence way of life.

The North Slope of Alaska spans an area nearly the size of the state of Minnesota and,

within that expansive area, there are eight Inupiat communities—Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. None of our communities are connected by a permanent road system; all supplies must be flown or barged in, making the cost of living extremely high and economic opportunities generally low.

Over fifty years ago, the Federal Government directed Alaska Native people to organize into a new structure of indigenous representation. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) was a dramatically different and transformative approach by the Federal Government to federal Indian policy. The fact that our ancestral lands were claimed by the Federal Government before our people had a right to settle aboriginal land claims should inform every decision the Federal Government makes in managing those lands.

Unlike the Lower 48 model of indigenous representation where tribal governments typically administer the delivery of services such as healthcare, public safety, education, land management, and economic development, the passage of ANCSA created a shared system of Alaska Native representation and delivery of services. Our region has a multitude of Alaska Native entities that work together to effectively serve, provide for, and enrich the lives of the North Slope Inupiat we represent. Our three regional entities, the ICAS, the Borough, and ASRC are three of those entities. While our roles differ, our constituencies overlap, which is why we work closely together to protect the cultural and economic interests of the North Slope Inupiat.

While our leaders over fifty years ago were initially wary of any development on our lands, our Inupiat leaders have spent decades prioritizing open communication and transparency in planning with industry. We have exercised true self-determination through a unique framework of Alaska Native governance—a framework that relies on our tribal governments, municipal governments, and Alaska Native corporations established by Congress to serve our indigenous constituents. For millennia, Inupiat ingenuity has transformed our relationship with industry into a partnership that has both protected our environment and our way of life and has brought significant economic benefits to the region that would have otherwise been absent. Our North Slope residents are keenly aware that advances in our communities—running water, local schools, health care, public safety, electricity, and more—have come because of the coordination and cooperation of Alaska Native leaders and entities across the region.

ICAS

Established in 1971, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope is the federally recognized regional tribal government for the North Slope and represents over 14,000 Inupiat tribal members. The mission of ICAS is to exercise its sovereign rights and powers for the benefit of tribal members, to conserve and retain tribal lands and resources including subsistence.

BOROUGH

The Borough is a home rule government located above the Arctic Circle that represents roughly 10,000 residents. The Borough's jurisdiction includes the entire National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and the eight villages within it. In 1972, the North Slope Inupiat formed the Borough, in part, to ensure our communities would benefit from oil and gas development on their ancestral homelands. It was the first time Alaska Natives took control of their destiny using a regional municipal government. The Borough

exercises its powers of taxation, property assessment, education, and planning and zoning services to serve our communities. Taxes levied on oil and gas infrastructure, not development, have enabled the Borough to invest in public infrastructure and utilities, support education, and provide police, fire, emergency, health, and other services. Elsewhere in rural Alaska, these services are typically provided primarily by the State or Federal Government, or both.

ASRC

ASRC is a for-profit, land-owning Alaska Native regional corporation formed pursuant to ANCSA. ASRC represents the same region as the Borough and ICAS, and the same eight villages whose residents are predominantly Inupiat, and who comprise many of our over 14,000 Alaska Native shareholders. ASRC holds the title to approximately five million acres of land on the North Slope, including both surface and subsurface lands. These lands—the ancestral lands of the North Slope Inupiat—were conveyed to ASRC by the United States pursuant to ANCSA to provide for the economic and cultural well-being of our Inupiat shareholders.

ASRC is committed to both providing sound financial returns to our shareholders, through jobs and dividends, and to preserving our Inupiat way of life, culture, and traditions, including the ability to maintain a subsistence lifestyle that supports our communities. In furtherance of this congressionally mandated mission to provide benefits to our shareholders, ASRC conducts and continues to invest in a variety of activities related to infrastructure and natural resource development and other economic initiatives. ASRC's perspective is based on the dual realities that our Inupiat culture and communities depend on a healthy ecosystem and subsistence resources, as well as infrastructure and resource development as the foundation of sustainable North Slope communities.

NORTH SLOPE TRILATERAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE 2024 COASTAL PLAIN ROD

It is important to emphasize that our trilateral organizations did not support the 2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision. The primary reason for our opposition was the lack of meaningful consultation with the Inupiat people, our tribal government, and regional institutions. The previous administration failed to engage in meaningful government-to-government consultation with ICAS, the Borough, or ASRC, despite the fact that North Slope communities are the most directly impacted by decisions in the Coastal Plain.

This failure disregarded the sovereign rights of ICAS, the municipal authority of the Borough, and the land and shareholder interests of ASRC. Federal law requires that agencies conduct meaningful consultation with tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) before issuing decisions that affect our communities. That did not occur in this case. Instead, the process sidelined the voices of our people, creating a decision that was neither legitimate nor consistent with the principles of self-determination.

For the Inupiat, consultation is not a procedural box to check, it is a Legal obligation that recognizes our relationship to the land and our right to be heard. By ignoring this responsibility, the Coastal Plain ROD failed to account for the subsistence needs, cultural values, and economic stability of North Slope communities. This is why our organizations could not support the ROD, and why we now stand behind its disapproval through the CRA process.

SUPPORT FOR S.J. RES. 91 AND H.J. RES. 131

For these reasons, our trilateral organizations strongly support passage of the CRA

which disapproves of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision (issued December 9, 2024). Overturning this rule is necessary to restore balance to federal policy, reaffirm Congress’s intent for responsible development in Alaska, and uphold the economic, cultural, and subsistence well-being of the North Slope Inupiat.

Our identity, resilience, and survival are deeply rooted in our traditional lands, which encompass both the Coastal Plain and the NPR-A. We take great pride in our ongoing efforts toward self-determination, focused on securing a future where future generations of Inupiat can continue to live in our communities with access to the essential services they need to thrive. We thank you for your leadership on this important resolution and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that federal policies reflect both national priorities and the needs of the people who call the Arctic home.

Mr. SULLIVAN. There is also what we call the VOICE of the Inupiat, another group similarly situated—all Alaska Natives, all from this area. They were established to speak with a unified voice for the Native people on the North Slope, to preserve the advancement of the Inupiat culture and economic self-determination. All of the members of the board of directors of this organization unanimously support this resolution.

I ask unanimous consent to have this letter printed in the RECORD.

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

NOVEMBER 18, 2025.

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAN SULLIVAN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. NICK BEGICH,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MURKOWSKI, SENATOR SULLIVAN, AND REPRESENTATIVE BEGICH: Voice of the Arctic Inupiat (VOICE) writes today in support of Senate Joint Resolution 91 and House Joint Resolution 131, the congressional disapprovals of the Bureau of Land Management’s 2024 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). In 2017, VOICE’s Board of Directors unanimously passed Resolution 2017-04 in support of the opening of the 1002 Area, also known as the Coastal Plain, of ANWR to oil and gas exploration and development.

VOICE is a nonprofit established in 2015 by the region’s collective Inupiaq leadership to speak with a unified voice on issues impacting the North Slope Inupiat, and to preserve and advance North Slope Inupiaq cultural and economic self-determination. Our 21 member organizations collaborate to ensure that our collective voice is heard and respected—locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. VOICE’s Board Members are elected leaders representing local governments, federally recognized tribes, tribal service providers, and Alaska Native Corporations from across the North Slope.

Our Board of Directors unanimously supports the Kaktovikmiut, the residents of Kaktovik, and their right to self-determination. Since the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980, which was crafted, passed, and signed without consulting the North Slope Inupiat, the Kaktovikmiut have been fighting for their right to explore and de-

velop their homelands located in the Coastal Plain of ANWR, which they have occupied and which have sustained them for thousands of years. VOICE is proud to support policies that reflect their voices, including this effort to nullify the 2024 ROD.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that the people most affected are included and heard in the policymaking processes.

Quyanaqpak,

NAGRUK HARCHAREK,
President.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Finally, Mr. President, it is important to know that the Trump administration is also fully supportive of our Senate resolution in terms of this CRA. This is a statement of administrative policy, where it States:

The Administration strongly supports passage of H.J. Res. 131.

I ask unanimous consent to have that statement printed in the RECORD.

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

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.J. RES. 131—JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO “COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION”—(REP. BEGICH, R-AK)

The Administration strongly supports passage of H.J. Res. 131, which would disapprove a Record of Decision issued by the Bureau of Land Management during the previous Administration. The 2024 Biden-era Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision imposed burdensome and unnecessary restrictions on oil and gas leasing in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an area set aside by Congress for potential oil and gas production, by reducing the acreage available for responsible development and imposing broad restrictions that undermine the Nation’s energy security and economic interests.

The Record of Decision, against the wishes of those who actually live on the North Slope, effectively nullified statutory directives from Congress to establish and administer a competitive leasing program for the Coastal Plain by placing more than 1 million acres off limits and layering on operational constraints that make leasing commercially impracticable. This disastrous Record of Decision stifled the energy needs of our nation in unnecessary red tape, destroyed confidence in Federal leasing programs, and wreaked investment certainty across the energy sector.

President Trump is committed to unleashing American energy dominance and Alaska’s extraordinary resource potential. Unlike the short-sighted and completely failed America-Last energy policies of the Biden Administration, President Trump prioritizes energy independence, global energy dominance against our adversaries, and high-paying job creation that supports Alaska’s communities. The Trump Administration is committed to driving down energy costs, and putting hardworking Americans and their paychecks first.

If H.J. Res. 131 were presented to the President in its current form, his advisors would recommend that he sign it into law.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Why do our Alaska Native people so strongly support this CRA and the one that we did on the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska a couple of weeks ago? Why? I talked about this many times, but I am going

to do it again because it is really important. Yes, it is jobs. Yes, it is economic self-determination. All of those are really important. It is having the Federal Government actually work with them and listen to them.

By the way, on the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, Biden shut down. The Native people from the Tribe, from the ANC, from the Bureau came to Washington, DC, eight times. They flew 4,000 miles, eight times, to meet with Secretary Haaland to say to her: Don’t do this. We are the people of the region. We are the Native people of the region. Don’t issue this regulation that is going to lock up opportunities for us, going to lock up healthcare, going to lock up healthier living.

And you know what? She never even met with them. She never met with them. They flew here eight times, and she never even met with them. Talk about canceling Native voices.

But why does it matter? Well, I think this chart explains a lot. I have brought it on the Senate floors many times, but it bears repeating. I want my colleagues—I want the senior Senator from New Mexico, as his State spends billions of dollars from their “drill, baby, drill” oil revenues, climate bomb revenues—that is fine for them, right? I have nothing against that. But I do when that State is doing it, and then they try to shut down my State. He leads the charge, by the way, almost every time, which really frustrates me.

Here is a really important study from the American Medical Association, from 1980 to 2014—so a 25-year period. It said: Let’s look at America, and where are people’s lives increasing, and where are people’s lives decreasing?

That is horrible. We don’t want that as Americans.

So when you look at this chart and you see a kind of yellow, orange, and red, those are actually places where the life expectancy of American citizens went down. That is very unusual for us. We don’t want that. Unfortunately, that has been in places like West Virginia, Southern Ohio. That is primarily opioid epidemic stuff, which is horrible.

Then, where has life expectancy increased? You see the green, blue, and then purple. The increases are dramatic. It is 13 years where the purple places are. Well, guess which State increased life expectancy the most over that period, from 1980 to 2014: Alaska. Guess which parts of Alaska: the parts with predominantly Native populations—the North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, Aleutian Islands chain, some here in southeastern Alaska. Life expectancy went up by 13 years.

I have said this many times when I am debating my Democratic colleagues. Give me an indicator of policy success more important than that the people you are representing are living longer. There isn’t one. No one ever came to me and said: Here is better. We are putting out less emissions.

That is not a better indicator of policy success.

So the people of my State, particularly in the North Slope Borough region, Northwest Arctic Borough region, Aleutian Islands chain region—they are living longer. That is great. Everybody should applaud that.

Why do you think they are living longer? Here is why they are living longer. It is responsible resource development. On the North Slope, starting around 1980, we discovered and started developing the largest oil field in North America, Prudhoe Bay. In the Northwest Arctic Borough, they discovered and started developing the biggest lead-zinc mine on the planet.

By the way, this is all great for America. It makes us stronger. But it is really great for the people of the region.

In the Aleutian Islands chain, because of Federal law, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, we started developing our own fisheries—American fisheries—out to the 200-mile limit. In all of these areas, people started living longer. Why? They got good jobs. They got revenues for schools, for health clinics, for running water and flushed toilets. A lot of these places don't even have running water and flushed toilets. Yet my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to block this kind of development.

For the senior Senator from New Mexico, his State is "drill, baby, drill,"—2 million barrels a day. They are now using that oil money for everything under the Sun—infrastructure, childcare, healthcare—but for Alaska, no way. We are going to shut you down.

Do you know what? You are going to actually make the people I represent not live as long.

So that is why I come down to the Senate floor. I get a little bit hot under the collar because I just see this blatant hypocrisy on the other side. I just need one Democrat beyond Senator FETTERMAN to vote with the people of Alaska, the Native people—for their livelihoods, for an increase in how long they live. That would be a courageous vote. That would be the right thing to do.

I hope that all of my Republican colleagues will stand strong with us on voting yes on this important resolution, and I hope that maybe one or two of my Democratic colleagues will. By the way, they know it is the right thing to do. This resolution will help people live longer. It will help our country be stronger in terms of American energy. It will vindicate the rule of law after Joe Biden and Secretary Haaland blatantly violated it.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting "yes" on this important resolution for the Native people of Alaska, for my State, and for our great Nation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote commence immediately.

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

VOTE ON ORSO NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Orso nomination?

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 629 Ex.]

YEAS—57

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—2

Coons	Cramer
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION"—Motion to Proceed

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 280, S.J. Res. 91.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 280, S.J. Res. 91, 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 "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision".

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) would have voted "yea," the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "yea," and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 630 Leg.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Durbin	Kim
Baldwin	Fetterman	King
Bennet	Gallego	Klobuchar
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Lujan
Blunt Rochester	Hassan	Markey
Booker	Heinrich	Merkley
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Collins	Hirono	Murray
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Ossoff
Duckworth	Kelly	Padilla

Peters	Schumer	Warnock
Reed	Shaheen	Warren
Rosen	Slotkin	Welch
Sanders	Smith	Whitehouse
Schatz	Van Hollen	Wyden
Schiff	Warner	

NOT VOTING—4

Blackburn	Cruz	Schmitt
Coons		

The motion was agreed to.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION"

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The clerk will report the joint resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 91) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision".

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session and consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator WELCH be recognized to speak up to 10 minutes following my remarks for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

HEALTHCARE

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, we are 12 days away from the deadline for Americans to get healthcare coverage starting January 1—12 days. Time is running out for us in Congress to act.

Ultimately, we can all agree on one thing: Healthcare in America is unaffordable for families, for farmers, and for small businesses alike.

This morning, the HELP Committee held a hearing called Making Health Care Affordable Again: Healing a Broken System. Many ideas were shared. But walking out of that hearing room only heightened my sense of urgency. You see, just 2 weeks ago, Senator COONS and Representative MCBRIDE and I met with the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, and the high

cost of healthcare took up three quarters of the meeting.

Like many Senators here, my office has received phone calls and emails about how devastating a lapse in ACA tax credits would be for our constituents. James from Selbyville, DE, reached out this morning to tell me his story. He said:

My family's ACA premium will increase 110 percent without the continuation of the enhanced premium subsidy.

One hundred ten percent.

Let's break this down. The average income for a family of four in Sussex County, DE, is \$78,000 a year. With a 110-percent increase, their premium could jump from \$241 a month to \$507 a month. That is a monthly increase of \$266. That is more than the current premium cost. The increase cost works out to an additional \$3,192 a year.

How are families supposed to afford this? How is James supposed to keep his family healthy and pay the rent, utilities, groceries? Costs are already high and through the roof for all of these things.

It is time we approach the healthcare crisis with the urgency our constituents deserve, which is why tomorrow I will be introducing a new bill, the Restoring Patient Protections and Affordability Act.

Here are five ways that this bill will help people like James: First, it would extend the ACA tax credits for 3 years, which would prevent health insurance premiums from spiking; second, it would make it easier for working people who want coverage to enroll by cutting redtape because we all have enough on our plates, and no one needs more paperwork to fill out; third, it would force insurance companies to be transparent about enrollment opportunities so that no one falls through the cracks; fourth, it would protect consumers from surprise premium bills; and fifth, it would lower out-of-pocket costs for consumers by reversing the harmful Trump administration regulations that increase premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing back in June.

Senator WYDEN and I are introducing this bill because it is time for Congress to stand up for people like James and his family because no one should have to choose between rent and healthcare, between groceries and a checkup, between keeping the lights on or paying for chemo.

It is long overdue we address the health crisis and lower costs for everyday Americans. We have 12 days—12 days—to ensure that people get their healthcare coverage. We have no time to waste, and I urge my colleagues to consider my bill. The clock is ticking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

UKRAINE

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, 4 years ago, on February 4, 2022, Vladimir Putin initiated his full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The question that Ukraine

faced then was this: Could they defend themselves? Could Ukraine hold against a far more powerful enemy?

Most thought the answer to that was no, including our own Central Intelligence Agency that predicted that Kyiv would fall in a matter of weeks.

The questions the United States faced at that time were: Would we choose, the United States of America, to aid a sovereign country that was defending itself from a brutal attack by an aggressor? Would the United States remain steadfast with our European allies in defending a world where borders cannot be changed by force, where nations do not invade and seize territory of their weaker neighbors, and where might does not make right?

Nearly 4 years later, we face the same question today. We faced that question within those 4 years. We have seen the bravery, the resilience, and the effectiveness of the Ukrainian people who are standing up to the Putin aggression. What Ukraine has done is create the largest army in Europe. With approximately 1 million in arms, what the Ukrainians have done is build a remarkably adaptive military fighting machine with innovation that would rival Silicon Valley. Long-range Ukrainian-designed drones and cruise missiles are now striking thousands of miles into Russia against oil facilities and strategic air force bases. Ukrainians have changed naval warfare. With their stealthy naval drones, they have pushed the feared Russian Navy out of Crimea.

Ukraine is now producing close to 100 percent of its own drones. More than 200 new homegrown Ukrainian tech startups are producing millions of drones annually, all while they are being bombarded by Russia.

Also, we have seen in those 4 years that our European allies have stood strong and rallied to help Ukraine. In many cases, the European countries together, on a per capita basis, have contributed more to Ukraine than even the United States. While it is true that the United States has been, by far, the largest single nation contributor, Europe overall, our allies, have contributed more in both military aid and financial aid.

Even our own defense has benefited. We have now two new allies in NATO, Sweden and Finland—also, the contributions of our allies. Denmark gave Ukraine advanced F-16s that are shooting down Russian drones and cruise missiles. Italy gave Ukraine critical air defense missiles and artillery systems. Greece is contributing to regional economic integration by signing an agreement just last month to supply American LNG to Ukraine. These are just a few of the coordinated actions taken by the United States and its allies.

On the other hand, when we see what Russia has done, what Putin has done, we see that Putin's war plan is to directly target civilians, including innocent women and children, and send soldiers into the meat grinder of certain

death where there have been, by many reports, over a million casualties.

Last week, Putin launched over 600 drones against civilians in Kyiv on a single night, and the objective was to kill civilians, especially women and children. Not since the Blitz of London in 1940 has a European capital faced such a ruthless campaign of airborne terror that was directed at civilians.

Next to me here is a photograph of the graves of three children from a single family who were killed by Putin's campaign of terror. These kids were among the more than 600 Ukrainian children who were killed recently by Russian strikes. Three graves. Parents, neighbors—everyone knows that their kids could be next.

On this question of the United States coming to the aid of Ukraine, I want to acknowledge the leadership of many of my Republican colleagues, especially Senator MCCONNELL, who stood firmly and immediately in favor of protecting Ukraine and standing up for American principles; Senator WICKER, our Armed Services Committee chair; and others, a few of whom I mentioned.

It was under Republican leadership and support that the Senate passed the Ukraine Invasion War Crimes Deterrence and Accountability Act into law. And that law states explicitly that it is "under the direction of President Putin" that the Russian military has committed war crimes, including targeting of civilians, killing noncombatants, deportation of civilians, and hostage-taking.

Recently, it was reported that the Russians have made some incremental gains in the past few months. But the reality is that the Russian troops are creeping forward at the cost of thousands of Russian casualties. According to some reports, Russia has suffered up to a million casualties in the Ukrainian battlefield.

Putin is completely indifferent to the suffering of his own people and the violence he is inflicting on innocent people in Ukraine. And after the thousands of Iranian drones launched every week by Russia at Ukrainian civilians, they don't really point to military effectiveness. They point to military desperation on the part of Russia.

Ineffective on the battlefield, the Putin war plan is to target civilians and try to wear down Ukraine's morale. But I can tell you, last week, I was on a bipartisan delegation led by Senator ROUNDS and Senator SHAHEEN at the Halifax Security Conference, and we heard directly from Ukrainian members of Parliament. They are fighting. It is hard, but they are not giving up. The question before us is not whether Ukraine will persevere; it is whether the U.S. support will persevere.

I believe—I think many of us in this body believe—that we must stand firm against Putin and his lawless aggression. And if he is successful in Ukraine, he will be emboldened to continue his march through Moldova and America's

Baltic and Nordic allies on Russia's borders: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

Some asked if we can afford to continue to support Ukraine. My view: We can't afford not to. But also, when you look at the economic cost, which is real, it is modest. It is about 0.2 percent of our gross domestic product. Is that such a large amount of money that we can't invest it for the security of our country and our allies in Western Europe, which we fought for in World War II?

