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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

From wherever we have come, and wherever we now find ourselves, may our seeking lead us to You, O Lord. No matter how far we have wandered, regardless of the distance we have strayed, You have always remained near to us. May we return to You that You may have mercy on us.

Whether our way of life has proven unsustainable, or our life decisions shameful, You have always maintained Your love for us. May we abandon all that has dishonored You and surrender our willfulness to Your forgiveness.

Then, by Your forbearance, may we realize that our thoughts are not Your thoughts, nor are our ways Your ways. Your Heavens are high above the Earth, so Your will far surpasses what our limited perspective can imagine.

On this day, grant us the overwhelming joy to be found knowing that You want us to have a role in Your sovereign plan. May we engage in the work You have set before us with gratitude for the opportunity You have given us to serve You and this Nation at this time.

And may this day bring glory to You and peace in our lives and the lives of those whom we have been called to represent.

In Your mighty name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BILIRAKIS 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.

SWEARING IN OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now administer the oath to Anne Dressendorfer Binsted, of Virginia, appointed November 25, 2025, to act as and to exercise the duties of Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives effective December 31, 2025. The Chief Administrative Officer-designate will now approach the well.

The Chair will now swear in the Chief Administrative Officer of the House.

The Chief Administrative Officer-designate took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RABBI GARY KLEIN

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rabbi Gary Klein, a devoted spiritual leader, dear friend, and true mensch.

For 35 years, Rabbi Klein served as the spiritual heart of Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor, Florida. He answered this sacred calling with humility, wisdom, and compassion. He guided his congregation with warmth and moral clarity. He built a community rooted in kindness, responsibility, and faith.

I was honored to join him in his congregation for many Passover Seders, moments that reflected his generosity of spirit that I will never ever forget.

Rabbi Klein's commitment to tikkun olam extended beyond the synagogue. A trusted adviser on Israel, he served on AIPAC's National Council and worked tirelessly to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. I will miss him dearly. He was one of a kind and irreplaceable.

Mr. Speaker, may his memory be eternal and a blessing, and may God comfort his grieving widow, Ilene, and devoted children. He was a wonderful, wonderful person.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ILLEGAL TARIFFS

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, no matter who you are shopping for this holiday season, you will be paying a lot more due to Trump's illegal tariffs.

Prices for toys and games are up 17 percent. Clothing and shoes are up 20 percent. Electronics are up 34 percent.

Printed on recycled paper.

Home and kitchen gifts are up a whopping 38 percent.

Too many Arizona families are getting squeezed, and their paychecks are buying less and less. Joy and happiness are being replaced with stress and fear, fear that they can't provide for their families, and fear that things aren't getting any better.

Until Congress stands up to Trump and his illegal, reckless tariffs, things won't get better. Arizona families will continue to face uncertainty, but the Speaker of this House is about to send Congress home for the holidays without a single vote to rein in the President's abuse of tariff power, not one vote.

Enough is enough. House Republicans need to stand up for their constituents, stand up to Trump, and put an end to this tax on American families.

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

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF DAVE LANGE

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

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Dave Lange, who is retiring this month after a nearly 40-year career in law enforcement, including 29 years with the Nicollet County Sheriff's Department.

A proud son of southern Minnesota, Sheriff Lange joined the department right out of high school as a jailer-dispatcher. He then went on to work briefly in North Mankato before returning to the sheriff's department for good.

In 2002, he was elected sheriff, a position he has proudly held for the past 23 consecutive years. Since joining in the mid-1980s, Sheriff Lange has seen the department navigate decades of change. During his years of leadership, he spearheaded the procurement of new vehicles and equipment and oversaw the implementation of new technologies within the department.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sheriff Lange for his years of service and the example that he has set for all of us in southern Minnesota. I offer congratulations to Sheriff Lange on his retirement and best of luck in this next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHUCK MANGIONE

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rochester's own Chuck Mangione, a world-class musician whose unique sound carried our city's spirit to every corner of the globe.

Born and raised in Rochester, Chuck never forgot where he came from. From his early days playing alongside his brother, Gap, as The Jazz Brothers, to studying at and later leading the Eastman School of Music's jazz program, Chuck's commitment to his hometown never wavered. His flugelhorn gave us classics like ''Feels So Good,'' earned Grammy Awards, and became the soundtrack to unforgettable moments.

In Rochester, we remember Chuck not just for his fame but for his generosity, joy, and the pride he shared in our community. He leaves a legacy that will keep our city swinging for generations. May we honor him by celebrating our hometown music the way Chuck always did.

□ 0910

HONORING STORM VICTIMS IN WASHINGTON STATE

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the communities all over the Eighth Congressional District and throughout Washington State that are feeling the tremendous impacts of this week's and last week's storms and floods.

Nearly 5 trillion gallons of rain in just 7 days have swelled rivers to record highs and at record speeds, trapping many before they even had a chance to evacuate. One person drowned. Countless houses were severely damaged; some even lifted right off their foundations. Farms were under water. Livestock was evacuated. So many families are worried about how they will ever get back on their feet.

Amid this tragedy, we also saw the very best in our communities. Neighbors helped neighbors. Emergency planners and government leaders kept careful watch, planned the evacuations, prevented dams from overtopping, monitored levees, and arranged for temporary shelter.

Our first responders have displayed immense bravery, working around the clock to conduct helicopter and swift water rescues, sometimes putting their own lives at risk. They are true heroes, and we are deeply grateful.

As our communities begin this process of recovery, I want them to know that I will do everything I can here with my colleagues to ensure they get the Federal support they need to recover.

SUPPORTING WHOLE MILK FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

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

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that promotes the health and well-being of America's schoolchildren, while strengthening American agriculture, including the world-class dairy products and family farms across Central New York and the Mohawk Valley. That legislation, Mr. Speaker, is the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act.

Earlier this week, the House passed this bill with overwhelming bipartisan support, a clear sign that commonsense policy can still bring Democrats and Republicans together.

This bipartisan bill that I proudly cosponsored does something simple and practical. It gives schools the flexibility to serve nutritious milk options, while supporting local dairy farmers.

Since whole milk was removed from school cafeterias, milk consumption has dropped sharply. Kids aren't meeting recommended daily intake, and that matters for their health and their focus. Speaking as a former teacher for nearly three decades, it matters for their academic success.

Mr. Speaker, notably, this bill doesn't mandate changes. It simply restores choice. Kids can't learn on empty stomachs. This is the right policy for our schools, for our farmers, and for our country. I thank my colleagues for supporting it.

IMPACT OF EXPIRING TAX CREDITS

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the impact of the Republican healthcare crisis in my community, particularly those hurt by the expiring tax credits.

One of those people is Gerry from Kirkland. Gerry has cancer and depends on his Affordable Care Act coverage to afford treatment. Right now, Gerry and his wife pay $2,800 a month in premiums. Without the ACA tax credits, the same plan next year will cost him nearly $4,500 a month. That is a 67 percent increase.

Gerry and his wife thought they could retire comfortably. Instead, they are facing $54,000 a year in insurance premiums alone because of the healthcare crisis that Republicans and Donald Trump created. There is no way they will be able to sustain themselves with that much of a price increase.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to keep fighting for Gerry and the millions of other Americans so that they can afford the coverage they need.

GUN SAFETY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of someone from my district who I know personally. Her name is Mia Tretta.

In 2019, as a 15-year-old freshman at Saugus High School, Mia was shot in

the stomach during a horrific attack that took the life of her best friend. She survived, endured surgeries, and fought to reclaim her life, eventually earning her way into Brown University.

This past weekend, the nightmare returned. While studying for finals in her dorm, Mia was forced to shelter in place as a shooter roamed the Brown campus. She told reporters no one should ever have to go through one shooting, let alone two.

We are failing our children. It is a national disgrace that a student in America can survive a high school shooting, only to face another one before graduating college. We cannot accept this as normal.

Mr. Speaker, we need commonsense gun safety legislation now, reforms supported by the vast majority of Americans, to end this epidemic.

Mia and her generation deserve to study in peace, not fear.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration is at it again. It is death by a thousand cuts to our Nation's antihunger programs. Nearly $200 billion stolen from Federal food assistance in the big, ugly bill wasn't enough. Now they are literally trying to bury the data on hunger.

In September, USDA announced that it was canceling its annual ''Household Food Security Report'' which for 30 years has measured food insecurity data. More recently, we are hearing that USDA is canceling food security questions as part of the Census Bureau's population surveys.

Mr. Speaker, at first blush, these cancellations may sound wonky. This vital data helps researchers, policymakers, and community-based organizations understand the problem of hunger and target resources to those most in need.

Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise that Trump doesn't want USDA to measure how many people go hungry, as his big, ugly bill kicks millions and millions of people off of food assistance and makes hunger worse. Trump is literally burying the data to hide how terrible his policies are. We can and we should do more to end hunger now.

HONORING CLAUDIA MOYNE

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Claudia Moyne. She served as mayor of Sea Cliff when I was mayor of Glen Cove, and she was a close colleague. Claudia was an extraordinary educator, public servant, and pillar of the Sea Cliff community.

Her life reflected a deep commitment to learning and service. She devoted her professional career to shaping young minds as a social studies teacher and department chair at Wheatley high school where she inspired generations to think critically and believe in their own potential.

Claudia gave tirelessly to her community, most notably as the first woman to serve as the mayor of the village of Sea Cliff. She knew her neighbors personally, cared deeply for the well-being of the village, and remained actively engaged until the very end of her life.

At the center of Claudia's life was her family. She was a devoted wife of John, a loving mother to Nicholas and Parvin, and a proud grandmother and sister.

Those who knew her well will remember her sharp intellect, warmth, and exceptional energy. Her life was a great example of a life well lived.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of New York's Third Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to her family and loved ones. I ask that this recognition and recollection of her remarkable life be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

□ 0920

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6703, LOWER HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 498, DO NO HARM IN MEDICAID ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3492, PROTECT CHILDREN'S INNOCENCE ACT; AND RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4776, STANDARDIZING PERMITTING AND EXPEDITING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

MR. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 953 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 953

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6703) to ensure access to affordable health insurance. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Education and Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 498) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for gender transition procedures for minors. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3492) to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration of minors. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. During consideration of the bill (H.R. 4776) to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to clarify ambiguous provisions and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process, pursuant to House Resolution 951, the further amendment specified in section 5 of this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 5. The amendment referred to in section 4 of this resolution is as follows:

''Page 29, after line 6, insert the following:

SEC. 4. PRESERVATION OF ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTIONS.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not apply to any agency action with respect to which a Federal agency has, during the period beginning on January 20, 2025, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) filed a motion to voluntarily remand; or

(2) otherwise reopened, reconsidered, or initiated corrective action under the statutory authority of the Federal agency, regardless of whether the Federal agency has completed such corrective action as of the date of enactment of this Act.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 1 hour.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee met last night and reported out a rule providing for consideration of three measures: H.R. 6703, Lower Healthcare Premiums for All Americans Act; H.R. 498, Do No Harm in Medicaid Act; and H.R. 3492, Protect Children's Innocence Act.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 953 provides for consideration of H.R. 6703, the Lower Healthcare Premiums for All Americans Act, under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, or their respective designees, and one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 498, the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act, under a closed rule with 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, or their respective designees, and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 3492, the Protect Children's Innocence Act, under a structured rule with 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, or their respective designees, and provides each one a motion to recommit.

Finally, the rule provides that, during consideration of H.R. 4776, pursuant to House Resolution 951, the further amendment specified in section 5 of this resolution shall be considered as adopted.

Mr. Speaker, this rule deals with several important bills that will lower healthcare costs for Americans and protect children. One of the bills, H.R. 3492, the Protect Children's Innocence Act, is led by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

This bill prohibits genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration for a minor, which generally is anyone under the age of 18 years, while also preserving the exception for this care if there is a legitimate medical need for certain procedures.

Another bill we are considering in this rule is H.R. 498, the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act, led by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW).

This is a simple bill that prohibits Federal medical dollars to pay for gender transition procedures for individuals under the age of 18. The bill also includes protections for individuals if some of those treatments are medically necessary.

These are important bills to ensure that Federal taxpayer dollars are not going toward a minor's gender transition surgery if it is not medically necessary. These bills also put guardrails in place so that minors cannot make permanent life-altering decisions before they are 18 years of age.

Finally, we are considering H.R. 6703, the Lower Healthcare Premiums for All Americans Act, led by the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

This bill lowers premiums for Americans, creates more insurance options, brings greater transparency, and cuts red tape.

Unlike our Democrat friends' plan, our Republican plan actually lowers premiums by double digits, roughly 11 percent, according to the data.

All the Democrats want to do is throw billions more dollars toward insurance companies. Instead of attempting to lower the premiums of the individuals who are on the insurance plan that the Democrats created, which should be called the unaffordable care act, the Democrats have cried wolf that Republicans are responsible for premiums being unaffordable, but let's get the facts straight.

Every single Democrat voted in support of the so-called Affordable Care Act. They claimed that people's premiums would be lowered; patients would have more choice; and if you like your doctor, you can keep him or her. However, just the opposite has happened. Their so-called Affordable Care Act has caused premiums to skyrocket. Due to this, the Democrats are too afraid to own up to the fact that their health plan has failed to actually lower premiums.

Instead, they have said to themselves: Hey, instead of acknowledging our failure, let's just blame the Republicans for that failure.

Mr. Speaker, I distinctly remember a hearing before the Committee on Energy and Commerce, shortly after I was elected, where most of the witnesses said that the so-called Affordable Care Act was going to make insurance premiums go up for Americans.

Mr. Speaker, that was over a decade ago, but the Democrats on the committee insisted that the witnesses were wrong and that Republicans were merely trying to scare the American people.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately for the American people, the witnesses were right. The so-called Affordable Care Act has, in fact, negatively impacted the price of health insurance in America. This plan, the so-called Affordable Care Act, is a major reason that your insurance premiums have gone up and have done so repeatedly.

When not blaming Republicans for the failures of this so-called Affordable Care Act, do you know what the Democrats' solution is? Folks watching this debate at home won't be surprised to know it. Democrats want to throw billions of additional dollars to healthcare insurance companies in an attempt to distract the American people from their own policy failures.

I don't know if you all have been following the news closely, but the insurance companies that the Democrats want to give an additional $85 billion to with their 3-year clean extension of the temporary COVID enhanced premium tax credits have not been knocking on the doors, Mr. Speaker, of the United States bankruptcy courts seeking protection or aid. In fact, they have been making record profits—record profits.

(930)

Further, we know these temporary COVID-enhanced premium tax credits have been riddled with waste, fraud, and abuse.

The independent Government Accountability Office recently came out with a preliminary report that showed one Social Security number was used to receive over 125 different insurance policies in 2023 alone. That is fraud.

There is also a huge amount of waste. Mr. Speaker, my estimate, based on data that I have seen, is that roughly 20 percent of enrollees in the temporary COVID-enhanced premium tax credits don't really exist. They are shadow enrollees.

Let me explain. In most healthcare insurance plans, they generally have about 15 percent of the enrollees who make no claims in a given year. In the arena of the temporary COVID-enhanced premium tax credits, that number for those particular policies that have no claims is closer to 35 percent. There is no reasonable explanation, Mr. Speaker, other than those extra 20 percent of people not making claims don't really exist. Now, I call this waste and not fraud, and that is because I actually believe the insurance companies don't know which enrollees are shadow enrollees.

How does this happen? It is a glitch in the way the bill was written originally. People move around. If an individual signed up for a program in north Florida to receive the enhanced premium tax credit and then moved to south Georgia, or even to another city in Florida, and signed up again, thinking, ''Well, I have moved, so I probably need a different plan,'' the consumer has a right to believe that somebody at their new plan or new company will notify the old carrier that they have switched policies.

The way the program was designed by our friends on the other side of the aisle, that never happens, and because an individual is automatically reenrolled each year, this can go on for years. Thus, over time, it builds up to that 20 percent of shadow enrollees.

We cannot, in good conscience, in defense of the American taxpayers' money, just cleanly extend these temporary COVID-enhanced premium tax credits without addressing the realities behind the waste, the fraud, and the abuse that is occurring in this program.

I also find it interesting that the Democrats voted twice to extend these temporary enhanced premium tax credits but specifically did not make these

premium tax credits permanent. They didn't do it. They had many opportunities to make these permanent if they wanted to do that as much as they say today, but they didn't. They had many opportunities to make these permanent if the enhanced premium tax credits were as imperative to make the system work as they will claim here on the floor today, and have been for several weeks, but they didn't do it.

Whose fault is that? Logic would tell us it is the Democrats' fault, but when it comes to healthcare, the Democrats are never willing to admit their policies failed. What do they do? Blame Republicans.

In the Inflation Reduction Act, Mr. Speaker, the Democrats prioritized giving out around $1 trillion to Green New Deal initiatives instead of making their temporary premium tax credit program permanent.

The fact is, even they couldn't find the votes when they had control of both Houses and the White House to make the enhanced premium tax credits permanent. Now, they are demanding Republicans do what they could not do and clean up their mess, which was an add-on to the so-called Affordable Care Act.

I can't make that make sense, and, Mr. Speaker, I bet you can't either.

What are they asking for now? You guessed it: another temporary extension that fails to address the underlying causes of the skyrocketing costs; doesn't deal with the waste, fraud, and abuse; and worsens healthcare access caused by their so-called Affordable Care Act. Instead, they just want to blame Republicans, use it as a political issue, and give more money to insurance companies making enormous profits.

What the Republicans have drafted is a plan to address health issues across the board for our people and for our Nation. This bill brings more transparency on the pharmacy benefit manager middlemen, better known as PBMs, for employers. For too long, PBMs have gotten away with operating in a black box and causing drug prices to rise. We are bringing transparency into the commercial market for PBMs under this bill.

The bill also expands access to association health plans, which allow small businesses and self-employed workers to band together and purchase health insurance. One of the biggest complaints we hear from businesses, especially small businesses, is the rising costs of premiums that they have.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, Virginia tried to create these plans, and CMS told them they couldn't do it, that they would penalize them. The Virginia Association of Realtors—let's see if I got the name right—in an article from 2023, the leader said that they would create a plan for 7,000 association members who were uninsured because they don't make enough money to afford the Federal marketplace coverage—that would be the so-called Affordable Care Act—or to qualify for subsidies in the small group and individual plans.

These small businesses don't have the bargaining power that larger businesses do to help lower their premiums. Allowing these small businesses to join together and have more bargaining power will help lower their health insurance costs.

Another part of the plan codifies a 2019 Trump administration rule that allows employers to give tax-advantaged dollars to their employees, who can then use those dollars to purchase health insurance and for other medical costs. When businesses are planning their financial future, unpredictable health insurance costs and rising premiums make it almost financially unviable in some cases. Allowing businesses to have this option brings them more certainty and will give power to their employees to choose a plan that is best for them.

Another flexibility we grant under this bill is by exempting stop-loss insurance from the definition of health insurance coverage. Stop-loss coverage is a type of coverage an employer can purchase to protect themselves from unexpected catastrophic health claims if that employer has chosen to self-insure their employees' healthcare. This allows an employer to limit the financial risk imposed on them if an employee, or a few of them, have unusually high medical claims that exceed the budgeted amount. Some States have attempted to restrict or prohibit these plans, which makes a self-insured option less attractive.

This bill clarifies that this type of coverage is exempted from the definition of health insurance coverage, which means that these States would be limited in how they can regulate stop-loss coverage while still having to follow the regulations of ERISA.

On top of all of this, I would reiterate that the bill lowers premiums of individuals who are enrolled in the so-called Affordable Care Act plans by roughly 11 percent. It does this by appropriating dollars for cost-sharing reductions. This will stop the practice of silver loading by putting dollars toward lowering beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs, which in turn lowers premiums for Americans who are on the so-called Affordable Care Act, again, by roughly 11 percent.

Today, Mr. Speaker, you will hear my friends and colleagues on the other side, the Democrats, tell you this plan is not meaningful and that the only way to help individuals is to throw more money at big insurance. Throwing more money at the insurance companies, Mr. Speaker, is not the answer.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we heard a lot of words from the gentleman from Virginia, but the reality is that some people's premiums are going up 100 percent. Their big, grand plan is to give people an 11 percent coupon. This is laughable. It is pathetic.

Mr. Speaker, here we are, likely one of the very last floor debates of the year, and Republicans have decided to use it to eliminate healthcare for millions of Americans, not by accident, but because they simply don't care, because they are clueless. They are incompetent, and they are unbelievably out of touch.

This Republican majority has done nothing for working people, nothing to lower costs, nothing to make life more affordable, but, boy, have they delivered for billionaires, corporations, and special interests.

They have spent an entire year screwing over the people they represent. They are betraying the voters who sent them here.

□ 0940

They are pretending like Trump's economy is great, even though they know it sucks. They have showered tax breaks on the ultrarich. They have bent the knee to Big Oil, Big Pharma, and Big Tech. They have handed the Pentagon billions it didn't even ask for, and now they have the nerve to tell working families: Sorry, no money for your healthcare; can't do a thing.

I mean, really? Give me a freaking break.

The American people are begging for action on affordability. They are begging for action to lower the cost of healthcare. What more do they need to do to get Republicans to take action?

Premiums are about to double, triple, and in some cases, quadruple. Families could see their premiums increase as much as $1,000 a month.

Open enrollment deadlines have already passed. Parents have sat at their kitchen tables and realized that between rent, groceries, childcare, and Trump's tariffs driving up the cost of damn near everything, health insurance is something they could no longer afford.

Instead of a plan on healthcare, last night in the Rules Committee, I heard one Republican excuse after another about why they can't extend these tax credits that help people get insurance coverage.

You guys have been in charge of this place for 3 years, for God's sake. Donald Trump has been President or running for President for like a decade. Where the hell is the Republican plan on healthcare? Where is it?

Republicans keep blaming the ACA. They have spent years and years trying to repeal it, but they haven't repealed it yet because they have no replacement, no alternative.

Mr. Speaker, one of your own Republican Members called this entire charade political malpractice. He was right.

Meanwhile, Democrats have been trying for months to avert this crisis.

Governors, doctors, and patients have been sounding the alarm. Instead of working with us, they decided to shut down the government. Instead of trying to partner with us, Donald Trump is calling affordability a con job. That is unbelievable and so out of touch with reality.

Now, Republicans have slapped together this pathetic bill to provide cover, a bill that is not worth the paper it is printed on, a bill that actually kicks people off of coverage and fails to extend the tax credits that keep healthcare affordable for over 20 million Americans.

I mean, come on. Get real.

Just to make sure that we all know that they aren't serious, Republicans included a poison pill which brings us closer and closer to a nationwide abortion ban. They are going after abortion even in States where it is legal.

I mean, who the hell asked for this? This is like a plot of ''The Handmaid's Tale.''

Despite Republicans' endless attempts to undermine the ACA, it is popular because it works. After Democrats strengthened people's ability to pay for healthcare by plussing up the premium tax credits, enrollment more than doubled from around 11 million to over 24 million Americans with real health insurance.

Eighty-eight percent of that growth happened in States that Donald Trump won in 2024, by the way. So by choosing to not extend these credits, Republicans are simply hurting their own constituents, hurting the people who trusted them, and hurting the people who voted for them.

More than 20 million Americans will see their healthcare costs explode on January 1. Instead of a fix, we get a stupid, pathetic, last-minute bill designed to let Republicans cover their ass before they flee town for the holidays.

What a lousy, rotten, pathetic thing to do. This is a terrible bill that screws over millions of American families. I urge every Member of this House to vote ''hell, no'' on this Republican rule.

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am here this morning to urge my colleagues to support the rule which includes H.R. 3492, the Protect Children's Innocence Act.

My bill criminalizes the genital mutilation, such as this young lady right here, and chemical castration of children, imprisoning offenders for up to 10 years.

For far too long, children have been sexually exploited under the malicious falsehood of so-called gender-affirming care.

Mutilating children's bodies and giving them sterilizing drugs is anything but affirming and anything but care, especially given the fact that this is happening in too many cases before these kids are ever old enough to legally vote, legally get a tattoo, ink printed on their own bodies, and make real adult decisions.

The same drug that has been used to chemically castrate sex offenders has been given to children who have been manipulated into thinking they were born in the wrong body.

Everyone knows that children many times are confused about who they want to be when they grow up or about their identity. The children are not to blame. It is our job as adults to protect these kids and allow them to grow up safely and healthy and not make decisions that last a lifetime, such as this right here that happened to this teenage girl.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' to the rule, and I urge my colleagues to do the most responsible thing any adult can do for a child and protect them while they grow up.

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

The gentleman from Virginia keeps saying that if we really supported premium tax credits that we would have made them permanent.

I think we all know that is kind of ridiculous because I want to point out that their number one floor protocol requires that programs end or sunset by a certain date. I mean, it was part of their ridiculous Pledge to America. I mean, maybe they don't believe all of the garbage that they put out there, but that is their protocol.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, in a bill that they call ''big'' and ''beautiful,'' Republicans have approved the biggest reduction in access to healthcare in American history. They rejected my amendment in committee to maintain the tax credits that make the Affordable Care Act truly affordable.

Now, after shutting down the government for weeks, delaying further weeks, they offer this sorry bill, this loser, wrapped up in a bow for Christmas.

To Andrew and his family down in Austin, this phony bill means zero relief on premiums, premiums that are going to spike for his family by nearly $2,000 per month. It means nothing for Russell, a prostate cancer survivor just 2 years away from Medicare, wondering how he will afford the screenings and any necessary care.

For a mother in Austin, who contacted me about the stop-loss provision that is reinforced in this bill, it means the possibility that after her 3-year-old child was diagnosed with cancer, they will lose all their coverage.

These are real-life stories from my neighbors who have been forgotten by Republicans in their rush to provide more tax benefits for their billionaire buddies. They forget the struggles of so many working Americans.

Republicans have made over 70 attempts to destroy the Affordable Care Act, which they all opposed. They peddled junk insurance policies that would deny essential consumer protection benefits under the Affordable Care Act.

They could even make matters worse with one provision in this bill that will allow the reinstituting of preexisting conditions that were used to bar coverage for so many people before the Affordable Care Act.

This is their commitment to deny healthcare, to provide no relief on premiums that are soaring. In short, it means replacing ObamaCare with nothingcare.

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

It gets curiouser and curiouser.

The gentleman from Massachusetts referenced that our protocol is to have sunsets, but when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle had the opportunity to make permanent the premium enhanced tax credits, we didn't control the floor. They controlled the floor.

They don't have that protocol, as I understand it. They don't have that protocol that they put sunsets on things. They could have and did make other programs in the Green New Deal permanent. They could have made it permanent; they chose not to. They had the Senate, the House, and the Presidency.

It is not House Republican protocol that stopped them. It was a lack of votes or will. If the program is so imperative today, why wasn't it imperative for them 3 years ago?

□ 0950

I submit this is a paper tiger and that there is no substance in their arguments or, if some substance, just a small amount.

Mr. Speaker, they had the chance. They had the power, and they didn't use it to do what they want us to do today to fix their problems with their so-called Affordable Care Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I merely point out Republican hypocrisy which we deal with every single day, and we want to have a vote on extending the tax credits, but Republicans denied that in the Rules Committee.

Republicans could be bringing up a bill to make the enhanced premium tax credits permanent, but they are not. Instead, what they did is they brought a bill to the floor to make tax cuts for multimillionaires and billionaires permanent. Every millionaire in this country is going to get an $80,000 tax break. That is where their priorities are. Every millionaire will get an $80 million tax credit, and the 25 million people in this country who are relying on enhanced tax credits so they won't lose their health insurance, they are basically saying to them: To hell with you.

That is where their priorities are.

We don't share the same values when it comes to making sure the people in this country have healthcare that is affordable and that is quality. That is the difference. That is the difference.

We are here today to fight to make sure that we have a vote to extend these tax credits so that people do not lose their health insurance and people do not see their healthcare premiums explode.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SYKES).

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my proposed amendment to H.R. 6703 and in opposition to the underlying bill.

In 2 weeks, 22 million Americans will see their healthcare premiums double, triple, or quadruple, costing them hundreds of additional dollars a month, and more than 4 million Americans will lose their coverage entirely. This includes 12,300 Ohioans in my district alone.

This Republican healthcare crisis is completely and entirely preventable, and House Democrats and even a few Republicans have a solution: Extend the Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, what do House Republicans propose instead?

It is a collection of failed policies that would raise prices, leaving an additional 100,000 people without insurance and restricting access to abortion care, setting the stage for a national abortion ban.

However, I believe it is my job to offer solutions to help the American people and, specifically, my constituents in Ohio. That is why I proposed an amendment to remove the section responsible for increasing costs and limiting access to reproductive healthcare.

Right now, any and all abortion coverage provided under marketplace plans are not paid for by Federal dollars. However, this bill would impose unprecedented restrictions on private dollars and is yet another Republican attempt to ban reproductive healthcare coverage across this country.

It is unacceptable that Congress is about to head home having done nothing—nothing—to protect the millions of Americans who will lose coverage on January 1.

I have heard heartbreaking stories from my constituents who have no clue how they are going to make ends meet as we enter into what should be a merry holiday season.

Mr. Speaker, I had a professor in college who was very clear in calling us out when we were unprepared when we showed up for our class. He would call us derelict, negligent, and trifling.

This Congress, Mr. Speaker, is derelict, negligent, and trifling for failing to ensure that Americans have healthcare coverage and we are actually lowering their costs.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is deceptive at best and cruel at worst. I urge my colleagues to extend the enhanced tax credits before it is too late.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Republicans keep talking about how Democrats want to give more money to insurance companies, which is absolutely absurd, and they all know that. Nothing could be more ridiculous.