The question before this U.S. Senate right now is not whether Ukraine is going to hang in there and fight. They proved again and again that they will hang in and fight. If Ukraine won't falter in that fight, the United States must also persevere.

In addition to us continuing our support, there are three pieces of legislation that we could take up on this floor that would make a significant difference right away: No. 1 is the bill led by Senator GRAHAM and Senator BLUMENTHAL. It has 85 cosponsors, and it would impose sanctions to stop customers like India and China and Brazil from buying Russian oil. And the argument Senator GRAHAM makes that I think is very compelling is, you go after the customers, and you squeeze the finances of the Russian war machine. We have 85 cosponsors. Let's take it up, and let's pass it.

The second bill—the State Sponsor of Terrorism bill designation for Russia—is related to the fact that Russia did something that is absolutely unconscionable: They kidnapped children. Over 20,000 kids have been taken hostage and delivered to other families in the occupied territories and in Russia itself. That is so unimaginable. Let's go at that directly.

Third, let's take up legislation here similar to legislation pending in Europe where Russian assets—about \$5 billion in this country, about \$300 million in the European Union—are seized and are used for the reconstruction of Ukraine since the aggressor, Russia, is the acting party that did all that damage.

I believe we must renew our commitment to the Ukrainian people. I believe we must stay the course. This year, we are celebrating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, when the United States advanced a foreign policy principle that borders cannot be changed by force. We have seen decades of unprecedented prosperity, and we have seen decades without another World War conflagration.

We have an opportunity today to stand up and protect that legacy for this century by recommitting to the Ukrainian people that we will stand in support of that principle, in support of their freedom, and in support of our security.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 631 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Banks	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moreno
Blackburn	Hassan	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hirono	Paul
Budd	Hoeven	Reed
Capito	Husted	Ricketts
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Collins	Johnson	Rosen
Cornyn	Justice	Rounds
Cotton	Kaine	Schmitt
Cramer	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cruz	King	Sheehy
Curtis	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Daines	Lankford	Thune
Durbin	Lee	Tillis
Ernst	Lummis	Tuberville
Fischer	Marshall	Whitehouse
Gallego	McCormick	Wicker
Graham	Moody	Young

NAYS—34

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Schiff
Baldwin	Kim	Schumer
Bennet	Lujan	Slotkin
Blumenthal	Markey	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Merkley	Van Hollen
Booker	Murphy	Warner
Cantwell	Murray	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Ossoff	Warren
Duckworth	Padilla	Welch
Fetterman	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Sanders	
Heinrich	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—3

Coons	McConnell	Shaheen
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). On this vote, the yeas are 63,

and the nays are 34. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR NORDSETH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Taylor Nordseth, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Taylor is a graduate of Worthington Senior High School in Worthington, MN. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where she is pursuing a degree in communications studies and political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Taylor for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO GENE DODARO

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge the service of an extraordinary public servant who is retiring later this month, U.S. Comptroller General Gene L. Dodaro of the Government Accountability Office.

Gene's service to GAO and Congress is truly remarkable, spanning an incredible 52-year career at GAO, with more than half of that time spent leading the agency as Chief Operating Officer, Acting Comptroller General, or since December 2010, Comptroller General. Gene is just the eighth U.S. Comptroller General, and the first to come from within GAO. In these and his other roles working at GAO, he has served Congress by helping us better manage taxpayer dollars from waste, fraud, and abuse while also improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the critical Federal programs and services our constituents depend on.

I have seen the importance of GAO's work firsthand. Over the years, Gene and the hard-working staff at GAO have assisted my work in overseeing the Committees on Veterans Affairs, Budget, HELP, and Appropriations. I can attest how greatly Congress depends on the expertise of the staff at GAO. And in the case of Gene Dodaro, few have done more to serve this insti-

tution and the American people. I want to thank and commend Gene for his many decades of excellent public service to GAO, the Congress, and the Nation and to wish him and his family all the best in his much-deserved retirement.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Gene for his dedication and service to us and the American people.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, before he became President, a member of Congress, or even a lawyer, Abraham Lincoln was a postal worker. From 1833 to 1836, Lincoln served as the postmaster of New Salem, IL. He walked for miles delivering letters to Illinoisans, and he developed a habit of storing them in his now-famous stovepipe hat. As he traversed the prairies of Sangamon County, he learned about the State that would eventually be known as the Land of Lincoln. Although postmaster was just one of the many jobs Lincoln had during his days in New Salem, it was his first taste of civil service and his introduction to the people of Sangamon County.

But Abraham Lincoln is not the only person whose life has been shaped by the Post Office. For 250 years, the U.S. Post Office has provided essential services that connect Americans, support commerce, and strengthen the foundations of our democracy. Founded during the Second Continental Congress, even before the Declaration of Independence was signed, the Post Office played an indispensable role in the success of our young democracy. Not only was the Post Office crucial in facilitating communication between American revolutionaries, it also strengthened the ties between the 13 Original Colonies, allowing our country to develop into one cohesive Nation. After the Colonies won independence, the Post Office continued to grow, ensuring Americans anywhere could have access to the information necessary to participate in the democratic process.

But as the Post Office grew, there was one glaring gap in its services. People living in rural areas would need to venture to the nearest Post Office to access their mail, which could be located miles away. While Americans living in more populous locations had access to free home delivery for decades, rural Americans were still walking for miles to retrieve their post at the end of the 19th century. In 1896, the U.S. Post Office decided to try a new service in two counties in West Virginia, free rural home delivery. In less than a decade, this experiment was adopted nationwide, and today, millions of rural Americans count on home delivery.

This commitment to equitable, universal delivery is one that is near and dear to my heart as a Senator from Illinois. Across Illinois, especially downstate, we have many rural counties and towns that struggle to attract

the attention of for-profit shipping corporations. For these communities, USPS is often the only option to receive mail and send packages. That is what separates USPS from the rest of America's shipping industry. USPS is not a company; it is a public service. Its employees are public servants. The role USPS plays in connecting Americans is one that is vital for my home State and for many others across the country.

Today, USPS delivers more mail than any other company in the world. There are more than 30,000 Post Offices that serve 169 million homes across the United States. Americans rely on the United States Postal Service to deliver their medications, Social Security checks, and other important correspondence, along with birthday cards from Grandma. The post remains a lifeline for small businesses, who often cannot afford to use large for-profit shipping corporations, as well as for rural Americans. And USPS continues to support our democracy by helping Americans send and receive their mail-in ballots for local, State, and national elections.

On October 9, the Senate passed S. Res. 337, a resolution recognizing the 250th anniversary of the Postal Service of the United States and commending its indispensable role in the success of our Nation. But any recognition of the USPS would be incomplete without acknowledging America's incredible postal workers. Continuing in the tradition of President Lincoln, postal workers ensure that through rain or snow, heatwaves and arctic blasts, Americans receive their essential mail. As we celebrate the U.S. Post Office's anniversary, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to postal workers and letter carriers, both past and present, for their essential service to Illinois and the Nation.

While much has changed since the founding of the U.S. Post Office, its role as an essential pillar of our democracy and community remains the same. Congratulations to this 250-year-old public institution, and here is to many more years of service.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL SUSIE DUNHAM

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Lt. Col. Susie Dunham on her distinguished 22-year career of dedicated service to the Air Force and Air National Guard. Lieutenant Colonel Dunham served as the lead liaison for the National Guard Bureau appropriations and expertly managed engagements with Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

She facilitated seamless communication between military leadership and the U.S. Congress while directly managing correspondence with over 90 congressional offices in the House of Representatives. As the National Guard's primary point of contact for House Appropriators and Budget Committee

Members, Lieutenant Colonel Dunham oversaw a diverse portfolio of Air and Army National Guard priorities, coordinating across the National Guard Bureau joint staff, as well as ANG and ARNG staffs.

Commissioned into the Air Force in 2003 after graduating from the University of Virginia, Lieutenant Colonel Dunham earned both Top Graduate and Top Academic Awards from Undergraduate Air Battle Manager Training. She then served in the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System Unit at Tinker Air Force Base, OK. She accumulated over 2,000 E-3 flying hours, including 580 combat hours during Operations Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom. She also gained 200 hours on the MU-2 and served as both an instructor and evaluator air battle manager.

As an Air National Guardsman, she defended the National Capitol Region Special Flight Rules Area and prosecuted hundreds of tracks of interest in support of Operation Noble Eagle. During this time, she served as a tactical coordinator, air defense liaison officer for NCR rotary wing operations, air weapons officer, instructor, evaluator, and chief of training at the Joint Air Defense Operation Center and National Capitol Region Coordination Center.

Lieutenant Colonel Susie Dunham exemplified selfless service to our Nation during her 22-year career in the Air Force and Air National Guard. I ask the Senate to join me in celebrating her extraordinary career and enduring legacy.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. FETTERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew, to the United States.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the longest serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two millennia history of Christianity. As the highest spiritual authority for nearly 300 million Eastern Orthodox Christians, he has cosponsored international peace conferences; convened Christian, Muslim, and Jewish leaders to promote cooperation and mutual understanding; and advanced the cause of religious freedom around the world.

Environmental stewardship has been a consistent theme of His All Holiness's ministry. In honor of this commitment, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize.

I am proud to join faith leaders from across Pennsylvania in welcoming His All Holiness to the United States and extend my heartfelt congratulations on this momentous achievement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. WENDY WINTERSTEEN

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, Iowa State University President Dr. Wendy Wintersteen is an exemplary leader whose decades of service have left an enduring mark on generations of Iowa students, families, and communities.

Dr. Wintersteen's Iowa State journey began more than 40 years ago as a graduate student studying fly populations around poultry facilities. From those early days in research, she quickly earned her doctoral degree, accepted an assistant professorship, and took on leadership roles in pesticide management programs. Her dedication and vision propelled her to serve as the inaugural endowed dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, CALS, and director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station.

Beyond the university, Dr. Wintersteen's impact has extended across the agricultural and academic communities. She has served with distinction on the boards of the U.S.-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund, the Farm Foundation, the Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation, and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, as well as the administrative heads section of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Board on Agriculture Assembly.

As president of Iowa State University, Dr. Wintersteen has championed entrepreneurship, innovation, and a strong return on investment for students. Her leadership has strengthened Iowa State's national and global reputation for excellence in agricultural research and innovation, placing the university in the top 3 percent for research among nearly 500 universities without a human medical school.

Dr. Wintersteen's commitment to Iowa's students and families has never wavered. Congratulations, Dr. Wintersteen, on an extraordinary career and a lasting legacy of leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES E. SHMERLING

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career of Dr. James E. Shmerling. Dr. Shmerling has dedicated nearly five decades to serving the needs of children, their families, and their communities across the Nation.

Dr. Shmerling's career in children's hospitals began in the Children's Hospital of Alabama in 1979. Over the course of 8 years, he progressed in administrative responsibilities, eventually becoming associate administrator. During this time, he completed a master of science in hospital and health administration at the University of Alabama in 1980. Extraordinarily accom-

plished in the world of academia, Dr. Shmerling also earned a master of business administration from Samford University in 1984 and a doctorate of health administration from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1999.

Dr. Shmerling has set a gold standard for hospital leadership and administration across the Nation. He has held key leadership positions at children's hospitals, including the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University, the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis, the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University, and the Children's Hospital Colorado. In each position, he brought a high level of expertise, dedication to his patients, and genuine devotion to advancing children's health.

Dr. Shmerling first came to Connecticut when he was appointed as president and chief executive officer of Connecticut Children's on November 2, 2015. He has led the organization through a period of extraordinary growth and innovation, upholding an unwavering commitment to improving children's healthcare across the State and region. A visionary leader, he was responsible for leading Connecticut Children's transformation from a standalone medical center to a leading pediatric health system spanning three States, spearheading the largest expansion in the health system's history with the construction of a new eight-story clinical tower, expanding the neonatal care network, and increasing access to specialized pediatric care.

Dr. Shmerling has also served in many other leadership roles on national boards and committees related to children's health, including the Children's Hospital Association and the American Hospital Association's Maternal and Child Health Council. He has been widely recognized by his peers, including as a fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives. Dr. Shmerling has also championed other worthwhile causes throughout his career, notably promoting childhood literacy. In Connecticut, he has served as a member of the Hartford Board of Education and is currently a board member of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut.

Dr. Shmerling's contributions to the cause of children's healthcare have been historic. Connecticut Children's and the health and well-being of our State's children are stronger than ever thanks to Dr. Shmerling's leadership. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing and celebrating the remarkable career and work of Dr. James E. Shmerling.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 10:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 970. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 983. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1912. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 130. 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".

The enrolled bills and joint resolution were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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-2159. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intent to designate the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a Major Non-NATO Ally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2160. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the situation in Nicaragua that was declared in Executive Order 13851 of November 27, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2161. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AK07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2162. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "One Year Suspension of Expansion of End-User Controls for Affiliates of Certain Listed Entities" (RIN0694-AK34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2163. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additions to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AK05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2164. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Health Service Corps Report to Congress for 2024"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2165. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Foreign Income Taxes Resulting from the Repeal of Section 898(c)(2); Recognition of Pretransition Gain or Loss under Section 987" (Notice 2025-72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2166. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act: Section 1004 Medicaid Drug Review and Utilization"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2167. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2168. A communication from the Executive Director, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Care Professionals Practicing Via Telehealth" (RIN2900-AQ59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2169. A communication from the Branch Chief, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enhanced Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS)" (RIN1651-AB61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2170. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2171. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2172. A communication from the Acting Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board Agency Financial Report Fiscal Year 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2173. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs and Directives, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of the Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Regulations, Issued May 7, 2024" (RIN1004-AF02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2174. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Propyzamide; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemption" (FRL No. 13038-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2175. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2176. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2177. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS; Michigan State Board Requirements" (FRL No. 13010-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2178. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; South Carolina; Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Area Maintenance Plan for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 12961-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2179. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Decommissioning of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems" (FRL No. 12928-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2180. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of the Clean Air Act, Section 112(l), Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants; State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protections; Approval of the Clean Air Act Section 502, State Operating Permit Programs, State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protections" (FRL No. 12924-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2181. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department; Petroleum Solvent Dry Cleaning" (FRL No. 12838-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2182. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Minnesota; Exempt Source SIP Revision" (FRL No. 12805-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2183. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Combustion Turbines" (FRL No. 12608-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2184. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Salt Lake City and Provo, Utah PM2.5 Redesignations to Attainment and Utah State Implementation Plan Revisions" (FRL No. 12594-02-R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2185. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Utah; Interstate Transport of Air Pollution for the 2008 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 12595-02-R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2186. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescinding Regulations Regarding Management Systems Pertaining to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Reservation Roads Program" (RIN2125-AG24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2187. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescinding Requirements Regarding the Forest Highway Program" (RIN2125-AG20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2188. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescinding Regulations Regarding Management Systems Pertaining to the Forest Service and the Forest Highway Program" (RIN2125-AG22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2189. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled "Rescinding Regulations Regarding Management Systems Pertaining to the National Park Service and the Park Roads and Parkways Programs" (RIN2125-AG21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Melissa Argyros, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia.

Nominee: Melissa Argyros

Post: Republic of Latvia

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

LISA ARGYROS FEDERAL DONATIONS

ID #, committee name, report year, date, amount, and election type:

C00504530, Congressional Leadership Fund, 2021, 10/11/2021, \$5,000, Primary.

C00420935, Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 2021, 10/11/2021, \$2,900, General.

C00420935, Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 2021, 10/11/2021, \$2,900, Primary.

C00428052, Majority Committee PAC—MC PAC, 2021, 10/11/2021, \$5,000, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2021, 10/11/2021, \$14,200, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2021, 10/11/2021, \$22,300, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2021, 10/11/2021, \$97,700, Primary.

C00766782, Take Back the House 2022, 2021, 10/11/2021, \$125,000, Primary.

C00766782, Take Back the House 2022, 2021, 10/11/2021, \$25,000, Primary.

C00798124, Aadland for CO-07, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775288, Adkins for KS-03 2022, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00435974, Andy Harris for Congress, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00435974, Andy Harris for Congress, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00798686, Barrett for MI-07, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798678, Baugh for CA-47, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00769414, Becker for Congress, 2022, 6/30/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775684, Becker for NV-03, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00788968, Bruce Poliquin for Congress, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00140590, California Republican Party Federal Act., 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00775767, Chavez-Deremer for OR-05, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00796524, Chris West for Congress, Inc., 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798645, Ciscomani for AZ-06, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00373001, Citizens for Turner, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00700898, Committee to Elect Sam Peters, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00504530, Congressional Leadership Fund, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$5,000, Primary.

C00798637, Cooper for AZ-04, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775007, Crane for AZ-02, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775858, De La Cruz for TX-15, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798298, Deering for IL-13, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798660, Duarte for CA-13, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798264, Erickson for OR-06, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00716498, Esther for Congress, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00706747, Friends of McCormick, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775866, Garcia for TX-28, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00150672, Georgia Republican Party Inc., 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00798272, Green for IN-01, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775262, Gryder for IL-14, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775361, Healey for NJ-03, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798306, Hunt for TX-38, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00005926, Illinois Republican Party—Federal, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00798694, James for MI-10, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775304, Junge for MI-08 2022, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00004606, Kansas Republican Party, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00703058, Kean for Congress Inc., 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00775650, Kean for NJ-07 2022, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00257337, Ken Calvert for Congress Committee, 2022, 6/6/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00257337, Ken Calvert for Congress Committee, 2022, 6/6/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00776120, Kiggans for Congress, 2022, 9/13/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775890, Kiggans for VA-02, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775270, King for IL-17 2022, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798231, Kirkmeyer for CO-08, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00732925, Kistner for Congress, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775320, Kistner for MN-02, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775916, Larkin for WA-08, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798280, Lauf for IL-11, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775353, Leavitt for NH-01, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00428052, Majority Committee PAC—MC PAC, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$5,000, Primary.

C00775064, Maryott for CA-49, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775106, McCormick for GA-06, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00704981, Michelle Steel for Congress, 2022, 6/6/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00041160, Michigan Republican Party, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00082925, Nevada Republican Central Committee, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00164418, New Jersey Republican State Committee, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00038505, North Carolina Republican Party, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$109,500, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$109,500, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$36,500, Primary.

C00775122, Nunn for IA-03, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00055582, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00775643, Pallotta for NJ-05 2022, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798652, Patti for CA-09, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775254, Pekau for IL-06, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775692, Peters for NV-04, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775296, Poliquin for ME-02, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00044842, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00008227, Republican Party of Arizona, LLC, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00099259, Republican Party of Florida, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00014498, Republican Party of Iowa, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00143743, Republican Party of Texas, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00001305, Republican Party of Virginia Inc., 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00798462, Robertson for NV-01, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00798322, Scott Baugh for Congress, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00B02264, Scott Gryder for Congress, 2022, 6/14/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00775759, Skarlatos for OR-04 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00766782, Take Back the House 2022, 6/7/2022, \$586,300, Primary.

C00766782, Take Back the House 2022, 10/18/2022, \$130,200, Primary.

C00499392, Valadao for Congress, 2022, 6/6/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00499392, Valadao for Congress, 2022, 6/6/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00742007, Van Orden for Congress, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00775940, Van Orden for WI-03 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775908, Vega for VA-07, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00031088, Washington State Republican Party, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00798488, West for GA-02, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00778159, Zinke for Congress, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, Primary.

C00798454, Zinke for MT-01, 2022, 6/7/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00706267, Ashley Hinson for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00706267, Ashley Hinson for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00818872, Bean for FL-04, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00735688, Bognet for Congress, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00806307, Brandon for Congress NY22, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00806307, Brandon for Congress NY22, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00607416, Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00607416, Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00818922, Burns for NH-02, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00140590, California Republican Party Federal Acct., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00796433, Chuck Edwards for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00796433, Chuck Edwards for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00786194, Ciscomani for Congress, 2023, 3/31/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00786194, Ciscomani for Congress, 2023, 3/31/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00033134, Colorado Republican Committee, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00794495, Committee to Elect Christian Castelli, 2023, 4/24/2023, \$2,900, General.

C00848812, Committee to Elect Tim Scott Delegates, 2023, 9/29/2023, \$5,000, Primary.

C00504530, Congressional Leadership Fund, 2023, 9/8/2023, \$250,000, Primary.

C00504530, Congressional Leadership Fund, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$5,000, Primary.

C00809426, Desposito for New York, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00809426, Desposito for New York, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00575167, Don Bacon for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00575167, Don Bacon for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00818864, France for CT-02, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00540617, Friends of David Schweikert, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00540617, Friends of David Schweikert, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00803726, Friends of Jeremy Shaffer, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00818989, Fung for RI-02, 2023, 10/6/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00005926, Illinois Republican Party—Federal, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00784389, Iowans for Zach Nunn, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00784389, Iowans for Zach Nunn, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00770636, J.R. Majewski for Congress, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00808279, John Duarte for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00808279, John Duarte for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00803502, John James for Congress, Inc., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00803502, John James for Congress, Inc., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00818963, Joy for NY-20, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00703058, Kean for Congress Inc., 2023, 3/31/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00703058, Kean for Congress Inc., 2023, 3/31/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00257337, Ken Calvert for Congress Committee, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00257337, Ken Calvert for Congress Committee, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00801985, Kevin Kiley for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00801985, Kevin Kiley for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00801985, Kevin Kiley for Congress, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00420935, Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00420935, Kevin McCarthy for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00776120, Kiggans for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00776120, Kiggans for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00818930, LaLota for NY-01, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00815415, Lawler for Congress, Inc., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00815415, Lawler for Congress, Inc., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00818880, Lee for FL-15, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775072, Logan for CT-05, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00784520, Lori Chavez-DeRemer for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00784520, Lori Chavez-DeRemer for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00775098, Luna for FL-13, 2023, 9/12/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00795542, Madison for Congress, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00428052, Majority Committee PAC—MC PAC, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$5,000, Primary.

C00789586, Marc for Us Inc., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00789586, Marc for Us Inc., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00768994, Mayra Flores for Congress, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00704981, Michelle Steel for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00704981, Michelle Steel for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00701102, Mike Garcia for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00701102, Mike Garcia for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00558825, Miller-Meeks for Congress, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00558825, Miller-Meeks for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00775080, Mills for FL-07, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00775734, Molinaro for NY-19, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00710103, Nancy Mace for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00710103, Nancy Mace for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00082925, Nevada Republican Central Committee, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00136457, New Hampshire Republican State Committee, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00136457, New Hampshire Republican State Committee, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$10,000, Primary.

C00164418, New Jersey Republican State Committee, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00038505, North Carolina Republican Party, 2023, 6/30/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$41,300, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$67,900, Primary.

C00075820, NRCC, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$123,900, Primary.

C00055582, NY Republican Federal Campaign Committee, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00818997, Ogles for TN-05, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00162339, Ohio Republican Party State/Central/Exec, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00153031, Oregon Republican Party, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00818906, Parrott for MD-06, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00831925, Protect the House 2024, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$627,900, Primary.

C00020818, Republican Campaign Committee of New Mexico, 2023, 6/30/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00044842, Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00008227, Republican Party of Arizona, LLC, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00099259, Republican Party of Florida, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00014498, Republican Party of Iowa, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00001313, Republican Party of Minnesota-Federal, 2023, 4/24/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00143743, Republican Party of Texas, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00001305, Republican Party of Virginia Inc., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00722892, Scheller for Congress, Inc., 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00774984, Schmitt for NY-18, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00677286, Steil for Wisconsin, Inc., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00677286, Steil for Wisconsin, Inc., 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00677286, Steil for Wisconsin, Inc., 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00802298, The Pat Harrigan Committee, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00540302, Tim Scott for America, 2023, 9/29/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00776526, Tim Scott Victory Fund, 2023, 9/29/2023, \$13,300, Primary.

C00840546, Trust in the Mission PAC, 2023, 10/3/2023, \$136,700, Primary.

C00499392, Valadao for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00499392, Valadao for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00742007, Van Orden for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00742007, Van Orden for Congress, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00031088, Washington State Republican Party, 2023, 2/3/2023, \$10,000, Primary.

C00775338, Weiler for MN-03, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00818971, Williams for NY-22, 2023, 10/18/2022, \$2,900, General.

C00778159, Zinke for Congress, 2023, 3/31/2023, \$3,300, General.

C00778159, Zinke for Congress, 2023, 3/31/2023, \$3,300, Primary.

C00140590, California Republican Party Federal Act., 2024, 9/17/2024, \$8,300, Primary.

C00699553, Calvert Victory Fund, 2024, 9/17/2024, \$8,300, Primary.

C00835967, Conservatives for American Excellence Inc., 2024, 2/22/2024, \$250,000, Primary.

C00828541, Never Surrender, Inc., 2024, 6/13/2024, \$3,300, Primary.

C00828541, Never Surrender, Inc., 2024, 6/13/2024, \$3,300, General.

C00003418, Republican National Committee, 2024, 6/13/2024, \$41,300, Primary.

C00003418, Republican National Committee, 2024, 6/13/2024, \$23,200, Primary.

C00003418, Republican National Committee, 2024, 6/13/2024, \$123,900, Primary.

C00158402, Republican Party of Orange County (Federal), 7/22/2024, \$6,000, Primary.

C00762591, Save America, 2024, 6/13/2024, \$5,000, Primary.

C00867937, Trump 47 Committee, Inc., 2024, 6/13/2024, \$200,000, Primary.

C00883520, Turnout for America, 2024, 10/22/2024, \$1,000,000, Primary.

Additional:

New Majority Orange County, 12/8/2020, \$10,000.

New Majority Orange County, 11/19/2021, \$11,000.

New Majority Orange County, 10/31/2022, \$11,500.

New Majority Orange County, 8/25/2023, \$12,000.

Trump Vance Inaugural Committee, 12/23/2024, \$2,000,000.

*Yehuda Kaploun, of Florida, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador.

Nominee: Yehuda Shmaya Kaploun.

Post: Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
None.

*Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru.

Nominee: Bernardo E. Navarro.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

J C Bermudez (R), \$500.00, 3/18/2025, Benfam Holdings LLC.

Jobs and Prosperity for Florida, PAC in support of Jeannette Nunez (R), \$1,000.00, 10/29/2024, Benfam Holdings LLC.

A Bolder Florida, PAC in support of Anthony Rodriguez (R), \$500.00, 5/22/2024, Benfam Holdings LLC.

Team Rick Scott (R), \$11,600.00, 1/31/2024, Benfam Holdings LLC.

Team Rick Scott (R), \$11,600.00, 12/8/2023, Benfam Holdings LLC.

Blaise Ingoglia (R), \$1,000.00, 6/23/2022, Benfam Holdings LLC.

Florida First Project, PAC in support of Marco Rubio (R), \$25,000.00, 4/27/2022, Benfam Holdings LLC.

Steve Bovo Campaign Fund (R), \$1,000.00, 9/22/2020, Benfam Holdings LLC.

Steve Bovo Campaign Fund (R), \$1,000.00, 11/15/2019, Benfam Holdings LLC.

Florida Republican Party (R), \$2,500.00, 3/22/2024, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

RPOF House Majority (R), \$2,500.00, 12/18/2023, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Law and Order PAC, PAC in support of Joe Sanchez (R), \$6,000.00, 12/13/2023, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Alina Garcia (R), \$1,000.00, 1/27/2022, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

A Better Hialeah, PAC in support of Steve Bovo (R), \$1,000.00, 9/16/2021, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

No More Socialism, PAC in support of Ileana Garcia (R), \$1,000.00, 8/16/2021, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Vince Lago Campaign Account (R), \$1,000.00, 2/10/2021, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Alex Bucelo Campaign (R), \$500.00, 1/26/2021, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Steve Bovo Campaign Fund (R), \$500.00, 9/10/2020, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Steve Bovo Campaign Fund (R), \$500.00, 9/9/2020, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Vince Lago Campaign Account (R), \$500.00, 1/29/2020, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Alina Garcia Campaign (R), \$1,000.00, 9/27/2024, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Alina Garcia Campaign (R), \$500.00, 6/17/2024, Benworth Capital Partners LLC.

Trump Vance Inaugural Committee Inc. (R), \$1,000,000.00, 12/12/2024, Bernardo & Claudia Navarro / BenFam Holdings PR LLC.

Walberg for Congress, \$1,000.00, 5/28/2025, Bernardo Navarro.

Meuser for Congress (R), \$7,000.00, 3/4/2025, Bernardo Navarro.

American Revival PAC (R), \$1,666.66, 2/28/2025, Bernardo Navarro.

Mike Johnson for Louisiana (R), \$1,666.67, 2/28/2025, Bernardo Navarro.

Mike Johnson for Louisiana (R), \$1,666.67, 2/28/2025, Bernardo Navarro.

Grow the Majority, PAC in support of Mike Johnson (R), \$3,500.00, 2/28/2025, Bernardo Navarro.

Aaron Bean for Congress (R), \$500.00, 2/7/2025, Bernardo Navarro.

Florida Republicans (R), \$500.00, 10/14/2024, Bernardo Navarro.

Raquel Regalado (R), \$1,000.00, 9/25/2024, Bernardo Navarro.

Reclaim America (R), \$5,000.00, 5/16/2024, Bernardo Navarro.

Team Rick Scott (R), \$1,000.00, 3/28/2024, Bernardo Navarro.

Alina Garcia Campaign (R), \$1,000.00, 3/28/2024, Bernardo Navarro.

Lets Get to Work PAC (R), \$1,000.00, 3/27/2024, Bernardo Navarro.

Rich Lara (R), \$500.00, 3/8/2024, Bernardo Navarro.

Lets Get to Work PAC (R), \$5,000.00, 12/31/2023, Bernardo Navarro.

Team Rick Scott (R), \$11,600.00, 12/31/2023, Bernardo Navarro.

Rick Scott (R), \$400.00, 12/31/2023, Bernardo Navarro.

Rick Scott (R), \$400.00, 12/31/2023, Bernardo Navarro.

Aaron Bean (R), \$500.00, 12/11/2023, Bernardo Navarro.

Team Rick Scott (R), \$1,000.00, 11/27/2023, Bernardo Navarro.

Francis Suarez (R), \$3,300.00, 7/27/2023, Bernardo Navarro.

Republican Senate Victory Party (R), \$12,500.00, 10/13/2022, Bernardo Navarro.

Commonsense Conservative Values (R), \$5,000.00, 10/13/2022, Bernardo Navarro.

Lisa Murkowski (R), \$1,533.00, 10/13/2022, Bernardo Navarro.

Mitch McConnell (R), \$1,533.00, 10/13/2022, Bernardo Navarro.

Marco Rubio (R), \$1,533.00, 10/13/2022, Bernardo Navarro.

John Thune (R), \$2,900.00, 10/13/2022, Bernardo Navarro.

Salazar 4 Congress (Maria Salazar) (R), \$2,900.00, 10/2/2022, Bernardo Navarro.

Maria Salazar (R), \$2,900.00, 4/9/2022, Bernardo Navarro.

Alina Garcia (R), \$1,000.00, 1/27/2022, Bernardo Navarro.

Florida Republican Senate Campaign (R), \$5,000.00, 10/20/2021, Bernardo Navarro.

Carlos Gimenez for Congress (R), \$1,000.00, 9/21/2021, Bernardo Navarro.

Carlos Gimenez (R), \$1,000.00, 9/21/2021, Bernardo Navarro.

National Republican Senatorial Com. (R), \$14,200.00, 9/1/2021, Bernardo Navarro.

Rick Scott (R), \$2,900.00, 9/1/2021, Bernardo Navarro.

Rick Scott (R), \$2,900.00, 9/1/2021, Bernardo Navarro.

Lets Get to Work PAC (R), \$5,000.00, 9/1/2021, Bernardo Navarro.

Rick Scott Victory Fund (R), \$25,000.00, 8/30/2021, Bernardo Navarro.

Tania Cruz Campaign (R), \$500.00, 1/27/2021, Bernardo Navarro.

Daniel Anthony Perez (R), \$1,000.00, 7/10/2020, Bernardo Navarro.

Carlos Gimenez (R), \$1,000.00, 6/30/2020, Bernardo Navarro.

L. Baez Campaign (R), \$250.00, 2/27/2020, Bernardo Navarro.

Shelly Fano Campaign (R), \$500.00, 2/21/2020, Bernardo Navarro.

Meuser for Congress (R), \$287.11, 3/4/2025, Claudia Navarro.

Team Rick Scott (R), \$5,800.00, 1/31/2024, Claudia Navarro.

Rick Scott (R), \$2,900.00, 12/31/2023, Claudia Navarro.

Rick Scott (R), \$2,900.00, 12/31/2023, Claudia Navarro.

Republican Senate Victory Party (R), \$12,500.00, 10/13/2022, Claudia Navarro.

John Thune (R), \$2,900.00, 10/13/2022, Claudia Navarro.

Marco Rubio (R), \$1,533.00, 10/13/2022, Claudia Navarro.

Lisa Murkowski (R), \$1,533.00, 10/13/2022, Claudia Navarro.

Mitch McConnell (R), \$1,533.00, 10/13/2022, Claudia Navarro.

Commonsense Conservative Values (R), \$5,000.00, 10/13/2022, Claudia Navarro.

Rebman Lopez Campaign (R), \$500.00, 1/31/2020, Claudia Navarro.

*Darryl Nirenberg, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

Nominee: Darryl Nirenberg.

Post: Ambassador to Romania.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

No pertinent contributions by members of my immediate family, Lori Nirenberg; Andrew Nirenberg; Kelly Nirenberg.

My pertinent contributions are set forth in Attachment B.

ATTACHMENT B

Candidate, date, amount, and comment:
Steptoe LLP PAC, 6/30/2025, \$2,500.00, Bi-Monthly Contributions for 2025 to date.

Brad Knott for Congress, 6/8/2025, \$1,000.00, Rep. Brad Knott (R-NC).

Miyares for Virginia, 5/16/2025, \$1,000.00, Attorney General Jason Miyares (R-VA).

National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 3/31/2025, \$1,000.00.
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 3/27/2025, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 3/27/2025, \$200.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress Victory Fund, 3/27/2025, \$1,200.00, transferred to Claudia Tenney for Congress.
 Pete Ricketts for Senate, 3/25/2025, \$1,000.00, Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE).
 Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 3/13/2025, \$500.00, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA).
 Jobs Opportunity and New Ideas PAC, 3/10/2025, \$500.00, Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 3/4/2025, \$1,300.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Team Hagerty, 3/4/2025, \$500.00, Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-TN).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress Victory Fund, 3/4/2025, \$1,300.00, transferred to Claudia Tenney for Congress.
 David Rouzer for Congress, 2/28/2025, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).
 Chuck Fleischmann for Congress Committee, Inc, 2/10/2025, \$500.00, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN).
 Lee PAC, 2/6/2025, \$500.00, Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 2/3/2025, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress Victory Fund, 2/3/2025, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY) transferred to Claudia Tenney for Congress.
 Randy Fine for Congress, 1/21/2025, \$500.00, Rep. Randy Fine (R-FL).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 1/8/2025, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress Victory Fund, 1/8/2025, \$1,000.00, transferred to Claudia Tenney for Congress.
 Alexandria Republican City Committee, 1/5/2025, \$500.00, Alexandria, Virginia.
 Steptoe LLP PAC, 12/31/2024, \$5,000.00, Bi-monthly contributions throughout 2024.
 Alexandria Republican City Committee, 11/27/2024, \$500.00, Alexandria, Virginia.
 Preserve America PAC, 11/5/2024, \$2,000.00, President Donald Trump.
 Deb Fischer for US Senate, 11/5/2024, \$1,000.00, Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE).
 Tim Sheehy for Montana, 10/24/2024, \$500.00, Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MN).
 Republican National Committee, 10/14/2024, \$100.00.
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 9/30/2024, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Marc for Us Inc., 9/26/2024, \$500.00, Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY).
 David Rouzer for Congress, 9/26/2024, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).
 Brad Knott for Congress, 9/26/2024, \$1,000.00, Rep. Brad Knott (R-NC).
 Kean for Congress Inc, 9/19/2024, \$250.00, Rep. Thomas Kean Jr. (R-NJ).
 Friends of Dave McCormick, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Sen. Dave McCormick (R-PA).
 Bernie Moreno for Senate, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH).
 Jim Justice for US Senate, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Sen. Jim Justice (R-WV).
 Advance the Senate, 9/17/2024, \$2,500.00, Transferred to Friends of Dave McCormick; Bernie Moreno for Senate; Jim Justice for US Senate; Tim Sheehy for Montana; Hovde for Wisconsin; Kari Lake for Senate; Sam Brown for Nevada; Rogers for Senate; Banks for Senate; Hung Cao for Virginia.
 Tim Sheehy for Montana, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MN).
 Hovde for Wisconsin, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Senate Candidate Eric Hovde (R-WI).
 Kari Lake for Senate, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Senate Candidate Kari Lake (R-AZ).
 Sam Brown for Nevada, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Senate Candidate Sam Brown (R-NV).
 Rogers for Senate, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Senate Candidate Mike Rogers (R-MI).

Banks for Senate, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Sen. Jim Banks (R-IN).
 Hung Cao for Virginia, 9/17/2024, \$250.00, Senate Candidate Hung Cao (R-VA).
 Alexandria Republican City Committee, 9/3/2024, \$300.00, Alexandria, Virginia.
 Friends of Amata, 7/2/2024, \$500.00, Delegate Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS).
 Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 6/27/2024, \$500.00, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA).
 Republican Party of Virginia Inc, 6/17/2024, \$2,500.00.
 Pete Ricketts Victory Fund, 6/14/2024, \$1,000.00, transferred to Pete Ricketts for Senate.
 Pete Ricketts for Senate, 6/14/2024, \$1,000.00, Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE).
 Kelly for New Hampshire, 6/6/2024, \$500.00, Kelly Ayotte for Governor (R-NH).
 Gunderson for City Council, 6/5/2024, \$250.00, Celianna Gunderson for Alexandria City Council (R-VA).
 Republican Majority Fund, 4/24/2024, \$500.00, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR); transferred from Cotton Victory Fund.
 Cotton Victory Fund, 4/24/2024, \$500.00, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR).
 Brad Knott for Congress, 4/19/2024, \$1,000.00, Rep. Brad Knott (R-NC).
 David Rouzer for Congress, 3/25/2024, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).
 Pete Ricketts for Senate, 3/19/2024, \$500.00, Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE).
 Brad Knott for Congress, 2/29/2024, \$1,000.00, Rep. Brad Knott (R-NC).
 Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 2/15/2024, \$57,849.00, Forgave loans to Friends of Darryl Nirenberg for City Council, Alexandria (R-VA).
 Tim Sheehy for Montana, 2/7/2024, \$500.00, Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-MN).
 National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 1/18/2024, \$2,500.00.
 Steptoe LLP PAC, 12/31/2023, \$5,000.00, Bi-monthly contributions throughout 2023.
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 12/21/2023, \$200.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 12/19/2023, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 12/19/2023, \$208.00.
 David Rouzer for Congress, 12/15/2023, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).
 A Safer Virginia PAC, 12/14/2023, \$1,000.00, Attorney General Jason Miyares (R-VA).
 David Rouzer for Congress, 12/13/2023, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 12/12/2023, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 12/7/2023, \$500.00, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA).
 Brad Knott for Congress, 11/14/2023, \$1,000.00, Rep. Brad Knott (R-NC).
 Fleischmann for Congress, 11/10/2023, \$500.00, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN).
 Pete Ricketts for Senate, 11/10/2023, \$1,000.00, Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 9/30/2023, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 David Rouzer for Congress, 9/21/2023, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).
 Marsha Blackburn for Senate, 7/22/2023, \$35.00, Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 6/27/2023, \$500.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Building up Democracys Dream PAC, 5/14/2023, \$1,000.00, Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC).
 Pete Ricketts for Senate, 3/21/2023, \$1,000.00, Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE).
 Ron Kim for Mayor, 3/21/2023, \$100.00, Ron Kim (D-NY), Mayor of Saratoga Springs.
 David Rouzer for Congress, 2/13/2023, \$1,000.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 2/7/2023, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 National Republican Senate Committee, 1/25/2023, \$2,500.00.
 Steptoe LLP PAC, 12/31/2022, \$5,000.00, Bi-monthly contributions throughout 2022.

Brian Fitzpatrick for All of Us, 12/12/2022, \$200.00, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA).
 Ted Budd for Senate, 12/12/2022, \$500.00, Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC).
 Grassley Committee, Inc, 10/19/2022, \$500.00, Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA).
 Laxalt for Senate, 10/19/2022, \$500.00, Senate Candidate Adam Laxalt (R-NV).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 9/27/2022, \$500.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Marc for Us Inc., 9/23/2022, \$250.00, Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY).
 Ted Budd for Senate, 9/23/2022, \$500.00, Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC).
 Laxalt for Senate, 9/23/2022, \$500.00, Senate Candidate Adam Laxalt (R-NV).
 David Rouzer for Congress, 9/14/2022, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).
 Friends of Amata, 8/2/2022, \$500.00, Delegate Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS).
 Becker for Congress, 7/25/2022, \$250.00, April Becker (R-NV).
 Ted Budd for Senate, 7/18/2022, \$500.00, Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 6/28/2022, \$1,000.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Boozman for Arkansas, 5/15/2022, \$250.00, Sen. John Boozman (R-AR).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 5/3/2022, \$500.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Scheller for Congress, Inc, 4/27/2022, \$500.00, Lisa Scheller (R-PA).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 4/26/2022, \$500.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Ted Budd for Senate, 4/20/2022, \$500.00, Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC).
 Republican Party of Virginia Inc, 4/11/2022, \$2,500.00.
 Scheller for Congress, Inc, 3/31/2022, \$500.00, Lisa Scheller (R-PA).
 Claudia Tenney for Congress, 3/31/2022, \$500.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 Laxalt for Senate, 3/29/2022, \$1,000.00, Senate Candidate Adam Laxalt (R-NV).
 Tenney for Congress, 3/28/2022, \$500.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).
 David Rouzer for Congress, 3/17/2022, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).
 Friends of Mike Lee Inc, 3/10/2022, \$500.00, Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT).
 McHenry for Congress, 3/8/2022, \$500.00, Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC).
 Alexandria Republican City Committee, 3/1/2022, \$125.00, Alexandria, Virginia.
 National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 1/19/2022, \$208.00.
 Steptoe LLP PAC, 12/31/2021, \$5,000.00, Bi-monthly contributions throughout 2021.
 National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 12/19/2021, \$208.00.
 Alexandria Republican City Committee, 12/13/2021, \$25.00, Alexandria, Virginia.
 Conserve Opportunity Leadership and Enterprise PAC (COLE PAC), 11/22/2021, \$500.00, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK).
 National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 10/19/2021, \$208.00.
 Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 11/2/2021, \$250.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council (R-VA).
 Boyle for Alexandria School Board, 11/2/2021, \$250.00, Ish Boyle for Alexandria, Virginia School Board.
 Richard Burr Committee, 10/27/2021, \$500.00, Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC).
 National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 10/19/2021, \$208.00.
 Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 10/7/2021, \$658.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.
 Pat McCrory for US Senate, 10/5/2021, \$500.00, Senate Candidate Pat McCrory (R-NC).
 Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/30/2021, \$302.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.
 Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/28/2021, \$2,606.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/28/2021, \$576.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/27/2021, \$1,113.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/23/2021, \$424.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/23/2021, \$238.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/22/2021, \$1,161.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 9/19/2021, \$208.00.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/19/2021, \$294.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/15/2021, \$4,902.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/15/2021, \$662.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/15/2021, \$174.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 9/3/2021, \$90.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 8/19/2021, \$208.00.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 8/3/2021, \$193.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 8/2/2021, \$201.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 7/29/2021, \$500.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 7/19/2021, \$208.00.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 7/19/2021, \$55.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 7/18/2021, \$57.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Youngkin for Governor, 7/14/2021, \$1,000.00, Glenn Youngkin for Governor (R-VA).