Let me correct the record. First of all, ACA tax credits go to our constituents to help them pay for healthcare. Second, it was the Affordable Care Act, you know the bill that the gentleman and a lot of Republicans want to repeal, which mandated that greedy insurance companies have to spend 80 percent to 85 percent of premiums on medical care. It is called the medical loss ratio. The gentleman should look it up. It is in the Affordable Care Act.

When he is talking about repealing the ACA, he is the one who wants to overturn that provision and let insurance companies rip people off even more than they already do.

Let me make one last point. We could easily move away from health insurance companies ripping people off. We could do what the vast majority of developed nations do and move toward a public option so that people don't have to choose a private health insurance company. But to say the Democrats are the ones who want to enrich insurance companies is absurd.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans support big banks. They support Big Tech. They support billionaires, and they support tax breaks for huge, greedy corporations. And they accuse Democrats of being in the pocket of the insurance industry?

Give me a break. Nobody believes this BS.

Mr. Speaker, look at your big, ugly bill. Look at all the tax breaks that go to millionaires and billionaires and big corporations. Every millionaire, as I stated before, because of Republicans, are getting an $80,000 tax break, every millionaire in this country.

What we are saying here is we want to make sure that health insurance is affordable for every single person in this country, and Republicans are replying by: We can't be bothered with that. That is not where our priorities are.

Maybe they don't write big enough checks for their campaigns.

The bottom line is that we are here arguing that people in this country shouldn't lose their healthcare because they can't afford it. We could do something right this instant to fix that. Republicans are blocking every attempt, and they are bringing this crappy bill to the floor that didn't even go through regular order and it didn't go through committee. They just patched it together and brought it before the Rules Committee.

By the way, CBO says that their terrible bill that they are bringing to the floor will throw another 100,000 people off of health insurance. By just passing this bill, 100,000 additional people will lose their health insurance. This is ridiculous.

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) who is the chairwoman of the Rules Committee.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the vice chair of the committee for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the unaffordable care act was born as a lie and continues to be promoted in terms that are lies.

Mr. Speaker, do you remember these promises?

If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. If you like your health insurance, you can keep your insurance. Americans will save over $2,500 per year.

All of those were lies, and now those who continue to support the unaffordable care act are misleading Americans about its current situation.

When the law was first debated, Democrats insisted that only 50 million Americans couldn't afford health insurance. That was exposed as a lie. Many Americans proved simply to be forgoing insurance in many instances. Democrats used this as an excuse to rewrite the entire framework of the individual healthcare insurance marketplace, forcing people onto plans that had their premiums rise by 129 percent since 2014. Indeed, the very first year ObamaCare went into effect, premiums skyrocketed by 47 percent. This is the true record of the unaffordable care act.

Despite the lies that continue to be told in the media to this day, Republicans have always proposed alternatives to the failed unaffordable care act framework that Democrats continue to force onto Americans. We are doing it again with this bill.

Instead of simply enabling the current fraud, waste, and abuse exposed in the unaffordable care act subsidy scheme that Democrats are addicted to, we are offering transformative policies that will root out hidden costs, attack inflationary programs, and increase competition throughout the entire healthcare insurance marketplace, lowering premiums for all Americans.

However, Mr. Speaker, even when all the evidence is presented to them on how rancid of a healthcare scheme the unaffordable care act really is, Democrats leap to their feet and become entirely apoplectic. They do not tell the truth about the current situation or what we are doing.

□ 1000

This is why: They fused themselves to the unaffordable care act to such a point that they outright refuse to seek reasonable reforms that help Americans afford healthcare. They won't do it.

Look at how they have superglued themselves to their temporary COVID subsidies that they themselves concocted and stamped an end date on, as my colleague has said.

I suppose all they know how to do is prop up a failed program that is littered with waste, fraud, and abuse, like cancerous lesions.

Don't take my word for it. Just look at the GAO report: Its estimates show millions of improper enrollments, costing American taxpayers up to $27 billion annually. One Social Security number used for 26,000 days of coverage, and more than 58,000 deceased people receiving tax credits.

All in all, it is a massive, fraudulent boondoggle for the American people. Meanwhile, Republicans remain committed to rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in all corners of the Federal Government.

The CBO already confirmed that our efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in the unaffordable care act, by way of H.R. 1, lowered healthcare premiums for enrollees. Imagine that, attacking waste and fraud lowers costs. Yet, Democrats want to embrace the opposite and cement a system of inflation.

Here is the kicker, Mr. Speaker: Only 7 percent of Americans enrolled in an unaffordable care act plan would see a paltry 4 percent decrease in their premiums if these subsidies were extended.

Republicans are advancing real reforms in healthcare. Unlike Democrats, we are not attempting to place a Band-Aid on a ruptured artery and call it a day.

Mr. Speaker, the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act is our solution. It is the solution that the American people deserve.

It would lower healthcare premiums by 11 percent for all Americans, increase healthcare access, expand choice in healthcare, and bring about greater transparency to the healthcare system in the United States.

Republicans are offering a clear, responsible, and straightforward solution so that all Americans have access to healthcare that is affordable and meets their respective needs.

If our colleagues were serious about making healthcare more affordable for Americans, they would support this bill alongside Republicans. Let's see what they choose to do.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman, the chairwoman of the Rules Committee, knows I have great affection for her, but I just want to correct something. She says that the Republicans have always had a plan to deal with healthcare and to lower costs for people, but the truth is they have always said they have a plan, but they have never had a plan.

Let me just go through a list of things here.

In February 2016, then-Presidential candidate Donald Trump said: ''We are going to replace ObamaCare with something so much better.'' Nothing followed.

On February 27, 2017, the President said: ''We have a really terrific, I believe, healthcare plan coming out.'' Never did.

May 10, 2018, Donald Trump said: ''But wait until you see the plans that we have coming out literally over the next 4 weeks. We have great healthcare plans coming out.'' Nothing happened.

At a press gaggle near Air Force One in May 2019, he said: ''We are coming up with a great healthcare plan. We are going to have fantastic healthcare, and the plan is coming out over the next 4 weeks.'' Nothing ever materialized.

June 16, 2019, the President said: ''We are going to produce phenomenal healthcare, and we already have the concept of a plan, and it will be so much better healthcare. Yeah, well, we will be announcing it in about 2 months, maybe less.'' Nothing happened.

In a FOX News interview, the President said: ''We are signing a healthcare plan within 2 weeks, a full and complete healthcare plan.'' Nothing happened.

July 2020, the President said: ''Well, we are going to be doing a healthcare plan. We are going to be doing a very inclusive healthcare plan. I will be signing it sometime very soon. It might be—it might be Sunday, but it is going to be very soon.'' Nothing happened.

August 3, 2020, the President said: ''We are going to be introducing a tremendous healthcare plan sometime prior—hopefully, prior to the end of the month. It is just about completed now.'' Nothing.

September 15, 2020, the President says: ''You are going to have new healthcare. We have other alternatives to ObamaCare that are 50 percent less expensive, and they are actually better.'' Nothing. It never happened.

September 10, 2024, ABC News Presidential debate, he says: ''I have concepts of a plan. . . . You will be hearing about it in the not-too-distant future.'' Nothing happened.

December 8, 2024, he said: ''Yes, we have concepts of a plan that would be better. You will see it very soon.'' It produced nothing.

In May 2025, at a White House event, he said: ''So we are going to maybe come up with something. I think this gives the Republicans a chance to actually do a healthcare that is much better than ObamaCare.'' Nothing.

People are sick and tired of the empty rhetoric. They are sick and tired of Republicans saying they have a plan, and they never produce one. All they want to do is undermine healthcare for hardworking, average Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RIVAS).

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me.

Republicans have been in the majority and in control for this whole year, yet they have not put forward a bill that helps working families with the rising cost of living or to prevent hardworking Americans' healthcare premiums from skyrocketing in price.

Republicans drove the country into a healthcare crisis, and they continue to have no pathway to get us out of it.

With healthcare premiums set to skyrocket at the end of December, Republicans' solution is an unserious proposal that kicks millions of Americans off their coverage, puts healthcare out of reach, and takes away women's freedom to make their own healthcare decisions.

Under Republicans' concept of a healthcare plan, working Americans will be forced to make tough decisions, such as if they should take their child to the doctor or buy groceries for the week. Republicans' concept of a healthcare plan means bankruptcy will be one medical emergency away for millions of Americans.

If Republicans were serious about helping their constituents and addressing the healthcare crisis that they manufactured with the big, ugly bill, they would join Democrats and vote to extend the ACA tax credits for 3 years. We only need one more Republican to sign, one more to help American families afford healthcare.

I will vote ''no'' on this rule and the underlying bill to protect my over 31,000 constituents who rely on these ACA tax credits to make their healthcare affordable. I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side continually say that we haven't done anything. We just received a message from the Senate on a Republican bill that does something. Now, they may not like it, but I find it fascinating. These debates are always so interesting, Mr. Speaker.

They say we haven't put forward anything at some points, and at other points in their debate, they claim that this bill is terrible, that it does nothing.

Let me remind you, Mr. Speaker, that a part of this bill revives a Democratic plan that was supposed to be short term called cost-sharing reductions. It is fascinating because during the first Trump administration, in May 2017, my Democratic colleagues—and I know some of them weren't here yet—but 196 of them, including the gentleman from Massachusetts, signed a letter asking—because it was not codified—President Trump to use his executive power to continue the cost-sharing reduction plan.

□ 1010

Mr. Speaker, I would love to hear from my colleagues why cost-sharing reduction by them was considered to be so important to be continued to help 7 million hardworking Americans and their families, more than half—I am reading from their letter—of all marketplace enrollees for 2017 afford their out-of-pocket healthcare costs. That is what cost-sharing reduction does.

Today, they claim, as a part of our bill, it is nothing. It is worthless. It is

not worth the paper it is written on, but in 2017, 196 of them, including the gentleman from Massachusetts, asked the President of the United States to continue the program.

Today, we are answering that call, saying we will answer that and put it in our bill, but because it is now proposed as part of a Republican bill, my colleagues, for some reason, don't remember their position in 2017 and call it trash.

Could it be mere political posturing for November elections? I submit it is.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is it. This is the one last chance this year, this session, for this Republican majority to do the right thing and vote to extend the ACA enhanced premium tax credits.

If Republicans allow them to expire, millions of Americans, millions of their constituents, will be faced with rising health insurance costs and, in some cases, by more than $1,000 per month.

Mr. Speaker, I have an important announcement to make, and if there is anybody in the press gallery listening, I want them to hear this. I have called on Republicans to put country over politics, put country over their party, to do the right thing for their constituents. We have a discharge petition that 214 Democrats have signed on to, to force a bill on a 3-year clean extension. While we have been debating, four Republicans have actually done that.

We are now at 218. What that means is that it sets in place a process that will allow us to vote on a clean extension. We have 218 people who will vote for it, which means we will pass it.

Unfortunately, the procedures on a discharge petition mean that we can't get to it until we come back from our holiday break in January, but we don't need to wait for the discharge petition to ripen. We can actually act today if we want to preserve the tax credits for 20 million working-class Americans that rely on them.

Democrats in this House and in the Senate have acted like adults during our entire monthslong effort to get Republicans to do the right thing. I thank those Republicans who signed the discharge petition because that is actually going to make sure that we have a vote and that we can extend these tax benefits.

Again, we can kind of short-circuit the process. If we defeat the previous question, we could vote on it today. We are offering this to be able to bring it up immediately.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. DOGGETT. While we are thankful for this belated decision of four Republicans here at the last minute to join the discharge petition, unless they join us in voting in favor of this action on the previous question, there is nothing that can be done this year because the Speaker will continue to obstruct premium relief for Americans.

Mr. MCGOVERN. That is correct. We do thank these Republicans for getting us to 218, but we hope they would join us.

Mr. DOGGETT. This would be the key vote?

Mr. MCGOVERN. This would be the key vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES) to discuss our proposal.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to defeat the previous question and bring up H.R. 6074, which provides for a clean 3-year extension of the Affordable Care Act enhanced tax credits.

Congress has 3 legislative days left to extend the ACA tax credits, or they will expire at the end of the year. The impact of the tax credits expiring is devastating. Expiration of the tax credits will result in health premiums increasing by an average of 114 percent for individuals who rely on the marketplace, forcing 4.2 million people to lose their health insurance.

I hear the fear in the voices of my constituents, Republicans and Democrats, and Americans across the country who talk about healthcare and the looming crisis. Small business owners, independent contractors, retirees, farmers, and constituents in my district continue to call my office or stop me to share how they will be unable to afford healthcare as they continue to experience rising costs for essentials like groceries, insurance, utilities, and housing.

If Republicans can find a way to provide tax cuts for billionaires, Congress can find a way to provide relief for individuals to access healthcare. As I have said, we are under the pressure of time. We have a discharge petition, but that will take 7 days for a ripening through the House procedures. What we can do today is vote to defeat this previous question.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the four Republicans who have joined us, but time is of the essence. They need to go one step further and vote to defeat the previous question, alongside Democrats, so that we can have a vote today in this House before we go on break.

Congress must protect healthcare and lower the costs for all Americans by extending the ACA tax credits.

As my colleague, Mr. MCGOVERN, said, this isn't about Democrats. This is all of our constituents who benefit from the Affordable Care Act. This is all of our constituents who face rising deductibles and premiums. This is all of our constituents who fear that they will lose their healthcare. No reasonable proposal has been introduced. This is what we have today.

Help us defeat the previous question.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans love to find ways to justify kicking millions of working people off of healthcare. The chairwoman of the Rules Committee talked about fraud. If fraud is your primary concern, how about you start with President Trump, who has pardoned or commuted not one, not two, but 12 people. He pardoned 12 people convicted of healthcare fraud. My Republican friends have been silent, not a word.

One guy was convicted of $1.3 billion in a Medicare fraud scheme, the largest healthcare fraud scheme charged by the Department of Justice. We had another woman convicted of orchestrating $205 million in a Medicare fraud scheme involving assisted living facilities. We had another guy convicted of 67 counts of healthcare fraud and related charges relating to Medicare and other healthcare programs.

I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what they did to earn those pardons, but maybe they promised to say nice things about Trump.

When Republicans come to the floor and talk about fraud, just remember that they are the ones who pardoned over and over and over again healthcare fraudsters while at the same time screwing over the American people by taking away their healthcare.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let's be honest about what is happening here because this really is not that complicated, and the American people aren't stupid.

This Republican bill does not fix the healthcare crisis facing this country. It doesn't even try. Instead, Republicans are going to raise costs, weaken coverage, and deliberately allow the Affordable Care Act tax credits to expire, knowing full well that millions of families will lose affordable coverage as a result.

That outcome is not a side effect. It is the point. For more than a decade,

Republicans have promised a better healthcare system, a replacement for the ACA, something, anything that would justify taking coverage away from people who need it.

Ten years later, there is still no plan, no replacement, no solution. Why? Because they are totally fine with a system of the haves and have-nots. They want a system where those at the top have affordable care, and everyone else is left in the dust.

□ 1020

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have controlled the House of Representatives for 3 long years. During that time, the priorities of this majority have been crystal clear.

When billionaires, CEOs, and corporate special interests need something, Republicans move with lightning speed. Loopholes appear out of nowhere. Regulations vanish into thin air while Big Oil, Big Tech, and big banks get what they want.

Republicans have no problem handing out massive tax giveaways to donors who write big campaign checks. They have no problem padding the profits of greedy corporations. They have no problem voting to give the Pentagon $8 billion more than it even asked for without so much as a shrug.

When it comes to working people, when they need affordable healthcare, suddenly the story changes. Suddenly, there is hand-wringing. Suddenly, there is paralysis. Suddenly, the money is gone. Suddenly, America can't pay for it.

If my friends on the other side of the aisle are okay with that, we do not share the same values. If they think it is fine to give handouts to billionaires, while stealing healthcare from regular people, we do not have the same moral compass.

The bottom line is this country has a Republican Congress that works just fine for the rich and powerful, while telling everybody else to tighten their belts.

There is always money for giveaways to CEOs and corporate stock buybacks. There is always money for billionaire tax shelters. When a working family needs help staying insured, Republicans say it is too expensive. This is a question of our priorities as a Nation.

What makes this even more infuriating is that Democrats have already put forward a responsible and reasonable solution that would help stop this crisis in its tracks. We have 218 people who have signed this discharge petition. Mr. Speaker, four Republicans signed this discharge petition. I hope they will vote to bring this same bill up today.

To the moderates who didn't get the opportunity to sign it, I say this. This is their chance to go on record and show their constituents that they are serious about getting this done. Imagine what that would mean. It would mean lower costs, stable coverage, and a Congress that proves it still answers to working families instead of to the billionaire class. Instead, we get this GOP inaction and incompetence.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, healthcare coverage should not depend on how much money someone makes. We live in the richest country on Earth. Healthcare should be a human right available to every person and every community without exception.

The United States remains the only major developed Nation that does not guarantee healthcare for everyone. That is not because we can't afford it. It is because powerful interests make too much money from the status quo.

To any Republican who knows this bill is wrong, who understands what this will do back home, and who still believes that this institution should work for the people it represents, this is the moment. Extend the tax credits. Protect the coverage of our constituents. Stand with us to say that it is time for Congress to put patients ahead of profits and working families ahead of billionaires.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on this rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely correct on this one point. If what they want is socialized medicine, yes, I am against it and so are most of the Republicans in this House. We are not for socialized medicine.

When I was a student, I remember being in Edinburgh in 1979. Mr. Finch across the hall with socialized medicine had to wait 10 months to get surgery for a blockage in his heart.

When I came home, I discovered that in the United States it would have been 3 days before he would have had that surgery. He died a couple of years later because socialized medicine warehouses people until they have time to get to them. That is not what our system does nor should it.

Further, I would say that the Democrats come here today, and it is their healthcare system. They created it. When they created the Affordable Care Act, there were no Republican votes. When they extended it or changed it a little bit and eventually renewed it again in the Inflation Reduction Act, there were no Republican votes for that.

Today, they want to blame Republicans for their policy failures. The American people will eventually see through that. I know they have done a great job of convincing the American people that is the case, but it isn't true.

They talk about the fact that, as costs are going up and they want this new plan to throw $85 billion at the insurance companies, 85 percent has to be spent on healthcare. That is true.

Mr. Speaker, 15 percent of $500 that the insurance companies get to put in their pockets is a whole lot less than 15 percent of $2,000. If we throw more money at the insurance companies, the big insurance executives get more money to put in their pockets. They are smiling like Cheshire cats as the costs go up and they pocket larger profits.

Perhaps my Democratic colleagues don't want to admit it or don't realize that they are the front men for big insurance, but that is what they are. They are the front men for big insurance. Instead of facing reality, their answer is to blame the Republicans and throw more taxpayer money at the big insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, giving the insurance companies more money will not solve our healthcare problems.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 953 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 6. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 6074) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. Clause 1(c) of the rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 6074.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 204, nays 203, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 343]

YEAS—204

Aderholt	Bilirakis	Clyde
Alford	Boebert	Cole
Allen	Bost	Collins
Amodei (NV)	Brecheen	Comer
Babin	Bresnahan	Crane
Bacon	Buchanan	Crank
Baird	Burchett	Crawford
Balderson	Burlison	Davidson
Barrett	Calvert	De La Cruz
Bean (FL)	Cammack	DesJarlais
Begich	Carey	Donalds
Bentz	Carter (GA)	Downing
Bergman	Carter (TX)	Dunn (FL)
Bice	Ciscomani	Edwards
Biggs (AZ)	Cline	Ellzey
Biggs (SC)	Cloud	Emmer

Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Newhouse
Norman
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—203

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—26

Arrington
Barr
Baumgartner
Beyer
Courtney
Crenshaw
Diaz-Balart
Espaillat
Feenstra
Fitzpatrick
Garcia (TX)
Goldman (NY)
Hinson
Jordan
McBath
Miller-Meeks
Moore (WI)
Murphy
Nadler
Nehls
Nunn (IA)
Ruiz
Spartz
Swalwell
Valadao
Westerman

□ 1052

Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. SCHNEIDER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. ZINKE changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 343.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 343.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 343.

Stated against:

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today because the vote was closed despite my being present in the well and attempting to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 343.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 343.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia). The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 213, noes 209, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 344]

AYES—213

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—209

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs

Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Courtney
Feenstra
Garcia (TX)
Hinson
LaLota
McBath
Murphy
Nadler
Nunn (IA)
Rogers (KY)
Swalwell

□ 1106

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote today. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 343, Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 953; NO on Roll Call No. 344, H. Res. 953.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I missed votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 343 and NO on Roll Call No. 344.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 131. An act to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 187. An act to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterway among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 410. An act to extend the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1043. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 355. An act to require the secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to publish a final rule relating to nonclinical testing methods.

S. 594. An act to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 612. An act to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 727. An act to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers.

S. 856. An act to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to clarify a provision relating to certain contents of registrations under that Act.

S. 861. An act to streamline the sharing of information among Federal disaster assistance agencies, to expedite the delivery of life-saving assistance to disaster survivors, to speed the recovery of communities from disasters, to protect the security and privacy of information provided by disaster survivors, and for other purposes.

S. 865. An act to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require certain disclosures by registrants regarding exemptions under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended.

S. 1049. An act to direct the Office of Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice to continue implementing the anti-trafficking recommendations of the Government Accountability Office and to report to Congress regarding such implementation.

S. 3021. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance enforcement with respect to material depicting obscene child sexual abuse or constituting child pornography, and for other purposes.

S. 3490. An act to establish the Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park, to designate the American's National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, and in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission:

Michael Kuiken of the District of Columbia for a term beginning January 1, 2026 and expiring December 31, 2027.

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

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 954

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

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Mr. Beyer.

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

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1110

LOWER HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 953, I call up the bill (H.R. 6703) to ensure access to affordable health insurance, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUEST). Pursuant to House Resolution 953, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6703

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 ''Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act''.

TITLE I—IMPROVING HEALTH CARE OPTIONS FOR WORKERS

SEC. 101. ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS.

(a) TREATMENT OF GROUP OR ASSOCIATION OF EMPLOYERS.—Section 3(5) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(5)) is amended by inserting after ''capacity'' the following: ''(including, for the purpose of establishing or maintaining a group health plan, a group or association of employers that satisfies the requirements of section 736(a))''.

(b) RULES APPLICABLE TO GROUP HEALTH PLANS ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED BY A GROUP OR ASSOCIATION OF EMPLOYERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part 7 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1181, et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 736. RULES APPLICABLE TO GROUP HEALTH PLANS ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED BY A GROUP OR ASSOCIATION OF EMPLOYERS.

''(a) ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS.—A group or association of employers may maintain a group health plan, regardless of whether the employers composing such group or association are in the same industry, trade, or profession, if such group or association satisfies the following requirements:

''(1) GROUP OR ASSOCIATION REQUIREMENTS.—The group or association of employers—

''(A) shall—

''(i) have been formed and maintained in good faith for purposes other than providing health insurance coverage through a group health plan;

''(ii) establish a governing board or another indicator of formality as described in paragraph (2); and

''(iii) have existed for at least 2 years prior to offering a group health plan to the employees of such group or association; and

''(iv) make health insurance coverage under the group health plan offered by such group or association available—

''(I) to at least 51 employees; and

''(II) to all employees of the employer members, and any dependents of such employees;

''(B) may only provide health insurance coverage through the group health plan of the group or association—

''(i) to an employee of an employer member of the group or association or a dependent of such an employee; or

''(ii) as necessary to comply with part 6;

''(C) may include a health insurance issuer as an employer member, except that the group or association may not—

''(i) be a health insurance issuer; or

''(ii) be controlled or owned by a health insurance issuer (or a subsidiary or affiliate of a health insurance issuer).

''(D) may not condition the membership of an employer in the group or association on any health status-related factor (as described in section 702(a)(1)) relating to any employee or dependent of any employee of any employer member.

''(2) ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) GOVERNING BOARD OR FORMAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GROUP OR ASSOCIATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The group or association shall have—

''(I) a formal organizational structure with a governing board and by-laws; or

''(II) another structure or indicator of formality.

''(ii) REQUIREMENT.—Both structures described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) shall comply with the requirements described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) FORMAL ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF GROUP OR ASSOCIATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The functions and activities of the group or association shall be controlled by the employer members in substance and in fact.

''(ii) CONTROL.—The control described in clause (i) shall be satisfied so long as at least 75 percent of the positions on the board or other formal organizational structure are held by employer members.

''(iii) ELECTIONS.—Each position of the governing board or other formal organizational structure shall be subject to scheduled elections, as determined by the group or association, and each employer-member shall be able to cast only one vote in each such election.

''(C) GROUP HEALTH PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) CONTROL.—The group health plan shall be controlled in substance and in fact by employer members participating in the group health plan.

''(ii) ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION.—A plan fiduciary shall verify, on a regular basis and pursuant to reasonable monitoring procedures as established by the plan fiduciary, whether an individual is a self-employed individual if such individual (or a beneficiary thereof) participates in the group health plan on the basis that such individual is a self-employed individual.

''(iii) INELIGIBLE SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II) and except as required under part 6, in the case that the plan fiduciary determines that an individual who participates in the group health plan no longer meets the requirements under a self-employed individual during a plan year, the group health plan shall not make health insurance coverage available to such individual for any plan year following the plan year in which such determination was made.

''(II) REMEDIAL ACTION.—If, after the plan fiduciary determines that an individual described in clause (i) is not a self-employed individual, the individual furnishes to the plan fiduciary evidence proving that such individual is a self-employed individual, such individual shall be eligible to participate in the group health plan.

''(3) DISCRIMINATION AND PRE-EXISTING CONDITION PROTECTIONS.—A group health plan established and maintained by the group or association of employers under this section may not—

''(A) establish any rule for eligibility (including continued eligibility) of any individual (including an employee of an employer member or a self-employed individual, or a dependent of such employee or self-employed individual) to enroll for benefits under the terms of the plan that discriminates based on any health status-related factor that relates to such individual (consistent with the rules under section 702(a)(1));

''(B) require an individual (including an employee of an employer member or a self-employed individual, or a dependent of such employee or self-employed individual), as a condition of enrollment or continued enrollment under the plan, to pay a premium or contribution that is greater than the premium or contribution for a similarly situated individual enrolled in the plan based on any health status-related factor that relates to such individual (consistent with the rules under section 702(b)(1)); and

''(C) deny coverage under such plan on the basis of a pre-existing condition (consistent with the rules under section 2704 of the Public Health Service Act).

''(b) PREMIUM RATES FOR A GROUP OR ASSOCIATION OF EMPLOYERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan established and maintained by a group or association of employers that meets that requirements of this section may, to the extent not prohibited under State law—

''(A) establish base premium rates formed on an actuarially sound, modified community rating methodology that considers the pooling of all plan participant claims; and

''(B) utilize the specific risk profile of each employer member of such group or association to determine contribution rates for each such employer member's share of a premium by actuarially adjusting the established base premium rates.

''(2) ONLY SELF EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—In the case that a group or association is composed only of self-employed individuals, the group health plan established by such group or association shall—

''(A) treat all such self-employed individuals as a single risk pool;

''(B) pool all plan participant claims; and

''(C) charge each plan participant the same premium rate.

''(c) TREATMENT OF SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this section, an individual who is a self-employed individual shall be treated as—

''(1) an employer who may be a member of a group or association of employers;

''(2) an employee who may participate in a group health plan established and maintained by such group or association; and

''(3) a participant of the group health plan in which the individual participates, subject to the eligibility determination and monitoring requirements set forth in subsection (a)(2)(C)(i).

''(d) DETERMINATION OF EMPLOYER OR JOINT EMPLOYER STATUS.—The provision of health insurance coverage by a group or association of employers may not be construed as evidence for establishing an employer or joint employer relationship under any Federal or State law.

''(e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) NO EXEMPTION FROM PHSA.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt a group health plan (as defined in section 733(a)(1)) offered through a group or association of employers from the requirements of this part or from the provisions of part A of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act as incorporated by reference into this Act through section 715.

''(2) PRIOR OR FUTURE GUIDANCE.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit or otherwise affect the ability of a group or association of employers from establishing a single plan multiple employer welfare arrangement as specified in any prior or future guidance issued by the Secretary of Labor that provides alternative pathways to qualifying as a group or association of employer for purposes of section 3(5).

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) EMPLOYER MEMBER.—The term 'employer member' means—

''(A) an employer who is a member of such group or association of employers and employs at least 1 common law employee; or

''(B) a group made up solely of self-employed individuals, within which all of the self-employed individual members of such group or association are aggregated together as a single employer member group, provided that such group includes at least 20 self-employed individual members.

''(2) SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'self-employed individual' means an individual who—

''(A) does not have any common law employees;

''(B) has a bona fide ownership right in a trade or business, regardless of whether such trade or business is incorporated or unincorporated;

''(C) earns a wage (as defined in section 3121(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) or self-employment income (as defined in section 1402(b) of such Code) from such trade or business; and

''(D) works at least 10 hours a week, or 40 hours per month, providing personal services to such trade or business.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 734 the following:

''735. Standardized reporting format.

''736. Rules applicable to group health plans established and maintained by a group or association of employers.''.

SEC. 102. CERTAIN MEDICAL STOP-LOSS INSURANCE OBTAINED BY CERTAIN PLAN SPONSORS OF GROUP HEALTH PLANS NOT INCLUDED UNDER THE DEFINITION OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 733(b)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1191b(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following sentence: ''Such term shall not include a stop-loss policy obtained by a self-insured group health plan or a plan sponsor of a group health plan that self-insures the health risks of its plan participants to reimburse the plan or sponsor for losses that the plan or sponsor incurs in providing health or medical benefits to such plan participants in excess of a predetermined level set forth in the stop-loss policy obtained by such plan or sponsor.''.

(b) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Section 514(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1144(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) The provisions of this title (including part 7 relating to group health plans) shall preempt State laws insofar as they may now or hereafter prevent an employee benefit plan that is a group health plan from insuring against the risk of excess or unexpected health plan claims losses.''.

SEC. 103. TREATMENT OF HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS INTEGRATED WITH INDIVIDUAL MARKET COVERAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) TREATMENT.—Section 9815(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking ''EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)'' and inserting the following: ''EXCEPTIONS.—

''(1) SELF-INSURED GROUP HEALTH PLANS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)'', and

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

''(2) CUSTOM HEALTH OPTION AND INDIVIDUAL CARE EXPENSE ARRANGEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subchapter, a custom health option and individual care expense arrangement shall be treated as meeting the requirements of section 9802 and sections 2705, 2711, 2713, and 2715 of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act.

''(B) CUSTOM HEALTH OPTION AND INDIVIDUAL CARE EXPENSE ARRANGEMENTS DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'custom health option and individual care expense arrangement' means a health reimbursement arrangement—

''(i) which is an employer-provided group health plan funded solely by employer contributions to provide payments or reimbursements for medical care subject to a maximum fixed dollar amount for a period,

''(ii) under which such payments or reimbursements may only be made for medical care provided during periods during which the individual is covered—

''(I) under individual health insurance coverage (other than coverage that consists solely of excepted benefits), or

''(II) under part A and B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act or part C of such title,

''(iii) which meets the nondiscrimination requirements of subparagraph (C),

''(iv) which meets the substantiation requirements of subparagraph (D), and

''(v) which meets the notice requirements of subparagraph (E).

''(C) NONDISCRIMINATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An arrangement meets the requirements of this subparagraph if an employer offering such arrangement to an employee within a specified class of employee—

''(I) offers such arrangement to all employees within such specified class on the same terms, and

''(II) does not offer any other group health plan (other than an account-based group health plan or a group health plan that consists solely of excepted benefits) to any employees within such specified class.

In the case of an employer who offers a group health plan provided through health insurance coverage in the small group market (that is subject to section 2701 of the Public Health Service Act) to all employees within such specified class, subclause (II) shall not apply to such group health plan.

''(ii) SPECIFIED CLASS OF EMPLOYEE.—For purposes of this subparagraph, any of the following may be designated as a specified class of employee:

''(I) Full-time employees.

''(II) Part-time employees.

''(III) Salaried employees.

''(IV) Non-salaried employees.

''(V) Employees whose primary site of employment is in the same rating area.

''(VI) Employees who are included in a unit of employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement to which the employer is subject (determined under rules similar to the rules of section 105(h)).

''(VII) Employees who have not met a group health plan, or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, waiting period requirement that satisfies section 2708 of the Public Health Service Act.

''(VIII) Seasonal employees.

''(IX) Employees who are nonresident aliens and who receive no earned income (within the meaning of section 911(d)(2)) from the employer which constitutes income from sources within the United States (within the meaning of section 861(a)(3)).

''(X) Under such rules as the Secretary may prescribe, employees who are hired for temporary placement with an unrelated person that is not the common law employer.

''(XI) Such other classes of employees as the Secretary may designate.

An employer may designate (in such manner as is prescribed by the Secretary) two or more of the classes described in the preceding subclauses as the specified class of employees to which the arrangement is offered for purposes of applying this subparagraph.

''(iii) SPECIAL RULE FOR NEW HIRES.—An employer may designate prospectively so much of a specified class of employees as are hired after a date set by the employer. Such subclass of employees shall be treated as the specified class for purposes of applying clause (i).

''(iv) RULES FOR DETERMINING TYPE OF EMPLOYEE.—For purposes for clause (ii), any determination of full-time, part-time, or seasonal employment status shall be made under rules similar to the rules of section 105(h) or 4980H, whichever the employer elects for the plan year. Such election shall apply with respect to all employees of the employer for the plan year.

''(v) PERMITTED VARIATION.—For purposes of clause (i)(I), an arrangement shall not fail to be treated as provided on the same terms within a specified class merely because the maximum dollar amount of payments and reimbursements which may be made under the terms of the arrangement for the year with respect to each employee within such class—

''(I) increases as additional dependents of the employee are covered under the arrangement, and

''(II) increases with respect to a participant as the age of the participant increases, but not in excess of an amount equal to 300 percent of the lowest maximum dollar amount with respect to such a participant determined without regard to age.

''(D) SUBSTANTIATION REQUIREMENTS.—An arrangement meets the requirements of this subparagraph if the arrangement has reasonable procedures to substantiate—

''(i) that the participant and any dependents are, or will be, enrolled in coverage described in subparagraph (B)(ii) as of the beginning of the plan year of the arrangement (or as of the beginning of coverage under the arrangement in the case of an employee who first becomes eligible to participate in the arrangement after the date notice is given with respect to the plan under subparagraph (E) (determined without regard to clause (iii) thereof), and

''(ii) any requests made for payment or reimbursement of medical care under the arrangement and that the participant and any dependents remain so enrolled.

''(E) NOTICE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), an arrangement meets the requirements of this subparagraph if, under the arrangement, each employee eligible to participate is, not later than 60 days before the beginning of the plan year, given written notice of the employee's rights and obligations under the arrangement which—

''(I) is sufficiently accurate and comprehensive to apprise the employee of such rights and obligations, and

''(II) is written in a manner calculated to be understood by the average employee eligible to participate.

''(ii) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—Such notice shall include such information as the Secretary may by regulation prescribe.

''(iii) NOTICE DEADLINE FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.—In the case of an employee—

''(I) who first becomes eligible to participate in the arrangement after the date notice is given with respect to the plan under clause (i) (determined without regard to this clause), or

''(II) whose employer is first established fewer than 120 days before the beginning of the first plan year of the arrangement,

the requirements of this subparagraph shall be treated as met if the notice required under clause (i) is provided not later than the date the arrangement may take effect with respect to such employee.''.

(2) TREATMENT OF CURRENT RULES RELATING TO CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS.—

(A) NO INFERENCE.—To the extent not inconsistent with the amendments made by this subsection—

(i) no inference shall be made from such amendments with respect to the rules prescribed in the Federal Register on June 20, 2019, (84 Fed. Reg. 28888) relating to health reimbursement arrangements and other account-based group health plans, and

(ii) any reference to custom health option and individual care expense arrangements shall for purposes of such rules be treated as including a reference to individual coverage health reimbursement arrangements.

(B) OTHER CONFORMING OF RULES.—The Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Labor shall modify such rules as may be necessary to conform to the amendments made by this subsection.

(3) PARTICIPANTS IN CHOICE ARRANGEMENT ELIGIBLE FOR PURCHASE OF EXCHANGE INSURANCE UNDER CAFETERIA PLAN.—Section 125(f)(3) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) EXCEPTION FOR PARTICIPANTS IN CHOICE ARRANGEMENT.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply in the case of an employee participating in a custom health option and individual care expense arrangement (within the meaning of section 9815(b)(2)) offered by the employee's employer.''.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2025.

(b) INCLUSION OF CHOICE ARRANGEMENT PERMITTED BENEFITS ON W–2.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6051(a) of such Code is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (18), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (19) and inserting '', and'', and by inserting after paragraph (19) the following new paragraph:

''(20) the total amount of permitted benefits for enrolled individuals under a custom health option and individual care expense arrangement (as defined in section 9815(b)(2)) with respect to such employee.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

TITLE II—LOWERING HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS FOR EVERYONE

SEC. 201. OVERSIGHT OF PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—Title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg et seq.) is amended—

(1) in part D (42 U.S.C. 300gg–111 et seq.), by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 2799A–11. OVERSIGHT OF ENTITIES THAT PROVIDE PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after the date that is 30 months

after the date of enactment of this section (referred to in this subsection and subsection (b) as the 'effective date'), a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, shall not enter into a contract, including an extension or renewal of a contract, entered into on or after the effective date, with an applicable entity unless such applicable entity agrees to—

''(1) not limit or delay the disclosure of information to the group health plan (including such a plan offered through a health insurance issuer) in such a manner that prevents an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage from making the reports described in subsection (b); and

''(2) provide the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer relevant information necessary to make the reports described in subsection (b).

''(b) REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after the effective date, in the case of any contract between a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan and an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such plan or issuer, including an extension or renewal of such a contract, entered into on or after the effective date, the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a group health plan or health insurance issuer, not less frequently than every 6 months (or, at the request of a group health plan, not less frequently than quarterly, and under the same conditions, terms, and cost of the semiannual report under this subsection), shall submit to the group health plan a report in accordance with this section. Each such report shall be made available to such group health plan in plain language, in a machine-readable format, and as the Secretary may determine, other formats. Each such report shall include the information described in paragraph (2).

''(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in this paragraph is, with respect to drugs covered by a group health plan or group health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance issuer in connection with a group health plan during each reporting period—

''(A) in the case of a group health plan that is offered by a specified large employer or that is a specified large plan, and is not offered as health insurance coverage, or in the case of health insurance coverage for which the election under paragraph (3) is made for the applicable reporting period—

''(i) a list of drugs for which a claim was filed and, with respect to each such drug on such list—

''(I) the contracted compensation paid by the group health plan or health insurance issuer for each covered drug (identified by the National Drug Code) to the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services or other applicable entity on behalf of the group health plan or health insurance issuer;

''(II) the contracted compensation paid to the pharmacy, by any entity providing pharmacy benefit management services or other applicable entity on behalf of the group health plan or health insurance issuer, for each covered drug (identified by the National Drug Code);

''(III) for each such claim, the difference between the amount paid under subclause (I) and the amount paid under subclause (II);

''(IV) the proprietary name, established name or proper name, and National Drug Code;

''(V) for each claim for the drug (including original prescriptions and refills) and for each dosage unit of the drug for which a claim was filed, the type of dispensing channel used to furnish the drug, including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy;

''(VI) with respect to each drug dispensed, for each type of dispensing channel (including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy)—

''(aa) whether such drug is a brand name drug or a generic drug, and—

''(AA) in the case of a brand name drug, the wholesale acquisition cost, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

''(BB) in the case of a generic drug, the average wholesale price, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

''(bb) the total number of—

''(AA) prescription claims (including original prescriptions and refills);

''(BB) participants and beneficiaries for whom a claim for such drug was filed through the applicable dispensing channel;

''(CC) dosage units and dosage units per fill of such drug; and

''(DD) days supply of such drug per fill;

''(VII) the net price per course of treatment or single fill, such as a 30-day supply or 90-day supply to the plan or coverage after rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration received from applicable entities;

''(VIII) the total amount of out-of-pocket spending by participants and beneficiaries on such drug, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, but not including any amounts spent by participants and beneficiaries on drugs not covered under the plan or coverage, or for which no claim is submitted under the plan or coverage;

''(IX) the total net spending on the drug;

''(X) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan or issuer from any applicable entity in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration;

''(XI) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, from applicable entities, in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from such entities—

''(aa) for claims incurred during the reporting period; and

''(bb) that is related to utilization of such drug or spending on such drug; and

''(XII) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration for such drug, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copayment assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer), to the participants and beneficiaries enrolled in such plan or coverage;

''(ii) a list of each therapeutic class (as defined by the Secretary) for which a claim was filed under the group health plan or health insurance coverage during the reporting period, and, with respect to each such therapeutic class—

''(I) the total gross spending on drugs in such class before rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from applicable entities;

''(II) the net spending in such class after such rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from applicable entities;

''(III) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, from applicable entities, in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from such entities—

''(aa) for claims incurred during the reporting period; and

''(bb) that is related to utilization of drugs or drug spending;

''(IV) the average net spending per 30-day supply and per 90-day supply by the plan or by the issuer with respect to such coverage and its participants and beneficiaries, among all drugs within the therapeutic class for which a claim was filed during the reporting period;

''(V) the number of participants and beneficiaries who filled a prescription for a drug in such class, including the National Drug Code for each such drug;

''(VI) if applicable, a description of the formulary tiers and utilization mechanisms (such as prior authorization or step therapy) employed for drugs in that class; and

''(VII) the total out-of-pocket spending under the plan or coverage by participants and beneficiaries, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, but not including any amounts spent by participants and beneficiaries on drugs not covered under the plan or coverage or for which no claim is submitted under the plan or coverage;

''(iii) with respect to any drug for which gross spending under the group health plan or health insurance coverage exceeded $10,000 during the reporting period or, in the case that gross spending under the group health plan or coverage exceeded $10,000 during the reporting period with respect to fewer than 50 drugs, with respect to the 50 prescription drugs with the highest spending during the reporting period—

''(I) a list of all other drugs in the same therapeutic class as such drug;

''(II) if applicable, the rationale for the formulary placement of such drug in that therapeutic category or class, selected from a list of standard rationales established by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders; and

''(III) any change in formulary placement compared to the prior plan year; and

''(iv) in the case that such plan or issuer (or an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such plan or issuer) has an affiliated pharmacy or pharmacy under common ownership, including mandatory mail and specialty home delivery programs, retail and mail auto-refill programs, and cost-sharing assistance incentives funded by an entity providing pharmacy benefit services—

''(I) an explanation of any benefit design parameters that encourage or require participants and beneficiaries in the plan or coverage to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies;

''(II) the percentage of total prescriptions dispensed by such pharmacies to participants or beneficiaries in such plan or coverage; and

''(III) a list of all drugs dispensed by such pharmacies to participants or beneficiaries enrolled in such plan or coverage, and, with respect to each drug dispensed—

''(aa) the amount charged, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, or per 90-day supply (as applicable) to the plan or issuer, and to participants and beneficiaries;

''(bb) the median amount charged to such plan or issuer, and the interquartile range of the costs, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, including amounts paid by the participants and beneficiaries, when the same drug is dispensed by other

pharmacies that are not affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity and that are included in the pharmacy network of such plan or coverage;

''(cc) the lowest cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply and per 90-day supply, for each such drug, including amounts charged to the plan or coverage and to participants and beneficiaries, that is available from any pharmacy included in the network of such plan or coverage; and

''(dd) the net acquisition cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, if such drug is subject to a maximum price discount; and

''(B) with respect to any group health plan, including group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan, regardless of whether the plan or coverage is offered by a specified large employer or whether it is a specified large plan—

''(i) a summary document for the group health plan that includes such information described in clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A), as specified by the Secretary through guidance, program instruction, or otherwise (with no requirement of notice and comment rulemaking), that the Secretary determines useful to group health plans for purposes of selecting pharmacy benefit management services, such as an estimated net price to group health plan and participant or beneficiary, a cost per claim, the fee structure or reimbursement model, and estimated cost per participant or beneficiary;

''(ii) a summary document for plans and issuers to provide to participants and beneficiaries, which shall be made available to participants or beneficiaries upon request to their group health plan (including in the case of group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan), that—

''(I) contains such information described in clauses (iii), (iv), (v), and (vi), as applicable, as specified by the Secretary through guidance, program instruction, or otherwise (with no requirement of notice and comment rulemaking) that the Secretary determines useful to participants or beneficiaries in better understanding the plan or coverage or benefits under such plan or coverage;

''(II) contains only aggregate information; and

''(III) states that participants and beneficiaries may request specific, claims-level information required to be furnished under subsection (c) from the group health plan or health insurance issuer;

''(iii) with respect to drugs covered by such plan or coverage during such reporting period—

''(I) the total net spending by the plan or coverage for all such drugs;

''(II) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan or issuer from any applicable entity in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration; and

''(III) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration for such drugs, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copayment assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer) to participants and beneficiaries;

''(iv) amounts paid directly or indirectly in rebates, fees, or any other type of compensation (as defined in section 408(b)(2)(B)(ii)(dd)(AA) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act) to brokerage firms, brokers, consultants, advisors, or any other individual or firm, for—

''(I) the referral of the group health plan's or health insurance issuer's business to an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, including the identity of the recipient of such amounts;

''(II) consideration of the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services by the group health plan or health insurance issuer; or

''(III) the retention of the entity by the group health plan or health insurance issuer;

''(v) an explanation of any benefit design parameters that encourage or require participants and beneficiaries in such plan or coverage to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies that are affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services under such plan or coverage, including mandatory mail and specialty home delivery programs, retail and mail auto-refill programs, and cost-sharing assistance incentives directly or indirectly funded by such entity; and

''(vi) total gross spending on all drugs under the plan or coverage during the reporting period.

''(3) OPT-IN FOR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OFFERED BY A SPECIFIED LARGE EMPLOYER OR THAT IS A SPECIFIED LARGE PLAN.—In the case of group health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan that is offered by a specified large employer or is a specified large plan, such group health plan may, on an annual basis, for plan years beginning on or after the date that is 30 months after the date of enactment of this section, elect to require an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of the health insurance issuer to submit to such group health plan a report that includes all of the information described in paragraph (2)(A), in addition to the information described in paragraph (2)(B).

''(4) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall report information under paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with the privacy regulations promulgated under section 13402(a) of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act and consistent with the privacy regulations promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 in part 160 and subparts A and E of part 164 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) (referred to in this paragraph as the 'HIPAA privacy regulations') and shall restrict the use and disclosure of such information according to such privacy regulations and such HIPAA privacy regulations.

''(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage that submits a report under paragraph (1) shall ensure that such report contains only summary health information, as defined in section 164.504(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

''(ii) RESTRICTIONS.—In carrying out this subsection, a group health plan shall comply with section 164.504(f) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), and a plan sponsor shall act in accordance with the terms of the agreement described in such section.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify the requirements for the creation, receipt, maintenance, or transmission of protected health information under the HIPAA privacy regulations.

''(ii) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the application of any Federal or State privacy or civil rights law, including the HIPAA privacy regulations, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–233) (including the amendments made by such Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d), and title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e).

''(D) WRITTEN NOTICE.—Each plan year, group health plans, including with respect to group health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan, shall provide to each participant or beneficiary written notice informing the participant or beneficiary of the requirement for entities providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of the group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage to submit reports to group health plans under paragraph (1), as applicable, which may include incorporating such notification in plan documents provided to the participant or beneficiary, or providing individual notification.

''(E) LIMITATION TO BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.—A group health plan receiving a report under paragraph (1) may disclose such information only to the entity from which the report was received or to that entity's business associates as defined in section 160.103 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) or as permitted by the HIPAA privacy regulations.

''(F) CLARIFICATION REGARDING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, from placing reasonable restrictions on the public disclosure of the information contained in a report described in paragraph (1), except that such plan, issuer, or entity may not—

''(i) restrict disclosure of such report to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, or the Department of the Treasury; or

''(ii) prevent disclosure for the purposes of subsection (c), or any other public disclosure requirement under this section.

''(G) LIMITED FORM OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall define through rulemaking a limited form of the report under paragraph (1) required with respect to any group health plan established by a plan sponsor that is, or is affiliated with, a drug manufacturer, drug wholesaler, or other direct participant in the drug supply chain, in order to prevent anticompetitive behavior.

''(5) STANDARD FORMAT AND REGULATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall specify through rulemaking a standard format for entities providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage, to submit reports required under paragraph (1).

''(B) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall, through rulemaking, promulgate any other final regulations necessary to implement the requirements of this section. In promulgating such regulations, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, align the reporting requirements under this section with the reporting requirements under section 2799A–10.

''(c) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS OR BENEFICIARIES.—A group health plan, including with respect to group health insurance coverage offered in

connection with a group health plan, upon request of a participant or beneficiary, shall provide to such participant or beneficiary—

''(1) the summary document described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii); and

''(2) the information described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(i)(III) with respect to a claim made by or on behalf of such participant or beneficiary.

''(d) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enforce this section. The enforcement authority under this subsection shall apply only with respect to group health plans (including group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) to which the requirements of subparts I and II of part A and part D apply in accordance with section 2722, and with respect to entities providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such plans and applicable entities providing services on behalf of such plans.

''(2) FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.—A group health plan, a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, or an applicable entity providing services on behalf of such a plan or issuer that violates subsection (a); an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer that fails to provide the information required under subsection (b); or a group health plan that fails to provide the information required under subsection (c), shall be subject to a civil monetary penalty in the amount of $10,000 for each day during which such violation continues or such information is not disclosed or reported.

''(3) FALSE INFORMATION.—A health insurance issuer, an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, or a third party administrator providing services on behalf of such issuer offered by a health insurance issuer that knowingly provides false information under this section shall be subject to a civil monetary penalty in an amount not to exceed $100,000 for each item of false information. Such civil monetary penalty shall be in addition to other penalties as may be prescribed by law.

''(4) PROCEDURE.—The provisions of section 1128A of the Social Security Act, other than subsections (a) and (b) and the first sentence of subsection (c)(1) of such section shall apply to civil monetary penalties under this subsection in the same manner as such provisions apply to a penalty or proceeding under such section.

''(5) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may waive penalties under paragraph (2), or extend the period of time for compliance with a requirement of this section, for an entity in violation of this section that has made a good-faith effort to comply with the requirements in this section.

''(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a health insurance issuer, group health plan, entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer, or other entity to restrict disclosure to, or otherwise limit the access of, the Secretary to a report described in subsection (b)(1) or information related to compliance with subsections (a), (b), (c), or (d) by such issuer, plan, or entity.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPLICABLE ENTITY.—The term 'applicable entity' means—

''(A) an applicable group purchasing organization, drug manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, rebate aggregator (or other purchasing entity designed to aggregate rebates), or associated third party;

''(B) any subsidiary, parent, affiliate, or subcontractor of a group health plan, health insurance issuer, entity that provides pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, or any entity described in subparagraph (A); or

''(C) such other entity as the Secretary may specify through rulemaking.

''(2) APPLICABLE GROUP PURCHASING ORGANIZATION.—The term 'applicable group purchasing organization' means a group purchasing organization that is affiliated with or under common ownership with an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services.

''(3) CONTRACTED COMPENSATION.—The term 'contracted compensation' means the sum of any ingredient cost and dispensing fee for a drug (inclusive of the out-of-pocket costs to the participant or beneficiary), or another analogous compensation structure that the Secretary may specify through regulations.

''(4) GROSS SPENDING.—The term 'gross spending', with respect to prescription drug benefits under a group health plan or health insurance coverage, means the amount spent by a group health plan or health insurance issuer on prescription drug benefits, calculated before the application of rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration.

''(5) NET SPENDING.—The term 'net spending', with respect to prescription drug benefits under a group health plan or health insurance coverage, means the amount spent by a group health plan or health insurance issuer on prescription drug benefits, calculated after the application of rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration.

''(6) PLAN SPONSOR.—The term 'plan sponsor' has the meaning given such term in section 3(16)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

''(7) REMUNERATION.—The term 'remuneration' has the meaning given such term by the Secretary through rulemaking, which shall be reevaluated by the Secretary every 5 years.

''(8) SPECIFIED LARGE EMPLOYER.—The term 'specified large employer' means, in connection with a group health plan (including group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) established or maintained by a single employer, with respect to a calendar year or a plan year, as applicable, an employer who employed an average of at least 100 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year or plan year and who employs at least 1 employee on the first day of the calendar year or plan year.

''(9) SPECIFIED LARGE PLAN.—The term 'specified large plan' means a group health plan (including group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) established or maintained by a plan sponsor described in clause (ii) or (iii) of section 3(16)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 that had an average of at least 100 participants on business days during the preceding calendar year or plan year, as applicable.

''(10) WHOLESALE ACQUISITION COST.—The term 'wholesale acquisition cost' has the meaning given such term in section 1847A(c)(6)(B) of the Social Security Act.''; and

(2) in section 2723 (42 U.S.C. 300gg–22)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''(other than section 2799A–11)'' after ''part D''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''(other than section 2799A–11)'' after ''part D''; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''(other than section 2799A–11)'' after ''part D'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting ''(other than section 2799A–11)'' after ''part D''; and

(iii) in paragraph (2)(C)(ii), by inserting ''(other than section 2799A–11)'' after ''part D''.

(b) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in subpart B of part 7 (29 U.S.C. 1185 et seq.), by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 726. OVERSIGHT OF ENTITIES THAT PROVIDE PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after the date that is 30 months after the date of enactment of this section (referred to in this subsection and subsection (b) as the 'effective date'), a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, shall not enter into a contract, including an extension or renewal of a contract, entered into on or after the effective date, with an applicable entity unless such applicable entity agrees to—

''(1) not limit or delay the disclosure of information to the group health plan (including such a plan offered through a health insurance issuer) in such a manner that prevents an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage from making the reports described in subsection (b); and

''(2) provide the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer relevant information necessary to make the reports described in subsection (b).

''(b) REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after the effective date, in the case of any contract between a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan and an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such plan or issuer, including an extension or renewal of such a contract, entered into on or after the effective date, the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a group health plan or health insurance issuer, not less frequently than every 6 months (or, at the request of a group health plan, not less frequently than quarterly, and under the same conditions, terms, and cost of the semi-annual report under this subsection), shall submit to the group health plan a report in accordance with this section. Each such report shall be made available to such group health plan in plain language, in a machine-readable format, and as the Secretary may determine, other formats. Each such report shall include the information described in paragraph (2).

''(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in this paragraph is, with respect to drugs covered by a group health plan or group health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance issuer in connection with a group health plan during each reporting period—

''(A) in the case of a group health plan that is offered by a specified large employer or that is a specified large plan, and is not offered as health insurance coverage, or in the case of health insurance coverage for which the election under paragraph (3) is made for the applicable reporting period—

''(i) a list of drugs for which a claim was filed and, with respect to each such drug on such list—

''(I) the contracted compensation paid by the group health plan or health insurance issuer for each covered drug (identified by the National Drug Code) to the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services or other applicable entity on behalf of the group health plan or health insurance issuer;

''(II) the contracted compensation paid to the pharmacy, by any entity providing pharmacy benefit management services or other applicable entity on behalf of the group health plan or health insurance issuer, for each covered drug (identified by the National Drug Code);

''(III) for each such claim, the difference between the amount paid under subclause (I) and the amount paid under subclause (II);

''(IV) the proprietary name, established name or proper name, and National Drug Code;

''(V) for each claim for the drug (including original prescriptions and refills) and for each dosage unit of the drug for which a claim was filed, the type of dispensing channel used to furnish the drug, including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy;

''(VI) with respect to each drug dispensed, for each type of dispensing channel (including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy)—

''(aa) whether such drug is a brand name drug or a generic drug, and—

''(AA) in the case of a brand name drug, the wholesale acquisition cost, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

''(BB) in the case of a generic drug, the average wholesale price, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

''(bb) the total number of—

''(AA) prescription claims (including original prescriptions and refills);

''(BB) participants and beneficiaries for whom a claim for such drug was filed through the applicable dispensing channel;

''(CC) dosage units and dosage units per fill of such drug; and

''(DD) days supply of such drug per fill;

''(VII) the net price per course of treatment or single fill, such as a 30-day supply or 90-day supply to the plan or coverage after rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration received from applicable entities;

''(VIII) the total amount of out-of-pocket spending by participants and beneficiaries on such drug, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, but not including any amounts spent by participants and beneficiaries on drugs not covered under the plan or coverage, or for which no claim is submitted under the plan or coverage;

''(IX) the total net spending on the drug;

''(X) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan or issuer from any applicable entity in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration;

''(XI) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, from applicable entities, in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from such entities—

''(aa) for claims incurred during the reporting period; and

''(bb) that is related to utilization of such drug or spending on such drug; and

''(XII) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration for such drug, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copayment assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer), to the participants and beneficiaries enrolled in such plan or coverage;

''(ii) a list of each therapeutic class (as defined by the Secretary) for which a claim was filed under the group health plan or health insurance coverage during the reporting period, and, with respect to each such therapeutic class—

''(I) the total gross spending on drugs in such class before rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from applicable entities;

''(II) the net spending in such class after such rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from applicable entities;

''(III) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, from applicable entities, in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from such entities—

''(aa) for claims incurred during the reporting period; and

''(bb) that is related to utilization of drugs or drug spending;

''(IV) the average net spending per 30-day supply and per 90-day supply by the plan or by the issuer with respect to such coverage and its participants and beneficiaries, among all drugs within the therapeutic class for which a claim was filed during the reporting period;

''(V) the number of participants and beneficiaries who filled a prescription for a drug in such class, including the National Drug Code for each such drug;

''(VI) if applicable, a description of the formulary tiers and utilization mechanisms (such as prior authorization or step therapy) employed for drugs in that class; and

''(VII) the total out-of-pocket spending under the plan or coverage by participants and beneficiaries, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, but not including any amounts spent by participants and beneficiaries on drugs not covered under the plan or coverage or for which no claim is submitted under the plan or coverage;

''(iii) with respect to any drug for which gross spending under the group health plan or health insurance coverage exceeded $10,000 during the reporting period or, in the case that gross spending under the group health plan or coverage exceeded $10,000 during the reporting period with respect to fewer than 50 drugs, with respect to the 50 prescription drugs with the highest spending during the reporting period—

''(I) a list of all other drugs in the same therapeutic class as such drug;

''(II) if applicable, the rationale for the formulary placement of such drug in that therapeutic category or class, selected from a list of standard rationales established by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders; and

''(III) any change in formulary placement compared to the prior plan year; and

''(iv) in the case that such plan or issuer (or an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such plan or issuer) has an affiliated pharmacy or pharmacy under common ownership, including mandatory mail and specialty home delivery programs, retail and mail auto-refill programs, and cost sharing assistance incentives funded by an entity providing pharmacy benefit services—

''(I) an explanation of any benefit design parameters that encourage or require participants and beneficiaries in the plan or coverage to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies;

''(II) the percentage of total prescriptions dispensed by such pharmacies to participants or beneficiaries in such plan or coverage; and

''(III) a list of all drugs dispensed by such pharmacies to participants or beneficiaries enrolled in such plan or coverage, and, with respect to each drug dispensed—

''(aa) the amount charged, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, or per 90-day supply (as applicable) to the plan or issuer, and to participants and beneficiaries;

''(bb) the median amount charged to such plan or issuer, and the interquartile range of the costs, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, including amounts paid by the participants and beneficiaries, when the same drug is dispensed by other pharmacies that are not affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity and that are included in the pharmacy network of such plan or coverage;

''(cc) the lowest cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply and per 90-day supply, for each such drug, including amounts charged to the plan or coverage and to participants and beneficiaries, that is available from any pharmacy included in the network of such plan or coverage; and

''(dd) the net acquisition cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, if such drug is subject to a maximum price discount; and

''(B) with respect to any group health plan, including group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan, regardless of whether the plan or coverage is offered by a specified large employer or whether it is a specified large plan—

''(i) a summary document for the group health plan that includes such information described in clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A), as specified by the Secretary through guidance, program instruction, or otherwise (with no requirement of notice and comment rulemaking), that the Secretary determines useful to group health plans for purposes of selecting pharmacy benefit management services, such as an estimated net price to group health plan and participant or beneficiary, a cost per claim, the fee structure or reimbursement model, and estimated cost per participant or beneficiary;

''(ii) a summary document for plans and issuers to provide to participants and beneficiaries, which shall be made available to participants or beneficiaries upon request to their group health plan (including in the case of group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan), that—

''(I) contains such information described in clauses (iii), (iv), (v), and (vi), as applicable, as specified by the Secretary through guidance, program instruction, or otherwise (with no requirement of notice and comment rulemaking) that the Secretary determines useful to participants or beneficiaries in better understanding the plan or coverage or benefits under such plan or coverage;

''(II) contains only aggregate information; and

''(III) states that participants and beneficiaries may request specific, claims-level information required to be furnished under subsection (c) from the group health plan or health insurance issuer;

''(iii) with respect to drugs covered by such plan or coverage during such reporting period—

''(I) the total net spending by the plan or coverage for all such drugs;

''(II) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan or issuer from any applicable entity in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration; and

''(III) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration for such drugs, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copayment

assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer) to participants and beneficiaries;

''(iv) amounts paid directly or indirectly in rebates, fees, or any other type of compensation (as defined in section 408(b)(2)(B)(ii)(dd)(AA)) to brokerage firms, brokers, consultants, advisors, or any other individual or firm, for—

''(I) the referral of the group health plan's or health insurance issuer's business to an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, including the identity of the recipient of such amounts;

''(II) consideration of the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services by the group health plan or health insurance issuer; or

''(III) the retention of the entity by the group health plan or health insurance issuer;

''(v) an explanation of any benefit design parameters that encourage or require participants and beneficiaries in such plan or coverage to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies that are affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services under such plan or coverage, including mandatory mail and specialty home delivery programs, retail and mail auto-refill programs, and cost-sharing assistance incentives directly or indirectly funded by such entity; and

''(vi) total gross spending on all drugs under the plan or coverage during the reporting period.