Boyle for Alexandria School Board, 7/11/2021, \$250.00, Ish Boyle for Alexandria, Virginia School Board.

Claudia for Congress, 6/29/2021, \$500.00, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY).

National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 6/19/2021, \$208.00.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/25/2021, \$400.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Maddox for Delegate, 5/24/2021, \$250.00, Justin Maddox for Delegate (R-VA).

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/21/2021, \$1,749.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, 5/19/2021, \$208.00.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/17/2021, \$55.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/14/2021, \$159.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/14/2021, \$20.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/11/2021, \$400.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/7/2021, \$1,473.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/7/2021, \$334.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/2/2021, \$47.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 5/2/2021, \$12.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Alexandria Republican City Committee, 4/28/2021, \$250.00, Alexandria, Virginia.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 4/28/2021, \$336.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Friends of Darryl Nirenberg, 4/28/2021, \$250.00, Darryl Nirenberg for Alexandria City Council.

Youngkin for Governor, 4/17/2021, \$250.00, Glenn Youngkin for Governor (R-VA).

Hudson for Congress, 3/29/2021, \$500.00, Rep. Richard Hudson Tenney (R-NC).

David Rouzer for Congress, 3/18/2021, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).

Matt Rosendale for Montana, 3/5/2021, \$250.00, Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT).

Steptoe LLP PAC, 12/31/2020, \$5,000.00, Bi-monthly contributions throughout 2020.

Richard Burr Committee, 12/1/2020, \$1,000.00, Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC).

Portman for Senate Committee, 11/13/2020, \$500.00, Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH).

National Association of Convenience Stores Political Action Committee, 11/2/2020, \$500.00.

Deciding Critical Races PAC, 9/30/2020, \$250.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).

Steve Daines for Montana, 9/24/2020, \$1,000.00, Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT).

Team Graham, Inc, 9/18/2020, \$500.00, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC).

Perdue for Senate, 9/17/2020, \$500.00, Sen. David Perdue (R-GA).

Hudson for Congress, 8/12/2020, \$500.00, Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC).

David Rouzer for Congress, 7/28/2020, \$500.00, Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).

Steve Daines for Montana, 5/5/2020, \$500.00, Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT).

McConnell for Senate, 3/10/2020, \$35.00, Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

*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 Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; 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.

Nominee: Tammy Bruce.
Post: Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Self: None.

*Christopher Yeaw, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Stability).

By Mr. CASSIDY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

*Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2029.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to

respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 3316. A bill to establish the Waterway Permit Section 404 Assignment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3317. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3318. A bill to terminate Federal benefits for noncitizens, to authorize the denaturalization of naturalized citizens who undermine domestic tranquility, to expand expedited removal authority, to require mandatory revetting of nationals of Afghanistan, and to provide for automatic termination of temporary protected status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3319. A bill to promote a 21st century workforce, to authorize grants to support emerging and advanced technology education, and to support training and quality employment for workers in industries most impacted by artificial intelligence; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 3320. A bill to prohibit the procurement of solar panels manufactured or assembled in the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3321. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, to repeal certain limits on leave for married individuals employed by the same employer; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KING, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KIM, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KELLY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3322. A bill to amend or repeal certain provisions of Public Law 119-21 that undermine protections and heighten dangers for unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KIM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3323. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to codify the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3324. A bill to confirm and clarify the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's obligation to assess and mitigate the impacts to climate change and environmental justice communities from projects approved pursuant to the Natural Gas Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 3325. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide rules for determining the tax-exempt status of organizations that manufacture and distribute drugs and medical devices to meet public health needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3326. A bill to codify in statute the authorization of the Attorney General to appoint experienced immigration law experts as temporary immigration judges to reduce the number of pending cases in immigration courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3327. A bill to repeal the Human Rights Sanctuary Amendment Act of 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 3328. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a digital skills at work grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KING, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3329. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 3330. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons that contribute to international trafficking of illicit drugs, including companies of the People's Republic of China that supply fentanyl precursors and certain cartels that traffic fentanyl into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 3331. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 50 East 100 North in Moab, Utah, as the "2nd Lieutenant Mitch Williams Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 3332. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3333. A bill to modify the eligibility requirements and account contribution maximum for pension-linked emergency savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3334. A bill to prohibit reductions in the workforce at the Drug Enforcement Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3335. A bill to reestablish the National Coal Council in the Department of Energy to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters relating to coal and the coal industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BANKS):

S. 3336. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out prize competitions to advance the science of interpretability and to develop adversarial robustness with respect to artificial intelligence products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. KIM):

S. 3337. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to require the Assistant Secretary for Aging to award grants to States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to create or implement Multisector Plans for Aging and Aging with a Disability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 3338. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Highland City, Utah; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. HUSTED):

S. 3339. A bill to better forecast and plan for the impact of artificial intelligence on the workforce of the United States, to provide data to improve training programs for in-demand industry sectors and occupations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3340. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. COONS):

S. 3341. A bill 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; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S.J. Res. 98. A joint 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 Relations.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. Res. 524. A resolution recognizing the 90th anniversary of the Alabama Highway Patrol and commemorating its history of excellence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 525. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. Res. 526. A resolution withholding the pay of Senators if a Government shutdown occurs; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 527. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Move Over Law Day; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 528. A resolution supporting after-school programs and Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of after-school programs held on October 23, 2025; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 336

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 336, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received from State-based catastrophe loss mitigation programs.

S. 726

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1217

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1217, a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry.

S. 1282

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1282, a bill to codify the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program of the Department of Agriculture.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods and cargo for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 1549

At the request of Mr. GALLEG0, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1549, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants under the Drinking Water Infrastructure Risk and Resilience Program for training programs relating to protecting public water systems from and responding to cyberattacks, and for other purposes.

S. 1552

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1552, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1707, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to minimum participation standards for pension plans and qualified trusts.

S. 1715

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1715, a bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes.

S. 1799

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventative physical examination.

S. 1878

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1878, a bill to establish an interactive online dashboard to improve public access to information about grant funding related to mental health and substance use disorder programs.

S. 2006

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2006, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination in the Armed Forces on the basis of gender identity, and for other purposes.

S. 2120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2120, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2026 through 2030, and for other purposes.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2211, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 2229

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2229, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in recognition of the Foreign Service of the United States and its contribution to United States diplomacy.

S. 2230

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2230, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the rules for wagering losses.

S. 2355

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED), the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2355, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency.

S. 2398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2398, a bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2429

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2429, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to ensure the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection retains adequate resources to ensure fair, transparent, and competitive markets for financial products and services for consumers and to provide for whistleblower incentives and protection.

S. 2684

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2684, a bill to support countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that maintain official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, to counter efforts by the People's Republic of China to coerce or pressure governments into breaking such ties, to deepen coordination with Taiwan on diplomatic, development, and economic engagement in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

S. 2715

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2715, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals with approved medical residency training programs to submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services certain information regarding osteopathic and allopathic candidates for such programs.

S. 2907

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2907, a bill to prohibit health care professionals, hospitals, or clinics from participating in the chemical or surgical mutilation of a child and to provide a private right of action for children and the parents of children whose healthy body parts have been damaged by medical professionals practicing chemical and surgical mutilation.

S. 3179

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3179, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for obstructing immigration enforcement activities.

S. 3264

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3264, a bill to establish a health freedom waiver program, to promote better price reporting and outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 3279

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 3279, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 24

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a co-sponsor of S. Con. Res. 24, a concurrent resolution recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 524—RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALABAMA HIGHWAY PATROL AND COMMEMORATING ITS HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

Mr. TUBERVILLE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 524

Whereas, on December 5th, 1935, the State of Alabama established the first statewide law enforcement agency, the Alabama Highway Patrol, focused on enforcing motor vehicle laws and investigating traffic issues on rural roads;

Whereas, in March 1939, Alabama incorporated the Alabama Highway Patrol into the new Alabama Department of Public Safety (in this preamble referred to as the “Alabama DPS”), which expanded its scope beyond highway enforcement;

Whereas, in 1953, the Alabama Police Academy opened, which created a boost in patrol officer training for the Alabama Highway Patrol;

Whereas, in 1963, the name “patrol officer” was changed to “State trooper”;

Whereas later developments at the Alabama DPS included a new training facility, which was created in partnership with the Department of Postsecondary Education so that individuals could earn college credit while training to become State troopers;

Whereas, for 90 years, the Alabama Highway Patrol has served Alabama with distinction, fulfilling its motto of “Country, Service, Protection”;

Whereas the Alabama Highway Patrol has consistently adapted to meet the evolving needs of the State of Alabama; and

Whereas the 90th Anniversary is a fitting moment to express gratitude for the tireless efforts of every State trooper, both past and present, who has contributed to the safety and well-being of the State of Alabama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 90th Anniversary of the Alabama Highway Patrol; and

(2) extends gratitude and commendation for the Alabama Highway Patrol’s 9 decades of exceptional service and devotion to the State of Alabama.

SENATE RESOLUTION 525—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN’S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF THE BAHAI MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 525

Whereas, in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha’i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha’i faith;

Whereas, since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha’i leaders and more than 10,000 Baha’is have been dismissed from government and university jobs;

Whereas June 18, 2025, marked the 42nd anniversary of the execution of 10 Baha’i women by the Government of Iran, each witnessing the hanging of those hanged before her in a final failed attempt to induce abandonment of their faith after over 6 months of imprisonment and violent abuse, with the youngest only 17 years old;

Whereas, on December 17, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/79/183) criticizing Iran for human rights abuses and calling on Iran to carry out wide-ranging reforms, including ending—

(1) “in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination on the basis of thought, conscience, religion, or belief, including restrictions contained in article 499 bis and article 500 bis of the Islamic Penal Code”;

(2) “escalated discrimination and violence, as well as economic restrictions, such as the closure, destruction or confiscation of businesses, land and properties, the cancellation of licenses and the denial of employment in certain public and private sectors, including government or military positions and elected office, the denial of and restrictions on access to education, including for members of the Baha’i and other religious minorities, and other human rights violations against persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities”;

(3) “ongoing severe limitations and increasing restrictions on the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, restrictions on the establishment of places of worship, undue restrictions on burials carried out in accordance with religious tenets”;

(4) “attacks against places of worship and burial and other human rights violations, but not limited to the increased harassment, intimidation, persecution, arbitrary arrest and detention of, and incitement to hatred that leads to violence against, persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities, including . . . in particular, Baha’is”;

Whereas, in the 2024 Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom issued in May 2024, it is reported that in 2023—

(1) “The government [of Iran] has targeted Baha’i women in particular, including 10 arrested in Isfahan in October. Approximately two-thirds of Iranian Baha’i prisoners are women, including Mahvash Sabet and Fariba Kamalabadi, members of Iran’s former Baha’i leadership (Yaran-e-Iran). Both are serving a decade in prison after having previously served an identical sentence in the early 2010s.”; and

(2) “Authorities also targeted Baha’i cemeteries in Arak, Alborz, and Golestan. Local municipalities seized and confiscated Baha’i land, restricted Baha’i access to burial grounds, and declared intentions to sell Baha’i-owned property exclusively to Muslims.”;

Whereas, in response to a surge in persecution of Baha’i women by the Government of Iran between 2022 and 2024, on July 31, 2024, 18 United Nations Special Rapporteurs and United Nations Working Group experts released a joint letter of allegations concerning the increase “in the systematic targeting of Baha’i women, including through arrests, summoning for interrogation, enforced disappearance, raids on their homes and confiscation of their personal belongings” and reported that—

(1) “Since early March 2024 alone, 72 of 93 Baha’is summoned to court or prison, more than three-quarters, have been women.”; and

(2) “Baha’i women face intersectional persecution: as women and as members of the Baha’i religious minority. The escalation comes as Baha’i women continue to be confronted with ongoing incidents of persecution faced by all Baha’is, including denial of higher education and economic and cultural restrictions, which spans their entire lives, impacting them intellectually, socially and economically as they are banned from university and public employment only for their faith.”;

Whereas the Iran section of the Department of State’s 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom issued in May 2024 provides, in part—

(1) “Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) said the majority of human rights violations against religious minorities involved Baha’is (85 percent).”;

(2) “The NGO Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF) reported more than 1,000 Baha’is were either imprisoned, in custody, under arrest, or waiting for a hearing or to be summoned by a court.”; and

(3) “A Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology order requires universities to exclude Baha’is from access to higher education, or to expel them if their religious affiliation becomes known.”;

Whereas, on April 1, 2024, Human Rights Watch issued a report titled, “‘The Boot on My Neck’: Iranian Authorities’ Crime of Persecution Against Baha’is in Iran”, which detailed that—

(1) “For the past four decades, the authorities’ serial violations of Baha’is’ rights have continued, directed by the state’s most senior officials and the Islamic Republic’s ideology, which holds extreme animus against adherents of the Baha’i faith. While the intensity of violations against Baha’is has varied over time, the authorities’ persecution of people who are members of this faith community has remained constant, impacting virtually every aspect of Baha’is’ private and public lives.”;

(2) “The Islamic Republic’s repression of Baha’is, particularly after 1979, is enshrined in Iranian law and is official government policy.”; and

(3) “Human Rights Watch believes that the cumulative impact of authorities’ decades-long systematic repression is an intentional and severe deprivation of Baha’is’ fundamental rights and amounts to the crime against humanity of persecution.”;

Whereas, on July 17, 2024, Mr. Javaid Rehman, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a special report titled, "Atrocity Crimes and grave violations of human rights committed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (1981–1982 and 1988)", which concluded, "Having considered the various submissions and the available documentation and having examined the treatment meted out to the Bahá'í community in the early years of the Revolution, the Special Rapporteur reports that Iranian authorities—with destructive, arguably genocidal intent—engaged in killing or colluded in the killings of members of the Bahá'í community; Bahá'ís were physically and mentally tortured simply because of their faith and members of the community suffered from 'serious bodily or mental harm.' They also faced confiscation of their properties, expulsion from employment and denial of education rights.";

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties, without reservation;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals who are "responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009"; and

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority in Iran and the continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran—

(A) to immediately release the imprisoned or detained Baha'is and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(B) to end its state-sponsored campaign of hate propaganda against the Baha'is; and

(C) to reverse state-imposed policies denying Baha'is and members of other religious minorities equal opportunities to higher education, earning a livelihood, due process under the law, and the free exercise of religious practices;

(3) calls on the President and the Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran's continued violation of human rights and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha'i community of Iran.

SENATE RESOLUTION 526—WITH- HOLDING THE PAY OF SEN- ATORS IF A GOVERNMENT SHUT- DOWN OCCURS

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

S. RES. 526

Resolved,

SECTION 1. WITHHOLDING PAY OF SENATORS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

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

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

(b) WITHHOLDING SENATORS' PAY IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS.—

(1) WITHHOLDING PAYMENTS.—During any period in which a Government shutdown is in effect, the Secretary of the Senate shall disburse and hold any payments otherwise required to be made with respect to such period for the compensation of each Senator.

(2) RELEASE OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary of the Senate shall release to each Senator any payments held under paragraph (1) with respect to a Government shutdown as soon as practicable after the date on which the Government shutdown ends.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply on and after the day after the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2026.

SENATE RESOLUTION 527—SUP- PORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL MOVE OVER LAW DAY

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

S. RES. 527

Whereas the Senate wishes to recognize traffic incident management responders (as described in the Traffic Incident Management Handbook of the Federal Highway Administration), which include law enforcement officers, fire and rescue personnel, emergency medical services personnel, tow truck operators, and transportation workers;

Whereas many traffic incident management responders are seriously injured or lose their lives while performing their duties each year as a result of being struck by speeding, impaired, or distracted motorists and motorists who are not aware of move over laws;

Whereas, in 2024, 46 traffic incident management responders were killed in the United States due to roadside collisions;

Whereas the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration of the Department of Transportation host the Crash Responder Safety Week annually in November as part of a national effort—

(1) to protect traffic incident management responders who are at the scene of highway crashes; and

(2) to remind the public of their responsibility to slow down, move over, and stay alert when driving near roadside incidents involving traffic incident management responders;

Whereas each State has a move over law, which has correlated directly with a safer

environment on the roads and along the roadsides of the United States for traffic incident management responders and stranded travelers;

Whereas move over laws generally require motorists to move at least one lane over when there is an emergency or rescue activity taking place, including on the shoulder or side of the roadway, or, if unable to do so safely, to slow down and pass the scene with caution; and

Whereas providing traffic incident management responders with an enhanced opportunity to inform the motoring public about move over laws is critical to the public safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Move Over Law Day; and

(2) urges national, State, and regional incident management organizations—

(A) to spread awareness and promote the existence of, and adherence to, State move over laws; and

(B) to educate the public further on the dangers and loss of life that occur if State move over laws are not faithfully observed.

SENATE RESOLUTION 528—SUP- PORTING AFTER-SCHOOL PRO- GRAMS AND LIGHTS ON AFTER- SCHOOL, A NATIONAL CELEBRA- TION OF AFTER-SCHOOL PRO- GRAMS HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2025

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 528

Whereas millions of children in the United States have parents who work outside of the home;

Whereas high-quality programs that expand learning opportunities for children, such as after-school, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities, provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences, including experiences that encourage the study of science, technology, engineering, and math that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs and high-quality expanded learning opportunities provide students with hands-on, engaging lessons that are aligned with the school day;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs complement regular and expanded school days and support working families by ensuring that the children of those families are safe and productive during the hours parents are working;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children and youth in the United States;

Whereas high-quality after-school programs that partner with high-quality community-based organizations build stronger communities by integrating schools with the larger community; and

Whereas Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of after-school, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities programs will be held on October 23, 2025, to highlight the critical importance of those high-quality programs to children and the families and communities of those children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of

after-school programs held on October 23, 2025.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3955. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 520, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3956. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 520, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3955. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 520, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 8, beginning on line 11, strike the following:

(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.

SA 3956. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 520, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter proposed to be stricken, strike lines 3 through 4.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, De-

cember 3, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 9:45 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that two of my colleagues from my office, with whom I work, who are working with me for a few weeks, Colyn Lorey and John Tober, be granted floor privileges until December 4, 2025.

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

ENSURING THAT THE ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES IS CHILD-CENTERED AND COMPASSIONATE AND THAT YOUNG PEOPLE AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE ARE PROVIDED WITH ADEQUATE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO TRANSITION SUCCESSFULLY TO INDEPENDENT ADULTHOOD

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate immediately proceed to S. Res. 516.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 516) ensuring that the adoption and foster care system in the United States is child-centered and compassionate and that young people aging out of foster care are provided with adequate support and resources to transition successfully to independent adulthood.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 516) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 20, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 518.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 518) designating October 2025 as "National Principals Month".

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 518) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 20, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 527 and S. Res. 528.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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 Thursday, December 4; 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; I further ask that the previous order with respect to S.J. Res. 91 be vitiated and, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 131, the joint resolution be read a third time, the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, and, if passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and S.J. Res. 91 be indefinitely postponed; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the disposition of H.J. Res. 131, the Senate proceed to executive session and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 3, S. Res. 520; finally, that at 1:45 p.m., the Senate execute the order with respect to the Rodriguez nomination, and if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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, following the remarks of Senators KENNEDY and REED.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

WELFARE FRAUD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as you well know, the American people are the most generous people in the entire world. In our country, when you are hungry, we feed you; when you are homeless, we house you; when you are too poor to be sick, we will pay for your doctor. We spend trillions of dollars a year helping our friends and neighbors who are less fortunate than we are, and that is rare in this world.

I have been all over our wonderful world. You have, too, Mr. President. In many countries, if you get down on your luck, they will let you die in a ditch. But not in America. Not in America. We take care of our fellow citizens. But it is expensive. We spend trillions of dollars a year to do this, and that money we spend didn't just fall from Heaven. We thank Heaven for it, but it came out of taxpayers' pockets, and we shouldn't lose sight of that fact.

That is why I get so irritated—"irritated" is the wrong word—angry when I find out that people take advantage of the American people's generosity. It

makes me want to knee someone in the groin. It just makes me furious, and I think the American taxpayers feel the same way.

What I am about to tell you, Mr. President—let me apologize in advance—is deeply disgusting. It is deeply disgusting. I mean, it is clown world on steroids. When I first read about this, I read it a second time because I experienced slack-jawed astonishment. When I read it a second time and I realized it was true, I just wanted to run away screaming.

What am I talking about? We have discovered—the Federal prosecutors have discovered that for the last 5 years, there has been massive welfare fraud in the great State of Minnesota—massive. Over \$1 billion of American taxpayer money has been stolen—just stolen. They can call it fraud, but a better term would be "stealing."

This fraud has been centered in the Somali community in Minnesota. Now, I am not here to criticize the Somali community; I am here simply to describe what happened. The Somali community in Minneapolis is about 80,000 people. They are centered around Minneapolis. And let me say it again: I am not here to denigrate the Somali people or people of Somali ancestry just because of the actions of a few, but it is a fact that this \$1 billion in welfare fraud occurred almost exclusively in the Somali community in Minnesota and was orchestrated by people of Somali ancestry. That is a fact. Facts aren't racist; facts are facts. So far, 59 people have been convicted, 86 have been charged, and 78 of them are of Somali ancestry. That is just a fact.