''(3) OPT-IN FOR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OFFERED BY A SPECIFIED LARGE EMPLOYER OR THAT IS A SPECIFIED LARGE PLAN.—In the case of group health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan that is offered by a specified large employer or is a specified large plan, such group health plan may, on an annual basis, for plan years beginning on or after the date that is 30 months after the date of enactment of this section, elect to require an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of the health insurance issuer to submit to such group health plan a report that includes all of the information described in paragraph (2)(A), in addition to the information described in paragraph (2)(B).

''(4) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall report information under paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with the privacy regulations promulgated under section 13402(a) of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (42 U.S.C. 17932(a)) and consistent with the privacy regulations promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 in part 160 and subparts A and E of part 164 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) (referred to in this paragraph as the 'HIPAA privacy regulations') and shall restrict the use and disclosure of such information according to such privacy regulations and such HIPAA privacy regulations.

''(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage that submits a report under paragraph (1) shall ensure that such report contains only summary health information, as defined in section 164.504(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

''(ii) RESTRICTIONS.—In carrying out this subsection, a group health plan shall comply with section 164.504(f) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), and a plan sponsor shall act in accordance with the terms of the agreement described in such section.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify the requirements for the creation, receipt, maintenance, or transmission of protected health information under the HIPAA privacy regulations.

''(ii) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the application of any Federal or State privacy or civil rights law, including the HIPAA privacy regulations, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–233) (including the amendments made by such Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d), and title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e).

''(D) WRITTEN NOTICE.—Each plan year, group health plans, including with respect to group health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan, shall provide to each participant or beneficiary written notice informing the participant or beneficiary of the requirement for entities providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of the group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage to submit reports to group health plans under paragraph (1), as applicable, which may include incorporating such notification in plan documents provided to the participant or beneficiary, or providing individual notification.

''(E) LIMITATION TO BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.—A group health plan receiving a report under paragraph (1) may disclose such information only to the entity from which the report was received or to that entity's business associates as defined in section 160.103 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) or as permitted by the HIPAA privacy regulations.

''(F) CLARIFICATION REGARDING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, from placing reasonable restrictions on the public disclosure of the information contained in a report described in paragraph (1), except that such plan, issuer, or entity may not—

''(i) restrict disclosure of such report to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, or the Department of the Treasury; or

''(ii) prevent disclosure for the purposes of subsection (c), or any other public disclosure requirement under this section.

''(G) LIMITED FORM OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall define through rulemaking a limited form of the report under paragraph (1) required with respect to any group health plan established by a plan sponsor that is, or is affiliated with, a drug manufacturer, drug wholesaler, or other direct participant in the drug supply chain, in order to prevent anticompetitive behavior.

''(5) STANDARD FORMAT AND REGULATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall specify through rulemaking a standard format for entities providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage, to submit reports required under paragraph (1).

''(B) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall, through rulemaking, promulgate any other final regulations necessary to implement the requirements of this section. In promulgating such regulations, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, align the reporting requirements under this section with the reporting requirements under section 725.

''(c) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS OR BENEFICIARIES.—A group health plan, including with respect to group health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan, upon request of a participant or beneficiary, shall provide to such participant or beneficiary—

''(1) the summary document described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii); and

''(2) the information described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(i)(III) with respect to a claim made by or on behalf of such participant or beneficiary.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a health insurance issuer, group health plan, entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer, or other entity to restrict disclosure to, or otherwise limit the access of, the Secretary to a report described in subsection (b)(1) or information related to compliance with subsections (a), (b), or (c) of this section or section 502(c)(13) by such issuer, plan, or entity.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPLICABLE ENTITY.—The term 'applicable entity' means—

''(A) an applicable group purchasing organization, drug manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, rebate aggregator (or other purchasing entity designed to aggregate rebates), or associated third party;

''(B) any subsidiary, parent, affiliate, or subcontractor of a group health plan, health insurance issuer, entity that provides pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, or any entity described in subparagraph (A); or

''(C) such other entity as the Secretary may specify through rulemaking.

''(2) APPLICABLE GROUP PURCHASING ORGANIZATION.—The term 'applicable group purchasing organization' means a group purchasing organization that is affiliated with or under common ownership with an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services.

''(3) CONTRACTED COMPENSATION.—The term 'contracted compensation' means the sum of any ingredient cost and dispensing fee for a drug (inclusive of the out-of-pocket costs to the participant or beneficiary), or another analogous compensation structure that the Secretary may specify through regulations.

''(4) GROSS SPENDING.—The term 'gross spending', with respect to prescription drug benefits under a group health plan or health insurance coverage, means the amount spent by a group health plan or health insurance issuer on prescription drug benefits, calculated before the application of rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration.

''(5) NET SPENDING.—The term 'net spending', with respect to prescription drug benefits under a group health plan or health insurance coverage, means the amount spent by a group health plan or health insurance issuer on prescription drug benefits, calculated after the application of rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration.

''(6) PLAN SPONSOR.—The term 'plan sponsor' has the meaning given such term in section 3(16)(B).

''(7) REMUNERATION.—The term 'remuneration' has the meaning given such term by

the Secretary through rulemaking, which shall be reevaluated by the Secretary every 5 years.

''(8) SPECIFIED LARGE EMPLOYER.—The term 'specified large employer' means, in connection with a group health plan (including group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) established or maintained by a single employer, with respect to a calendar year or a plan year, as applicable, an employer who employed an average of at least 100 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year or plan year and who employs at least 1 employee on the first day of the calendar year or plan year.

''(9) SPECIFIED LARGE PLAN.—The term 'specified large plan' means a group health plan (including group health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) established or maintained by a plan sponsor described in clause (ii) or (iii) of section 3(16)(B) that had an average of at least 100 participants on business days during the preceding calendar year or plan year, as applicable.

''(10) WHOLESALE ACQUISITION COST.—The term 'wholesale acquisition cost' has the meaning given such term in section 1847A(c)(6)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3a(c)(6)(B)).'';

(B) in section 502 (29 U.S.C. 1132)—

(i) in subsection (a)(6), by striking ''or (9)'' and inserting ''(9), or (13)'';

(ii) in subsection (b)(3), by striking ''under subsection (c)(9)'' and inserting ''under paragraphs (9) and (13) of subsection (c)''; and

(iii) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(13) SECRETARIAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY RELATING TO OVERSIGHT OF PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.—

''(A) FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.—The Secretary may impose a penalty against a plan administrator of a group health plan, a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, or an applicable entity (as defined in section 726(f)) that violates section 726(a); an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer that fails to provide the information required under section 726(b); or any person who causes a group health plan to fail to provide the information required under section 726(c), in the amount of $10,000 for each day during which such violation continues or such information is not disclosed or reported.

''(B) FALSE INFORMATION.—The Secretary may impose a penalty against a plan administrator of a group health plan, a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, or an applicable entity (as defined in section 726(f)) that knowingly provides false information under section 726, in an amount not to exceed $100,000 for each item of false information. Such penalty shall be in addition to other penalties as may be prescribed by law.

''(C) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may waive penalties under subparagraph (A), or extend the period of time for compliance with a requirement of this section, for an entity in violation of section 726 that has made a good-faith effort to comply with the requirements of section 726.''; and

(C) in section 732(a) (29 U.S.C. 1191a(a)), by striking ''section 711'' and inserting ''sections 711 and 726''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 725 the following new item:

''Sec. 726. Oversight of entities that provide pharmacy benefit management services.''.

(c) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end of subchapter B the following:

''SEC. 9826. OVERSIGHT OF ENTITIES THAT PROVIDE PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after the date that is 30 months after the date of enactment of this section (referred to in this subsection and subsection (b) as the 'effective date'), a group health plan, or an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan, shall not enter into a contract, including an extension or renewal of a contract, entered into on or after the effective date, with an applicable entity unless such applicable entity agrees to—

''(1) not limit or delay the disclosure of information to the group health plan in such a manner that prevents an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan from making the reports described in subsection (b); and

''(2) provide the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan relevant information necessary to make the reports described in subsection (b).

''(b) REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after the effective date, in the case of any contract between a group health plan and an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such plan, including an extension or renewal of such a contract, entered into on or after the effective date, the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a group health plan, not less frequently than every 6 months (or, at the request of a group health plan, not less frequently than quarterly, and under the same conditions, terms, and cost of the semiannual report under this subsection), shall submit to the group health plan a report in accordance with this section. Each such report shall be made available to such group health plan in plain language, in a machine-readable format, and as the Secretary may determine, other formats. Each such report shall include the information described in paragraph (2).

''(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in this paragraph is, with respect to drugs covered by a group health plan during each reporting period—

''(A) in the case of a group health plan that is offered by a specified large employer or that is a specified large plan, and is not offered as health insurance coverage, or in the case of health insurance coverage for which the election under paragraph (3) is made for the applicable reporting period—

''(i) a list of drugs for which a claim was filed and, with respect to each such drug on such list—

''(I) the contracted compensation paid by the group health plan for each covered drug (identified by the National Drug Code) to the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services or other applicable entity on behalf of the group health plan;

''(II) the contracted compensation paid to the pharmacy, by any entity providing pharmacy benefit management services or other applicable entity on behalf of the group health plan, for each covered drug (identified by the National Drug Code);

''(III) for each such claim, the difference between the amount paid under subclause (I) and the amount paid under subclause (II);

''(IV) the proprietary name, established name or proper name, and National Drug Code;

''(V) for each claim for the drug (including original prescriptions and refills) and for each dosage unit of the drug for which a claim was filed, the type of dispensing channel used to furnish the drug, including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy;

''(VI) with respect to each drug dispensed, for each type of dispensing channel (including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy)—

''(aa) whether such drug is a brand name drug or a generic drug, and—

''(AA) in the case of a brand name drug, the wholesale acquisition cost, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

''(BB) in the case of a generic drug, the average wholesale price, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

''(bb) the total number of—

''(AA) prescription claims (including original prescriptions and refills);

''(BB) participants and beneficiaries for whom a claim for such drug was filed through the applicable dispensing channel;

''(CC) dosage units and dosage units per fill of such drug; and

''(DD) days supply of such drug per fill;

''(VII) the net price per course of treatment or single fill, such as a 30-day supply or 90-day supply to the plan after rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration received from applicable entities;

''(VIII) the total amount of out-of-pocket spending by participants and beneficiaries on such drug, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, but not including any amounts spent by participants and beneficiaries on drugs not covered under the plan, or for which no claim is submitted under the plan;

''(IX) the total net spending on the drug;

''(X) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan from any applicable entity in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration;

''(XI) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, from applicable entities, in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from such entities—

''(aa) for claims incurred during the reporting period; and

''(bb) that is related to utilization of such drug or spending on such drug; and

''(XII) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration for such drug, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copayment assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer), to the participants and beneficiaries enrolled in such plan;

''(ii) a list of each therapeutic class (as defined by the Secretary) for which a claim was filed under the group health plan during the reporting period, and, with respect to each such therapeutic class—

''(I) the total gross spending on drugs in such class before rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from applicable entities;

''(II) the net spending in such class after such rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from applicable entities;

''(III) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, from applicable entities, in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from such entities—

''(aa) for claims incurred during the reporting period; and

''(bb) that is related to utilization of drugs or drug spending;

''(IV) the average net spending per 30-day supply and per 90-day supply by the plan and its participants and beneficiaries, among all drugs within the therapeutic class for which a claim was filed during the reporting period;

''(V) the number of participants and beneficiaries who filled a prescription for a drug in such class, including the National Drug Code for each such drug;

''(VI) if applicable, a description of the formulary tiers and utilization mechanisms (such as prior authorization or step therapy) employed for drugs in that class; and

''(VII) the total out-of-pocket spending under the plan by participants and beneficiaries, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, but not including any amounts spent by participants and beneficiaries on drugs not covered under the plan or for which no claim is submitted under the plan;

''(iii) with respect to any drug for which gross spending under the group health plan exceeded $10,000 during the reporting period or, in the case that gross spending under the group health plan exceeded $10,000 during the reporting period with respect to fewer than 50 drugs, with respect to the 50 prescription drugs with the highest spending during the reporting period—

''(I) a list of all other drugs in the same therapeutic class as such drug;

''(II) if applicable, the rationale for the formulary placement of such drug in that therapeutic category or class, selected from a list of standard rationales established by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders; and

''(III) any change in formulary placement compared to the prior plan year; and

''(iv) in the case that such plan (or an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such plan) has an affiliated pharmacy or pharmacy under common ownership, including mandatory mail and specialty home delivery programs, retail and mail auto-refill programs, and cost sharing assistance incentives funded by an entity providing pharmacy benefit services—

''(I) an explanation of any benefit design parameters that encourage or require participants and beneficiaries in the plan to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies;

''(II) the percentage of total prescriptions dispensed by such pharmacies to participants or beneficiaries in such plan; and

''(III) a list of all drugs dispensed by such pharmacies to participants or beneficiaries enrolled in such plan, and, with respect to each drug dispensed—

''(aa) the amount charged, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, or per 90-day supply (as applicable) to the plan, and to participants and beneficiaries;

''(bb) the median amount charged to such plan, and the interquartile range of the costs, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, including amounts paid by the participants and beneficiaries, when the same drug is dispensed by other pharmacies that are not affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity and that are included in the pharmacy network of such plan;

''(cc) the lowest cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply and per 90-day supply, for each such drug, including amounts charged to the plan and to participants and beneficiaries, that is available from any pharmacy included in the network of such plan; and

''(dd) the net acquisition cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, if such drug is subject to a maximum price discount; and

''(B) with respect to any group health plan, regardless of whether the plan is offered by a specified large employer or whether it is a specified large plan—

''(i) a summary document for the group health plan that includes such information described in clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A), as specified by the Secretary through guidance, program instruction, or otherwise (with no requirement of notice and comment rulemaking), that the Secretary determines useful to group health plans for purposes of selecting pharmacy benefit management services, such as an estimated net price to group health plan and participant or beneficiary, a cost per claim, the fee structure or reimbursement model, and estimated cost per participant or beneficiary;

''(ii) a summary document for plans to provide to participants and beneficiaries, which shall be made available to participants or beneficiaries upon request to their group health plan, that—

''(I) contains such information described in clauses (iii), (iv), (v), and (vi), as applicable, as specified by the Secretary through guidance, program instruction, or otherwise (with no requirement of notice and comment rulemaking) that the Secretary determines useful to participants or beneficiaries in better understanding the plan or benefits under such plan;

''(II) contains only aggregate information; and

''(III) states that participants and beneficiaries may request specific, claims-level information required to be furnished under subsection (c) from the group health plan;

''(iii) with respect to drugs covered by such plan during such reporting period—

''(I) the total net spending by the plan for all such drugs;

''(II) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan from any applicable entity in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration; and

''(III) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration for such drugs, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copayment assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer) to participants and beneficiaries;

''(iv) amounts paid directly or indirectly in rebates, fees, or any other type of compensation (as defined in section 408(b)(2)(B)(ii)(dd)(AA) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)(ii)(dd)(AA))) to brokerage firms, brokers, consultants, advisors, or any other individual or firm, for—

''(I) the referral of the group health plan's business to an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services, including the identity of the recipient of such amounts;

''(II) consideration of the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services by the group health plan; or

''(III) the retention of the entity by the group health plan;

''(v) an explanation of any benefit design parameters that encourage or require participants and beneficiaries in such plan to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies that are affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services under such plan, including mandatory mail and specialty home delivery programs, retail and mail auto-refill programs, and cost-sharing assistance incentives directly or indirectly funded by such entity; and

''(vi) total gross spending on all drugs under the plan during the reporting period.

''(3) OPT-IN FOR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OFFERED BY A SPECIFIED LARGE EMPLOYER OR THAT IS A SPECIFIED LARGE PLAN.—In the case of group health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan that is offered by a specified large employer or is a specified large plan, such group health plan may, on an annual basis, for plan years beginning on or after the date that is 30 months after the date of enactment of this section, elect to require an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of the health insurance issuer to submit to such group health plan a report that includes all of the information described in paragraph (2)(A), in addition to the information described in paragraph (2)(B).

''(4) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan shall report information under paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with the privacy regulations promulgated under section 13402(a) of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (42 U.S.C. 17932(a)) and consistent with the privacy regulations promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 in part 160 and subparts A and E of part 164 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) (referred to in this paragraph as the 'HIPAA privacy regulations') and shall restrict the use and disclosure of such information according to such privacy regulations and such HIPAA privacy regulations.

''(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan that submits a report under paragraph (1) shall ensure that such report contains only summary health information, as defined in section 164.504(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

''(ii) RESTRICTIONS.—In carrying out this subsection, a group health plan shall comply with section 164.504(f) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), and a plan sponsor shall act in accordance with the terms of the agreement described in such section.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify the requirements for the creation, receipt, maintenance, or transmission of protected health information under the HIPAA privacy regulations.

''(ii) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the application of any Federal or State privacy or civil rights law, including the HIPAA privacy regulations, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–233) (including the amendments made by such Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d), and title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e).

''(D) WRITTEN NOTICE.—Each plan year, group health plans shall provide to each participant or beneficiary written notice informing the participant or beneficiary of the requirement for entities providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of the group health plan to submit reports to group health plans under paragraph (1), as applicable, which may include incorporating such

notification in plan documents provided to the participant or beneficiary, or providing individual notification.

''(E) LIMITATION TO BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.—A group health plan receiving a report under paragraph (1) may disclose such information only to the entity from which the report was received or to that entity's business associates as defined in section 160.103 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) or as permitted by the HIPAA privacy regulations.

''(F) CLARIFICATION REGARDING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan, from placing reasonable restrictions on the public disclosure of the information contained in a report described in paragraph (1), except that such plan or entity may not—

''(i) restrict disclosure of such report to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, or the Department of the Treasury; or

''(ii) prevent disclosure for the purposes of subsection (c), or any other public disclosure requirement under this section.

''(G) LIMITED FORM OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall define through rulemaking a limited form of the report under paragraph (1) required with respect to any group health plan established by a plan sponsor that is, or is affiliated with, a drug manufacturer, drug wholesaler, or other direct participant in the drug supply chain, in order to prevent anticompetitive behavior.

''(5) STANDARD FORMAT AND REGULATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall specify through rulemaking a standard format for entities providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of group health plans, to submit reports required under paragraph (1).

''(B) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall, through rulemaking, promulgate any other final regulations necessary to implement the requirements of this section. In promulgating such regulations, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, align the reporting requirements under this section with the reporting requirements under section 9825.

''(c) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS OR BENEFICIARIES.—A group health plan, upon request of a participant or beneficiary, shall provide to such participant or beneficiary—

''(1) the summary document described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii); and

''(2) the information described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(i)(III) with respect to a claim made by or on behalf of such participant or beneficiary.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a health insurance issuer, group health plan, entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer, or other entity to restrict disclosure to, or otherwise limit the access of, the Secretary to a report described in subsection (b)(1) or information related to compliance with subsections (a), (b), or (c) of this section or section 4980D(g) by such issuer, plan, or entity.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPLICABLE ENTITY.—The term 'applicable entity' means—

''(A) an applicable group purchasing organization, drug manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, rebate aggregator (or other purchasing entity designed to aggregate rebates), or associated third party;

''(B) any subsidiary, parent, affiliate, or subcontractor of a group health plan, health insurance issuer, entity that provides pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, or any entity described in subparagraph (A); or

''(C) such other entity as the Secretary may specify through rulemaking.

''(2) APPLICABLE GROUP PURCHASING ORGANIZATION.—The term 'applicable group purchasing organization' means a group purchasing organization that is affiliated with or under common ownership with an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services.

''(3) CONTRACTED COMPENSATION.—The term 'contracted compensation' means the sum of any ingredient cost and dispensing fee for a drug (inclusive of the out-of-pocket costs to the participant or beneficiary), or another analogous compensation structure that the Secretary may specify through regulations.

''(4) GROSS SPENDING.—The term 'gross spending', with respect to prescription drug benefits under a group health plan, means the amount spent by a group health plan on prescription drug benefits, calculated before the application of rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration.

''(5) NET SPENDING.—The term 'net spending', with respect to prescription drug benefits under a group health plan, means the amount spent by a group health plan on prescription drug benefits, calculated after the application of rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration.

''(6) PLAN SPONSOR.—The term 'plan sponsor' has the meaning given such term in section 3(16)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(16)(B)).

''(7) REMUNERATION.—The term 'remuneration' has the meaning given such term by the Secretary, through rulemaking, which shall be reevaluated by the Secretary every 5 years.

''(8) SPECIFIED LARGE EMPLOYER.—The term 'specified large employer' means, in connection with a group health plan established or maintained by a single employer, with respect to a calendar year or a plan year, as applicable, an employer who employed an average of at least 100 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year or plan year and who employs at least 1 employee on the first day of the calendar year or plan year.

''(9) SPECIFIED LARGE PLAN.—The term 'specified large plan' means a group health plan established or maintained by a plan sponsor described in clause (ii) or (iii) of section 3(16)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(16)(B)) that had an average of at least 100 participants on business days during the preceding calendar year or plan year, as applicable.

''(10) WHOLESALE ACQUISITION COST.—The term 'wholesale acquisition cost' has the meaning given such term in section 1847A(c)(6)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3a(c)(6)(B)).''.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN GROUP HEALTH PLANS.—Section 9831(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting ''other than with respect to section 9826,'' before ''any group health plan''.

(3) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 4980D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) APPLICATION TO REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED ON CERTAIN ENTITIES PROVIDING PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.—In the case of any requirement under section 9826 that applies with respect to an entity providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a group health plan, any reference in this section to such group health plan (and the reference in subsection (e)(1) to the employer) shall be treated as including a reference to such entity.''.

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 9826. Oversight of entities that provide pharmacy benefit management services.''.

SEC. 202. FUNDING COST SHARING REDUCTION PAYMENTS.

Section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18071) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) FUNDING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There are appropriated out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated such sums as may be necessary for purposes of making payments under this section for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

''(2) LIMITATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) may not be used for purposes of making payments under this section for a qualified health plan that provides health benefit coverage that includes coverage of abortion.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to payments for a qualified health plan that provides coverage of abortion only if necessary to save the life of the mother or if the pregnancy is a result of an act of rape or incest.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill 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 chair and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees, and the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) shall each control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the legislation, H.R. 6703.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6703, the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act.

When the Democrats passed ObamaCare over a decade ago, they sold the bill on the promise that it would lower healthcare costs and preserve plan options. If you like your plan, you can keep it and if you like your doctor, you can keep them, we remember being quoted. These famous last words still haunt us.

Today, we know that ObamaCare has not lived up to the Democrats' lofty promises. Instead, the consequences of that bill continue to burden American patients as they have since its enactment. Healthcare spending has nearly doubled since ObamaCare passed.

Healthcare plan options have been decimated by Democratic overreach, and millions of Americans are saddled with medical debt across the country.

ObamaCare premiums are up 80 percent since the program's inception, with patients paying on average $5,000 out of their own pocket to hit their deductible. The average out-of-pocket spending maximum for 1 year is over $20,000. Without a doubt, ObamaCare has proven to be unaffordable and unsustainable.

In an attempt to respond to the affordability crisis created by ObamaCare, Democrats leveraged a public health emergency to shovel hundreds of billions of dollars to big health insurance plans to mask the risk of rising unaffordability of coverage. First, in the American Rescue Plan of 2021 and then again in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2023, Democrats sent temporary taxpayer-funded enhanced premium tax credits directly to the coffers of big insurance plans.

They did this without a single Republican vote of support. On both occasions, Democrats chose to make these COVID credits temporary. They could have made them permanent, but they chose instead to focus on advancing priorities for wealthy Americans, which some of these they did make permanent by subsidizing electric vehicles for politically connected cronies to siphon off Federal dollars of the greenhouse gas slush fund.

Now, Democrats are uniting behind that policy to send billions more of taxpayer dollars to big health insurance plans. With the Democrats' temporary COVID credits set to expire at the end of the year, they are attempting to turn their policy failures into political gains using the American people as collateral.

It is worth reiterating. Democrats funded temporary Band-Aids to cover up unaffordable care. They set the expiration dates. They chose to fund liberal priorities instead of making them permanent.

While Democrats continue to fearmonger, I want to shed light on what Republicans are doing to fix the Democrats' affordability crisis, with policies that deliver real, lasting relief to the American people. These include eliminating health plan gimmicks like silver loading, which will lower ACA premiums by 11 percent; increasing transparency for pharmacy benefit managers, the middlemen that will lower costs of drugs for all Americans; and increasing affordable plan choices and putting patients back in the driver's seat for their own healthcare plan choices by instituting association health plans, CHOICE arrangements, and stop-loss insurance.

This proposal results in more than double the premium reduction that Democrats' extension of the enhanced tax credit subsidies would. The Congressional Budget Office estimates this plan will lower premiums by 11 percent compared to just 5 percent from the Democratic subsidies. These policies will also lower healthcare costs for all Americans, not just the roughly 7 percent enrolled in the ObamaCare marketplace. Many of these policies are bipartisan: Ending silver loading, addressing nefarious PBM practices, and strengthening the employer insurance marketplace all have garnered broad bipartisan support.

I hope we can overlook politics that are clouding the issue and come together to pass this bill and continue to work together in 2026 to deliver more affordable healthcare to all Americans.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on Speaker JOHNSON to immediately bring the bipartisan 3-year extension of the Affordable Care Act tax credits to the floor. This bill now has the support, pursuant to a discharge petition, of a majority of House Members and should get a vote immediately before the ACA tax credits expire.

Mr. Speaker, without this tax credit extension bill by Mr. JEFFRIES, health insurance premiums are going to skyrocket for more than 20 million Americans across the country. They will see prices double, triple, and even quadruple. It will leave millions with the difficult decision of going without coverage because they simply cannot afford rising costs.

Just days before prices skyrocket for American families, Republicans are bringing a bill to the floor that does absolutely nothing to lower prices. Instead, Republicans are using this affordability crisis to prop up junk health insurance plans that discriminate against people and leave them hanging when they get sick.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are desperate for our help, and this Republican bill doesn't do a thing to provide it. This bill is a sham, and a majority of the House knows it.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.'' We should take real action immediately by passing the Jeffries bill.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act, a bill rightfully named because that is exactly what it does.

Republicans want to lower healthcare costs and premiums for all Americans, all the Americans on commercial insurance, all the small businesses, all the people on the ACA exchanges, and all the self-insured, not just a select few, and not subsidizing profitable insurance companies.

Insurance, especially bad insurance, is not care.

The Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act offers commonsense solutions to America's broken healthcare system.

It lowers premiums through choice and competition. By expanding association health plans, we give small businesses and self-employed workers the buying power of large employers, cutting premiums by as much as 30 percent.

It gives families control over their dollars. We strengthen CHOICE arrangements, allowing defined contributions and pretax options so workers can choose the right plan for their needs, rather than being stuck in plans that cost too much and deliver too little care.

It brings transparency transparent to drug pricing. We take on the pharmacy benefit managers, which have long operated behind the scenes as middlemen, collecting hidden fees while prescription prices climb. Our reforms force transparency so families can finally see where their healthcare dollars go and pay less at the pharmacy counter.