Now, what these criminals did was they had three very elaborate schemes. The first scheme was centered on supposedly feeding hungry children in the Somali community. A group, a nonprofit run by some people of Somali ancestry—the name of the nonprofit was "Feeding Our Future." Feeding Our Future went to the welfare authorities in the State of Minnesota, which, of course, was administering Federal taxpayer money, and Feeding Our Future said: We want to feed hungry children in the Somali community.

The welfare people and State government in Minnesota gave them the money to do that. It started out very small. The idea was that Feeding Our Future, the Somali nonprofit organization, would take this Federal taxpayer money, American taxpayer money, and go to businesses—most of which were Somali businesses in the Somali community—and set up feeding sites where they supposedly would take children to get a hot meal.

On paper, it sounded great. As I say, it started out very, very small—just a few million dollars—but eventually it got bigger and bigger and bigger, and more businesses in the Somali community signed up to be feeding sites. Feeding Our Future, the Somali nonprofit, kept going back to the Social Services Department in Minnesota and saying:

We need more money. We need more money.

At the height of the fraud, they were spending about \$100 million a year—not over the lifetime of the program, \$100 million a year.

There is just one problem: There were hungry children; they just weren't getting any of the money. The businesses, many of which were Somali-owned, which were getting some money to feed the children from Feeding Our Future, the nonprofit that was quarter-backing this whole thing, weren't giving any of the money to hungry children. They were spending it. These businesses were spending it on yachts and vacations and jewelry and furniture for their homes.

That was scheme No. 1. But it got worse. The second scheme was supposedly to help people who are homeless. Remember I said that in America, when you are homeless, we will house you? Well, that is what they were trying to do in Minnesota.

A nonprofit was set up—again, run by someone of Somali ancestry—and this nonprofit went to a bunch of providers who supposedly were going to provide housing, and they told the welfare authorities in Minnesota that they needed millions of dollars to house people who were homeless.

Once again, the program started out small. When they started it in 2020—these crooks started it in 2020—they said "We only need \$2.6 million," but then in 2021, they said "We need \$21 million." In the following years—they said "We need \$42 million" the next year, then \$74 million to house the homeless, and then \$104 million a year—not the total scheme, a year.

There is just one problem: None of the money was going for housing. None of the money was going to help people who were homeless. These providers and this nonprofit that was coordinating it just put the money in their pockets.

But there is more. They came up with a third scheme. This one makes you want to throw up in a potted plant. This one is centered around autistic children. Once again, in this third program, a group of providers—supposedly medical providers—got together, and they went to the welfare authorities in Minnesota and said: We need money to help autistic children.

They said: Well, that is a wonderful thing to do.

Then these providers, once the welfare department at the State government in Minnesota gave them the OK, went out and started recruiting autistic children. They say: Well, OK. We have to get the word out somehow.

But they couldn't find very many autistic children, so they started going to parents in the Somali community and saying: Can we call your child autistic? Can we certify that your child is autistic? If you let us do that, we will pay you a bribe, anywhere from \$400 to \$1,500 a child.

Now, once again, the program didn't start big. These were sophisticated

crooks. Its leader was a woman by the name of Asha Farhan Hassan. She was also in, by the way, on the feeding of the children scam as well.

As best we can tell, they approached parents only in the Somali community, but once again, they couldn't find enough autistic children, so they bribed many parents in the community, gave them money to certify that their children were autistic.

In the first year, they were clever: They only asked for \$3 million. The second year, in 2019, they asked for \$54 million. Then in 2020, they went up to \$77 million. Then in 2021, they really got greedy: They went to \$183 million. In 2022, \$280 million; and in 2023, \$400 million.

All told, in these three fraud schemes, these crooks stole \$1 billion of taxpayer money.

The worst part—what I started to say is the worst part, but let me amend it. The equally bad part: Hello, how could this happen? Why didn't the people in the Department of Social Services and the Welfare Department and State government, when they saw these claims arising, why didn't they say something? Didn't they go out and check these businesses that were supposedly sites to feed homeless children? Didn't they go talk to some of the children and their parents to see if some of the children really were autistic? Didn't the State authorities say: Show us one of the homes you are providing to the homeless people? After all, we are spending \$1 billion.

They didn't because the politicians wouldn't let them. And the crooks who were setting all this up, they were pretty smart. I will give you one example. Remember, I talked about the non-profit involved in feeding the so-called hungry children called Feeding Our Future. The rank-and-file employees in the Welfare office started getting suspicious when the claims went up, and they contacted Feeding Our Future. They said: Hey, what is going on here? We are going to start cutting off these claims because it is getting a little bit expensive.

You know what Feeding Our Future did? They threatened the employees. They said: If you cut off our money—they sent them an email, and they did it by phone. They told the State agency that failing to promptly approve new applicants from minority-owned businesses would result in a lawsuit—a lawsuit—feeding accusations of racism that would be scrawled across the news—scrawled across the news. Feeding Our Future went to the State and said: If you stop giving us this money, we are going to call you racist and we are going to sue you and you don't want to be in the news.

You say: Why didn't the employees do something? They did. They told the people higher up, the people with the flags in their office. And you know what they did? Nothing. Do you know why?

Well, here is what the legislative auditor in Minnesota said: He said that

the threats of litigation and the negative press affected how the State politicians used their regulatory power. Here is what a fraud investigator in the attorney general's office said. She said:

There is a perception that—

I am quoting now.

—that forcefully tackling this issue would cause political backlash among the Somali community, which is a core voting bloc [for Democrats].

In fact, one of the other witnesses in the fraud investigation said: Look, you told the prosecutors—let me just give you a cold dish of truth—the 80,000 voting bloc of folks with Somali ancestry, you have to have their votes to win in Minneapolis. If you are a Democrat and you can't win Minneapolis, you can't win the State. So the politicians did nothing.

Don't just take my word for it, and don't blame the State employees. They tried. In fact, recently, the State employees, they just said: Look, we have had enough. They posted this. These are several hundred employees from the Minnesota Department of Human Services who administered this program, who just get up every day and go to work and do their job and want to help people. This is what they posted on social media. I am quoting now:

Governor Tim Walz is 100% responsible for massive fraud in Minnesota.

I am sure he wasn't the only one because this fraud was an open secret. But I am quoting from what the employees said.

Governor Tim Walz is 100% responsible for massive fraud in Minnesota. We let Tim Walz know of fraud early on—

That is the employees talking—

hoping for a partnership in stopping fraud, but no, we got the opposite response. Tim Walz systematically retaliated against whistleblowers using monitoring, [using] threats, [using] repression, and did his best to discredit fraud reports. Instead of partnership, we got the full weight of retaliation by Tim Walz and an indifferent mainstream media. It's scary, isolating and left us wondering who we can turn to.

And now, there are reports coming out. I don't know if they are true, but I know the prosecutors are desperately trying to get to the bottom of it. And I don't want to say that this is true, but a report came out in a publication called City Journal, which is published by the Manhattan Institute. They are alleging that money—part of this billion dollars that was stolen—they are alleging at least a portion of it went to a terrorist organization in Somalia that we have all heard of. It is notorious. It is an organization called al-Shabaab. They hate Americans. They are terrorists. They want to kill Americans and drink their blood out of a boot. They were taking a cut, according to this claim.

Again, I don't know if it is true, but the prosecutors are trying to get to the bottom of it.

There have been a lot of allegations about racism in these reports. They are saying: Oh, you are just picking on the

Somali community. I am not, and I don't think the American people are. I think what they are picking on are crooks. They are picking on crooks. Everything I just gave you is facts. It has nothing to do with race.

But it is a fact that these \$1 billion schemes were cooked up by leaders in the Somali community in Minneapolis and in Minnesota. It is a fact that most of the businesses that participated in this fraud—in this thievery—were run by people of Somali ancestry. I am not saying that is a good thing. I am not saying that is a bad thing. That is just a fact. And I don't think we ought not to talk about it.

And it is a fact that the kickbacks paid to parents to allow their children to be signed up as autistic in order to get the Federal taxpayer money—the parents were of Somali ancestry. It doesn't give me any pleasure to say that, but it is a fact.

And it is a fact that the politicians, not the employees—the rank-and-file employees in the Welfare offices—but the politicians in Minnesota let this happen.

It is disgusting—disgusting.

We are trying to put together a budget right now, and we have State officials in Minnesota—because they wanted votes—that are allowing people in their State who are crooks to steal \$1 billion from the American taxpayer, money that could have gone to people who really were homeless and children who really were hungry and kids who, through no fault of their own, really were autistic, instead of stolen—a portion of which allegedly was sent to a terrorist organization in Somalia.

Man, these people ought to all be put in jail, including the politicians. It makes me want to stick my head in an oven.

I want to end on a less negative note. I am sorry to talk about this, but the American people need to learn the truth. A lot of members of the media won't report this. They say you can't talk about it because it is racist. This has nothing to do with race. Everything I said is factual. What is racist about facts?

I don't want to end on that kind of note. I have been to this floor before. I will be back.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, moms and dads across America are having a little trouble sleeping these days. And when moms and dads in America lie down to sleep at night and they can't, they are worried. They are worried about things like the cost of living. They are worried about things like the cost of housing. They are worried about things like their insurance premiums going up. They are wondering if it is ever going to get any better. They are tired of having to pay more, live worse. They are worried that eventually they are going to have to sell blood to go to the grocery store.

Why are they feeling that? It is called inflation. And the inflation started under President Biden. As we know, it got to 9 percent. I won't go into the reasons why. We are doing better. We got it down to 3 percent. When you get inflation down from 9 percent to 3 percent, that is called disinflation.

What is disinflation? It just means disinflation is when the rate of inflation decreases, in this case from 9 percent to roughly 3 percent. Disinflation doesn't mean prices are going down. It just means that prices are rising less quickly. Under President Biden, they were rising at 9 percent. Now they are only rising at 3 percent.

In order for prices to actually go down, we would have to have deflation—not disinflation but deflation. We have to be careful what we wish for because deflation comes with some pretty severe consequences. We can get prices down through deflation, if we go into a recession, if you raise unemployment, allow unemployment to rise to about 8 or 9 percent where people lose their jobs. We are witnessing deflation right now in China. For kids in China who just got out of college, their unemployment rate is 25 percent. That is why their prices are going down.

There is a better way to help people deal with disinflation. That is to get their incomes up through tax reform, through regulatory reform, through designing a healthcare delivery system that looks like somebody designed the damn thing on purpose. And that is what we ought to be working on. If we—I don't have control of the floor. If I had control of the floor, I would be here every single day introducing bills. I see Senator REED here. He would be doing the same thing, introducing bills to help the American people. But I don't have control of the floor.

I am not criticizing the people who do. That is above my pay grade. I am labor. They are management. But I know this, first, if we will ever get to do that, I will ask our Democratic friends to join with us. They may or may not. I don't know. But if they decline to join with us, then through reconciliation, which is how we passed the One Big Beautiful Bill, we can pass these measures to increase wages for the American people with a majority vote. We won't need Democratic votes. That is what we did with the One Big Beautiful Bill, and we can do it two more times before the midterm elections. We passed the One Big Beautiful Bill on July 1.

In the meantime, I am not saying we haven't been doing important things, but we haven't been working on a plan to help people deal with the cost of living, and we should be.

So I am going to end like I ended the last time. I am saying to the powers that be: Pretty please, with sugar on top—I will add a cherry. I have even got an old McDonald's McRib coupon somewhere, and I will throw that into the mix too. Please bring another reconciliation bill. Please. Let's deal with

the problems that are causing moms and dads to lie awake when they lie down to sleep at night and can't.

I went on too long. I apologize to Senator REED.

I yield to my friend Senator REED from the wonderful State of Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The Senator from Rhode Island.

CARIBBEAN BOAT STRIKE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to address a matter of grave concern regarding the Trump administration's military operations in South and Central America and specifically the September 2 strike on a suspected drug vessel that has now been the subject of deeply troubling press reporting.

The facts as we understand them are these: On September 2, U.S. forces conducted a strike on a vessel in the Caribbean. From his own public statements, we know that Secretary Hegseth authorized and oversaw the strike. According to press reports, the initial strike left survivors in the water, clinging to the wreckage. Then U.S. forces carried out a second strike on the vessel, which killed the survivors.

Initially, as he often does, the Secretary of Defense and his office denied the reporting when it broke last weekend. But then, on Monday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed that, in fact, Secretary Hegseth did authorize these strikes and that Admiral Bradley, the operational commander, did order a second strike. The White House has admitted what the Secretary denied, and we cannot ignore what that means.

The Department of Defense's Law of War Manual states that members of the Armed Forces must refuse to comply with clearly illegal orders, including law of war violations. It even provides a definition and an example to avoid confusion:

For example, orders to fire upon the shipwrecked would be clearly illegal.

This is not a complex legal theory. This is not a gray area. The manual addresses this exact situation with crystal clarity. Orders to fire upon the shipwrecked are clearly illegal, and this principle has been long ingrained in the Department of Defense and the Navy.

Multiple legal experts, including former Judge Advocates General, have stated that if this reporting is accurate, this strike appears to constitute a war crime. Indeed, many of my Republican colleagues have joined Democrats in recognizing that the reported facts of this strike would be clearly illegal. Yet, in his own words yesterday, the Secretary of Defense claimed that the second strike was the "correct decision." This by itself is an alarming admission.

But I am, frankly, not surprised by the Secretary's statements. For years, he has expressed contempt for the law

of armed conflict and has championed servicemembers convicted of war crimes. During the first Trump administration, he lobbied for the pardoning of several military personnel who were turned in by their own teammates for war crimes as well as military contractors convicted of killing 14 Iraqi civilians. He has also called for reinstating waterboarding and other forms of torture.

In his book "The War on Warriors," he wrote:

Should we follow the Geneva Conventions? . . . If our warriors are forced to follow rules arbitrarily and asked to sacrifice more lives so that international tribunals feel better about themselves, aren't we just better off in winning our wars according to our own rules?

Since then, Secretary Hegseth has acted exactly how we might expect. In October, at Quantico, he told hundreds of generals and admirals:

Don't fight with stupid rules of engagement. We untie the hands of our warfighters to intimidate, demoralize, hunt and kill the enemies of our country. No more politically correct and overbearing rules of engagement, just common sense, maximum lethality and authority for warfighters.

He then gave them an ultimatum:

If the words I'm speaking today are making your heart sink, then you should do the honorable thing and resign.

Secretary Hegseth demands military leaders conform to his interpretation of the law or be dismissed. This is profoundly dangerous. It contradicts the ethic and the ethos of the American military that is sworn to uphold the Constitution, sworn to obey the laws of armed conflict. That dedication is to ensure that when our personnel are disabled in the water, when they are prisoners of war, they are treated with the legal requirements of the Geneva Convention and of other legal constraints. If we kill people with impunity, how can we object to the same behavior from our opponents?

Now, when he first came to the Department of Defense, he dismissed the Judge Advocates General of each service—the TJAGs. These are officers with more than 30 years of apolitical service providing legal oversight on military justice, operational law, and adherence to the law of armed conflict. Without these decades of military experience, the services seem to be losing their way and not supporting the men and women in uniform as these men and women deserve.

When this latest story came to light, the Secretary immediately began pointing the finger at others. He and the White House have repeatedly attempted to place responsibility for the September 2 strike squarely on Admiral Bradley's shoulders.

I served in the Army on Active Duty for 12 years, and one of the first and most important lessons I learned is that a military leader can delegate authority, but you can never delegate responsibility. You give the orders. You own the results. Every officer knows this, but Secretary Hegseth is once

again giving orders and rejecting responsibility when bad results come in. I can guarantee that every combat leader under his command is taking careful note of his behavior. It is not the behavior they have dedicated their lives to perform.

More broadly, what troubles me most is the administration's refusal to explain itself to Congress and the American people. This suggests they know this operation and the tortured legal rationale they use to justify it cannot withstand scrutiny.

Chairman WICKER—and I applaud him for his very forceful determination to investigate this situation. We both have formally requested the Executive orders that guide these operations and the full, unedited videos and audio from each strike. We have asked for the intelligence that identified these vessels as legitimate targets. We have asked for the rules of engagement governing these operations. We have asked for casualty assessments and the criteria used to distinguish combatants from civilians. And my Democratic colleagues and I have asked that the legal documents justifying these operations be declassified and shared with the public.

These are fundamental questions that any lawful military operation should be able to answer clearly and definitively. These are not courtesy requests; they are statutory requirements under multiple laws, including the War Powers Resolution and several National Defense Authorization Acts. But after 3 months of asking for material that legally should have been provided to us promptly, the Pentagon has provided only limited information while it has refused to answer basic questions about even that limited material.

Legal experts across the political spectrum have nearly unanimously denounced these operations as unlawful. Yet, rather than provide justification, the administration withholds information.

If this operation serves vital American interests, if it can achieve its stated objectives, and if it is legal under domestic and international law, then

why won't they defend it before Congress and the American people? The stonewalling suggests they lack genuine answers. The secrecy suggests they know that this operation does not make sense, is not good policy, and, indeed, is quite illegal in many respects.

Now, Mr. Hegseth's credibility is not the exclusive issue here—the issue is the law—but his repeated dishonesty makes oversight even more essential. I am calling for immediate action.

First, the Department of Defense must initiate an investigation into the September 2 incident. This is standard military practice for accountability and establishing lessons learned. The investigation must include a thorough review of the orders and chain of command decisions. This is how we ensure procedures were followed and prevent future violations.

Second, the Pentagon must declassify and publish the full, unedited video of the September 2 strike. If they followed the laws of war, it will be clear for all of us to see. If they have nothing to hide, transparency would be welcomed and obvious. The American people deserve to see what is being done in their name, and I can only say their reluctance to do so suggests that they are reluctant for a reason. These films could be highly incriminating. The American people deserve to see them.

Third, the White House must declassify the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel's opinion underpinning their legal argument for this operation. There is no reason for this document to remain hidden. The American people deserve to know why this administration believes it has a license to kill in their name and what parameters govern that authority. If the legal reasoning is sound, it should withstand public scrutiny. If it cannot, then these operations should not continue.

These are not unreasonable demands. They are basic requirements of democratic accountability and the rule of law.

I have spoken with General Caine, and I will speak with Admiral Bradley later this week. It is imperative that the military personnel involved be

truthful and forthright. The truth will come out—maybe not this week or next week. But it will come out. It always does.

The problem, regrettably, is that I do not believe Mr. Hegseth. He has lied repeatedly about this operation and others, claiming news stories are false, only to be contradicted by the White House or other sources. His argument boils down to: Take him at his word; trust him. But, frankly, I cannot—not when the law is this clear, not when the stakes are this high.

Shamelessly violating the laws of armed conflict puts our own service men and women at risk of receiving the same treatment in the future by our adversaries.

My colleagues and I are actively gathering more information about the September 2 strike. If the reported details are true, they represent a grave breach of the laws of war. There must be bipartisan oversight actions taken, committed to facts, truth, and the law above all else.

Chairman WICKER and I have given the Department more than enough time to respond in good faith to reasonable questions. Secretary Hegseth has refused. But the law demands better. The American people deserve better. And, most importantly, our servicemembers deserve better.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate December 3, 2025:

THE JUDICIARY

MATTHEW E. ORSO, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DESTROYING UNNECESSARY, MIS- ALIGNED, AND PROHIBITIVE RED TAPE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on the Destroying Unnecessary, Misaligned, and Prohibitive (DUMP) Red Tape Act, which would require the SBA's Office of Advocacy to codify a Red Tape Hotline to receive submissions on burdensome regulations and to report on those submissions. I will vote "no" because this bill is redundant—there is already a hotline in place for reporting red tape. Rather than improving the process, this bill would create an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy that would hinder, not help, the ongoing work of the SBA's Office of Advocacy.

RECOGNIZING MERCER HEALTH ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of Mercer Health, a dedicated healthcare system in Mercer County, Ohio. For seventy-five years, Mercer Health has been dedicated to providing excellent healthcare to the residents of Mercer County and the surrounding region. The hard work and spirit shown by staff have improved the health and quality of life for countless patients.

Founded in 1950, Mercer Health, known then as Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, was established to provide care to the citizens in Coldwater, Ohio and surrounding area. Seeing a need for a hospital, concerned citizens banded together to open the forty-eight-bed hospital. In 1969, the Sisters of Mercy who operated the hospital approached the board and advised them that they could no longer continue its operations. Over the next few years, seven townships in Mercer County stepped forward and took over the hospital. They created a joint township hospital district and renamed the hospital Mercer County Joint Township Community Hospital in 1972.

Over the decades, the hospital grew into the healthcare system it is today. It began to open new departments and expanded to open new medical centers across the county. By 2004, the remaining townships in the county joined the original seven to help in the operation of the health district. To reflect the hospital and health district commitment to service all the residents of Mercer County, the board renamed the health district Mercer Health. Since then, Mercer Health has continued to expand and grow, opening new offices and campuses to house their network of medical services.

Mr. Speaker, by celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of Mercer Health, the county and its residents can recognize the outstanding achievements of the staff and pride that they have in the healthcare system's success. I Congratulate Mercer Health on this momentous milestone. I thank them for all they do to improve our communities' health.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE JACQUALINE BERGER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Councilmember Jacqueline Berger, a woman whose influence can be seen and felt throughout the Western New York community by colleagues and community members of Amherst, New York.

In 1978, Councilmember Berger earned her bachelor's degree from Lesley University, followed by a master's degree from Tulane University in 1983. For more than two decades, she has dedicated her career to education, guiding and mentoring students at every level and helping them build bright, successful futures.

Councilmember Berger is a lifelong public servant and champion for her community. She has led at both the local and national levels through her work with the New York State United Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers. A dedicated advocate for individuals with special needs, she also runs a local Challenger Baseball program that empowers children and adults with disabilities to play and thrive. In 2017, she was elected to the Amherst Town Board and has dutifully served for nearly a decade. During her tenure, Councilmember Berger was appointed Deputy Supervisor, playing a vital role in the town's operations and acting as a liaison between the Town and Amherst residents.

As we acknowledge the incredible service of Councilmember Jacqueline Berger, let us recognize her dedicated career as a public servant and her service to the Town of Amherst, providing a safe space for all to be seen and heard. Councilmember Berger's leadership is a masterclass, and her service will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come, and we are all the better for it.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VETERAN COMMENDA- TION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a group of veterans for their military and community service.

Our veterans have sacrificed much in the defense of our Nation. Many of them retired their uniforms but continue their service by helping others in their community.

Four years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Veteran Commendation to recognize the heroic wartime sacrifices and admirable peacetime community involvement of my constituents. These are exceptional Americans. I appreciate the opportunity to honor them for their service to the Nation and community.

An independent panel reviewed several nominations and chose the following nineteen veterans for their wartime and post-military service. I include in the RECORD their names:

Nelson Betancourt of Valrico who served in the U.S. Army outside of war time.

Benny Blackshire of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Jeffery Camp of Parrish who served in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Jack Carter of Lakewood Ranch who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam and Gulf Wars.

Charles Conover, Jr. of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army outside of war time.

Ronald Cousineau of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Air Force outside of war time.

Emily Farkas of Brandon who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Ferris Garrett, Jr. of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War.

William Greer of Wimauma who served in the U.S. Air Force outside of war time.

Brian Hammer of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Nathaniel Hawthorne of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Navy during the Iraq War.

Roberta Jordan of Riverview who served in the U.S. Army outside of war time.

Robert Lucas, II of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army outside of war time.

Danny Melton of Riverview who served in the U.S. Marine Corps outside of war time.

MaryAnn Rowe of Sun City Center who served in the Michigan Army National Guard during the Iraq War.

Richard Steinestel of Valrico who served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

Roland Tiso, Jr. of Valrico who served in the U.S. Army during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Paul Wheat, Jr. of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Edward Wudarsky, Jr. of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

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

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

CONGRATULATING DR. SHEILA QUIRK-BAILEY ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Sheila Quirk-Bailey, President of Illinois Central College, for her outstanding leadership and over three decades of dedicated service to higher education. Since becoming president in 2016, Dr. Quirk-Bailey has guided Illinois Central College through a period of significant progress focused on student success, equity, and workforce development.

Under her leadership, Illinois Central College achieved five consecutive semesters of enrollment growth, improved graduation and retention rates, and reduced developmental education placements by sixty-six percent while maintaining strong student outcomes. Dr. Quirk-Bailey led the creation of nationally recognized workforce programs including the Workforce Empowerment Initiative, the Information Technology Workforce Accelerator, and the first prison education program in the Nation funded by federal Pell grants. The Workforce Empowerment Initiative alone has helped lift more than 1,200 individuals out of poverty, with participants seeing an average increase of nearly thirty-three thousand dollars in yearly earnings.

Dr. Quirk-Bailey also laid a strong foundation for ICC's next decade of growth. Through the College's strategic plan, she advanced a year-round eight-week scheduling process, expanded micro and stackable credential pathways, supported the development of boot camps and competency-based education models, and guided the implementation of a new enterprise resource planning platform to modernize operations and meet future workforce demands.

Central Illinois is fortunate to have had a leader whose vision, professionalism, and dedication to expanding educational opportunity, have strengthened our region for many years. Dr. Quirk-Bailey's unwavering commitment to student success and workforce advancement is truly inspiring, and her retirement marks the closure of a remarkable career devoted to improving lives through education. I am honored to recognize her for her extraordinary service and congratulate her on her well-earned retirement. I wish Dr. Quirk-Bailey and her loved ones the very best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL 17

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 17. For over a century, these skilled workers have ensured the safe and efficient operation of the machinery that powers our re-

gion's progress. Their expertise keeps Western New York's vital projects running—projects that our communities rely on every single day.

As the very embodiment of American blue-collar grit and skill, Local 17 represents the best of who we are. With over two thousand members, Local 17 continues to strengthen our workforce through apprenticeship programs, training programs, and a focus on continuous education. The renaissance of Western New York wouldn't be possible without Local 17's hard work.

Local 17 is led by President Josh Williams and Business Manager William Fekete. The union also operates a training school located in Lake View, New York, under the direction of Vice President James Smolinski, Jr., helping to educate the next generation of operating engineers in the safe usage of their equipment and allowing members to hone their skills.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 125th anniversary of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 17, we celebrate its lasting impact on Western New York. Local 17 exemplifies the best of organized labor and demonstrates that when we invest in our workers, we invest in the success of our entire region.

HONORING MONIQUE KOLTERMAN FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monique Kolterman, an exemplary educator whose unwavering devotion to Catholic education in the Diocese of Arlington has left a profound and lasting impact on countless students, families, and colleagues.

Monique began her service to the diocese in 2009 at Nativity Catholic School in Burke, Virginia, where she worked as an Instructional Aide. From her first days in the classroom, it was clear that she possessed a rare gift: the ability to nurture both the intellect and spirit. Her efforts helped foster a culture of academic excellence and Christ-centered formation, and she served the Nativity community with distinction until 2012.

In August 2015, Monique brought her passion and talents to St. Veronica Catholic School, joining the faculty as an Instructional Assistant for second grade. Her exceptional work, leadership, and rapport with students quickly earned her additional responsibility, and in 2019, she rose to become one of the school's lead fifth-grade teachers. Her influence extended beyond the classroom, most notably in the spring of 2023, when she enriched the school community by leading the after-school Chess Club, offering students a new outlet for strategic thinking and personal growth.

Monique's qualifications reflect not only her expertise but also her deep commitment to the vocation of teaching. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and is certified by the Virginia Catholic Education Association through the Diocese of Arlington-credentials that underscore her professional excellence and dedication to lifelong learning.

Her career in Catholic education, however, reaches even further back. Before joining the

Diocese of Arlington, Monique served in a variety of instructional roles across Ohio, including as a Social Studies Teacher, Middle School English Teacher, CD Teacher and Eucharistic Minister, French Long-Term Substitute Teacher, and Learning Resource Assistant. In each role, she exemplified the same hallmarks that define her today: unwavering integrity, intellectual rigor, and a heartfelt commitment to forming young people in knowledge, character, and faith.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Monique Kolterman not only for her years of devoted service but for the extraordinary example she sets. She is a teacher who inspires, a mentor who uplifts, and a servant-leader whose quiet strength has shaped the lives of all who have been blessed to know her. Her contributions to Catholic education will continue to bear fruit for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, we extend our deepest gratitude to Monique—for the inspiration she provides, the steadfast leadership she has shown through trying times, and the enduring mark she leaves on the hearts and minds of so many.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays as a result of winter weather, I missed Monday evening votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306, and YEA on Roll Call No. 307.

CELEBRATING 15TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR CRAIG PRIDGEN

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable leadership and service of Pastor Craig Pridgen as we honor his 15th Pastoral Anniversary at True Bethel Baptist Church. Pastor Pridgen's influence extends far beyond the walls of the church, making a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

As a proud Western New York native, Pastor Pridgen was raised with the strong support of his family from the very beginning, helping to shape him into a natural leader in all aspects of his life. He excelled academically, graduating from the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts before earning his Associate's degree in Business Administration from Medaille University; and later furthering his education, obtaining his Bachelor's degree in Leadership Studies from Regent University.

More than two decades ago with a unanimous decision amongst his peers, Pastor Pridgen was granted his license to preach. In 2010, Pastor Pridgen was chosen to be the spiritual leader of True Bethel Baptist Church's Niagara Falls, New York congregation, guided by the teachings and carrying the voice and

vision of his father, Pastor Darius Pridgen. As a licensed and ordained minister of the Gospel, Pastor Pridgen embodies the belief that we are all called to be servants of the Lord. His passion for service resonates throughout the Western New York, and his leadership inspires parishioners and visitors of True Bethel Baptist Church to grow in faith and unity.

Pastor Pridgen is supported by his beloved wife, the Honorable Judge JaHarr Pridgen. Together, they have formed a family grounded in faith with the addition of their two blessed children: Jordin and Journey. Their marriage exemplifies the strength found in a family that prays and worships together. Pastor Pridgen has made a priority of reaching out to his community, serving as a mentor and advocate for youth, adults, and our most vulnerable community members through his role as a Senior Community Advisor and Chaplain at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

As we celebrate a decade and a half of Pastor Pridgen's unwavering dedication, let us recognize the countless lives he has touched and the profound impact he has made at True Bethel Baptist Church and beyond. I congratulate Pastor Pridgen on this significant milestone. His service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of his inspired leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFFERSON SHREVE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 305, H. Con. Res. 58.

RECOGNIZING THE ELEVEN NEW-EST EAGLE SCOUTS FROM TROOP 407

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous achievement of eleven young men from Troop 407 in Las Vegas who will receive their Eagle Scout Awards simultaneously on December 6, 2025. This event marks only the second time nationally, and the first in Las Vegas, that a troop has achieved such a feat.

These young men are setting the example of what Scouts and young people can achieve. It is not easy to earn the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout—one must persevere through years of hard work, demonstrate strong leadership, and dedicate countless hours of service to others.

The Scout Motto is "Be Prepared" and becoming an Eagle Scout is one of the best ways for a young person to prepare for a life of service and leadership in their community. Las Vegas is proud to have raised these boys into young leaders, and we are looking forward to seeing what all eleven of them become in the years ahead.

I commend the hard work, dedication, and achievement of Jacob Bennett, Cannon Cas-

tor, Ethan Dastrup, Christian Earl, Jackson Hedin, Nixon Hunt, Jack Hyer, Issac Koval, Seth Leedom, Michael Norton, and Luke Robinson. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BRIAN KULPA

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Honorable Brian Kulpa, Supervisor of the Town of Amherst, and a man whose influence can be seen and felt throughout the Western New York community by colleagues and community members alike.

As a Western New York native, Supervisor Kulpa graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and later obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Architecture and Urban and Regional Planning from SUNY Buffalo. Supervisor Kulpa has more than a quarter-century of experience as an architect and urban planner, previously serving as a senior associate, architect, and planner at a local Western New York firm. Supervisor Kulpa later established his own company, Waves Architecture and Engineering, of which he serves as Principal Architect.

Supervisor Kulpa's career has been a testament to his love for our community. Supervisor Kulpa served as Mayor of the Village of Williamsville from 2012 through the end of 2017, and played a vital role in the village's day-to-day operations, acting as a liaison between the Village of Williamsville and residents. Due to Kulpa's tenacity and vision, the Village of Williamsville was awarded \$11 million in state and federal funding to focus on enhancements of the Main Street Corridor. This investment led to community and infrastructure projects that will be enjoyed by residents and visitors for decades to come.

In 2017, Kulpa was elected Amherst Town Supervisor, where he has helped transform the Town of Amherst into a center of economic prosperity. Supervisor Kulpa has prioritized investments in neighborhood revitalization projects, economic development, parks and recreation, and transportation and infrastructure. With a focus on leveraging existing spaces within the town, Supervisor Kulpa has worked to make the town a vibrant community with a thriving economy.

As we acknowledge the incredible service of the Honorable Brian Kulpa, let us recognize his dedicated career as a public servant to the Village of Williamsville and the Town of Amherst. Supervisor Kulpa's leadership is truly exemplary, and the impact of his service will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come, leaving our community stronger and better.

HONORING MARCUS D. YOUNG AND H.F. YOUNG TRANSPORTATION, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Marcus D. Young, whose vision, perseverance, and family legacy have transformed H.F. Young Transportation, Inc. into a leading provider of non-emergency medical transportation across the southern United States.

Fifteen years ago, Mr. Young and his wife, Mrs. Toni Wright-Young, founded the company in honor of his grandfather, Harry Young, Sr. What began as a tribute has grown into one of the largest and most trusted non-emergency medical transportation providers in Mississippi, with operations extending into Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Under Mr. Young's leadership, H.F. Young Transportation has become known for its reliability, professionalism, and deep commitment to serving vulnerable populations. The company provides safe and accessible transportation for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and others in need of medical care. With a fleet of specialized vehicles and a dedicated staff trained in safety and compassion, the company saves thousands of clients each year—offering both logistical excellence and a personal touch rooted in community care.

Although its reach spans multiple states, H.F. Young Transportation remains deeply connected to Yazoo City, Mississippi, where Mr. Young's family and values were shaped. He continues to give back to his community while expanding the company's services and exploring new innovations to improve healthcare access and mobility across the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marcus D. Young for his leadership, his dedication to service, and his remarkable success in building H.F. Young Transportation, Inc. into both a thriving business and a vital community resource.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HAZEL CHANDLER

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Hazel Chandler, a tireless advocate for public health and the environment, who passed away last month at the age of 80.

For nearly six decades, Hazel devoted her life to cleaner air, a safer climate, and a healthier future for generations she would never meet. Hazel's work began long before climate change was a household term. Growing up during the first wave of modern environmental awareness, she saw firsthand how polluted air and water harmed communities and fueled her own health struggles. When she moved to Arizona in the late 1970s, she had already spent years organizing for clean air initiatives. In Phoenix, she brought that passion into public service. At the Arizona Department of Health Services, she rose to lead

health care licensing and later helped launch Phoenix Shanti, a pioneering treatment center for people living with HIV. She worked with Phoenix Children's Hospital and Maricopa County on air quality regulations that helped bring the region into compliance and protect vital federal transportation funding. She later returned to ADHS as part of the First Things First early childhood program.

Hazel never slowed down, even in retirement. She was a key voice for science and climate action with the Union of Concerned Scientists, Moms Clean Air Force, and Elders Climate Action. She helped grow Elders Climate Action into a national network of thousands of older Americans, including many here in Arizona, who refused to stay silent about the climate crisis. Friends and colleagues remember her as a constant presence at the Capitol and in community spaces, recognizable by her red advocacy shirts and the oven mitt she used to grip overheated railings on summer days at rallies and hearings. She even continued her fight for climate justice from hospice, testifying virtually at an EPA hearing to defend federal climate protections and reminding decision-makers that their choices would define the world her grandchildren and great-grandchildren will inherit.

Hazel believed deeply that everyone deserves clean air, access to nature, and a livable planet. She helped advise on Phoenix's tree and shade planning and worked to bring more trees and cooling to neighborhoods that lacked them. She championed practical steps that ordinary people could take to confront climate change, from planting native shade trees to speaking up for strong public health protections. Her leadership earned recognition from leaders across our state, including a proclamation in Phoenix marking "Hazel Chandler Day" and Lifetime Achievement Awards from both the Sierra Club and EDF Action.

Hazel leaves behind more than accomplishments. She leaves behind cleaner skies, stronger community coalitions, and a movement that draws strength from her example. Her insistence that every person deserves a healthy environment will continue to inspire people across Arizona for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering an organizer, mentor, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose commitment to public health and environmental justice never wavered. Hazel Chandler gave her voice, her energy, and her last days to the cause of a safer, healthier planet, and we are all better for it.

REMEMBERING MARCUS PLOWDEN

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mr. Marcus Plowden, a beloved husband, father, and friend whose legacy of love, compassion, and devotion to his family, the Western New York community, and our Nation inspired all who knew him.

Born on August 29, 1950, in Buffalo, New York to Mr. Robert Fortson and Mrs. Dorothy Plowden, Mr. Plowden was surrounded by love from the very beginning. He married the love of his life Brenda, and shortly after their

union, the couple became parents to Anthony Plowden. He is survived by numerous loved ones, including a host of relatives and friends. His love for his family and his desire to be there for his Nation and local community, left a lasting impact on all who crossed his path.

Before beginning his career at General Motors, Mr. Plowden graduated from Emerson High School and immediately enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. His service was marked by extraordinary dedication, earning him the National Defense Service Medal. The discipline, leadership, and resilience he developed during his time in the military, would go on to shape his professional approach and contribute significantly to his success in the automotive industry.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marcus Plowden lived a life of devotion to his family, community, and Nation. His unwavering commitment to those he loved and his compassion for others made a profound impact on all who knew him. Mr. Plowden was a man who believed in the importance of family above all else and worked tirelessly to support those around him. His kindness, loyalty, and the warmth in his heart will forever be remembered and deeply missed. Let us continue to honor his legacy by carrying forward the values he lived by: integrity, respect, and above all, love.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMILY RANDALL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 2025, due to flight delays, I was unable to vote on H.R. 5348 and H.R. 4423. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306, and YEA on Roll Call No. 307.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DAVID ROSS HOOKS, JR.

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of David Ross Hooks, Jr., lovingly known as "Pop Pop," who was not only a devoted community leader but also a dedicated former staff member in my office.

Born in Jacksonville Florida on May 3, 1945, David was the oldest of three children. In his early years, his family moved to Far Rockaway in Queens, New York, where he graduated from Far Rockaway High School.

David was a veteran and served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War as a sharpshooter and a tunnel rat. He served with courage and precision. Though he was honorably discharged in 1969, he remained faithful to the Marine Corps' motto *Semper Fidelis*—Always Faithful—throughout his life. In recognition of his dedication and sacrifice, David was later inducted into the New York State Senate Veteran's Hall of Fame.

David's life after the military was again marked for his dedication to service. After receiving a degree in Political Science from the

College of New Rochelle in 1983, he devoted 20 years to the State University of New York—Queens Educational Opportunity center. David also served on the Community School Board No. 27, the Community Educational Council for Queens County as representative for Queens Borough President Helen Marshall and was a member of the Board of Directors for Blanche Daycare.

David was incredibly devoted to helping the Queens community, even running for New York City Council while championing causes like affordable housing, environmental protection, and small business growth.

After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, David was a source of strength for his community, helping to organize religious services for displaced churches in public schools so that community members and neighbors could continue to come together in the face of adversity.

David's impact extended beyond his community leadership. David was a cherished member of my staff. His intelligence and integrity were demonstrated when he interacted with the people of Queens. His charisma shaped our office and touched the lives of everyone around him.

His loved ones will remember for his humor, charm and undeniable presence. His life was filled with the soulful sounds of Al Green and James Brown, an undeniable reflection of crisp, classic, and sharp style.

A proud Marine, loving mentor, dedicated educator, and devoted family man. David's life was and will remain a testament to service, perseverance, and love. His legacy will continue to live on through those who knew him.

REMEMBERING MRS. ADRIANE Z. WILLIAMS

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mrs. Adriane Z. Williams, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, whose love, compassion, and devotion to her family and faith inspired all who knew her. Mrs. Williams passed away at the age of 66, having lived a fulfilling and rewarding life.

Mrs. Williams was born on October 16, 1958, in Buffalo, New York to Mr. David Ross and Mrs. Geraldine Ross. Mrs. Williams cherished every moment spent with her family—a life filled with love and partnership until her passing. Her greatest joy was spent as a devoted wife to her husband, Mr. Harold Williams, and mother to Corey Ross, Chandler Williams, Christopher Williams, Collin Williams, and Ashley Oweazim; later she was blessed to become a grandmother to three beautiful grandchildren, nurturing them with the same kindness and care she gave to everyone in her life.

As a proud Western New York native, Mrs. Williams was raised with the strong support of her family from the very beginning, helping to shape her into a natural leader in all aspects of her life. She excelled academically, graduating from Daemen University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree with a major in Humanities, and a minor in Philosophy and Religious Studies. She later obtained a Master's degree from SUNY Buffalo State in Student Personnel Administration.

Mrs. Williams had great love and compassion for all people, working nearly three decades at Daemen University, culminating with her role as the Assistant Director of Academic Advisement. She worked closely with students addressing their immediate needs, including helping to establish the Daemen University pantry, which was later named the 'Adriane Z. Williams Campus Care Cupboard' in her honor in 2019. In her time of leisure, Mrs. Williams was a faithful member of CrossNation Church. Perhaps one of the most treasured memories for those who knew her was active participation in Bible Study Academy, and her visits to senior living homes where she ministered and prayed with the residents.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Adriane Z. Williams lived a life of devotion to her family, community, and faith. Her unwavering commitment to those she loved and her compassion towards others made a profound impact on all who knew her. Mrs. Williams was a woman who believed in the importance of family above all else and worked tirelessly to support those around her. Her kindness, loyalty, and warmth will forever be remembered. Let us continue to honor her legacy by carrying forward the values she lived by: faith, respect, and above all, love.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was not able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 308, and YEA on Roll Call No. 309.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF AMBASSADOR AND GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Ambassador and Governor Terry E. Branstad, a lifelong Iowan whose leadership has left an enduring mark on our state and our country.

Terry Branstad was born in 1946 in Leland, Iowa, and grew up on his family farm. After earning a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Iowa and before his Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School, he served in the United States Army as a military policeman, earning the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service. His commitment to faith, family, and country has been a guiding principle throughout his life.

Branstad began his political career in the Iowa House of Representatives and then served as Lieutenant Governor before being elected Iowa's 39th governor in 1982. During his campaign, Branstad often brought a spark of energy to the podium and ran to the stage, inspiring crowds across the state. At the time, outgoing Governor Robert Ray tried to convince Branstad that running was not gubernatorial—but he did it anyway, and I carry that

same energy every time I take the stage or meet with Iowans.