It protects access to employer-sponsored insurance. By clarifying access to stop-loss insurance, we safeguard small businesses from being financially ruined by catastrophic health claims.

It stabilizes premiums responsibly. We responsibly fund cost-sharing reduction payments, lowering ACA premium costs for all in the marketplace by 11 percent. This policy alone results in an average premium savings of $900 nationally, while reducing Federal spending, saving taxpayers $36 billion.

Contrary to what we hear from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the premium tax credits continue and revert back to their 2021 levels.

This bill delivers what Americans have been asking for: lower premiums, more choices, and a healthcare system that works for them, not against them. It is time to put all Americans and their doctors in the driver's seat and ahead of profitable insurance companies.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, before I yield time, I will make sure that the gentlewoman from Iowa knows that without the ACA tax credit extension, a middle-class 60-year-old couple in her district is seeing their premium go up by $1,422 per month.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the Democratic whip.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Republican Party is, what are you doing?

What are you doing? Why won't you use your immense powers as the majority to help the American people?

The bill before us does nothing for the 15 million Americans who are about to lose their health insurance, the 1 million children who are about to become uninsured, the hundreds of hospitals that are closing or on the verge of closing, or the 24 million people who are staring down premiums they simply cannot afford.

It does nothing to solve a crisis that the Republicans have inflicted on the American people, but, but, but, in typical fashion, here is what it does do. It does promote the GOP dream of a nationwide abortion ban.

You found time for that, but today is the day to stop these tax credits from expiring. You called us back in July from recess to make sure that we voted on tax cuts, to make them permanent for the very richest Americans, but now that we have a bipartisan discharge petition ready to vote on today, you can't find the time to do it.

We are ready to vote, Mr. Speaker. You have the power to bring that to the floor today.

Let the will of the people be the will of the people's House. Let's stop the premium hikes, extend the ACA tax credits, and get back to building a healthcare system that is worthy of the American people.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I will remind my friends that the premium tax credits from the ACA are extended. They are permanent. These are the enhanced premium tax credits. It is good, and sad, that my colleagues are recognizing that the Affordable Care Act is failing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), my good friend and leader on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I will remind my colleagues across the aisle that not a single Republican has ever voted for ObamaCare. This is your plan. You put it into law. It was a disaster then. It is a disaster now. It was more expensive now than it has ever been, and it is your plan. It is our job to fix it, which is exactly what we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare has failed to deliver on its promises. It has left millions of Americans with higher premiums. Again, your votes did that. It has fewer choices, less coverage, and is plagued by fraud, waste, and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had a constituent write to me, outlining her and her husband's experience, demonstrating systematic fraud within the ACA marketplace. Her husband has been repeatedly enrolled in an ACA plan without consent since November 2023 in a scheme where brokers and agents are fraudulently enrolling individuals to collect commissions and meet enrollment quotas. This broker gained unauthorized access to his prescription records and replaced his legitimate employer-sponsored insurance coverage at his pharmacy.

I wish I could say that these examples are one-time instances, but we know they are not. The system was built for this kind of fraud. They represent the broader failure that is ObamaCare.

We must take action to fix this broken system and make healthcare actually affordable, not the Ponzi scheme that it currently is.

The Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act is a great first step toward this mission, and we will drive down health insurance premiums immediately by 11 percent through cost-sharing reduction payments, provide patients with greater transparency, and support small businesses that offer employment-based healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, we should do more as a Republican Conference, including creating Trump health freedom accounts and allowing Americans to shop across State lines, encouraging competition.

Not a single Republican ever voted for your plan, but we are fixing it now. This is a good first step.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, before I yield time, I will make sure that the gentleman from Texas knows that without the ACA tax credit extension, a middle-class 60-year-old couple in his district is seeing their premium go up by $2,049 per month.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

□ 1130

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill. This should be called the lower healthcare premiums for none act.

Next year, my constituent, Natalie's, insurance will go from $175 to $400 a month, a fifth of her monthly wages. She is a college student who relies on her insurance for mental health care. She wrote to me: I don't want to pick between my dream, mental health, and food.

What does this bill do for her? Nothing. I know Republicans are getting similar calls. Yet, instead of caring about the millions of Americans who are being forced to make impossible choices, they are putting up this sham of a bill. They should be ashamed.

Mr. Speaker, we came here to deliver for our constituents. Let's vote on a clean extension and avert the cliff. Let's put an end to this scam.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard sad stories. Last night, in the Rules Committee, the Rules chairman read through different stuff. The Rules' ranking member was in townhalls and heard stories about people who had to buy care on the Affordable Care Act marketplace that is failing.

There is one thing nobody has ever answered. They say they have to face their constituents. Do my colleagues explain to their constituents that in the bill that they voted for that gave billions of dollars of the Green New Deal; in the same bill they set these tax cuts to expire?

I know it was during reconciliation they could have done them within 10 years instead of 5. They also could have done them permanently. There is a way in reconciliation to do them permanently, as well.

No one on the other side has ever explained why they chose to make these tax credits expire. I am still waiting to hear the answer for that.

In the meantime, we have our bill that will lower premiums, calculated by CBO, in the individual market by 11 percent, as opposed to the 5 percent that would happen if we just passed the enhanced tax credits. Not just the 7 percent in the ObamaCare marketplace will benefit but all Americans will benefit from this bill.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure the chairman from Kentucky knows that a middle-class, 60-year-old couple in his district is seeing their premium go up by $1,711 per month unless we extend the ACA tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this Republican charade and to stand up for my neighbors back home who deserve quality and affordable health coverage. That includes over half a million of my hardworking neighbors across the Tampa Bay area.

Mr. Speaker, 4.7 Floridians, or one in five who live in the Sunshine State, are doing everything right. They are entrepreneurs. They are caregivers.

They are part-time workers and small business owners like Linda Misener and her husband. Their premiums will go from $288 per month to over $3,200 per month next year. They cannot afford $39,000 for their healthcare. They are terrified that they are going to lose everything.

David, who is being treated for pancreatic cancer, is unsure how he will continue treatments and afford everything else.

It is unconscionable that Republicans are ripping away coverage to fund their tax breaks for billionaires, the wealthy, and the well-connected. Americans deserve so much better.

Mr. Speaker, defeat this Republican bill. Bring the 3-year bipartisan extension to the floor now.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I again ask the question: Why were these set to expire? We hear the stories that people are reading about people in their districts, and they say how it is unconscionable. It is unconscionable that money was spent on the Green New Deal at the expense of the enhanced tax credits they talk about.

We want to solve it. Mr. Speaker, $39,000 is what is brought up for

healthcare. That is the problem in America. Mr. Speaker, $39,000 for health insurance is what we have to fix.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Environment.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, as a result, 4 million people will lose their insurance. Everyone else on an ACA plan will pay more for worse coverage, while billionaires sit comfortably and enjoy their tax breaks from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Remember in the summer and fall, when Republicans told us that this wasn't the right time to negotiate these subsidies over the shutdown, they said: Don't worry. That doesn't expire until later in the year. We are working on a plan.

Later is here. What does this Republican plan do to extend the ACA subsidies? It does nothing. It does absolutely nothing. This is unacceptable and downright cruel. While I am disappointed that Republicans refuse to extend this lifeline, I am not surprised. They had no intention of voting on extending ACA subsidies.

In fact, I heard that Republican leadership told my fellow New York Republicans that they needed to find a way to pay for the ACA subsidy extension if they wanted to even have a vote on it.

Playing under the Republicans' new rules, shouldn't this be free, or does that math only apply for their billionaire buddies and their tax breaks?

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member who cares about their constituents having affordable healthcare to oppose this plan and sign Leader JEFFRIES' petition. Do it for the people.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN), a member of our committee.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, Americans should run away as far and as fast as they can from Republicans' last-minute mess of a healthcare plan.

Under the Republicans' plan, millions of Americans will not be able to afford health insurance because Republicans don't provide money for Americans to pay for the healthcare under the Affordable Care Act.

Americans don't have an extra $1,000 or $2,000 in their pockets every month to pay for health insurance. They shouldn't have to choose between being able to afford a doctor's visit or feeding their family.

House Democrats' discharge petition will extend the tax credits that lower costs and help Americans buy health insurance. Mr. Speaker, four Republicans just joined our efforts. We welcome more.

Speaker JOHNSON should bring the bill to the floor immediately. Don't send Congress on holiday without making sure that we protect healthcare for over 20 million Americans.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN), also a member of our committee.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, this vote is a waste of time. Nothing in this Republican healthcare plan will stop Americans' healthcare premiums from skyrocketing.

When this bill fails to become law—and it will fail—20 million Americans will see their premiums surge on January 1. Many will not even be able to afford hundreds or even thousands more each month, they will lose their healthcare coverage completely.

This is a partisan exercise that does nothing to address the crisis before us. That is why, moments ago, four Republicans signed onto the bipartisan legislation to end this crisis and protect Americans' healthcare, giving it the signatures necessary to be considered on the House floor. The American people expect us to act with urgency, decisiveness, and transparency.

Mr. Speaker, cancel this vote. Call up the bipartisan bill to save Americans' healthcare before you take another vacation.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Kentucky has 15 seconds remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER), the vice ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the disingenuously named Lower Healthcare Premiums for All Americans Act, which does not, in fact, lower healthcare premiums for all Americans.

In response to political pressure from the very real healthcare crisis before us, House Republicans have rushed this bill to the floor without input from House Democrats and without going through the Energy and Commerce Committee, as it should, or any actual legislative process.

That might sound like it is in the weeds, but it is not. It is a glaring failure to engage in real and meaningful policy that the country is demanding. It is a response to the crisis that this Republican Congress has created with the cuts it made earlier this year and its failure to extend the premium tax credits, which we can fix today. It is another example of this Congress failing to do its real work.

We have to see the big picture here. Congress isn't working as it should. Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans are pushing this bill on the floor to address a political crisis, not the healthcare crisis.

If House Republicans were serious, this bill would actually do something to lower costs. Instead, the experts tell us this bill will do nothing to decrease costs for Americans and nothing to curb junk plans, but it does have a backdoor ban on abortion for people on ACA plans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) has expired.

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

Mr. Speaker, we are here to solve the problem for all Americans. Mr. Speaker, 20 million people are trapped in the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Our proposal lowers those premiums by 11 percent.

There are over 160 million Americans who get it through their employers. There are Americans on other types of health insurance. We need to fix this problem.

My good friend from Florida, Mr. Speaker, said $39,000 is what they pay for health insurance. That is the problem. That is what we need to fix.

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

□ 1140

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) will each control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to healthcare, Republicans are focused on lowering costs and expanding choice for all Americans. That is 347 million people, not just 7 percent of the population, which is all you are going to hear from the other side of the aisle, and that is all you have been hearing from the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade, Democrats have promised that ObamaCare would lower costs. They actually named the bill the ''Affordable Care Act.'' Find one American—find one American who says that their healthcare is now cheaper today than it was when they passed this disastrous bill. You won't. You won't find one.

In fact, the sky is falling because of their enhanced premium tax credits that they made temporary because they decided to make permanent tax benefits for wealthy environmentalists who support them. That is why we are where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, since ObamaCare has passed, we have seen 150-plus hospitals close their doors. Since ObamaCare has passed, we have seen premiums go up more than 80 percent. It doesn't sound like the Affordable Care Act by any means.

Even worse, the Government Accountability Office has confirmed what Republicans have been warning for years: ObamaCare is riddled with

waste, fraud, and abuse. The GAO led a covert investigation by creating fictitious ObamaCare applicants with fake documentation where 100 percent of those applicants were accepted and enrolled.

Guess what? A year later, this year, of that 100 percent, 90 percent were still receiving subsidies. That means that insurance companies were still being subsidized for fake accounts where the people didn't even exist.

Data analysis from GAO also finds that 58,000-plus enrollees matched Social Security numbers with death records, with 7,000 of them dead before enrollment even began. There were dead people on the rolls, but what do they want to do? Their answer is to just continue the same old-same old by extending the current program with no reforms.

Mr. Speaker, one Social Security number alone had more than 125 different policies attached to it—just one. This all came from the GAO. This didn't come from the House Republicans.

We should not continue propping up a system that has completely failed to lower costs for Americans. The Lower Healthcare Premiums for All Americans Act takes a much different approach. It is one that delivers real relief.

First, it provides more freedom and flexibility through CHOICE Arrangements, empowering small businesses to offer tax-free benefits so that their employees can find health coverage that works for them.

This levels the playing field for small businesses, putting them on equal footing with large employers when competing for workers. These arrangements are proven to be successful. In fact, 83 percent of employers using CHOICE Arrangements are offering coverage for the very first time.

The bill also brings transparency to pharmacy benefit managers, requiring them to open up the books to finally give employers the data that they need to increase competition and negotiate better drug prices for workers. The result: Healthcare costs and premiums will be lowered for all—for all Americans, not just the 7 percent that the Democrats are fighting for in the enhanced COVID-era premium tax credits, but also for the 300 million-plus Americans.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare has driven costs up and choice down. This bill does the complete opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Lower Healthcare Premiums for All Americans Act and stand with families, workers, and small businesses who deserve—they deserve a real affordable, accountable healthcare plan.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Republican bill was put together with bubble gum and Elmer's glue last Friday night. This isn't a plan. It sounds like their argument that 300-year-olds are receiving Social Security benefits.

Families are staring at massive premium hikes, and now, thanks to four Republicans, we can force a vote. When you listen to the argument earlier from the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), he said that Republicans never had a chance to vote on the Affordable Care Act. This morning, we want to give you a chance.

Speaker JOHNSON could end this crisis and bring the bill up. Instead, they are wasting time on this dusty bill that will increase the number of uninsured Americans, and that is a fact. People don't need healthcare that costs more and covers less. To stave off this crisis, this bipartisan discharge petition is a workable path forward, and over the course of the next few minutes, we intend to tell you that you can hear why.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), the chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, let me simplify the debate today for the American people.

Republicans are bringing forward reforms that will actually lower the cost of care. According to CBO, which is the gold standard for my Democratic colleagues, it will reduce premiums by 11 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the only other time premiums have gone down since ObamaCare was enacted was when Republicans actually advanced reforms in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act; namely, rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. That lowered the cost of care.

We continue to bail out the unaffordable care act and actually make it more affordable, along with other policies that provide the Federal assistance to the people, not insurance agencies, and give the private market more competition and transparency so that people have more choice. That is our plan, and it lowers costs for everybody.

The Democrats are trying to put forward an extension of a COVID-era, fraud-ridden subsidy that has proven time and again—GAO, CBO, all the watchdogs say it is fraught with tens of billions of dollars of fraud. Tens of thousands of Social Security numbers from dead people have been used to siphon money away from this program.

Millions of people, according to CBO, are ineligibly on the program, and the answer from the Democrats is to perpetuate this fraud bag, which is a completely egregious and reckless thing to do as stewards of tax dollars. This is not to mention that it is propping up the underlying program that, year after year, has raised premiums and deductibles two times—it has doubled premiums and deductibles since ObamaCare has been enacted.

We have fewer choices. Things are worse.

As Ronald Reagan said so beautifully, so aptly, in this moment, I can't think of any better words: ''Government is not the solution . . .'' here. Democrats all have proven that. ''Government is the problem,'' and we have the solution that actually delivers the affordability to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

□ 1150

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for a vote immediately to save America's healthcare.

Across our country, American families are being squeezed by high grocery prices, high utility bills, and soaring costs for holiday gifts. Families can't afford to pay double for their healthcare. Republicans cut $1 trillion from healthcare to give a tax break to their billionaire donors. Americans of every party stripe are being hurt, and they have had enough.

This morning, four Republicans joined every Democrat to sign a petition forcing you to hold a vote on our bill that will save healthcare for 4 million people. Mr. Speaker, it is your turn to act. Hold the vote to save healthcare now.

It is important to point out that the CBO analysis that my Republican friends keep talking about says that it is going to cost 100,000 people more every year for healthcare.

Hold the vote on the bill that will save healthcare.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN).

Mr. HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased this bill is coming to the floor today.

Every patient's health needs are unique, and every person's situation is different. This is why it is so important to expand and protect the different options available to individuals, and this bill does exactly that. It gives the decisionmaking process back to the American people.

I am honored that this package includes my bill, the CHOICE Arrangement Act, which makes it easier for small businesses—something that I know something about after 35 years in business—to offer healthcare coverage. It gives individuals more options to choose health plans that work for them.

CHOICE accounts put individuals in the driver's seat when it comes to picking their healthcare plan and lets their employer financially support their decision. This empowers people in one of their most personal decisions, their healthcare.

Over the last 15 years, healthcare has become unaffordable for everyone, including 164 million Americans covered by employer-sponsored plans. Yet, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to ignore these individuals in their healthcare conversations.

The gentleman from California just stated, ''This is for 4 million,'' what they are talking about. We want to lower the healthcare costs for over 300 million people in America.

Premiums are rising for all Americans, whether you are on the exchange or an employer-sponsored plan, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, whether you are healthy or you are unhealthy.

We should be focused on making healthcare affordable for all Americans and include those on the exchange, employer-sponsored plans, Medicare, and Medicaid.

The provisions of this bill are a start to doing so by giving Americans what they need: lower costs, more choices, and increased transparency.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. NEAL for the time.

Mr. Speaker, a constituent in my district in Middletown is going to be paying more for health insurance than he does for his mortgage.

Let's cut right to the chase. This is about a vote for the American people. This great democracy that we live in, this Chamber that could once actually discuss and debate issues, Speaker JOHNSON should be bringing this bill to the floor today.

Do Republicans have the courage to vote, or are they going to run and hide? Four Republicans have stood up and said: You know what, in a democracy, this deserves a vote.

Listen carefully, American people, how they decry this bill, yet they won't even have a vote.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri has 1 minute and 15 seconds remaining.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I got this note this morning from a constituent of mine who said: ''Dear Congressman Davis, I wish you were voting to extend the tax credits for healthcare today. I am a single mother with a daughter in college. Without these Federal tax credits, we will be in an extremely vulnerable position. Accessing healthcare would be virtually impossible, and the stability of our lives would be at serious risk. These tax credits are not just helpful. They are essential. I don't know what we would do without them.''

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Shameka.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Ohio families and small businesses continue to face unprecedented healthcare costs, making it increasingly difficult for my constituents to access affordable, high-quality care.

Since the enactment of the so-called Affordable Care Act in 2010, healthcare costs have risen dramatically, with premiums increasing by more than 25 percent over the last 5 years. This trend makes clear that our Nation's healthcare system needs reform to lower costs for patients and ensure stability for providers.

The Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act is a critical step forward in curbing rising premiums, expanding choice, and improving transparency. The legislation includes provisions to improve affordability, particularly for small businesses, along with cost-sharing reduction funding and PBM reforms.

As we move toward these goals, I urge the adoption of the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act and remain committed to reforming a broken healthcare system, increasing choice and competition to lower healthcare costs for our Nation.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this bill.

In a matter of days, roughly 130,000 people in my home State of Alabama will lose their healthcare coverage because Republicans in this body refuse to extend the ACA tax credits. Millions of Americans will find themselves one diagnosis away from bankruptcy.

Rather than addressing the crisis that they created, Republicans are pushing legislation that will make matters worse. Not only does this bill fail to extend the tax credits, but it promotes junk insurance plans that will rip off consumers and make healthcare even more unaffordable.

House Republicans are incapable of dealing with our Nation's affordability crisis. They should stop their political games and put the bipartisan JEFFRIES bills on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, we deserve better. My constituents deserve better. Every American deserves better.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, in 2 weeks, 22 million Americans will see their health insurance premiums skyrocket, not by accident, but because Republicans refuse to extend ACA tax credits that keep care affordable.

After 15 years, this is the Republican healthcare plan: higher costs, weaker coverage, and recycled ACA sabotage. Millions will pay hundreds or thousands of dollars more, and millions could lose coverage altogether.

Democrats have a solution right now and have the 218 bipartisan signatures for a clean bill to extend these tax credits. Speaker JOHNSON must put this bill on the floor now. The consequences are real. The American people are watching.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. NEAL for the time.

Mr. Speaker, time is up. The ACA tax credits are expiring December 31.

The ACA premium tax credits have provided healthcare access for 15 years to over 20 million people who were previously uninsured. The ACA has saved lives, but time is up. America can't wait another 15 years for Republicans to offer a real healthcare proposal that provides full coverage to all Americans.

''Lowering healthcare costs'' may be in the title, but it is nowhere in this proposal today.

I know that my own Senator, RON JOHNSON, a millionaire, has told me he would be just fine reverting to the pre-ACA world of high-risk pools and plans with limited benefits. This bill carries us back to a time when millions have an insurance card in their wallets that covers little to nothing.

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. The one big, beautiful bill transferred healthcare dollars—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is out of order. Her time has expired.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the minority leader, who has done a terrific job on managing this legislation.

□ 1200

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank RICHARD NEAL, the once and future chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, as well as FRANK PALLONE, BOBBY SCOTT, all my colleagues in government on the Democratic side, and the Republicans who have joined us now to make sure that we extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits which are scheduled to expire at the end of this month.

For months now, Democrats have made clear that we have a broken healthcare system that Republicans continue to destroy. They have exacerbated our healthcare crisis month after month after month, including with the one big, ugly bill, with the largest cut to Medicaid in American history, ripping healthcare away from 14 million Americans.

Hospitals, nursing homes, and community-based health centers are closing all across the country, including in rural America because of the Republican healthcare crisis.

Republicans, Mr. Speaker, continue to attack the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the FDA, and vaccine availability.

Republicans have launched an all-out assault on the healthcare of the American people, and it continues today with this toxic piece of legislation that will rip healthcare away from an additional 4 million people and jam junk health insurance plans down the throats of the American people.

Democrats are strongly opposed to this legislation, and the American people know Republicans have zero credibility on fighting to protect their healthcare.

In this great country of ours, the wealthiest country in the history of the world, it should be the case, we believe, that access to high-quality healthcare should not simply be a privilege available only to the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected. Access to high-quality healthcare should be a right available to every single American. That is what House Democrats are continuing to fight hard to achieve.

One of the ways we can make sure that we strive to achieve that principle is to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits, which are scheduled to expire in 15 days. That means that tens of millions of Americans, working-class Americans, middle-class Americans, people in urban America, rural America, small-town America, suburban America, the heartland of America, Black and Brown communities all throughout America, tens of millions of people, Americans of every stripe, in every region, are about to experience their health insurance premiums increase in some instances by $1,000 or $2,000 per month. That is unacceptable.

Now, we have a bipartisan coalition here in the House of Representatives, at least 218 votes, to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits for 3 years, to provide everyday Americans with the certainty they deserve in terms of being able to afford to go see a doctor when they need one.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans need to bring the Affordable Care Act tax credit extension bill to the floor today. Under no circumstances should we leave this Capitol this week before voting on an extension of the Affordable Care Act tax credit bill that we know will pass, that the votes exist, in a bipartisan way, to protect the healthcare of everyday Americans.

House Democrats have made clear we are in this fight until we win this fight, to cancel the cuts, lower the costs, save healthcare, and extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the bombshell GAO report showing the waste, fraud, and abuse within the ObamaCare exchanges.

GAO, U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2025.

Hon. BRETT GUTHRIE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives.

Hon. JASON SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives.

PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM ONGOING REVIEW SUGGEST FRAUD RISKS IN THE ADVANCE PREMIUM TAX CREDIT PERSIST

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) provides premium tax credits to those who purchase private health insurance plans and meet certain income and other requirements. Individuals may have the federal government pay this credit to their health insurance issuers in advance on their behalf, known as the advance premium tax credit (APTC), which lowers their monthly premium payments.

Millions of consumers have purchased health insurance plans through the marketplaces established under PPACA. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is responsible for maintaining the federal Marketplace and overseeing state-based marketplaces. Under PPACA, states may elect to operate their own state-based marketplace or to use the federal Marketplace. These marketplaces determine eligibility for APTC, based in part on income, and allow individuals to compare and choose among insurance plans offered by participating private health care coverage issuers. CMS estimated it paid nearly $124 billion in APTC for about 19.5 million enrollees for plan year 2024.

Consumers can enroll in health insurance coverage through a marketplace independently or with assistance, such as from an insurance agent or broker. As discussed later in this report, agents and brokers can help a consumer apply for coverage, including for related financial assistance, and enroll in a plan. Assistance from an agent or broker is of no cost to a consumer. Rather, agents and brokers are allowed to receive compensation directly from health insurance issuers in accordance with agreements with those issuers and any applicable state requirements.

Indictments from December 2024 and February 2025 highlight concerns about agent and broker practices in the federal Marketplace. Specifically, the indictments allege that bad actors enrolled consumers in insurance through the federal Marketplace by falsifying information on their applications. Additionally, according to CMS, the agency received approximately 275,000 complaints between January and August 2024 that consumers were enrolled in a plan or had their plan changed without their consent. Such practices can result in wasteful federal spending on APTC for enrollees who are not eligible. Further, such practices can result in harm and unexpected costs for consumers. These can include loss of access to medical providers and medications, higher copayments and deductibles, or repayment of APTC if income or other eligibility was misrepresented.

We previously reported that APTC is at risk of fraud. For example, in September 2016, we found that federal and state marketplaces approved coverage for our fictitious applicants. Nearly all of these fictitious applicants remained covered after we sent fictitious documents or no documents to resolve issues with our applications. Further, in July 2017, we found that CMS did not design processes to verify eligibility for APTC, including preventing duplicate coverage.

You asked us to review issues related to fraud risk management in APTC. This report is based on preliminary results and analyses from that ongoing work. Specifically. this report addresses preliminary results from our

1. covert testing of federal Marketplace enrollment controls'for plan years 2024 and 2025,
2. analyses of federal Marketplace enrollment data for plan years 2023 and 2024, and
3. evaluation of CMS's fraud risk assessment and antifraud strategy for APTC.

To perform covert testing of federal Marketplace enrollment controls, we created 20 fictitious identities and submitted applications for individual health care coverage in the federal Marketplace. We submitted applications for four of these fictitious identities in October 2024 for coverage through December 2024, which was the remainder of that plan year. We pursued coverage for plan year 2025 for all 20 fictitious identities, including the four identities for which we already submitted applications. Our covert testing for plan year 2025 is ongoing, since the plan year is not yet complete. As a result, we will describe additional details of the 2025 applications in a future report.

Our covert testing included applications submitted independently through HealthCare.gov, which is the federal Marketplace's website, and applications submitted with assistance from an insurance agent or broker. For all our applicant scenarios, we sought to act as an ordinary consumer would in attempting to make a successful application. For example, if, during online applications, we were directed to make phone calls to complete the process, we acted as instructed.

For applications for plan year 2024, our covert tests included fictitious applicants who provided invalid (i.e., never issued) Social Security numbers (SSN). Additionally, we stated income at a level eligible to obtain APTC. As appropriate, we used publicly available information to construct our applications for coverage and subsidies. We also used publicly available hardware, software, and materials to produce counterfeit documents that we submitted, if appropriate for our testing, when instructed to do so. We then observed the outcomes of the document submissions, such as any approvals received or requests to provide additional supporting documentation. The results of our covert testing, while illustrative of potential enrollment control weaknesses, cannot be generalized to the overall enrollment population.

To examine federal Marketplace enrollment for plan years 2023 and 2024, we obtained and analyzed federal Marketplace enrollment and payment data, including APTC information, from CMS. We also matched enrollee SSNs in the data to two additional data sources: (1) Social Security Administration's (SSA) full death file, a database containing records of death that have been reported to SSA, as of November 2024 and (2) April 2025 data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on APTC reconciliation from tax forms filed for tax year 2023. We assessed the reliability of all data sets by performing electronic tests to determine the completeness and accuracy of key fields. We also reviewed agency documentation and interviewed knowledgeable agency officials about the reliability of the data. Overall, we found that the data were reliable for our purposes.

To examine CMS's fraud risk assessment and antifraud strategy for APTC, we reviewed documentation of CMS's policies and fraud risk management activities related to APTC. This included CMS's 2018 fraud risk

assessment for APTC. Additionally, we interviewed agency officials about CMS's fraud risk management activities in this program. We reviewed relevant reports from GAO and HHS's Office of the Inspector General. We evaluated information from relevant documentation and interviews of agency officials against relevant leading practices in GAO's A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs (Fraud Risk Framework).

To support all three objectives, we interviewed CMS officials and representatives from seven stakeholder organizations that represent agents and brokers, state insurance regulators, researchers, and one of the entities that CMS approved to host a nonmarketplace website where consumers can apply for and enroll in a plan offered through the federal Marketplace.

The ongoing work upon which this report is based is being conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our preliminary findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. Additionally, our related investigative work is being conducted in accordance with standards prescribed by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

BACKGROUND

APTC Eligibility and Enrollment Processes

APTC Eligibility

To qualify for a premium tax credit, individuals must be enrolled in a qualified health plan offered through a marketplace and meet certain criteria. These tax credits can be paid in advance through APTC. See figure 1 for the APTC eligibility requirements.

The amount of the premium tax credit varies based on household income and the cost of a benchmark plan. The credit limits what the consumer would pay for that plan to be no more than a certain percentage of their household income. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 made temporary changes to premium tax credits by expanding eligibility to higher-income individuals and increasing premium tax credits for lower-income individuals for tax years 2021 and 2022. For example, the law increased the premium tax credit amounts for eligible individuals and families, resulting in access to plans with no premium contributions for those earning 100 to 150 percent of the federal poverty level. It also expanded eligibility for premium tax credits to include certain individuals and families with incomes at or above 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Public Law 117–169—commonly known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022—extended these provisions through the end of tax year 2025. See table 1.

In 2013, CMS developed the Data Services Hub (Hub) to help verify applicant eligibility in an automated manner. To do so, the Hub matches applicant information, such as SSN and estimated income, against trusted data sources. These sources include records from SSA and IRS. In the federal Marketplace, the system generates an inconsistency when data matching processes are not able to verify applicant information against the Hub's trusted sources. When an inconsistency is generated, applicants are instructed to provide documentation to support information on their applications that cannot be verified by the Hub's data matching.

Marketplaces and Enrollment Pathways

States, along with the District of Columbia, may elect to rely on the federal Marketplace or operate their own health insurance marketplace. Table 2 describes the types of health insurance marketplaces.

The federal Marketplace offers multiple pathways to enroll in health insurance coverage and receive APTC. Consumers in states that use the federal Marketplace may enroll in coverage through the pathway known as HealthCare.gov or an enhanced direct enrollment (EDE) pathway, among others. Table 3 describes examples of enrollment pathways in the federal Marketplace.

Role of Agents and Brokers

Consumers seeking to obtain health insurance through the federal Marketplace may receive assistance from agents and brokers who help them apply for coverage, including related financial assistance, and enroll in a health plan. In return, agents and brokers receive payment (commissions or salaries) from the issuers of the health plans. Agents and brokers must be licensed in the state in which they sell plans and registered with CMS to sell plans through the federal Marketplace. According to CMS, most enrollments in the federal Marketplace are assisted by an agent or broker through the EDE and direct enrollment pathways.

CMS is responsible for oversight of agents and brokers in the federal Marketplace and ensuring that they comply with federal rules. Agents and brokers are required to, among other things, obtain and document consumers' consent before assisting them with applying for and enrolling in coverage through the federal Marketplace. For example, consumer consent is required before the agent or broker can:

collect or use any personally identifiable information, such as name, date of birth, and SSN;

help a consumer apply for coverage or financial assistance by completing an eligibility application on their behalf; and

actively enroll a consumer in a plan offered through the federal Marketplace.

After a consumer has applied or is enrolled, the agent or broker can also update a consumer's eligibility application or plan selection on their behalf, if the initial consent authorized the agent or broker to do so, or if they obtained subsequent consent for any new actions. Agents and brokers are required to make documentation of consumer consent available to CMS upon request in response to monitoring, audit, and enforcement actions.

Fraud Risk Management

The objective of fraud risk management is to ensure program integrity by continuously and strategically mitigating both the likelihood and effects of fraud, while also facilitating a program's mission. The Fraud Risk Framework provides a comprehensive set of leading practices that serve as a guide for agency managers to use when developing efforts to combat fraud in a strategic, risk-based manner. As depicted in figure 2, the framework organizes the leading practices within four components: (1) Commit, (2) Assess, (3) Design and Implement, and (4) Evaluate and Adapt.

In June 2016, the Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015 (FRDAA) required the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish guidelines for federal agencies to create controls to identify and assess fraud risks to design and implement antifraud control activities. The act further required OMB to incorporate the leading practices from the Fraud Risk Framework in the guidelines. The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 repealed FRDAA but maintained the requirement for OMB to provide guidelines to agencies in implementing the Fraud Risk Framework.

In its 2016 Circular No. A–123 guidelines, OMB directed agencies to adhere to, the Fraud Risk Frameworks leading practices. In October 2022, OMB issued a Controller Alert reminding agencies that they must establish financial and administrative controls to identify and assess fraud risks. In addition, the alert reminded agencies that they should adhere to the leading practices in the Fraud Risk Framework as part of their efforts to effectively design, implement, and operate an internal control system that addresses fraud risks.

THE FEDERAL MARKETPLACE APPROVED SUBSIDIZED COVERAGE FOR NEARLY ALL OF OUR FICTITIOUS APPLICANTS IN PLAN YEARS 2024 AND 2025, SUGGESTING WEAKNESSES PERSIST

Our convert testing of enrollment controls in the federal Marketplace suggests weaknesses have persisted since our tests in plan years 2015 through 2016. All four of our fictitious applications received subsidized coverage through the federal Marketplace in late 2024. Additionally, although our work is ongoing, as of September 2025 18 of our 20 fictitious applications for plan year 2025 were receiving subsidized coverage. We will continue to monitor the status of these applications during plan year 2025.

All Four of Our Fictitious Applicants Received Subsidized Coverage in Late 2024

To test enrollment controls, we developed and submitted four fictitious applications to obtain insurance coverage with APTC through the federal Marketplace. We applied for coverage for these four applicants in October 2024. We submitted the applications outside of the open enrollment period, using a special enrollment period for low-income applicants. in two cases, we applied for coverage directly through HealthCare.gov. In the other two cases, we applied via telephone with assistance from an insurance broker. The brokers that assisted us used EDE systems to submit our applications.

The federal Marketplace approved fully subsidized insurance coverage for all four of our fictitious applicants for November through December 2024. The combined total amount of APTC paid to insurance companies for all four fictitious enrollees was about $2,350 per month. While our fictitious enrollees are not generalizable to the universe of enrollees, they suggest weaknesses in enrollment controls—such as identity proofing and income verification—in the federal Marketplace through both HealthCare.gov and EDE systems. Table 4 summarizes the results of our covert testing of enrollment controls for plan year 2024.

The results of our covert testing for plan year 2024 are generally consistent with results of similar testing we conducted for plan years 2014 through 2016.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, House Republicans passed a bill that strips healthcare from millions of Americans and raises costs for millions more.

That was a monstrous bill, but this is a cowardly bill. It does nothing to stop the skyrocketing costs that we have been warning about for months. Nothing in this bill will extend the tax credits that help 20 million Americans afford health insurance.

This bill won't stop the Republican cuts that will raise my constituents' costs by $900 a month or restore coverage to millions whose coverage was sacrificed to give billionaires tax cuts.

The developed countries around the world have figured out how to give affordable healthcare to their citizens.

A vote for this bill is a vote for the Republican healthcare crisis.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues are saying we are seeing inflation. Inflation in healthcare has been going on for generations. In fact, during the years of the George W. Bush administration, premiums increased 118 percent.

The Republican-led legislation they are presenting to us today is barely even a concept of a healthcare plan. After 15 years of efforts, they should be embarrassed by this slapdash effort.

Not only does the bill not address the expiring tax credits, it hurts patients, it hurts families, and it hurts women and seniors.

I want to be very clear. My Republican colleagues are taking zero action to extend the tax subsidies that help American families provide insurance to their families.

We need to do better. We can vote today on a clean 3-year extension because we have Republicans who have joined Democrats to call for that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the 3-year extension.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, if we don't extend the tax credits for the Affordable Care Act, costs for healthcare will go up for 20 million people and millions more will lose their health insurance.

Three-quarters of those who rely on those tax credits live in Republican-won States. Yet Speaker JOHNSON and President Trump, who are in charge and had all year to do anything, to do something, on healthcare, did nothing.

Rather than fulfill the President's promise to reduce prices, they gave tax breaks to billionaires, they gutted Medicaid, and they added trillions to our debt.

I get that division and dysfunction define the Republican Party, but we can't keep letting it define Congress. Put the Democratic discharge petition on the floor, extend the tax credits, so that together we can actually do something to fix healthcare. By doing that, we do our job, not just in Congress but for all Americans.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, after 15 years of talk, House Republicans have finally brought their healthcare bill to the floor, yet it fails working families. Despite its name, it does nothing to lower costs.

Republicans found time to lock in tax breaks for big corporations and billionaires but not the urgency or respect to help Americans afford their healthcare.

House Democrats are 100 percent united, and now four Republicans, after months of delay, have finally chosen to join us to extend the advanced premium tax credits.

That is why it is time for the Speaker to bring the House Democrats' bipartisan discharge petition to the floor immediately.

Every Member must make a choice. Stand with the working men and women of this country and small businesses or Donald Trump.

Vote ''no'' on this sham of a bill. Vote ''yes'' on the Jeffries discharge petition.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PATRONIS). The gentleman from Massachusetts has 30 seconds remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, my constituent company, Merriam-Webster, declared this week that the word of the year is ''slop,'' and it is appropriate today.

This bill won't lower costs. Without the ACA tax credits, costs are going to skyrocket for the American people. That is a bombshell report. They are undermining protections and forcing people into junk plans.

The only path forward is Leader JEFFRIES' discharge petition. It is a 3-year extension, clear and clean, bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Speaker JOHNSON to bring this legislation up, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of comments from the Democrats on this side of the floor.

Back where I come from, the comments that I have heard, we call it hogwash, because it has not been true and it has not been factual. This bill before you will lower healthcare costs for all Americans, not just the 7 percent that they are fighting for. It lowers costs for all 347 million.

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

□ 1210

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6703.

Because of the unaffordable care act, healthcare costs are out-of-control, and small businesses and the families that they employ are paying the price. The unaffordable care act drove premiums up and added red tape forcing many small employers to drop coverage or stop offering it altogether.

Now my Democrat colleagues want to extend enhanced benefits that they couldn't get their own party to support for more than 3 years when they passed them.

They made this problem, and now they want us to fix it by doing the same thing that has extended this problem. They want our family, friends, and neighbors to suffer further pain as opposed to joining us and fixing the problem as opposed to extending it.

My bill, the Association Health Plans Act, allows small businesses and self-employed Americans to band together, like large companies, to lower costs and deliver high-quality coverage. The CBO report today estimates that this could cover more than 200,000 previously uninsured Americans and attract 700,000 people annually to association health plans.

Complementing this, the Self-Insurance Protection Act, authored by Representative BOB ONDER, shields small businesses from regulatory overreach while expanding affordable healthcare options.

Together, these measures, included in the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act, cut red tape, protect choice, and lower costs.

I plead with my Democrat colleagues to join us in bringing about a remedy to our healthcare system which is broken because of the unaffordable care act.

They broke it, but please join us to fix it.

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 in opposition to the so-called Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act.

This package includes two partisan proposals marked up in the Education and Workforce Committee. First, it recklessly expands association health plans which would allow small employer groups and individuals to join associations to offer health insurance that are subject to fewer regulations than traditional plans in the individual and small group markets.

AHPs would make it easier for associations to cherry-pick small employers with younger, mostly male workforces who are healthier and can be charged lower rates. Smaller employers whose workers are older and sicker would remain in the traditional market. Simple arithmetic dictates that if you pull healthy groups out, then all of those left behind will be paying more.

Furthermore, these plans, if history is any guide, will show that they are more vulnerable to fraud and insolvency than those in the marketplace.

The second proposal is the Self-Insurance Protection Plan which would prohibit the Department of Labor and States from ever regulating stop-loss

insurance, inviting nefarious practices that could hurt consumers and employers by creating loopholes for plans that will escape any regulatory oversight.

Further, Mr. Speaker, this plan does nothing to extend the ACA enhanced tax credits which are set to expire. Millions of people will see their premiums skyrocket, and millions more won't be able to afford any insurance at all. If we bring up the bipartisan bill, then we could avoid that result.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in strong support of the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act.

This legislation will make it easier for small businesses to offer quality, affordable healthcare coverage to their employees by allowing them to band together to have access to the same regulatory and economic benefits as large group plans.

Right now, small businesses are on an unequal playing field with larger companies and unions. Because they have fewer employees, small business have limited bargaining power when it comes to negotiating lower insurance costs for their workers. Since 2010, the share of small businesses with fewer than 50 employees offering health coverage has dropped from 39 to 30 percent.

Small businesses have ranked the cost of health insurance as their number one problem for 32 straight years. For nearly four decades, it has remained the top concern. In fact, 98 percent of small businesses report that healthcare costs will become unsustainable in the next 5 to 10 years, threatening their ability to survive and remain competitive.

This is not because small businesses do not want to offer healthcare benefits. Small business owners work very hard to provide for their employees. The problem is that healthcare in this country has become simply unaffordable for far too many businesses and working families.

Employers are looking for innovative solutions to lower costs and increase coverage for their employees. When asked, 79 percent of employers reported they were interested in joining an association health plan. We know these plans work. Under the first Trump administration's association health plan rule, healthcare costs for those enrolled in an AHP decreased for some industries by more than 50 percent.

The Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act would level the playing field for small businesses and empower their employees to access quality healthcare at a lower cost. It also represents an essential step toward purchasing health insurance across State lines.

As we continue our efforts to lower costs for small business owners and workers, this is just one step we can take to make sure that more Americans can access high-quality, affordable healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 6703.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER), who is the ranking member of the Health Employment Subcommittee.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as a former small business owner having over three decades owning and managing restaurants in strong opposition to this sad healthcare plan.

After kicking 10 million Americans off Medicaid in the big, ugly bill, Republicans are following up with this proposal that the Congressional Budget Office says will take healthcare away from an additional 100,000 Americans a year.

We need to make healthcare more affordable for all Americans. Despite spending 18½ percent of our GDP in the United States on healthcare, we have the worst outcomes: the highest mortality rate, life expectancy, and acuity.

We need to make it more affordable. I agree with the ranking member and the chair that we should work together on the inefficiencies in the system. However, this is not it.

After spending 15 years on their healthcare plan, Republicans have just repackaged some of their old ideas, and they are hoping the American people won't notice that it is not going to help. Instead, we should extend the tax credits for 3 years and come together.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

□ 1220

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I will be voting for this measure today because the policy is good, but let's be realistic. It is extremely modest, and it has no chance of becoming law because it was hastily thrown together without, apparently, any bipartisan input, when bipartisan support is necessary to pass any measure like this.

However, worst of all, the bill does not address the immediate urgent problem in front of us, which is that 22 million people are about to pay a lot more for health insurance. These are independent contractors, freelancers, gig workers, and Uber drivers. It is small business owners and their employees, and retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare who are going to pay thousands of dollars more in many cases. Some people won't be able to afford health insurance at all.

What are we supposed to tell these folks? ''Oh, don't worry, it is Obama's fault.'' Or, ''Oh, no, don't worry, we did a show vote on this Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act.'' Is that going to be any consolation?

Now, I have been extremely critical of the House Speaker for refusing to put any measure to extend these tax credits on the floor, and I think that criticism right now is more well deserved than ever.

We have in the past seen measures come to the floor that divided the Republican Conference but that were able to pass with bipartisan support on continuing resolutions or on foreign aid bills. There is no reason that cannot be done here, and let the House work its will. That, after all, is the best expression of the will of the people.

What about the minority leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES? He has had every opportunity to endorse a compromise measure that has a temporary extension with reforms. There are three bills that have numerous bipartisan coauthors, but instead of supporting any of those, he has directed his Members to only support an uncompromising measure that has zero bipartisan cosponsors. That has already been rejected by the Senate and so has no chance of becoming law.

This whole issue encapsulates what is wrong with this institution, where party leaders focus most of their time and energy on trying to blame problems on the other side rather than trying to solve those problems, but it is not too late for action now. I am calling on the Speaker or the minority leader or both to get a bill to the floor. That is what this institution needs. It is what America needs.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), the ranking member of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak for the 186 Americans who have lost their lives today, not because of disease or illness, but because they did not have access to the health insurance they needed to get treatment.

Every year, 68,000 Americans die because they do not have health insurance, and Republicans have chosen to turn their backs on these Americans and make this crisis worse.

Not only does their bill fail to extend the ACA tax credits, something that helps 88,000 folks in my district afford health insurance, it abandons financial assistance for middle-class families when they are already struggling to make ends meet. It strips away protections for patients, opening them up to discrimination and predatory practices. It restricts access to abortion care which, by the way, is healthcare, putting the government, not a woman and her doctor, in charge of her body.

People are dying, Mr. Speaker, and it is time Republicans take this crisis seriously. Republicans need to wake up. Have some compassion. Our constituents cannot wait. Let's vote ''no'' on

this awful Republican bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER).

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act, which includes legislation which I introduced earlier this year, the Self-Insurance Protection Act. This bill ensures that employers who choose to self-insure retain access to a critical financial tool: stop-loss insurance.

Many employers choose to self-insure so they can tailor coverage to the specific needs of their workforce. This flexibility lowers healthcare costs and increases take-home pay for employees. However, self-insurance carries a greater financial risk, which is why employers rely on stop-loss insurance to protect against catastrophic claims.

In recent years, some States have tried to regulate self-insurance out of existence. States like New York have barred small employers from purchasing stop-loss insurance. For years, Democrats, in their pursuit of single-payer healthcare, have tried to regulate it as traditional health insurance. The Self-Insurance Protection Act makes it clear that stop-loss insurance is a financial safeguard, not health insurance.

The Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act will expand access to other options that increase competition and lower costs, like association health plans. The first Trump administration expanded access to associated health plans and lowered costs by 26 percent.

Through AHPs, employers can pool together to set up their own insurance plan and negotiate better healthcare coverage. This approach could eventually allow Costco or Sam's Club to offer their own revolutionary low-cost health insurance.

As a physician, I have seen firsthand that increasing competition and choice lowers costs, and the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act will deliver lower costs for the 78 percent of Americans who receive insurance through their employer. In addition, it will lower ObamaCare premiums by 11 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill and urge its passage.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN).

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, of the 22 million Americans who rely on the Affordable Care Act subsidies, 32,000 live in my district. They are about to experience healthcare costs that are skyrocketing. They want one thing, that is it, Mr. Speaker. They want one thing. They want us to extend the Affordable Care Act subsidies. Eighty percent of Americans have said this is what they want. These are farmers, small businesses, and families. If they were in this Chamber today, they would point to the well and say: There are 218 signatures on this discharge petition. Just put it on the floor, vote for it, and give us the subsidies that help us pay for our healthcare.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act, which is the right prescription to lower healthcare costs and provide American citizens with more affordable coverage.

Nearly 15 years ago, the Democrats unaffordable care act broke our healthcare system. They broke our healthcare system. Since its inception, ObamaCare premiums have skyrocketed by over 220 percent. A family of four now pays $10,000 more for coverage today than they did before ObamaCare, and their deductibles have doubled, in part to offset waste, fraud, and abuse that runs rampant throughout the program.

Rather than fix the problems of the unaffordable care act, Democrats in Congress want to continue to send billions of taxpayer money directly to giant insurance companies and leave families with thousands of dollars in healthcare costs that they cannot afford.

The unaffordable care act is broken, and throwing more hard-earned taxpayer money after bad policy is not going to fix it. That is why we must give power to the patient, not to the big insurance companies.

While Republicans are working to make life more affordable, Democrats' prescription is to raise taxes. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

My Republican colleagues have tried and failed to repeal or weaken the Affordable Care Act more than 70 times over the past 15 years.

The bill before us does nothing to address the expiring tax credits, and contrary to what my colleague Mr. KILEY has said, the bill that would extend the tax credits is bipartisan. It would pass this House.

In the richest country in the world, the country that is the global leader in medical innovation, Americans will die from treatable conditions.

Republicans claim that their bill will give consumers more choices. No choice, this is not about choice. People will have the choice to be refused health insurance for preexisting conditions by unregulated junk health insurance plans and be denied reproductive healthcare.

Instead of making the ACA tax credits permanent, Republicans have once again proposed a piecemeal, non-solution that makes health insurance more expensive and strips Americans of their basic healthcare rights.

Mr. Speaker, vote against this bill. Bring the bipartisan solution to the floor.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 30 seconds remaining.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN).

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. In just 15 days, health insurance premiums will skyrocket for more than 20 million Americans.

At a time when people are already struggling with higher costs for groceries, rent, childcare, and utilities, this bill does nothing to stop the immediate harm heading their way on January 1.

Here is what that looks like for Virginians in Virginia: A 60-year-old couple earning $85,600 a year will see their premiums rise by $15,446, and a family of four earning $66,000 a year will see their premiums jump $2,651.

Mr. Speaker, these are not abstract numbers. They are small business owners, employees, farmers, gig workers, self-employed, and more who will be forced to make impossible choices.

We still have time. We can pass a bill now to extend the tax credits. We should do so.

□ 1230

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). The gentleman from Virginia has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. GRIJALVA).

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

Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I will state that nobody should ever be denied basic healthcare, period. No one is better off when people are forced to receive healthcare in emergency rooms or receive a later stage diagnosis because of lack of preventive care and seeing a doctor on a regular basis.

Over 22 million people, including 400,000 Arizonans, with marketplace coverage are seeing their premiums skyrocket.

I cannot state this any clearer: People cannot afford to pay more for their healthcare and shouldn't be forced to. Allowing premiums to skyrocket, enacting a backdoor abortion ban, and allowing plans to not cover things like maternity care and preexisting conditions is not a solution. It is abandonment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on this bill.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, for months, Democrats have urged Republicans to come to the table to work together on a clean extension of the Affordable Care Act tax credits. Now, we are just days away from the deadline, and Republicans are scrambling to push through an unserious proposal at the eleventh hour. People aren't stupid. They can see this.

Their so-called Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act would have the exact opposite effect than what it claims to do.

Most importantly, it does nothing to extend the ACA tax credits. The tax credits have been a lifeline for countless hardworking families, small business owners, and seniors in Louisiana and across our country, helping them afford coverage in a time when the cost of living continues to climb. This is something that we, as Members of Congress, should do. Without these extensions, their premiums will skyrocket.

Healthcare is not a luxury. It is a fundamental human right.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with Leader JEFFRIES and House Democrats as we continue our fight for affordable, quality healthcare in this country.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD).

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, in just 2 weeks, the Affordable Care Act tax credits that help millions of Americans afford their premiums will expire, and this Republican healthcare bill does absolutely nothing to keep costs from surging.

In fact, every House Democrat has signed a discharge petition for my bill to extend these tax credits for 3 years, and now four Republicans have signed on, as well.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would extend the enhanced premium tax credits for 3 years to do what this Republican bill fails to do and help American families afford their healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the text of this amendment immediately prior to the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, Republicans just passed their big, ugly law that rips Medicaid by nearly a trillion dollars, adds 15 million people uninsured, and raises costs for everybody. Now, to add insult to injury, they refuse to extend the Affordable Care Act.

This bill that they want to replace it with is a bamboozle. It is a hoodwink. It is a scam for the American people. It promotes junk plans that rip off the American people. It does not cover essential health benefits. It allows them to discriminate against people with preexisting conditions, increases out-of-pocket costs, and will lead to millions more uninsured.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER).

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the GOP higher healthcare costs for worse coverage act.

I did not spend 20 years as an ICU doctor saving lives to come to Congress and sit back while Republicans strip healthcare coverage from millions. No. I came to Congress to fight for affordable, accessible healthcare for all.

This bill does nothing to accomplish that goal. Worse than that, it pushes people toward less coverage at a higher cost and opens a backdoor abortion ban that marches us a step closer to a national one.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill does nothing to reduce costs for all Americans. By weakening protections, undermining State oversight, and siphoning healthy individuals out of the ACA, this bill will actually increase premiums and reduce oversight and protection for families.

We need to extend the 3-year extension for the enhanced tax credits. I oppose the bill and 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, most Americans rely on employer-provided healthcare, but government-driven costs are making that coverage more expensive every year. Families are paying more, and small businesses are struggling to keep up with the mandates and the red tape.

Americans deserve affordable, high-quality coverage that puts decisions back where they belong with workers, families, and employers, not the Federal Government.

Bottom line, the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act empowers workers and job creators and makes healthcare more affordable for everyday Americans. By the way, perchance you want to keep the unaffordable care act for yourself, you still can.

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

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 953, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Underwood of Illinois moves to recommit the bill H.R. 6703 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The material previously referred to by Ms. UNDERWOOD is as follows:

Ms. Underwood moves to recommit the bill H.R. 6703 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF ENHANCED HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 36B(c)(1)(E) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''January 1, 2026'' and inserting ''January 1, 2029'', and

(2) by striking ''2025'' in the heading thereof and inserting ''2028''.

(b) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGES.—Section 36B(b)(3)(A)(iii) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking ''January 1, 2026'' and inserting ''January 1, 2029'', and

(2) by striking ''2025'' in the heading thereof and inserting ''2028''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. 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.

□ 1240

DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(c) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES WITH PRESIDENTIALLY DESIGNATED TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of December 16, 2025, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 61) directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities with presidentially designated terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of December 16, 2025, the concurrent resolution is considered as read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 61

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)), Congress directs the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities with any presidentially designated terrorist organization in the Western Hemisphere, unless authorized by a declaration of war or a specific congressional authorization for use of military force against such presidentially designated terrorist organization.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, right now we have cartels operating in our backyard. They are kidnapping Americans, extorting families, trafficking women and children, and flooding our towns with fentanyl to maximize death and addiction on American soil.

Someone tell me that I am wrong. I don't hear anything. Just look at the images next to me. It is not photoshopped. None of this is new. It is just new that it is being defeated by President Trump and brought to an end by President Trump. This violence comes from the Sinaloa and Jalisco cartels. It comes from Tren de Aragua, MS–13, and Cartel of the Suns, headed by Nicolas Maduro, just to name a few.

The President has every bit of Article II authority to defend the United States of America from these imminent threats. These cartels that are doing this are an imminent threat. These cartels have tens of thousands of members who wake up every day and see it as their sole mission to flood the United States with lethal drugs. My Democrat colleagues want to ignore that.

Sinaloa and Jalisco alone have 45,000 members combined. The Gulf Cartel has 50,000 members. MS–13 has another 30,000. They are coming across the Gulf constantly. Mr. Speaker, 365 days a year, 7 days a week, they are coming to the United States of America with their violence. That is the definition of ''imminent.''

These drug cartels are highly organized and militarized. They are terrorist networks that have convinced my colleagues they are nothing more than small street gangs.

They control territory, run armed convoys, use drones for surveillance, and communicate through encrypted networks like the military. They terrorize entire countries with extreme violence, and they terrorize the United States of America and our people. They spread carnage wherever they go, not just across the border but on our side of the border, as well, right here in the United States of America.

Look at this morbid scene we will put up here. These two men are about to be decapitated literally out in the open by the Gulf Cartel. The tactics of these cartels are the same as those used by al-Qaida and ISIS. These are terrorist networks. Some are given safe haven by foreign governments. Others, like Tren de Aragua, take orders from Nicolas Maduro. Americans have paid the price for it.

Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student, was murdered in Georgia by a confirmed member of Tren de Aragua. Claretha Daniels and Justin Lawless were executed outside of their Bronx apartment by six Tren de Aragua terrorists. These were neighbors of my ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, a 74-year-old American rancher was killed in Brownsville, Texas, when his truck hit an IED planted by the cartel. That is exactly the same kind of thing that took off my legs.

Democrats don't want the President to be able to defend America from these terrorists. Even more tragic is the fact that nearly 80,000 Americans overdosed last year on fentanyl, cocaine, and other drugs trafficked by cartels. Democrats don't want to protect us from that either.

In fact, yesterday, after we had a classified briefing, the gentleman on my left, the ranking member, went directly to the press to claim that these strikes were not protecting America. He literally said that these strikes were not stopping drugs. Everything that he said is very easy for me to prove wrong.

Every drug boat sunk is literally drugs not coming to the United States of America. Every narcoterrorist killed is an American life, like Laken Riley or Claretha Daniels, saved. The threat is pressing, and it is frequent.

In November, the Coast Guard announced it seized 510,000 pounds of cocaine in the eastern Pacific and the Caribbean since the start of 2025. This is enough cocaine to harm nearly 170 million Americans. Congressional authorization is not required to carry out precise, limited strikes.

My colleagues did not object when prior Presidents conducted military operations in Yemen and Libya and Syria, operations which were also limited and successful.

This resolution is also reckless and poorly written. It prevents the President from acting against any foreign terrorist organization in the Western Hemisphere. Under this resolution, the President could strike al-Qaida or ISIS in the Middle East. If those same terrorists came across into the Western Hemisphere, they could be untouchable and free to kill as many Americans as they want.

Democrats are not putting forward an authorized use of military force, telling the President how to combat any of these issues. Democrats are putting forward a resolution to say the President cannot do anything about MS–13 or Tren de Aragua and every other cartel. That is giving aid and comfort to narcoterrorists. That is ignoring an imminent threat.

The cartels are relentless and ruthless. They have military capabilities and use them every day against the American homeland. When a threat poses immediate danger to Americans, the Constitution gives the President the authority to act.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of speaking in favor of H. Con. Res. 61.

Mr. Speaker, I will get to the chairman's remarks later about his incorrect statements. What I want to point out is, since September 2, the administration has carried out 25 known strikes, killing 95 people. Among these was a so-called double-tap strike where U.S. Forces killed two survivors clinging to the wreckage of a destroyed vessel in open sea.

The administration now refuses to release the video of this strike, denying the American people the ability to see for themselves what is being done in their names. In fact, they are denying Members of this House, including me and I believe the chairman himself, from seeing that video. Many believe this strike may constitute a war crime.

Following another strike, on October 16, the Department of Defense repatriated two survivors to their home countries rather than prosecute them in the United States courts, as we would expect if these individuals were, in fact, dangerous drug traffickers bound for the United States.

The fact of the matter is a number of the individuals that he talked about, if they were in the United States, they would have been tried in our courts. That decision raises serious questions about the administration's own assessment of threat, necessity, and purpose.

These strikes have not been authorized by Congress, and the administration has not sought congressional authorization to use lethal military force to address alleged criminal activity that under the United States law—and we are a country of laws—does not carry the death penalty.

That is a profound escalation, and one Congress has neither debated nor proved. They openly covet Venezuelan oil. That is what this is about. The President is coveting Venezuelan oil.

□ 1250

Despite promises to end wars, this President is threatening military invasions not just in Venezuela but across the Western Hemisphere.

Just last night, President Trump declared: ''Venezuela is completely surrounded by the largest armada ever assembled in the history of South America,'' and that ''the shock . . . will be like nothing they have ever seen. . . .''

This is not a strategy. This is a game, and the President is playing it with the lives of American servicemembers, threatening a regime-change war with no plan for what would happen next.