He went on to become the longest-serving governor in U.S. history, with over 22 years in office across two tenures. Branstad led Iowa through remarkable economic growth, fiscal responsibility, and educational reform, leaving a lasting legacy of service to Iowa families. But his contributions did not end there. In 2017, Branstad strengthened Iowa's role on the international stage upon being appointed as U.S. Ambassador to China, continuing a lifetime of public service.

Terry has also been a mentor, a friend, and a boss to me personally. I had the privilege of interning in his office in 1995, where I learned firsthand the values of servant leadership and integrity. We share a connection through Drake University, our Catholic faith, and military service. I was proud to support his continued leadership when he served as President of the World Food Prize Foundation from 2023 to 2025.

Mr. Speaker, Terry Branstad's life is a testament to the power of service, leadership, and friendship. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Governor Branstad, a remarkable Iowan, mentor to so many, and a true friend of mine, for his decades of service to Iowa and to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of Deputy Sheriff Terri Sweeting-Mashkow and my attendance at her funeral, I had to miss votes on December 1 and 2, 2025, for Roll Call Nos. 306, 307, 308, and 309.

Deputy Sheriff Sweeting-Mashkow died in the line of duty while serving an eviction notice when she was shot and killed. This is the second death of an active-duty Indian River County police officer in the department's nearly 100-year history. This horrific incident highlights the importance of supporting local law enforcement officers.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306; YEA on Roll Call No. 307; YEA on Roll Call No. 308; and YEA on Roll Call No. 309.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY MISSIONS OF NIAGARA FRONTIER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, a beacon of light and service in Niagara Falls, New York. As we honor this momentous occasion, may we reflect on its incredible history, its unwavering commitment to supportive community services, and the transformative impact it has had on the lives of countless individuals.

Founded a century ago, Community Missions of Niagara Frontier has lived up to its mission to provide "integrated human services that meet people where they are and help them find and elevate their place in the world." Community Missions of Niagara Frontier has continuously shown its unwavering commitment to community members throughout Niagara County, providing a unique blend of services to address their needs; including faith, family, youth, mental health, and community services.

To date, Community Missions of Niagara Frontier serves as the largest private provider of mental health and human services. It has offered nearly two hundred thousand meals, more than eight thousand care days of youth services, and twelve thousand nights of shelter for those in need.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, let us acknowledge its ongoing success and advocacy for community members throughout Western New York. The organization's leadership is a shining example of service that will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come.

HONORING THE DEUTSCHER CLUB IN CLARK, NEW JERSEY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of The Deutscher Club in Clark, New Jersey.

On September 30, 1935, a group of dedicated men came together with a singular purpose: to preserve the rich heritage and powerful cultural tradition of the German people. From this commitment on, this club has grown to be the largest German club in New Jersey. The club's first gathering took place in the welcoming walls of Nick Grunwald's delicatessen in Rahway, New Jersey. Shortly after this, the first official meeting was held at the Grevens Hotel. At this meeting Karl Krumer was elected as the organization's first president and the name "Deutscher Club of Rahway" was formally adopted. During the early 1940s, the club was such an outstanding success it moved into Eagle's Hall in Rahway to keep up with its increase in members. By the 1950s this growth showed no signs of slowing down. In response, the Deutscher Club purchased a farmhouse sitting on acres of beautiful land. With their dedication and outstanding effort by the members, the humble "Ole House" was turned into a beautiful and expansive Club House, reflecting the club's impressive progression and commitment to the German heritage. In 1955, The Ladies Division was established and reactivated again in 1979. Throughout the years, the ladies of this division have played a vital role in emphasizing the club's culture by organizing card parties, fashion shows and other cultural events. The club has maintained a bi-annual blood bank named "The Deutscher Club Blood Bank", which ensures the blood donations are reserved and ready for its members and families. To advance the German Culture and education, the club provides financial support to multiple organizations, schools, and other cultural institutions. The Deutscher Club will continue to be

an "Oasis for German-Americans in New Jersey." We take great pride and are deeply proud of what this club and its members have accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, as The Deutscher Club celebrates their 90th anniversary of German-American cultural and communal excellence, I am pleased to commend all members of The Deutscher Club for being an integral part of the Clark area. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this community truly dedicated to faith, culture and education.

HONORING ABIGAIL PROVOST

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Abigail Provost, who was awarded the National Bronze Cross Lifesaving Award from the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Lifesaving Awards are national awards given to registered Girl Scouts in recognition of independent acts of extraordinary bravery that were essential to a lifesaving rescue. These awards acknowledge Girl Scouts who have saved or attempted to save a human life, with or without risk to their own lives, and under circumstances that most people of their age and life experience may not be able to function.

Health and safety training is an essential part of the Girl Scout program. In accordance with the Girl Scout Promise, Law, motto, and slogan to which she has subscribed, a Girl Scout is expected to be resourceful, skilled, and competent. She is also expected to have a presence of mind and to be of service to others. Each lifesaving situation is unique and there are many considerations determining if the Girl Scout led actions that were essential to the rescue.

On November 11, the Provost family indulged in a typical evening together immersed in their favorite television program. As the evening progressed, Abigail's father excused himself to bed, and Abigail eventually decided it was time for her to do the same while her mom and siblings stayed comfortably in front of the TV. Abigail's rest was soon interrupted when she began to smell smoke. In a panic, she began screaming to get her family's attention and followed the pungent smell down to the basement where Abigail's father met her. Fire extinguisher in hand, Abigail bravely took on the breaker box, which she had correctly assumed to be the source of the fire. The Provosts had recently installed solar panels, so Abigail suggested that she and her father cut that power source too. It turned out these new panels were the source of the sparks and smoke.

Abigail's quick-thinking, sharp instincts, and clear mind in this high stress situation saved not only her family home, but also her entire family's lives. This is Abigail's second Lifesaving Award in six months after her and her Girl Scout troop saved a man having a heart attack using the skills they had learned through their Girl Scout training.

I thank Abigail Provost for going above and beyond to make a difference in our community. I congratulate her on receiving this well-deserved honor.

HONORING MR. RENALDO SCOTT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Renaldo Scott, a distinguished citizen and veteran whose life reflects exceptional service to his community, his State, and the United States of America.

Mr. Scott, a native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, has devoted his career to military service, aviation maintenance, community engagement, and public safety. A 2014 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Mound Bayou, he enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard soon after completing his studies. Trained as a helicopter mechanic, Mr. Scott served his State and Nation for years through deployments and specialized technical assignments, including a deployment to Afghanistan. While deployed, he was a UH medevac/combat search and rescue chief.

Seeking to deepen his knowledge and advance professionally, Mr. Scott pursued and completed a degree in Aviation/Aerospace Management with a minor in Business Administration. Over the course of his military and technical career, he served in multiple states and capacities, supporting aviation operations in Mississippi, Louisiana, California, and Texas. His duties included working for the Army Aviation Support Facility in Jackson and supporting aircraft maintenance operations in San Antonio.

Despite building a respected career away from home, Mr. Scott ultimately returned to Mound Bayou in 2022 to support his family and re-establish roots in the community he cherishes. He subsequently completed a deployment to Sinai, Egypt, in 2023.

Mr. Scott's path reflects the best of American values: service, sacrifice, and leadership. He has balanced demanding careers in the military, aircraft maintenance, and public safety—joining the Lincoln-Parker Fire Protection District as a volunteer firefighter and continuing his long-term goal of enhancing safety and opportunity in his hometown.

Mr. Scott has expressed that helping others is a deeply personal calling. He states that while he grew up in Mound Bayou, his life experiences have strengthened his commitment to serve the community that raised him. Whether through emergency response, local engagement, or mentorship, Mr. Scott exemplifies the spirit of duty and the enduring value of public service.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Renaldo Scott—a son of Mississippi, a dedicated servicemember, and a community leader, whose contributions bring honor to his family, his State, and this Nation.

RECOGNIZING MRS. EMILY MONDSCHNEIN

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Emily Mondschein, the

Executive Director of Gigi's Playhouse. Emily is a woman whose compassion and advocacy can be seen throughout Western New York, through parents and children of all ages, and far beyond the walls of Gigi's Playhouse.

As the proud mother of two sons, Samuel and Paul, Mrs. Mondschein, alongside her husband, Mr. Will Mondschein, set out on a mission to ensure that individuals with Down syndrome are treated with equality and respect in all areas of society. Inspired by her son, Paul, Mrs. Mondschein wanted to establish an organization for families and community members throughout Western New York to empower individuals with Down syndrome and increase positive awareness through educational programs.

After visiting Gigi's Playhouse in Syracuse, Mrs. Mondschein was more inspired than ever and determined to open her own location in Western New York. Through Gigi's Playhouse, community members are offered one-on-one literacy tutoring, discovery arts and science, and group music therapy. Each program is dedicated to helping community members with Down Syndrome reach their full potential.

As we recognize the incredible service of Mrs. Emily Mondschein, let us not only acknowledge her dedicated career as an educational leader and her steadfast commitment to children in need, but also her unwavering advocacy for accessible and inclusive community programming where every individual is celebrated for who they are, providing a safe space for all to be heard. Mrs. Mondschein's service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of her inspired leadership.

HONORING THE NORTHERN MACOMB REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to proudly recognize the Northern Macomb Regional Chamber as it marks a significant milestone, its fiftieth anniversary. This stands as a testament to five decades of dedicated service, principled leadership, and an enduring devotion to the residents, businesses, and communities of Northern Macomb County.

Originally established as the Greater Romeo-Washington Chamber of Commerce in 1975, the organization later expanded and rebranded as the Northern Macomb Regional Chamber of Commerce to better reflect its broader service area. Over the decades, it has adapted to changing economic and community needs while helping to connect businesses and stakeholders across Northern Macomb County.

For fifty years, the Northern Macomb Regional Chamber of Commerce has supported local engagement through practical business programs and community events, including ribbon cuttings, business networking opportunities, and its annual EMMA Awards. These activities reflect the Chamber's ongoing role in convening businesses and community leaders across Northern Macomb County.

Mr. Speaker, today's recognition marks an important anniversary for an organization that

has served the Northern Macomb area for five decades. On behalf of Michigan's 9th Congressional District, I congratulate the Northern Macomb Regional Chamber of Commerce on this milestone and wish it continued success in the years ahead.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW
OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, who is the spiritual leader and the Primus inter Pares (First among Equals) of Orthodox Christianity worldwide, a Church of 300 million people. This September, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew visited our Nation's capital, continuing his longstanding practice of meeting with the President and engaging with Members of Congress from both political sides.

His All-Holiness is the spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, representing faith's ability to bring people together across borders and generations. His leadership has fostered dialogue among faith communities and highlighted the positive role moral guidance can play in promoting cooperation and understanding.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, has been called the Bridge Builder and the Patriarch of Peace by Christians and non-Christians alike. I am proud to welcome a peacemaker of his caliber to the Capitol.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF NATIVE AMERICAN
COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Native American Community Services, a not-for-profit organization in Western New York. For half a century, Native American Community Services has provided high-quality health and social services to the Native American community throughout Western New York.

Guided by its mission of a "Tradition of Caring," Native American Community Services has built a lasting legacy of service through four essential programs: Economic Self-Sufficiency, Family Services, Health and Wellness, and Community and Cultural Services. These initiatives strengthen families, empower individuals, and enrich the fabric of the Buffalo-Niagara region. Through decades of dedicated work, Native American Community Services has shown a tireless commitment to compassion, inclusion, and community well-being across Western New York.

As we celebrate a half century of Native American Community Services contributions to

our region, let us acknowledge its ongoing success and advocacy for Native American community members throughout Western New York. The impact of the organization's work will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come, enriching the lives of all who call this region home.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S 16TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRE
AND RESCUE EMS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire, rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

First responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Often, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

Thirteen years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate and include in the RECORD the following honorees, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district:

Associate Service Award: Adam Nover of Manatee County Department of Public Safety.

Dedication and Professionalism Award: Firefighter Rob Day of East Manatee Fire Rescue, Firefighter/Paramedic—Company Fire Captain Ralph Mascaro of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, and the Sun City Center Emergency Squad.

Preservation of Life Award: Firefighter/Paramedic Jacob Campbell, Fire Captain Clifford Davis, Firefighter/Paramedic Anna Inman, and Firefighter Maurice Swan of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Charge Paramedic Peterson Gustave, District Chief William Thayer, and District Chief Beth Tucciarone of Manatee County EMS.

Unit Citation Award: Engineer Joshua Eriksen, Engineer Zachary Gilbert, Firefighter Bo Gurskis, Lieutenant Jared Manning, Engineer Louis Chiochio, Firefighter George Norris, Captain Jonathan Turpin, Battalion Chief Barry Cornelison, Lieutenant Matthew McCabe, Engineer Brandon Beals, Firefighter Ricardo Rivera, Firefighter Luke Marvin, Lieutenant Scott Viehman, Lieutenant Thomas Ferrett, Lieutenant Robert Hinton, Firefighter Shawn Heinlein, Engineer Michael King, Firefighter Christopher Mundell, Firefighter Isaiah Cress, Lieutenant Lionel Harrison, Firefighter Jordan DeSear, Firefighter Brendan Lewellen, and Firefighter Aaron Wright of the Bradenton Fire Department, Firefighter Jacob Dillard (2), Lieutenant Daniel Dunkum (2), Battalion Chief Craig Madsen, Captain Steven Baker, Engineer Ben Stasurak, Engineer Bret Kanapaux, Fire-

fighter Chad Strauser (2), Firefighter Maciej Borawski, Deputy Chief Paul Wren, Battalion Chief Casey Lambert, Lieutenant Mike Hamilton, Engineer Derek Parker, Firefighter Jared Hoopingarner, Lieutenant Timothy Bedell, Firefighter Tony Mroz, Firefighter Nicholas Miller, Lieutenant Steve Ryckman, Firefighter Kyle Lamson (2), Firefighter Jason Burnside, and Engineer Jesse Reasoner of East Manatee Fire Rescue, District Chief Beth Tucciarone, Paramedic James Bryant, EMT Rachel Swim (2), Charge Paramedic Michael Gorman, EMT Zachary Tocco, District Chief William Thayer, Specialty Charge Paramedic Sasha DeAngelis, Charge Paramedic Caitlyn Roskovich, EMT Simon Klimov, Specialty Charge Paramedic Kevin Guido, Charge Paramedic Anthony Tino, EMT Germaine Bolanos, EMT Robert Anderson, District Chief Troy Dufrane, and District Chief Keith Lock of Manatee County EMS, Lieutenant Casey Schue, Engineer Wade Hoopingarner, Engineer Joe Jago, and Firefighter Anzozoni House of Parrish Fire Rescue, Captain Andrew Clark, Firefighter Charlie Childress, and Engineer Justin White of North River Fire District, Telecommunicator Derek Turner, Telecommunicator Adam Bruner, ECC Supervisor Tracey Haas, and Telecommunicator Brady Trott of Manatee County Emergency Communication Center, Pilot Stu O'Shannon, Flight Nurse Alisha Burnett, Flight Paramedic Chuck Nelson, Flight Paramedic Oriente Luis Vazquez, Pilot Mark Boudreau, Flight Nurse Rob Freas and Flight Paramedic Kelly Curren of Tampa General Hospital Aeromed, Firefighter Jerrod Apple, Firefighter Tyler Snyder, Captain James Leigh, Firefighter Dane Miller, Firefighter Christopher O'Kelly, Fire Marshall Rodney Kwiatkowski, Training Chief Mark Tuttle, Battalion Chief Ryan Moore, Battalion Chief Derek Bill, Captain Tyler MacDonald, Firefighter William Bowen, Firefighter Clayton Lease, Firefighter David Miller, Firefighter Zack Misiura, Firefighter Aaron Reese, Lieutenant Inspector Keith Miller, Inspector Josh Adkins, Inspector Lisa Brooks, and Inspector Nicholas Riffe of West Manatee Fire Rescue District, Captain Marshall Greene, Lieutenant David Snyder, Lieutenant Luke Hitchins, Lieutenant JC Rapier, Lieutenant Jose Garcia Santos, Lieutenant Michael Patterson, Lifeguard Jack Bratcher, Lifeguard Josh McCarthy, Lifeguard Nate Hilbrands, Lifeguard Shannon Cielinski, Lifeguard Marek Drastich, Lifeguard Mark Mol, Lifeguard Patrick Curran, Lifeguard Kaylin Weiskopf, Lifeguard Allie Updike, Lifeguard Owen Munday, Lifeguard AJ Nelson, and Lifeguard Isabelle Pellegrin of Manatee County Beach Patrol.

Career Service Award: Battalion Chief Jeff Martin of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF LIBYA'S RETURN TO STABILITY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following article titled *Libya Has a Deal for Trump That Could Reshape Africa and Europe* by Tom O'Connor of Newsweek on how important it is for Libya to return to stability:

As a divided Libya lies between two deepening crises in Africa and the porous southern flank of Europe, representatives of the

nation's internationally recognized government told Newsweek they were looking to President Donald Trump to strike a deal that could have profound effects across two continents.

The appeal from the Tripoli-based Government of National Unity that controls much of Libya's northwest involves seeking U.S. support in pressuring countries—namely Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt—accused of aiding the rival Government of National Stability that controls much of the rest of the nation, including Libya's second city of Benghazi, and is backed by the military support of influential Libyan National Army chief Field Marshall Khalifa Haftar.

In exchange, the Government of National Unity envisions boosting business and investment ties—particularly regarding Libya's vast reserves of oil—with an administration known for its deal-based transactional foreign policy. The Libyan authorities also aim to solidify security ties that may bolster NATO's position in the Mediterranean, curb the free flow of fighters and arms to conflicts raging in the neighboring Sahel region and Sudan while also easing the large-scale migration of African refugees to Europe.

"We would like to have the involvement of United States. And, especially with this government, they are always looking for deals, there are a lot of deals that we can do, and we keep mutual interests," Mahmoud Ahmed Alftise, economic adviser to Government of National Unity Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, told Newsweek. "Of course, we have our sovereignties, but we would like to have a good friend, a strong friend."

"We would like to have a friend's mutual interest, so we can go ahead and move, so people have their prosperities," Alftise said, "because the Libyan people are really suffering from this regional interference in Libya."

LIBYA'S FRACTURE

The roots of Libya's schism can be traced back to a 2011 rebellion against longtime leader Muammar al-Qaddafi. Qaddafi, who had ruled the nation since seizing power in a 1969 coup against the monarchy and later adopted the titles of "brotherly leader" and "King of Kings" of Africa, had for decades molded a seemingly invincible cult of personality bolstered by grand infrastructure projects and iron-fisted suppression of dissent until widespread unrest swelled around the Arab Spring movement.

As Qaddafi's forces attempted to extinguish the uprising, NATO intervened directly with a crushing air campaign in support of the rebels, leading to the Libyan leader's downfall and ultimate slaying at the hands of opposition fighters.

Libya's initial post-Qaddafi steps appeared hopeful as the temporary National Transitional Council handed the reigns to the elected General National Congress in 2012, marking the nation's first-ever peaceful transfer of power. But new elections held in 2014 produced the first major crisis as political feuds and opposing interpretations of the nascent constitution led to the establishment of the House of Representatives to rival the General National Congress as Libya's legislative body.

Haftar, a former close Qaddafi confidant and commander who fled to the U.S. in the 1990s to begin orchestrating efforts to oust his ex-ally, emerged as a powerful military figure in support of the House of Representatives. As head of the Libyan National Army, he declared a military operation against the General National Congress, and Libya thus devolved into a second civil war, this time with no clear victor.

The conflict continued for six years until a 2020 ceasefire that once again inspired cautious optimism toward a political solution, with the establishment of the Government of National Unity as the new Tripoli-based authority aimed at unifying the nation. But the House of Representatives rejected the Government of National Unity's mandate the following year, leading to the creation of the Government of National Stability in the east and entrenching the dual power system that continues to divide Libya to this day.

Sporadic clashes also persist, sometimes among internal factions of the two major governments that claim legitimate authority in Libya, such as occurred between military and militia units in Tripoli in May. Without a mutually agreed framework for Libya's unification and a United Nations road map left sidelined, both parties remain locked in their feud, though Alftise argued the Government of National Unity remained more open to a negotiated solution.

"Our government is more flexible, there are even some thoughts that maybe we can merge the two governments in order to have an election, and then we will have, of course, parliamentary elections, and then we have a presidential election, or maybe together," Alftise said.

"But what happened is the House of Representatives is under the control of Mr. Haftar," he added. "They cannot say something that he does not like."

FOREIGN INTRIGUE

While a return to large-scale fighting has thus far been avoided, fears loom over such a scenario plunging the country into another period of civil strife. Alftise suggested the decision of peace and war may ultimately be influenced by the whims of foreign powers, who have increasingly spread their influence in Libya.

For the Government of National Unity, this includes Turkey, which deployed personnel and drones among other assets to aid the Tripoli-based administration against the Libyan National Army's advances in 2020. Ankara's role is defended by the Government of National Unity as a necessary bulwark against the presence of Russia's Wagner Group private military company—largely since rebranded and reorganized under the Russian Defense Ministry as the Africa Corps—among the ranks of Haftar's forces.

Ibrahim Sahad, a member of Libya's High Council of State that succeeded the General National Congress in 2016, stated that Russian personnel had established "three or four air force bases in Libya," including in "very sensitive areas," such as the central district of Jufra, Benghazi's Benina International Airport and in Tobruk, where the Government of National Stability and Libyan National Army are headquartered. He warned such maneuvers should raise alarms in Europe and the U.S., though warnings have thus far gone unheeded.

"When we talk about the Russian presence and involvement, I see there is lack of sensitivities from the American side with that regard, as if it is something we can live with," Sahad told Newsweek. "No we cannot live with that."

"And even the future, not for us, also for the West, for NATO," he added. "Libya used to be the flank of NATO."