This President wants to be the judge, the jury, and the executioner. However, this Congress—Congress is not a part of the executive branch. We are a coequal branch of government. The Constitution vests this body with authority over matters of war and peace. That power has too often been ceded to the executive branch.

Earlier this month, on a bipartisan and bicameral basis, we repealed outdated authorizations for use of military force to prevent Presidents of either party from abusing it. We cannot now abandon our constitutional duty over these strikes in the Western Hemisphere.

Even if you happen to disagree with me when I say these strikes—and they are—not about making Americans safer, that these strikes are about oil, that they are about another reckless foreign war or stretching Presidential power toward that of a would-be king—all of those things happen to be true, by the way—this vote is ultimately not about whether you agree with the administration's policy. It is not about whether any President can take these actions. It is about, and what it should be about, is whether this President can take these actions without congressional approval.

Every Member of Congress should want to do their job. Congress must make clear—all of us—that no President can unilaterally draw the United States into a conflict that the American people do not want.

Democrats and Republicans, those of us who were elected by the people, are the closest to the people. We should not shirk our responsibility. We should make sure that, right here, we do what the Constitution tells us to do and have debate and vote on the House floor so that all of America knows where we stand on matters of going to war or not. That is what they elected us to do.

For us to just give away that power to the executive branch is not doing our job. We should have a vote because it is the rule of law. We are the United States of America. We are not part of the Duma or have a Putin who just does what they want with getting around and not dealing with the people's Representatives. We should stand for the power that was vested in us. That is what this is really all about.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I would let the ranking member know that, just in the last year in his district, he has lost at least 140 people to overdose, which apparently he does not want to protect his community from those like the President wants to protect his community.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SALAZAR), the chairwoman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee.

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I am here today because I oppose this resolution. It is fundamentally flawed. It is trying to invoke the War Powers Resolution of 1973, which doesn't even apply in the case of Venezuela.

The War Powers Resolution applies when there is active combat with the United States forces. It does not include law enforcement or counternarcotics operations against declared terrorists like Nicolas Maduro, who happens to be the head of a major drug cartel in the Western Hemisphere.

Therefore, we do not need this resolution because what the President is doing is well within the law. The President does not need congressional approval to protect Americans from terrorist attacks.

Let's see what the Constitution says. The Founding Fathers vested in Congress the power to declare war, but they were equally clear that the power to defend the homeland from foreign and domestic threats belongs to the President as Commander in Chief.

Therefore, President Trump does not need congressional permission to kill terrorists at sea who are bringing cocaine and fentanyl to the streets of Miami, New York, or Chicago.

Let's see what international law says. The United States is waging a noninternational armed conflict with Venezuela. What does that mean? Our issue is not with Venezuela as a country but with Nicolas Maduro, the narcotrafficker who hijacked that country after he stole the elections last year. Under the Law of Armed Conflict, we can use military force to stop his drug cartel from flooding the streets of the United States.

According to article 29 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, of which the United States is a member, it says that the countries of the Western Hemisphere may take military action against a threat that endangers the peace of the Americas.

The Maduro regime has destroyed the peace of the whole Western Hemisphere. If not, ask anyone who lives in my district, the city of Miami.

Now let's go back to American history, which says that Maduro is the world's largest drug trafficker. In 2020, he was indicted by a Federal grand jury in this country for pushing hundreds of thousands of tons of cocaine to the streets of the United States.

Back in 1989, we had a very similar experience in Panama with Manuel Noriega. At the time, President Bush took action in Panama to remove Noriega. There was no need for congressional approval, but as Commander in Chief, he did what he needed to do. Today, Panamanians are eternally grateful to the United States.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan ordered United States forces into the islands of Grenada to protect the lives of American citizens. Once again, the President did not ask approval from Congress. Reagan acted swiftly, lawfully, and decisively.

Today, the actions taken against the cartel of the los Soles, headed by Maduro, fall squarely into this same category—operations against nonstate actors and criminal organizations, not a war against a sovereign nation or a legitimate President.

This resolution presented by the Democratic Party would tie President Trump's hands in the fight against drug-trafficking terrorists. Every Venezuelan knows that Maduro is just a thug and a delinquent who has been in the drug-trafficking business for 27 years since he took over the country. They have totally destroyed the most prosperous country in Latin America, Venezuela.

Of course, Congress has the crucial role in authorizing wars, but the President has independent authority to defend the mainland. Panama is thriving. Grenada is thriving.

Once Maduro is gone and order is restored to the country, it will be the most prosperous country in Latin America, having the largest reserves of oil in the world, which will give them enough resources not to depend on the charity of the United States or any other country to fix the destruction that Maduro wrought.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons, I strongly oppose this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I just say that the President said yesterday that

that oil was the United States' oil, not the Venezuelan people.

I thank the gentlewoman for her passion, though. I only wish she had the same passion to speak out against the Trump administration's mass deportation of Venezuelans legally in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, if this truly was about addressing drugs, then tell me why the administration pardoned Ross Ulbricht, who ran one of the largest online drug marketplaces in history and was serving a double life sentence.

Why did the President pardon the former President of Honduras, whom a U.S. court convicted and sentenced for flooding the U.S. with 400 tons of cocaine and bragged?

He said: '' . . . shove the drugs right up the noses of the gringos,'' and he was pardoned by the President of the United States into our districts.

□ 1300

I am a former special narcotics prosecutor, and I know this to be a fact. You don't run a serious counternarcotics strategy by carrying out the death penalty for those who are at the bottom of the drug trade while freeing those who are the very top and ordering them to come.

At the same time, the administration asks us to believe that deploying fighter jets, an aircraft carrier, and more than 15,000 troops to the Caribbean is merely a counterdrug mission. This is the largest U.S. military buildup in the region since the Cuban Missile Crisis.

If this were really about drugs, why are the United States forces seizing oil tankers? The stated mission, the scale of buildup, and the actions taken simply do not align.

The administration can't keep its story straight, and it is no longer trying to hide its real motivations. Senior officials, including the President himself, have made it clear that the real objective is provoking a conflict with Venezuela to oust Maduro. Trump's chief of staff said to Vanity Fair: ''He wants to keep on blowing boats up until Maduro cries uncle.''

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES), the ranking member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I came down here to debate something that this Chamber has been debating for generations, which is the push and pull between the Congress and the Chief Executive on the use of our military.

I was profoundly disturbed to hear the chairman denigrate the ranking member. To suggest that he doesn't care about the losses in his district, to suggest that we want the President to do nothing about narcotics, he knows that is not true. I will tell the chairman that I have opposed every Presidential attempt to use the American Armed Forces without congressional approval since I have been here.

This is about one thing, and it is not about the comity of this institution or the dignity that the majority should show in such a debate. This is about one thing and one thing only. It is not about the horrors of drug abuse.

We know that over here. There is not a Democrat who doesn't believe that 100,000 overdoses is an appalling outcome. There is not a Democrat here who doesn't experience the crushing, disgusting horror of those losses. We couldn't agree with the majority more that this is a huge problem.

What this is about is whether the Representatives of the people should be involved in a discussion about how we solve this problem—the Constitution says so—and the questions raised here.

For the first time in 250 years, the United States military is deliberately targeting civilians. They may be awful civilians, I will grant you that, but they are deliberately targeting civilians. We have the largest military force ever assembled in the Caribbean, with no discussion, no debate in this Chamber amongst the Representatives of the people.

The administration has created a war that is not a war, a non-international armed conflict. It is a war inasmuch as we have an aircraft carrier and massive amounts of military hardware in the region, and we have killed upward of 100 people in 23, 24 strikes. Yet, it is not a war that needs to be even informed to the Congress.

The only question that matters—and you can show all the pictures of decapitations, horror, and overdoses. We will stand with you 100 percent about how horrible that is, but do you know what else is horrible? That the majority is comfortable with the removal of the Representatives of the people on this most consequential of issues.

Let's agree that there will be a Democratic President someday who does something that the majority doesn't agree with, but every word they say here today will unbind the hands of that Democratic President to do whatever he or she wants.

This is about our privileges as the Representatives of the people. This is about our fidelity to the Constitution of the United States that demands us to have this debate.

Let's stop trying to scare the American people, and for the first time in a very long time, let's stand up with the dignity and decency that this topic deserves and debate how we are going to address this huge problem while preserving our privileges and prerogatives as Representatives of all the American people.

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

Mr. Speaker, to Representative HIMES, I tell him that he has had 182 overdoses in his district in the last year and lost somebody named Angel Samaniego by a suspected Tren de Aragua member.

Voting for this resolution to limit the President absolutely is not standing with the United States of America. There are people deliberately targeting Americans, and he is saying the President can do nothing about it. That is what his vote will say today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), the chair of the Europe Subcommittee.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chairman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution.

This is neither the time nor the right legislation to deal with this issue. This resolution suspends all military actions against any organization that the President deems a designated terrorist organization unless Congress acts.

This is a dangerous limitation on the President's constitutional authority to defend the United States. Our world is changing and changing fast. The President must have the flexibility to change with the threats.

These drug cartels, especially Tren de Aragua, are behind much of the drug trafficking, human smuggling, and violent crimes that are tearing communities apart and fueling the opioid crisis in America.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were more than 72,000 fentanyl-related overdose deaths in 2023, the last year available. This number represents a tragic national public health crisis.

The intention of this resolution may be to stop the attacks on the drug boats, but by refusing military action against presidentially designated terrorist organizations, you shut the door for action against other dangerous groups, including Mexican cartels or Islamic terrorist groups that might want to establish themselves or attack elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere.

Instead of considering this resolution, which carries little or no consequences for hostilities that don't exist, this Chamber should focus on supporting the President's efforts to deter the growing national security threat from Venezuela.

Hundreds of Americans die each day due to illegal drugs like fentanyl. Rather than Democrats making it their life's mission to destroy Donald Trump, America would be better served if Members of this Chamber would help him prevent the flow of illicit drugs.

As a 25-year Active-Duty member who deployed multiple times, including that invasion of Grenada that Ms. SALAZAR mentioned in the Caribbean without congressional action, I caution the ranking member on accusing the President of the United States of war crimes. That is beyond the pale. I recommend he walk those comments back.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am still waiting for the chairman to tell me why the President of the United States decided to let convicted drug pushers, convicted in

United States courts and in jail, be pardoned if this is about drugs. I am waiting for an answer. I haven't heard that yet.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security and an original cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the resolution, and I thank my colleague from New York for having the moral courage to offer it.

We are a nation of laws. The Trump administration's boat bombings are illegal under U.S. and international laws. Simply put, these are war crimes.

Further, the administration has failed to provide Congress with basic information, even as Trump directs a massive buildup of U.S. forces and threatens war.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, those of us who have been in so-called classified briefings still have not received any additional information beyond what is already in the eyes of the public and on TV.

It is our duty as Congress to rein in the lawless administration and prevent an illegal war. This is a moment for Members on both sides to choose order over chaos, morality over expedience, and country over party. We must rise to the occasion and vote ''yes'' on this resolution.

□ 1310

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

I think the other side should take a look at the chart. You can see when operations were kicking off in September, there were 3 strikes, going up in October to 11 strikes. Then it started to come down. Why? Because people started thinking about, am I going to push off the dock in this boat full of drugs and then take a Hellfire through the hull of my vessel sitting out here in the middle of the Gulf because I am transporting drugs to the United States of America? It dropped down to seven, dropped down to four, and it is going to continue to drop off because, finally, those that are shipping drugs to the United States of America are recognizing there are real consequences.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution. I am an ER doctor who served many years just before coming to Congress, which was not that long ago, where I saw multiple overdoses every single night during a time where we had over 100,000 deaths per year in the United States, far more civilian casualties than any war we have ever experienced in the history of the United States. That is an average of well over 250 deaths per day.

Imagine the worst mass shooting we have ever had and multiply that times five times a day for every day during the year for 3 years running. That is what we are dealing with. That is the emergency we have. That is an emergency.

This opioid crisis is fundamentally different from any past drug epidemic. These substances are engineered to be highly lethal. The amount that you can fit on a pinhead could kill a person. Unknown exposure just from somebody coming to assist somebody could kill somebody. These are weapons of mass destruction.

It is different from anything we have ever experienced in the history of the United States or the world, for that matter.

If a foreign actor released a chemical agent that killed tens of thousands of Americans, the response would be immediate, unified, and decisive.

We can and must act immediately to save American lives.

This is not unprecedented. Every President in my lifetime, in my adult lifetime, has used the military to this end, to protect the people of the United States, which is the President's first and most important charge as President.

Therefore, I continue to have strong opposition to this resolution.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I don't quite reserve yet.

I would let the next speaker on the other side know that they lost 116—Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE had 116 overdoses in the last year. I can count at least six individuals killed recently by MS–13. The President is working to protect her district from MS–13.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I am still waiting to hear why major drug dealers, two major drug dealers, were pardoned by the President of the United States. I will wait.

Nothing?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on South and Central Asia.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution to stop the administration's illegal and ridiculous boat strikes. It is hard to overstate how pointless and performative these strikes really are.

The administration is trying to sell their military kill campaign by saying they are targeting drug traffickers who are selling fentanyl and hurting Americans.

Fact: Fentanyl and fentanyl precursors do not come to the United States through Caribbean sea routes.

Fact: The drug boats that the administration is blowing up are mostly carrying cocaine to Europe.

Fact: President Trump just pardoned a known Honduran cocaine kingpin.

Fact: Most smugglers that bring drugs into the country are U.S. citizens.

Fact: The real national security threat is selling our AI chips to China, not blowing up fishermen.

American taxpayers are spending millions of dollars to stop the Europeans from partying. What is in it for us? Normalization of extrajudicial killings, a total lack of due process, evidence, or congressional authorization. We need to stop this madness.

I authorize and tell—just tell my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this resolution, which limits the United States' ability to fight narcoterrorist traffickers in our own hemisphere, where we are most directly impacted.

I just heard from the distinguished gentlewoman that these are fishermen, that these are fishermen in these boats. Really? I guess we are supposed to not believe our own eyes when we see these boats loaded with narcotics coming to the United States and going to other countries.

These are narcoterrorists who have been killing Americans by the thousands every single year through their poison. It is about time that we have a President who is taking the murdering and the poisoning of our youth seriously.

Literally, Mr. Speaker, every time one of these narcoboats is removed from the water, it literally is saving thousands of American lives.

Let me refresh everybody's memory about who we are dealing with and who the President of the United States is going after. They are going after narcoterrorist organizations such as Tren de Aragua, Cartel de los Soles, Clan del Golfo, and MS–13, just to mention some of these dangerous cartels that kidnap and maim and poison our youth.

Let's put it in perspective, Mr. Speaker. More Americans have died because of these narcocartels that are poisoning our youth than Americans we lost in World War I, World War II, Vietnam, and Korea. They are staggering numbers.

These cartels are responsible for the loss of lives of more Americans than ISIS and al-Qaida combined. These are terrorist organizations that are responsible for the death of our people.

I just also heard, oh, upset about pressuring Maduro, President Maduro. Maduro is not a President. He is the head of a narcocartel that has taken over by force and by terror a great country, the country of Venezuela. This is man who is under indictment.

Let's vote this down, and let's protect the American people. Let's not defend the narcocartel's drugs that are poisoning our people.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, maybe the gentleman from the National Security Subcommittee can tell me, since the

chairman can't, why the President of the United States pardoned a narcoterrorist and the former President of Honduras. Maybe he can tell me why. I am trying to get an answer.

Nothing? Walking out? Does he have an answer for me? Why would the President of the United States pardon a convicted drug dealer, over 400 million tons, killing Americans? I got nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), an esteemed member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure to rein in President Trump's unlawful boat strikes.

These strikes and Trump's naval blockade represent appalling violations of international law and Congress' constitutional authority to authorize the use of military force.

Drug trafficking is a serious offense. Communities across the United States have seen the devastating impact of addiction. But that does not give Donald Trump the right to go to war, to deploy military forces without congressional authority, or to kill anyone against the laws of war.

Drug trafficking cases should be handled in a courtroom. Listen, the majority's entire argument that this was so serious it required action without congressional approval is completely destroyed when the President himself just pardoned the former Honduran President, who has been convicted by an American jury for a drug trafficking scheme that moved about 4½ billion doses of cocaine into the United States. Give me a break. It doesn't pass the laugh test.

By the way, if Donald Trump were serious about addressing the opioid epidemic, he would not have cut Medicaid funding, and he would not have frozen $8 billion in funding for drug abuse and addiction.

We have seen the disastrous impacts of attempted regime change in Latin American. The American people do not want another forever war. Vote ''yes'' on this resolution.

□ 1320

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I would let Ms. JAYAPAL know that in her district they have lost 237 people in the last year from overdoses and had a number of people killed by MS–13 and Tren de Aragua. The President is working to protect her people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), who is the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution.

For decades, violent drug cartels have ravaged American communities. They have flooded our streets with deadly narcotics. They have destabilized our hemisphere, creating openings for malign influence from China, Russia, and Iran. Year after year, they have killed thousands of Americans.

We decided long ago that we would not tolerate threats to the American people from terrorists like al-Qaida and ISIS. We shouldn't tolerate them from narcoterrorists either.

Yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives received a detailed briefing from the administration on Operation Southern Spear. We heard directly from Secretary Rubio, Secretary Hegseth, and General Caine. Their message was clear: Narcoterrorists are the single greatest threat in the Western Hemisphere.

President Trump is acting decisively, lawfully, and within his authority as Commander in Chief. Our military is targeting known drug smuggling boats loaded with drugs and moving along well-established trafficking routes. Every strike is based on rigorous intelligence linking these boats with well-known narcoterrorists.

Every strike undergoes a comprehensive legal review and complies with defined rules of engagement to ensure innocent civilians are not harmed. The Armed Services Committee is notified of every strike and has been briefed on this operation several times. These strikes are lawful under U.S. law and international law, and all actions are in compliance with the law of armed conflict.

Most importantly, these strikes have dramatically reduced drug smuggling operations.

The bottom line is that Americans are safer today because of President Trump's actions. Let's not return to the old, failed playbook of treating our counterterrorist administrations solely as a law enforcement matter. We tried that for decades, and it didn't work. It cost hundreds of thousands of American lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting Americans by opposing this resolution.

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

Again, I offer the chairman, Mr. ROGERS, the opportunity to tell me why the President pardoned these drug dealers.

I am proud of this institution and who we are. I am a Member of the House of Representatives, a former chairman of the committee.

I would also ask the chairman: Why don't we do hearings?

Why can't we bring the administration into the Foreign Affairs Committee and have them answer questions of Members of Congress on what they are doing and why they are doing it?

That is our job. That is our responsibility.

Have we had one hearing on Venezuela on drugs coming in? Not a one. Have we brought anybody in from the administration?

That is our job.

Why don't we do our job?

That is why we were elected. I would hope that the chairman would have some hearings so that we can discuss this as Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), who is an original cosponsor of this important resolution.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member MEEKS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, may I answer that question for Mr. MEEKS?

The answer is that this is not about drugs. This is about regime change. We also have the White House Chief of Staff on record saying that this is about regime change. It has nothing to do with drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution. I was proud to co-lead Ranking Member MEEKS' effort, and I urge all my colleagues to join us today in reasserting this body's constitutional authority on matters of war and peace.

Let's be perfectly clear: Only Congress has the power to declare war.

The Trump administration's military escalation in the Caribbean is not only reckless, it is blatantly illegal. We cannot allow this kind of dangerous overreach to go unchecked.

Trump, a President who touts himself as a global peacemaker, has appointed himself judge, jury, and executioner in the Western Hemisphere.

His brutal military campaign, which has killed more than 90 people, further threatens a region that has already been destabilized by decades of U.S. interventionism. It risks driving us into further war in Venezuela.

The American people across the political spectrum have been clear that they do not want to fight and fund another war.

With this vote, every Member of Congress has the chance to show the American people where they stand. Will they enable Trump's illegal warmaking, or will they stand on the side of the Constitution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, stand on the side of the Constitution and put an end to this unauthorized use of military force.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to uphold the separation of powers and pass this resolution.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I would let Representative OMAR know that in her district, she lost 205 people in the last year from overdose and have had people killed by MS–13. Teenagers have been killed by MS–13. The President is working to stop that from happening.

I would also remind the ranking member that just yesterday—he should know this, he was standing on stage with me—we had a classified briefing

with the Secretary of War and the Secretary of State. His comments afterwards did not reflect the truth of what was said, but he was there.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 61.

This resolution would prohibit the President of the United States from using all tools at his disposal in the fight against designated terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere. These are the same narcoterrorists who are waging, and have been waging, a war on the American people through the use of deadly drugs and poison that are flooding into our country.

Let's talk about reality, not about rhetoric.

First of all, the number one job of any government is to protect its people. Since September 11, 2001, roughly 4,000 Americans have been killed inside the United States either by al-Qaida, ISIS, and similar ideologically linked terrorist groups.

Meanwhile, since 2021—I am not talking about 2001—nearly 400,000 Americans have died from overdose poisoning, deaths fueled by foreign terrorist organizations including the Venezuelan regime and violent cartels operating in our own backyard. That 400,000 is about the size of my native city of Miami. This is, in reality, a weapon of mass destruction.

Yet here we are, debating whether to retreat from fighting terrorists in our own hemisphere, while continuing to fight them halfway around the world.

I have spent my life in public safety. Mr. Speaker, I have seen what happens when you hesitate, when you retreat, and when you take your foot off the gas. People die. Families are destroyed, and communities suffer.

This resolution does nothing to promote peace. It invites danger, continued chaos, and the loss of more American lives—more American lives.

It tells terrorists and cartels that the United States Congress is willing to tie the hands of our Commander in Chief while they ship poison into our communities and profit from American death.

As someone who fled communism, I know this lesson well: Weakness invites aggression. When America steps back, evil steps forward.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GIMENEZ. We must reject this resolution and make clear to the world that the United States has the will to confront narcoterrorism head-on and that we will never surrender to the very people who are killing our children.

Too many Americans have already died because we turned a blind eye to this threat.

For the sake of our national security, our communities, and the men and women in uniform who stand the line every single day, I urge a ''no'' vote on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida (Mr. MAST) for yielding me the time to speak on this important matter.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much debate time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 7½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York has 10¼ minutes remaining.

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

□ 1330

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman can use my time if he can answer why the President of the United States pardoned major drug dealers who were convicted and doing time. It was the little guys. I will wait.

Also, if this is about drugs, the fact is, the drugs come from China, the fentanyl. The mainstay of fentanyl is from China. I haven't heard China in this debate at all.

In fact, the President runs around and says some of those—we are back selling chips or whatever he wants to do with China, which is a danger to our national security, killing our people. The number one drug that is killing Americans is fentanyl. There are no ships there.

My main focus is, as I said earlier, even if you disagree with me, why don't we do our work as Members of Congress? Why aren't we having hearings, open, public hearings with members of the administration coming to testify before us and the American people so that they can hear for themselves?

In prior Congresses, when I was the chair, even when Mr. MCCAUL was the chair, and there was a Democrat in the office, they were bringing in the Secretary of State on a consistent basis, subpoenaing them, having them come in to address certain things, and they came in.

I make judgments now to go to hearings when I see someone from the administration is going to be there, and, boy, that is very rare. Generally, it is just somebody on the other side, from the private sector or something of that nature on foreign affairs. The diplomats and representatives from the State Department and people directly from the administration don't come before our committee.

No matter what your position is, this is about the United States House of Representatives doing its duty and responsibility.

Let me tell you, when it comes to drugs, I had a career in fighting drugs as a prosecutor. No one, to this day, fights harder and wants to make sure that we lock up and bring to justice those who bring in and those who sell narcotics in our communities. We still have laws because when we did, we didn't execute them. We tried them in a court of law.

That is who we are. That is not who Vladimir Putin is and who some of these other authoritarian governments are. That is what they do. That is not what we do here.

We have values, and we have a job to do, as Members of the United States House of Representatives, for the people. I am saying to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Let's do our jobs. Let's bring in the administration and members of the administration. Let them testify and talk to us, where we can question them, and talk to the American people because, ultimately, this is about them.

The American people should be able to see what took place in those waters when those two individuals were hanging on the boat. There was no problem showing all the others. What are we hiding from the American people? We, as Members of Congress, should be demanding that the administration be accountable to the American people, and the best way to do that is for them to come to Congress because that is our job.

Ultimately, I am saying we should do our jobs as Members of Congress and not give away our power to someone who would like to just be an authoritarian. We don't have that kind of government.

That is why the United States of America was created in the first place, to make sure that one man or woman couldn't make unilateral decisions around the United States Congress.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the ranking member made the claim that nobody fights harder against drugs. He made a big speech. Nobody fights harder against drugs than the President of the United States of America. He is the one sinking the boats.

Democrats are the ones saying any terrorist organization, no matter how many people they kill, behead, abduct, no matter how much drugs they traffic, the President shall not have the authority to go out there and combat them.

If there is a boat coming across with anthrax in it, the President can't hit it. If there is a boat coming across that had something brought over from Iran, the President can't deal with it. Anything that comes across in the Western Hemisphere—that is literally what his legislation says—the President cannot go out there and defend the United States of America from imminent threats.

How imminent is this threat of drugs? Mr. Speaker, 365 days a year, 7 days a week prior to President Trump starting to sink their boats that they were bringing to the United States of America, that is as imminent as it gets. It is as imminent as the Sun rising. That is how prevalent that threat has been.

The President is finally bringing it to an end. Nobody fights harder than the

President of the United States of America. Nobody is fighting harder to allow drugs into this country than Democrats with this reckless and ridiculous piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time until the gentleman yields back his time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this War Powers Resolution would immediately end President Trump's extrajudicial boat strikes in the Western Hemisphere, which have never been approved by Congress and far exceed the President's authority.

We are a country of laws. Individuals in the streets have to abide by our laws. The President of the United States should be abiding by our laws.

In our laws, you convict somebody in court. You can't just go out and kill them. What I had to do was build a case in public, try that case, and convince a jury to unanimously convict someone so that they would go to jail. That was my job.

I think that the President of the United States cannot summarily determine that he is going to go kill someone without coming and getting authorization from this Congress.

The worst criminals have had to go to court. The fact of the matter is, we know of two such people, the worst of the worst. They sold drugs and said they were going to shove it up their noses. He wasn't killed. He shouldn't have been killed. He was tried. He was from another country. In fact, he was the President of another country.

He was tried in a court of law, and he was convicted by a unanimous jury. He is on the streets today. Why? Because the President of the United States said he deserved the pardon. No matter how many people he killed, no matter how many drugs he brought in, the President of the United States said it is okay, we are going to send him back on the streets.

There is another individual who sold drugs over the internet, killing Americans. He was not executed. He was tried and convicted unanimously in a court. He is back on the streets.

□ 1340

As a prosecutor, I would have been—and the family members of the victims, of those two, in particular, and others like them, for them to be convicted and then released by the President of the United States of America, is that justice? Is that protecting us? What kind of message is that sending to just go after the little guy in a boat who was instructed by others?

How many of the big kingpins have been brought to justice? Who is going after and building a case to prosecute them and have them locked up in jail?

This administration wants to say these strikes are about stopping drugs from entering the country. Putting aside the fact that drug smuggling is not a crime punishable by death, or that these boats could have, per the law, been intercepted by the Coast Guard and suspected traffickers questioned and prosecuted in a U.S. court, this is not a counternarcotics operation.

The administration's actions, whether the largest military deployment to the region since the Cuban Missile Crisis, the seizure of a Venezuelan oil tanker, ordering a blockade of Venezuela, or the many public statements issued by U.S. officials, including President Trump—

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

Mr. MEEKS. Let me just say, I see him putting up a picture.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Let me tell you about that picture. That is diplomacy before he was the President of the United States. He was a member—

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

The gentleman is no longer recognized.

Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, let me put this up. I was asked to take it down for a moment. Let me take a second and put this up. I will get to it.

This resolution, plain and simple, is about telling the President he has no authority to combat terrorists in the Western Hemisphere. Those are the words of this resolution. It is not a secret. Anybody can read it.

The President doesn't have the authority to combat MS–13, Tren de Aragua, Sinaloa Cartel, take your pick. If the President says they are terrorists, and they are in the Western Hemisphere, the President can't touch them.

That is what they are trying to do. They want to tie his hands and not let him defend the United States of America.

We are not talking about street gangs. They are militarized threats. They have taken over entire apartment complexes and neighborhoods in the United States.

My colleagues say this resolution is just about putting Congress on record, so let's put Congress on record.

If you stand with protecting the United States of America against narcoterrorists, then oppose this resolution. It is plain and simple. If you stand shoulder to shoulder with MS–13, Tren de Aragua, and Sinaloa Cartel, and the dictators who work hand in hand with them, like Nicolas Maduro in this photo, then this resolution is for you. Vote for it.

We know exactly where some of my colleagues stand. You can look to see where they stand in this photo. Let's talk a little bit about that in a moment. I will touch on something else first.

Since President Trump took office, we have seen our Democrat colleagues fight to unmask agents, to dox Border Patrol officers. We have seen them issue warnings ahead of immigration raids. They spent taxpayer dollars to keep illegal immigrants in the United States. Now, Democrats are going even further with this resolution and saying the President can't protect our country.

I am going to show you this photo. I actually thought a lot about this photo as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee because I take photos with foreign heads of state, diplomats, and other people from other countries on a daily basis. I shake hands and greet people. Whether I like them or not, I shake hands. It is something that I do, but I can tell you what I don't do. I do not let other people wrap their arms around me unless they are my kids, my friends, or my family.

That is Nicolas Maduro's hand right there. I will put a little arrow there. That is Ranking Member MEEKS, who has been arguing with me for the last little while, right here. That is his arm around the ranking member. I don't let people put their arms around me, especially not people like that.

In this photo of Nicolas Maduro, you probably also recognize John Kerry. It is sad to see that. I think it says a lot about the origination of this bill, the heart of this bill. This is not a handshake. It is an embrace of somebody with a relationship. That is what happens.