And elsewhere on the continent itself, he predicted that inaction on Russia's projection of influence through the deployment of personnel in regions like the Sahel could precipitate a broader geopolitical shift for Africa at a time when many nations have already abandoned ties with Europe.

"The Russian presence in Libya is not only controlling Libya. No, they are controlling Africa," Sahad said. "They are sending

troops to other African countries, and they want to be in control of them. And if this continues, if we allow that to continue, they will find one time that Africa will come to the other side."

The Kremlin's interest in Libya is deep-rooted as NATO's intervention prompted a severe backlash from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who went on to double down on back for another Soviet-era ally facing an Arab Spring revolt, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Assad's downfall at the hands of an Islamist-led rebel offensive last year has reportedly been followed by an uptick in contacts with Haftar, who met Putin in May at Russia's 80th anniversary World War II Victory Day parade.

It's not just Moscow or even adversaries of Washington that the Government of National Unity suspects of seeking a lasting piece of Libya. Sahad argued that the United Arab Emirates had thrown its weight behind Haftar in a bid for port access and other shares of the country.

"The UAE has this sickness of wanting to control harbors. They came to buy New York Harbor one time," Sahad said. "The control of the Libyan harbors, some of them is to be part of the Libyan oil industry, and to be part of the financial sector, especially the banks, and there are other things, and I have no doubt that they have this ambition, and I have no doubt that Haftar agrees with that."

Egypt, too, has expressed its ambitions to stake control over parts of eastern Libya, according to Sahad, who cited Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's 2020 remarks calling any attack by the Government of National Unity's forces against the Government of National Stability-held coastal city of Sirte a "red line" that would result in direct Egyptian military intervention.

Russia and the UAE have rejected allegations that they provided direct support for the Libyan National Army during its westward offensives, while Egypt has framed its stance as necessary for maintaining security along its border with Libya.

Still, Sahad argued that addressing runaway foreign influence was key to unlocking progress on other fronts, including reconciling the split nature of Libya's governance and paving the way for U.S. investment in Libya's resource industry.

"If we put an end to this interference, our situation will be better," Sahad said. "Maybe it will be easier for us to reach an agreement and unify the institutions. A lot of things could happen by then. But with this interference we have, we have real big problems in that regard. The U.S. can help a lot."

"Another sphere is our oil industry faces a lot of problems because of a lack of experts," he added. "The American companies started the oil industry in the 50s, now we have a lot of fields not explored yet. I think United States companies have a big interest there. And it's not only oil, we have other minerals."

To address the growing presence of foreign actors, Sahad called on the U.S. to crack down on the nations suspected of playing destabilizing roles in Libya. While he said he was encouraged by moves such as the Libyan Stabilization Act that passed the House of Representatives in 2021 but was never signed into law, he argued he has not "seen any real effort from either this administration, nor the administration before, to put some pressure on the United Arab Emirates or Egypt to stop their interference in Libya."

Attention to foreign influence in Libya has also sparked some acknowledgment within the Government of National Unity regarding Turkey's growing role, particularly after Ankara began fostering closer dialogue with the House of Representatives as part of what Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan referred to in August as a step in line with his

nation's "multidimensional diplomatic efforts."

"Of course, the Turks always like to have some existence in the area, because they feel they are a power in the area. And nowadays they are," Alftise said. "They were, of course, in the Ottoman Empire, and now they are trying to have a new history there."

AT THE CROSSROADS OF CRISES

Risks posed by Libya's fractured state and the presence of foreign actors are compounded by instability in neighboring nations—some of which can be traced back to the initial shock of Qaddafi's sudden downfall and the subsequent vacuum of power.

The collapse of Libya in 2011 sparked a major influx of arms and fighters through the Sahel, with ethnic Tuareg fighters who once fought on both sides of the Libyan Civil War staging a 2012 uprising in Mali. This was followed by an explosion of Islamist insurgency, including groups linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, that is spreading across the region today.

To the southeast, Haftar's troops have been accused of aiding the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces against the Sudanese Armed Forces in the civil war that first erupted in Sudan in 2021. The Government of National Unity has further alleged that Haftar supported the Rapid Support Forces with fuel transfers backed by the United Arab Emirates, though UAE officials have repeatedly rejected direct involvement in Sudan's civil war.

The conflict in Sudan is considered to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis today, driving millions of people out of the large African nation. Many of these refugees from Sudan and others fleeing conflicts and harsh conditions elsewhere in Africa find their way to Libya, taking advantage of the country's disunity and unpatrolled borders to embark on a treacherous trip across the Mediterranean to Europe.

Nearly 60,000 people survived the journey and another 1,500 are known to have perished in 2025 alone, according to the European Union's Frontex border security agency, which identifies Libya as the primary departure point. The total number of those who fled from Libya by sea since 2011 is believed to at least be in the hundreds of thousands, with potentially more unreported.

"Europe has a big problem with the immigrants who come with ships," Sahad said. "Why do we have these immigrants? Because we could not control the borders, our southern borders. We cannot control them. We need help in that regard. We need technology."

"We cannot control the vast borders in the south, but with technology, you can, and Europe is not giving us that help," he added.

Yet there's hope Washington may be able to step in here, as Sahad believes this is another thing the United States can help us with, and do so with a promise of reciprocal benefits.

"We're not saying that we are demanding or asking, but also Libya will give the United States the energy, and we will give their states the stability of that region," Sahad said. "If Libya is stable, then there are big advantages for Northern Africa, for Africa."

Alftise reiterated this point, arguing that, while the Government of National Unity has so far been able to keep the threat of Islamist militant resurgence in the west at bay, the lack of control over the southern border and growing jihadi infiltration of nations such as Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger meant U.S. support was necessary not only for safeguarding Libya, but far beyond as well.

"It's not only for the sake of Libya," Alftise said, "it's the sake of Africa and the sake of southern Europe."

UNITY FIRST

As the 15th anniversary of the uprising that toppled Qaddafi nears in February, uncertainty prevails over the nation of roughly 7.5 million people once considered one of the richest nations in Africa that has still yet to rebound from its pre-2011 economic performance.

Alftise said that "there is still a big hope that things will be okay," though he acknowledged a wave of nostalgia for Qaddafi's rule, fueled largely by social media and foreign outlets. In response, he said, "we're trying to tell the people that era has more bad things than good things."

And while the cautious calm that continues to hold has produced some positive growth in the economy and social development in recent years, so much potential is hindered by the still-unwavering split. And while the cautious calm that continues to hold has produced some positive growth in the economy and social development in recent years, so much potential is hindered by the still-unwavering split between the opposing governments.

In the east, Haftar continues to entrench his position, promoting at least two of his sons, Saddam and Khalid, to senior military positions and a third, Belqasim, as his top political adviser. Critics accuse of him emulating Qaddafi in his dynastic tendencies and strongman persona that overshadows Government of National Stability Prime Minister Osama Hammad.

In the west, Dbeibah faces not only the rival government in Tobruk and its foreign backers but also a complex array of internal factions, including Islamist forces who seek to push their own vision of Libya in backing the Government of National Unity. His leverage is further challenged by incessant clashes over Libya's oil and gas infrastructure, a backbone of the national economy that has been sapped by the dual power rivalry and rampant fuel smuggling.

Nevertheless, Dbeibah's administration continues to enjoy international recognition and his outreach to the White House has not gone unnoticed. Trump's senior adviser on Africa affairs, Massad Boulos, traveled to Tripoli in July to hold talks with Dbeibah that reportedly included a Libyan offer to forge a \$70 billion economic partnership with the U.S.

But Libya has also caught the eye of the administration on another matter often tied to Trump's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East and North Africa. In April, Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, named Libya as among six nations that could potentially join the Abraham Accords, a series of agreements through which the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco established diplomatic ties with Israel in late 2020 and early 2021.

The deals marked the first Arab-Israeli normalization pacts since those struck by Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, save for Mauritania's short-lived recognition offered in 1999 and rescinded amid a war in Gaza a decade later. Like the rest of the Arab world and many Muslim nations, Libya has never recognized Israel and has consistently expressed support for Palestinians, once constituting a major source of Palestinian militia funds and arms throughout the Qaddafi era.

Even years from Qaddafi's ouster, the Israeli-Palestinian issue remains a sensitive one for Libya. Both Alftise and Sahad said unifying and stabilizing the nation remained the first order of business before such decisions could be taken.

"The important thing for us at the moment is to revive Libya as a country with a civil government, with democracy, so we can have our country in a sovereign situ-

ation, and it could take whatever decisions built on, one, the sovereignty of the nation, and, two, the agreement of the people, because that's democracy," Sahad said. "So, this is what we are facing."

CELEBRATING PASTOR PAUL JACKSON

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable leadership and service of Pastor Paul Jackson as we honor his spiritual guidance at Jefferson Avenue Community Church. Pastor Jackson's influence extends far beyond the walls of the church, making a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

As a proud Western New York native, Pastor Jackson was raised with the strong support of his family from the very beginning, helping to shape him into a natural leader in all aspects of his life. After graduating from Emerson High School, where he excelled academically, Pastor Jackson answered the call to begin his spiritual journey at Moody Bible Institute, Pentecostal Temple Bible Institute, and later earned his Bachelor's degree in Ministry from Antioch Bible College.

Pastor Jackson is supported by his beloved wife, First Lady Vivian Ann Jackson. Together, they have formed a family grounded in faith with the addition of the "second love of their lives", Bridgette Nicole Jackson. Their marriage exemplifies the strength found in a family that prays and worships together. Pastor Jackson has made a priority of reaching out to his community, serving as the Spiritual Advisor for the Canisius High School football team for nearly two decades.

As we celebrate Pastor Jackson's unwavering dedication, let us recognize the countless lives he has touched and the profound impact he has made at Jefferson Avenue Community Church and beyond. Pastor Jackson's service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of his inspired leadership.

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 Thursday, December 4, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 8

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nominations of John DeLeeuw, of Texas, and Michael Graham, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Robert Harvey, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Richard Kloster, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Admiral Kevin Lunday to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, and Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy. S-216

DECEMBER 9

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine S. 290, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing emergency communications centers in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 9-1-1 systems, S. 332, to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, S. 446, to prohibit Big Cypress National Preserve from being designated as wilderness or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, S. 573, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Denali, S. 601, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky, S. 730, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, S. 791, to establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland as an affiliated area of the National Park System, H.R. 186, and S. 858, bills to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients, S. 1088, to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, S. 1131, to establish the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in the State of Georgia, S. 1135, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, S. 1280, to designate six creeks in North Carolina in honor of the lives lost in a plane crash in Carteret County, North Carolina, on February 13, 2022, S. 1353, to extend the authority for modifications to the Second Divi-

sion Memorial in the District of Columbia, S. 1377, to ensure the maintenance of a herd of horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, S. 1518, to redesignate the Saratoga National Battlefield Park as the "Saratoga National Battlefield Park", S. 1777, to amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, to redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the "Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center", S. 1870, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 1926, to encourage reduction of disposable plastic products in units of the National Park System, S. 2270, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the portion of the Myakka River in Sarasota County, Florida, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2308, to amend the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to collect a surcharge from international visitors to units of the National Park System, S. 2369, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove or permanently conceal the name of Francis Newlands on the grounds of the memorial fountain located at Chevy Chase Circle in the District of Columbia, S. 2385, to codify Executive Order 14253 relating to restoring truth and sanity to American history, S. 2546, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 2708, to enhance the preservation, maintenance, and management of national historic trails and national scenic trails, S. 2970, to authorize the use of off-highway vehicles in certain areas of the Capitol Reef National Park, Utah, and H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. SD-366

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine protecting children online against offenders. SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Education and the American Family

To hold hearings to examine building pathways, focusing on advancing workforce development in the 21st century. SD-430

3 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine balancing the interests of local radio, songwriters, and performers in the digital age. SD-226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SVC-217

4:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine a review of the activities and fiscal year 2026 funding priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative. SD-138

DECEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine arms race. SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of retirement. SD-430

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine defining our healthcare problem, and principles we should follow to solve it. SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To hold hearings to examine maritime security in Africa, focusing on assessing threats to United States commercial diplomacy and national security interests. SD-419

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine running government like a small business, focusing on waste and fraud. SR-428A

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine aging with purpose, focusing on the positive impact of seniors in today's economy. SH-216

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending calendar legislation. SR-418

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

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Reserve's big bank welfare program, focusing on the IORB regime. SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs). SD-419

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8455–S8491

Measures Introduced: Twenty-six bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3316–3341, S.J. Res. 98, and S. Res. 524–528. **Pages S8482–83**

Measures Passed:

Compassion in Adoption and Foster Care: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 516, ensuring that the adoption and foster care system in the United States is child-centered and compassionate and that young people aging out of foster care are provided with adequate support and resources to transition successfully to independent adulthood, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S8487

National Principals Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 518, designating October 2025 as “National Principals Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S8487

National Move Over Law Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 527, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Move Over Law Day.

Page S8487

Lights On Afterschool: Senate agreed to S. Res. 528, supporting after-school programs and Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of after-school programs held on October 23, 2025.

Page S8487

Measures Considered:

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision: Senate began consideration of S.J. Res. 91, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision”, after agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Pages S8472–73

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 630), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution.

Pages S8472–73

Rodriguez Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Pages S8473–75

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 63 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 631), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S8474

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the previous order with respect to S.J. Res. 91, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision”, be vitiated, and that at 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 4, 2025, Senate proceed to consideration of H.J. Res. 131, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision”, and Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, and if passed S.J. Res. 91 be indefinitely postponed; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, following disposition of H.J. Res. 131, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. Res. 520, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; and that at 1:45 p.m., Senate execute the order with respect to the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Pages S8487–88

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 57 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 629), Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Pages S8455–72, S8491

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 628), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S8463**

Messages from the House: **Pages S8476–77**

Executive Communications: **Pages S8477–78**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S8478–82**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8483–85**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S8485–87

Additional Statements: **Page S8476**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S8487**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S8487**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S8487**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—631) **Pages S8463, S8472–74**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:43 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8491.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

ABDUCTION OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine the abduction of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation, after receiving testimony from Senators Blumenthal and Klobuchar; Representatives McCaul and Fitzpatrick; Olha Stefanishyna, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Maksym Maksymov, Office of the President of Ukraine, Mykola Kuleba, Save Ukraine, Kateryna Rashevskya, Regional Center for Human Rights, all of Ukraine; and Nathaniel A. Raymond, Yale School of Public Health Humanitarian Research Lab, New Haven, Connecticut.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, who was introduced by Senator Sheehy, and Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, who was introduced by Senator Hagerty, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Lee Beaman, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, who was introduced by Senators Blackburn and Hagerty, and Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who was introduced by Senator McCormick, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported 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, Non-proliferation, 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.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported 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.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine making the health care system affordable, after receiving testimony from Joel C. White, Council for Affordable Health Coverage, Washington, D.C.; Marcie Strouse, Capitol Benefits Group, Des Moines, Iowa; and Claudia M. Fegan, Physicians for a National Health Program, Chicago, Illinois.

VA HEALTHCARE MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine medication management in VA healthcare, after receiving testimony from Alyssa M. Hundrup, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Julie Kroviak, Principal Deputy Assistant Inspector General, in the role of Acting Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, Office of Inspector General, and Ilse Wiechers, Acting Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Erin Fletcher, Wounded Warrior Project, Chicago, Illinois.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee received a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from members of the intelligence community.

AGING AND COMMUNITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine aging and the impact of community during the holidays, after receiving testimony from John Offerdahl, Offerdahl's Hand-Off Foundation, Oakland Park, Florida; Jason Resendez, National Alliance for Caregiving, and Alison Barkoff, former Acting Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator of the Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, The George Washington University, both of Washington, D.C.; and Emily Ladau, West New York, New Jersey.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 49 public bills, H.R. 6370–6418; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 922–925, were introduced. **Pages H5024–26**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5027–28**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Recess: The House recessed at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H5004**

Communication from the Clerk of the House: The Chair announced that, pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Clerk appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Mr. Benjamin Francis-Fallon of Washington, D.C. **Page H5005**

Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act: The House considered H.R. 1049, to ensure that parents are aware of foreign influence in their child's public school. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, December 4th. **Pages H5007–10**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H5008**

H. Res. 916, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4312), (H.R. 1005), (H.R. 1049),

(H.R. 1069), (H.R. 2965) and (H.R. 4305), was agreed to yesterday, December 2nd.

Recess: The House recessed at 1 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Pages H5010–11**

Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act of 2025: The House passed 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, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 223 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 310. Consideration began yesterday, December 2nd. **Page H5011**

H. Res. 916, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4312), (H.R. 1005), (H.R. 1049), (H.R. 1069), (H.R. 2965) and (H.R. 4305), was agreed to yesterday, December 2nd.

Destroying Unnecessary, Misaligned, and Prohibitive Red Tape Act: The House passed 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, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 269 yeas to 146 nays, Roll No. 311. Consideration began yesterday, December 2nd. **Pages H5011–12**

H. Res. 916, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4312), (H.R. 1005), (H.R. 1049), (H.R. 1069), (H.R. 2965) and (H.R. 4305), was agreed to yesterday, December 2nd.

Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems Act: The House passed 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, by a yea-and-nay vote of 242 yeas to 176 nays, Roll No. 312.

Pages H5012–13

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To require public elementary and secondary schools to disclose certain funds received from, or contracts with, a foreign source, and for other purposes."

Page H5013

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted.

Pages H5005–06

H. Res. 916, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4312), (H.R. 1005), (H.R. 1049), (H.R. 1069), (H.R. 2965) and (H.R. 4305), was agreed to yesterday, December 2nd.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, December 4.

Page H5013

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5011, H5011–12, and H5012–13.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MEMBER DAY HEARING

Committee on the Budget: Subcommittee on the Budget held a hearing entitled "Member Day Hearing". Testimony was heard from Chairman Van Duyne, and Representatives Baird, Cammack, Feenstra, Huizenga, Schweikert, Nunn of Iowa, Timmons, Cloud, Bean, McCormick, Moran, and Brecheen.

PUBLIC FUNDS, PRIVATE POLITICS: EXAMINING BIAS IN THE TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled "Public Funds, Private Politics: Examining Bias in the Truman Scholarship Program". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SAFEGUARDING STUDENT PRIVACY AND PARENTAL RIGHTS: A REVIEW OF FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT AND PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Edu-

cation held a hearing entitled "Safeguarding Student Privacy and Parental Rights: A Review of FERPA and PPRA". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1343, the "Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act"; H.R. 1588, the "Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act"; H.R. 1665, the "DIGITAL Applications Act"; H.R. 1681, the "Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment 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 Over-regulation 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". H.R. 1343, H.R. 1588, H.R. 1665, H.R. 1681, H.R. 1731, H.R. 6046, H.R. 2289, H.R. 3474, H.R. 3699, H.R. 5184, H.R. 4690, H.R. 4593, H.R. 4758, and H.R. 4626 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 1355 was ordered reported, as amended.

BUILDING CAPACITY: REDUCING GOVERNMENT ROADBLOCKS TO HOUSING SUPPLY

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Building Capacity: Reducing Government Roadblocks to Housing Supply". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a 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. 1848, to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Houthis, 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. 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; 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. 6347, to reauthorize the Global Child Thrive Act of 2020, and for other purposes; H.R. 4413, to provide for non-applicability 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; and H.R. 6338, to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons or vessels that engage in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. H.R. 5490, H.R. 6297, H.R. 1848, H.R. 5021, H.R. 6230, and H.R. 4397 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 4291, H.R. 6347, H.R. 4413, and H.R. 6338 were ordered reported, without amendment.

WHEN BADGES BECOME TARGETS: HOW ANTI-LAW ENFORCEMENT RHETORIC FUELS VIOLENCE AGAINST OFFICERS

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “When Badges Become Targets: How Anti-Law Enforcement Rhetoric Fuels Violence Against Officers”. Testimony was heard from Daniel Hodges, Law Enforcement Officer, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, Washington D.C.; and public witnesses.

BALANCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET: EXAMINING PROPOSALS FOR A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government held a hearing entitled “Balancing the Federal Budget: Examining Proposals for a Balanced Budget Amendment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SEA LION PREDATION IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing entitled “Sea Lion Predation in the Pacific Northwest”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE AND EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Unleashing American Energy Dominance and Ex-

ploring New Frontiers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a business meeting on approval of updated Subcommittee Rosters; and approval of revised leadership of the Subcommittee on Aviation. Updated Subcommittee Rosters was agreed to.

AMERICA BUILDS: THE STATE OF THE ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY (AAM) INDUSTRY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “America Builds: The State of the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Industry”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a 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”. Testimony was heard from Margarita Devlin, Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Benefits, Performing the Delegable Duties of the Undersecretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

PROMOTING GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS FOR AMERICAN WORKERS AND BUSINESSES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Tax held a hearing entitled “Promoting Global Competitiveness for American Workers and Businesses”. Testimony was heard from Former Member Kevin Brady and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1195)

H.R. 1512, to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines. Signed on December 2, 2025. (Public Law 119–45)

H.J. Res.133, requesting the Secretary of the Interior to authorize unique and one-time arrangements for displays on the National Mall and the Washington Monument during the period beginning on December 31, 2025, and ending on January 5, 2026. Signed on December 2, 2025. (Public Law 119–46)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 4, 2025**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “In Their Corner:

Creating More Opportunities for American Boxers”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “119th Congress Member Day”, 9:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, December 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11:30 a.m.), Senate will begin consideration of H.J. Res. 131, Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision, and vote on passage of the joint resolution at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of H.J. Res. 131, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. Res. 520, En Bloc Consideration of Certain Nominations.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, December 4

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 1049—Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act.

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