If somebody puts their arm around me, that means they have a relationship with me. To me, this says a lot about who this bill stands shoulder to shoulder with.

Do you stand shoulder to shoulder with Nicolas Maduro, with his arms wrapped around you, or do you stand shoulder to shoulder to protect the United States of America and our people from the people who are murdering us and sending their drugs over? The choice is up to you.

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

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

Pursuant to the order of the House of December 16, 2025, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

The question is on adoption of the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. MEEKS. 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.

REMOVAL OF THE USE OF UNITED STATES FORCES FOR HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST VENEZUELA

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of December 16,

2025, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 64) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of December 16, 2025, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 64

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SEC. 1. REMOVAL OF THE USE OF UNITED STATES FORCES FOR HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST VENEZUELA.

Pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)), Congress hereby directs the President to remove the use of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization for use of military force.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided among and controlled by Representative MAST of Florida, Representative MEEKS of New York, and Representative MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is weak. It is unnecessary. It is dangerous. It is also not about oversight. It is not about the Constitution. Just like the last resolution, it is about tying the President's hands, specifically in Venezuela. It is about telling President Trump that he does not have the authority to defend the United States of America.

This resolution is preemptive surrender. As written, it limits the President's ability to respond to future threats posed by Venezuela.

If Russia delivers nukes there, the President cannot respond. If Iran delivers a dirty bomb there, the President can't respond. If China delivers anthrax or some other biological weapon, like they did with COVID–19, but far more deadly, the President can't respond. No matter what the threat, the President cannot respond.

Additionally, this resolution to me doesn't make much sense because we are not in hostilities inside Venezuela. The Authorization for Use of Military Force process exists in Congress, but Democrats are not writing a scope of action for the President to defend the United States of America. This resolution is a blanket statement to say to the President that he cannot defend the United States of America.

□ 1350

Mr. Speaker, no matter the threat emanating from Venezuela, you cannot defend. You cannot defend me. You cannot defend our country against it.

This resolution is not stopping war. It is not stopping invasion. It is not stopping drug running. It is not stopping terrorism. It is not stopping the President. It is just stopping the President from acting decisively before Americans die. That is what it stops.

Let's be clear about who we are dealing with. Venezuela is the largest and best-funded cartel in the world. We just saw the ranking member with Nicolas Maduro. Maduro had his hand around him. He is not a legitimate head of state. He is a legitimate narcoterrorist who is poisoning Americans.

All the stuff we talked about in the last debate is Maduro. He is the head of a cartel who will abduct somebody, behead somebody, or torture somebody to support his political ends.

Both Republican and Democrat administrations agree that Maduro is an illegitimate dictator who rules through repression, fraud, and violence. He uses the Venezuelan military to move cocaine into the United States. That is not theory. This is a state-run criminal enterprise. Venezuela is not a gang. It is a cartel state. It rakes in billions, moving more than 250 metric tons of Columbian cocaine through their country every year.

The United States already has bipartisan sanctions on Venezuelan oil. President Trump supported them. President Biden kept them. Maduro is violating those sanctions. We just caught him doing it again. A ghost ship was intercepted, smuggling Venezuelan oil. Maduro admitted the oil was his.

Here is the simple question: How do we enforce sanctions if we are not allowed to stop the shipments? The answer is that we cannot. Interdicting those Venezuelan oil shipments is not war. It is sanction enforcement. It is law and order.

Given that it is the Venezuelan Government that is the cartel, the trafficker, the one moving these ships, that is why it requires the military to do so.

This resolution reads as if Maduro wrote it himself. It gives a narcoterrorist dictator a free pass to keep trafficking drugs, funding criminal networks, and killing Americans because it appears Democrats hate President Trump more than they can love America.

President Trump has the authority and the obligation to take limited and targeted action to protect the United States of America wherever those threats emanate from.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me just say maybe I can teach the chairman something about diplomacy. Maybe he doesn't know anything about diplomacy.

First, let me talk about the picture he tried to show me. That was a bipartisan trip, Democrats and Republicans, working together. It was called the Boston Group. We were bringing the opposition and at that time the Chavistas together.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend? Unless a Member is under recognition, they cannot display exhibits.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, we were diplomatically working together. We were trying to help the people of Venezuela.

In fact, we can also see how long ago that was. I had all-black hair at the time. I think I looked good. I got gray. I had all-black hair because that was back in 2002. I was a new Member of Congress, trying to work together with diplomacy from the very beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I didn't come here with prop photos because I am here to debate substance. I am here to find out why the President of the United States pardoned convicted drug dealers. I have not gotten an answer to that yet.

If we are talking about pictures, I could have come with pictures of President Trump with his arm around Kim Jong Un. I could have come with pictures of President Trump offering the red carpet to Vladimir Putin. I could have come with a whole lot of pictures of President Trump with Epstein. I didn't come to play games. My colleague is playing a game on the House floor.

I came because we have serious business here. This is not a game. This is about our responsibility as Members of Congress in addressing issues that should be before this body. It is about us having a debate in committee and holding the administration accountable, as we do any President. It is about us being the Representatives of people who elect us.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a game. Diplomacy is not a game. War is not a game. There are rules in war. When people violate rules in war, they have to be held accountable. When people violate rules in our cities, they have to be held accountable.

The people who are in these positions—law enforcement officers, police officers, and the President of the United States—have to be held responsible. If we close our eyes on one, our country is not the country we have said it is.

I said earlier on the floor during this debate: My War Powers Resolution to end this administration's extrajudicial strikes on boats in the Western Hemisphere, those bombs are not about drugs.

If the administration did want to stop drugs, Trump would not have pardoned the former President of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernandez, or Ross Ulbricht who operated the Silk Road drug marketplace. He wouldn't seize an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela or threaten CIA operations, blockades, and strikes on Venezuela.

This is no joke. This is serious. This is not about drugs. It is about regime change. It is about being honest with the people of America. That is what the Chief of Staff of the President just did. She didn't talk about drugs. She talked about regime change. It is Trump himself saying it.

He said he wanted the oil. He said it was our oil, not Venezuela's oil. He said it is our oil and our territory. We are going to take it back. That is the tweet of the President. This is no joke. This is no game. This is serious business.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I never thought I would say this, but I am glad I am not on the Foreign Affairs Committee. I thought the Rules Committee was tough. Listening to this debate, I would go out of my mind. I couldn't follow the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I want to correct something. This is not a Democratic resolution. It is a bipartisan resolution. Maybe that is something the chairman is not familiar with, but this is a bipartisan resolution. Democrats and Republicans have sponsored it.

In this Chamber, I guess we have all become accustomed to debating trivial issues passionately and important ones not at all. We spend a lot of time renaming post offices and passing bills that do nothing for anybody. Maybe the distinguished chairman is not used to doing big things.

Mr. Speaker, I will say that the issue of war is a big deal. It is a big deal. It should be a big deal to Democrats. It should be a big deal to Republicans.

□ 1400

It is our constitutional responsibility, and so I am here because I am deeply troubled that the President of the United States, in my view, is slowly but surely marching us toward open hostilities with Venezuela. I don't say that as a Democrat. I say it as an American who is worried about this country getting dragged into another potentially endless war.

Mr. Speaker, let me be crystal clear. I mean, that is what we are talking about. That is what we are talking about. This is not some hypothetical, abstract debate. Donald Trump has already engaged in acts that are considered hostile under U.S. law.

He has threatened to close Venezuelan airspace. He says that he plans a naval blockade against the country soon. He has warned that military strikes on Venezuela will start ''very soon.''

Our Constitution provides this body, the United States Congress, with the solitary authority to declare war, and the President, despite already engaging in hostile actions toward Venezuela, has neither requested nor received the authorization for the use of military force as required by the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

Mr. Speaker, American troops take an oath to protect and defend this country. It is our duty in Congress to debate and vote before they are put into harm's way.

Right now, by placing U.S. military assets off the coast of Venezuela, this administration has them in harm's way right now. That is why, in a bipartisan way, we have introduced this resolution. It provides the House of Representatives with the simple up-or-down vote. It is a simple ''yes'' or ''no.'' Do my colleagues want an unauthorized war in Venezuela or not?

Mr. Speaker, you may want a war in Venezuela. You ought to vote for it if you want it, but I do not want any war in Venezuela. I am joined on this resolution, again, by Members of Congress across the political spectrum, Democrats and Republicans who, like me, are deeply troubled by the idea of endless wars and of America spending more of its treasure on wars that are not clearly defined, that we have no idea how they will end up, at a time when we can't even provide people healthcare in this country and where we have homeless veterans.

I was here in 2002, Mr. Speaker. I voted against the war in Iraq, and Americans do not want another Iraq. If we intensify hostilities against Venezuela, we have no idea what we are walking into.

The oversight in this Congress has been almost nonexistent given what is going on. Congress has been lied to repeatedly—repeatedly by administrations from both parties who want to use our military in ill-defined and often unwinnable conflicts.

I remember the Bush administration telling us that the war in Iraq would be a cinch. It was clearly not. We spent over a decade at war. We lost American lives, civilian lives, and added trillions of dollars to our debt at the expense of the basic needs of the American people.

At least George Bush had the decency to come to Congress for approval in 2002. Don't the American people deserve that respect today?

This is about whether we want to use taxpayer dollars and risk American lives on regime change, endless wars, and costly quagmires, or whether we want to invest here in our own country and solve our own problems.

For God's sake, we live in a country where we, again, have homeless veterans, where we have hungry school kids, where seniors can't afford their medication, and families struggle to get by.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is immoral. It is not just a strategic failure but a moral failure that we have a President beating the drums of war without so much as a vote in the House of Representatives. This is not America first.

Mr. Speaker, I know that some of my colleagues may say that war is justified. I can't for the life of me figure out that logic, but I went to the classified briefing that the administration organized yesterday. I went to other classified briefings.

I heard no justification that there was some imminent military threat from Venezuela, nothing that would justify the hostilities that the President is engaged in right now in building up troops.

To those who want to go to war and say that this is about drugs and cartels, let me just say that this administration's own Drug Enforcement Administration reports that fentanyl is overwhelmingly produced in other countries using chemicals that come from elsewhere in the world. Venezuela isn't listed as a fentanyl source or transit country in any edition of the National Drug Threat Assessment.

More fentanyl comes from China and Mexico than Venezuela. Maybe the chairman wants to go to war with China and Mexico.

By the way, as is pointed out, Donald Trump pardoned the ex-President of Honduras who was found guilty of drug trafficking. The chairman said nothing about that.

Over 3,667 people in Florida died from fentanyl, and the President of the United States pardoned one of the people who was primarily responsible for getting fentanyl into our country. He also pardoned the dark web guy who smuggled fentanyl in from China. Not a word. No oversight. Who cares because they don't want to say anything about Donald. He is the pardoner in chief. If you want to stop drugs from coming in, start by not pardoning drug dealers.

Those who want to go to war also point out that Nicolas Maduro is a tyrant. I agree that he is a tyrant. He violates the human rights of his own people. He has unlawfully detained Americans and Venezuelans as political prisoners. He is a violent, vicious, brutal dictator. Guess what, Mr. Speaker. Sadly, the globe is full of violent, vicious tyrants—in China, Russia, and North Korea. Do you want to go to war with all of them?

For God's sake, we sell weapons to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt, countries that have awful human rights violations. I hate Maduro, and I condemn him all the time. While we should have a discussion about how to help the people of Venezuela, the answer is not going to war.

Congress should have the guts to at least debate this issue and vote on it and not just cede all of this power to the administration.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is serious. It is not a joke. It is not just about pictures, but pictures tell a thousand words.

You came here to prevent the President from defending the United States of America, plain and simple. There have been deaths in Florida. There have been deaths in Representative MCGOVERN's district: 262 overdoses in the last year, people beaten by MS–13, strangled by MS–13, stabbed 32 times by MS–13. The list goes on.

That is what the President is trying to defend from happening in the United States of America. That is as serious as it gets, and it absolutely matters that Nicolas Maduro has his arm around the authors of this legislation that would prevent the President from defending against that country, their cartels, their terrorists, and the drugs coming through that country. What the President is doing in the Gulf is protecting the homeland of the United States of America, protecting the homeland.

I would give this last comment to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN): I never saw the things that I did as big or small. Risking my life for my country, I simply saw as my duty.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), the chair of the Europe Subcommittee.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution, which is not necessary, as it removes our Armed Forces from hostilities against a country where there have been no hostilities. The War Powers Act has no legal bearing on actions that could happen in the future. Yet that is exactly what this concurrent resolution attempts to do.

To date, there are no confirmed U.S. servicemembers engaged in combat with Venezuela.

While I could end it there, since Democrats are turning a blind eye to the killing of Americans by illicit drugs from Venezuela, I also highlight that Venezuela has become a strategic outpost for China, Russia, and Iran, not to mention criminal and terrorist organizations.

Just yesterday, at a Europe Subcommittee hearing, I made the point that China and Russia are engaged in hybrid war against the United States today.

Not only has Maduro's regime purchased Iranian-armed drones, but they have also allowed Iran to establish production facilities for its military drones within their borders.

Terrorist organizations like Hezbollah use Caracas as a base to operate their criminal terror organizations in South America, generating revenue through narcotrafficking.

Russia, a longtime ally of the regime, still provides Venezuela with military aid while also facing the challenges of waging war in Ukraine. In fact, Venezuela opened a factory last summer to manufacture Russian Kalashnikov rifle munitions.

□ 1410

China, Russia, Iran, and Cuba use the country as a platform for intelligence operations in asymmetric warfare.

Instead of considering this resolution, which carries little or no consequences for hostilities that do not exist, this Chamber should focus on supporting the President's efforts to deter the growing national security threat from Venezuela.

Hundreds of Americans die each day due to illegal drugs. Rather than Democrats making it their life's mission to destroy Donald Trump, America would be better served by Members of this Chamber if we helped him prevent the flow of illicit drugs that are killing our citizens.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to get into these back-and-forths. I have been waiting for an answer because this is serious business. The American people want an answer that they can't quite get yet. I can't get anybody at a hearing from the administration to answer the question. I can't even get anybody from the administration, when I saw some yesterday, to answer the question. I have been waiting here. The American people want to know why a President of the United States would pardon two drug dealers. They are not just accused. They are convicted and in jail. They were, but not anymore. They are free men now.

I have been waiting for an answer. I am not playing jokes. This is very serious. I am asking everybody, all of my Republican colleagues, anybody who speaks, anybody, just answer the question. We are on C–SPAN. Here is an opportunity to tell the American people why the President of the United States, for whom you say this is about drugs, would let go of two major convicted drug dealers, not small guys, but major. I just don't know why kingpins can get away with doing and pedaling drugs in the United States, but a peon in the operation must die.

Even if you survived a strike and are holding on for dear life—you have no weapons, no phone, no anything—you are still an imminent danger, so they say, to the United States.

We have pictures that will show whether or not they were a threat to the United States while holding onto that boat. The administration has decided they can show all the others, but the American people cannot see that.

I have been waiting for an answer. The American people want an answer. I will wait.

Nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Committee on Small Business.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this War Powers Resolution.

Twenty-three years ago, I stood on this same floor as Congress debated an Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq.

The Bush administration relied on bad intelligence and outright lies to march America into a disastrous foreign intervention that cost trillions of dollars, took thousands of American lives, and helped destabilize the region for a generation.

Today, I fear we are watching history repeat itself. Once again, a far-right administration is using the same playbook. The justification this administration has provided to Congress and the American people is a joke.

If this were about drugs, why seize an oil tanker and threaten an illegal Navy blockade? If this were about drugs, why would the President pardon a drug-trafficking former President of Honduras?

This is not about drugs. This is about regime change and control of Venezuela's resources.

Nicolas Maduro is a dictator, and you don't have to defend him to recognize a simple truth: Venezuela does not pose an imminent threat, and a war will do nothing to make America safer.

We are sleepwalking into another disastrous foreign war, and Congress must wake up and stop this before it is too late.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The Washington Post titled: ''Trump pardons major drug traffickers despite his anti-drug rhetoric.''

[From The Washington Post, Dec. 8, 2025]

TRUMP PARDONS MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS DESPITE HIS ANTI-DRUG RHETORIC

(By Meryl Kornfield and Emily Davies)

On President Donald Trump's first full day in office this year, he pardoned Silk Road founder Ross Ulbricht, who was convicted of creating the largest online black market for illegal drugs and other illicit goods of its time.

In the months since, he has granted clemency to others, including Chicago gang leader Larry Hoover and Baltimore drug kingpin Garnett Gilbert Smith. And last week, he pardoned former Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernández, who had been sentenced to 45 years in prison for running his country as a vast ''narco-state'' that helped to move at least 400 tons of cocaine into the United States.

Overall, Trump—who campaigned against America's worsening drug crisis and promised to crack down on the illegal flow of deadly drugs coming across the border—has pardoned or granted clemency to at least 10 people for drug-related crimes since the beginning of his second term, according to a Washington Post analysis. He also granted pardons or commutations to almost 90 others for drug-related crimes during the four years of his first term, the analysis showed.

At the same time, Trump has threatened military action against Venezuela over accusations that the country's government is

supporting the drug trade and has pushed the Pentagon to conduct targeted strikes on boats suspected of smuggling drugs in the Caribbean. The contrasting actions have come under fire from Democrats and other critics, who say Trump's broad use of clemency contradicts promises to get tough on drugs.

''President Trump is claiming to be taking action to stop the flow of narcotics into the United States,'' Sen. Tim Kaine (D–Virginia) said on the Senate floor Tuesday, describing the crimes of Ulbricht and Hernández. ''. . . How does this protect Americans from the flow of narcotics entering our country?''

Asked about the contrast, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the pardon of the Honduran president doesn't make it difficult to defend the administration's lethal strikes on suspected drug traffickers.

''I think that President Trump has been quite clear, in his defense of the United States homeland, to stop these illegal narcotics from coming to our borders, whether that's by land or by sea, and he's also made it quite clear that he wants to correct the wrongs of the weaponized Justice Department under the previous administration,'' she told reporters last Monday.

Asked about Trump's spate of drug-related pardons and commutations, White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson told The Post that Trump had exercised his constitutional authority, and she attacked former president Joe Biden.

''The only pardons anyone should be critical of are from President Autopen, who pardoned and commuted sentences of violent criminals including child killers and mass murderers—and that's not to mention the proactive pardons he 'signed' for his family members like Hunter on his way out the door,'' Jackson said.

Trump and his aides have baselessly claimed that Biden's staffers routinely used an autopen to sign pardons and other documents without his knowledge.

Trump has wielded one of the greatest powers of the presidency, clemency, far more this year than he did in his first term. He has pardoned almost all of the approximately 1,500 Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol attack defendants. He also has pardoned about a dozen members of Congress, mostly Republicans, including most recently Rep. Henry Cuellar (D–Texas), who was charged last year with bribery, money laundering and conspiracy.

By comparison, Trump granted clemency to more than 230 people in his first term, just two of those in his first year.

The pardon frenzy has given rise to a lucrative cottage industry, The Post previously reported. Public disclosures show that lobbyists have spent more than $2.1 million this year on firms that advocate for pardons, clemency and other forms of executive relief—more than double the total spent in 2024. The records also show that individuals seeking pardons have paid up to $1 million to hire people close to the president to plead their case.

Experts say the administration's efforts to strike boats near Venezuela have not proved effective in limiting the flow of drugs entering the country because the passage is not ordinarily used to traffic drugs to the United States. Drugs containing fentanyl, which have contributed to most recent drug deaths, are typically manufactured in Mexico and smuggled into the U.S. across the land border. The administration has not provided detailed evidence that the boats they have sunk had drugs on board and were heading for the United States.

The administration has claimed that the strikes are an effective deterrent for other drug traffickers. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters last week that they paused the strikes ''because it's hard to find boats to strike right now, which is the entire point, right? Deterrence has to matter.'' However, experts say there is no available evidence to support the theory that trafficking is down.

''Drug trafficking is like water,'' said Regina LaBelle, a Georgetown University drug policy professor and former acting director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. ''It's going to find a way to get in.''

Critics of the war on drugs have also long asserted that the government has insufficiently addressed the root cause of deaths in the U.S.: addiction. Advocates have urged the government to invest more in overdose prevention measures, such as naloxone and treatment options.

The rate of overdose deaths has been on the rise for decades, fueled by fentanyl since around 2015, until the end of Biden's term, when the rate declined.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be lectured by the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs because, as I mentioned, in Florida, 3,667 people have died from fentanyl.

This President has pardoned drug dealer after drug dealer, and there has not been a peep from my friends on the other side of the aisle, who are now talking about the issue of drugs in the United States, not a peep. I don't know how you explain that to the families of those who lost their lives, number one.

Number two, the chairman made a big deal about pictures, that if you are in a picture with somebody and you touch them, that somehow you are affiliated with them.

Here is a picture of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin with a nice handshake. Does that say that Trump is somehow Vladimir Putin's friend? Here is Trump with Kim Jong-un, giving him a nice hug, another dictator that Trump seems to be enamored with. I don't even know what the hell that proves, but the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs seems to think that photos are a big deal.

Let me read our resolution to you. It says: ''Pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)), Congress hereby directs the President to remove the use of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization for use of military force.''

That is it. I can't even believe this is controversial. I can't even believe that my friends on the other side of the aisle have a problem with this. This is the most basic stuff.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, James Madison warned us that: ''In no part of the Constitution is more wisdom to be found than in the clause which confides the question of war or peace to the legislature, and not to the executive.'' Madison called it the crown jewel of Congress.

The Framers understood a simple truth: To the extent that warmaking power devolves to one person, liberty dissolves.

If the President believes military action against Venezuela is justified and needed, he should make the case, and Congress should vote before American lives and treasure are spent on regime change in South America.

Let's be honest about likely outcomes. Do we truly believe that Nicolas Maduro will be replaced by a modern-day George Washington? How did that work out in Cuba, Libya, Iraq, or Syria?

Previous Presidents told us to go to war over WMDs, weapons of mass destruction, that did not exist. Now, it is the same playbook, except we are told that drugs are the WMDs.

If it were about drugs, we would bomb Mexico, China, or Colombia, and the President would not have pardoned Juan Orlando Hernandez. This is about oil and regime change.

□ 1420

When it comes to regime change, we have already been down this road with Venezuela with nothing to show for it. In 2019, we recognized Juan Guaido. We seized their embassy here in D.C. We were told that regime change was imminent. Years later, Maduro remains in power.

Today, we are told to place our hopes in other exiled figures: Edmundo Gonzalez and Maria Corina Machado. I wish them well. I do. But Congress should not express moral sympathy in the form of a blank check for military escalation and American lives.

Let's take a moment to acknowledge the contradiction at the heart of this policy. This administration tells us that the Maduro regime is made up of narcoterrorists. By escalating toward war, we would predictably create countless refugees. At the same time, this administration has moved to end temporary protected status for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans and deports them back to the very regime it condemns. So which is it?

Are we prepared to receive swarms of the 25 million Venezuelans who will likely become refugees and lose billions in American treasure that will be used to destroy and inevitably rebuild that nation? Do we want a miniature Afghanistan in the Western Hemisphere?

If that cost is acceptable to this Congress, then we should vote on it, as a voice of the people, and in accordance with our Constitution.

Yet today, we aren't even voting on whether to declare war or authorize the use of military force. All we are voting on is a war powers resolution that strengthens the fabric of our Republic by reasserting the plain and simple language in the Constitution that Congress must decide questions of war.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this resolution.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I will give a lecture anyway to the Speaker in reference to what Mr. MCGOVERN said.

I shake a lot of people's hands that I don't like. I definitely don't let them put their arm around me. There is a big difference. People with common sense recognize that. I wouldn't speak for him, but I suspect he would live life in the same way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), the chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this initiative. I am glad somebody is showing some leadership here today.

I rise in opposition to the removal of the use of United States Armed Forces for hostilities within or against Venezuela, or the support for drug dictators act.

The United States is using a proportional force to apply pressure on narcoterrorists who are colluding with the illegitimate leader of Venezuela, Nicholas Maduro. They have already acknowledged that.

The use of military pressure, which matches pressure that the U.S. has used in the global fight on terrorism, is a proper extension of the use of force in the Western Hemisphere where narcoterrorists operating through and with Venezuela are creating instability and poisoning Americans in droves.

The use of measured military power is the logical step to attempt to stop narcotics terrorists from supporting Maduro.

The United States has imposed individual, financial, and sectoral sanctions on the Venezuelan Government as well as sanctions on the Maduro government and its supporters. This proposed resolution would disable the very effective tool that has been used to keep pressure on terrorist forces who have a Venezuelan nexus and are planning, plotting, and carrying out attacks against the U.S. and our interests.

The strikes on narcoterrorist cartel assets have been precise and limited. Military action of this nature does not require congressional authorization. Under Article II of the Constitution, the President has the authority—and I would say the responsibility—to protect the United States and American citizens from attack. Moreover, U.S. troops have not been put into harm's way.

Admittedly, it shocks me that we need to remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle what we are fighting for here. The most recent CDC data shockingly reports that more than 82,000 drug overdose deaths have occurred during the 12-month period ending in January 2025. If ISIS or al-Qaida had contributed to the killing of that many Americans in a single year, our leaders would be rightfully assailed for failing to respond.

Now that President Trump is taking the fight to the terrorists who have actually contributed to our Nation's drug overdose epidemic, he is met with criticism rather than the praise that he and his administration deserve.

I guarantee you that family and friends don't distinguish between the branch of terrorism that led to the death of their loved ones. They just want them defeated.

For too long, these cartels have poisoned the American people, destabilized and corrupted our neighbors, and tortured and killed thousands of innocents throughout our hemisphere.

I have traveled extensively across the Western Hemisphere and met with many of our neighbors' leaders and their forces who are also engaged in the fight against these cartels, and these terrorist organizations are some of the most vile and evil in the world.

To bar the President from using military force consistent with other counterterrorism activities, simply due to a Venezuelan nexus, is not supportable and is antithetical to his duty to protect our Nation from foreign terrorism threats.

This resolution would prevent the application of the use of force against the very narcotics terrorists cooperating with Venezuela.

How in the world is that consistent with the primary duty of the government to protect our Nation and its citizens?

I strongly recommend that my colleagues vote against this misguided resolution.

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

Let me just say this real quick, because the chairman keeps going on about these pictures. I am not going to keep belaboring, but I do remember something, if you want to talk about it now.

I think that we know that Kim Jong-un, who he is, et cetera. I have a quote, if you really want to talk about relationships, Mr. Chairman, that you can get directly from the President of the United States. When he was talking about Kim Jong-un, here is what he said: ''We fell in love, okay? No, really. He wrote me beautiful letters, and they're great letters.'' We are in love.

That is Kim Jong-un. You can also talk about him and Xi, where fentanyl is coming into the United States. Those are real relationships.

Any time you are ready to answer the question about why somebody, the President of the United States, would pardon kingpins in the drug trade, I will get an answer. I have been waiting. I have been asking everybody. Not only the chairman but any Republican that wants to make a statement, if they could just explain to the American people. They don't have to explain it to me. Explain it to the American people. Just give me some explanation of why the President of the United States would pardon convicted drug traffickers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, why did the Framers vest the power to declare war in Congress alone? It was because the kings were constantly plunging their entire nations into wars of vanity, of conceit, of caprice, of mere whimsy.

They didn't trust one man to be able to take the entire country to war. They wanted that question proposed in the representatives of the people because it is our sons and daughters who will go fight, and it is the whole country's treasure that will be put at risk.

Now, Donald Trump, buffeted by dozens of election losses all across the country from Virginia to New York to New Jersey to California to Mississippi and Georgia, sinking in the polls like a stone because of his catastrophic unconstitutional tariffs and his complete destruction of the healthcare system of the country, now wants to turn the metaphorical war on drugs into an actual, physical war on drugs.

Well, Donald Trump's real interests in supporting dictators and big-time drug dealers were made clear with a series of Presidential pardons of major drug dealers, including the former President of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernandez. The guy was sentenced to 45 years in prison for bringing 40 tons—I am sorry—400 tons of cocaine into the country. Eight hundred thousand pounds of cocaine he brought into our country, and President Hernandez says: I am going to stuff the cocaine up the noses of the gringos.

President Trump pardoned him without any explanation. We eagerly await an explanation from someone on that side because they have blown up 26 vessels on the high seas which have at most, if each one has 2 tons of cocaine in it, 52 tons, and he pardoned this guy who brought in 800,000 pounds of cocaine to stuff up the noses of the gringos.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I urgently commend to our colleagues across the aisle the speech that President Lincoln, the founder of their party, made about the Mexican-American War. He stood in this Chamber and said: On something as important and as grave as going to war, we want to know exactly what the rationale is, exactly why we are doing it.

He got the nickname Spotty because he said he wanted to know the exact spot where American blood was shed.

Well, there is a real accounting to be done in terms of what is the factual predicate for this war that Donald Trump wants.

□ 1430

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee has said some strange things today about how you interpret photographs if the people are shaking hands

or whatever, but, somehow, if your arm is around somebody that means that you are dear friends.

I am just looking at this photo of Donald Trump with his arm around Jeffrey Epstein. By the gentleman's standards, they must be in love.

This debate is not about the gentleman's personal weird code on touching. This is about war, and that is what we are here to talk about. Quite frankly, it deserves a more serious treatment from the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO), who is one of the cosponsors of this resolution.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are at war with Venezuela. Last night, the President declared a naval blockade of Venezuela. This is an act of war.

The President has said that strikes on land are imminent. He is dragging us into a war that the American people do not want and that the Congress did not authorize.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are asking: Why?

Is it about the drugs?

It can't be about the drugs because he just pardoned one of the largest drug traffickers in U.S. history.

Is it about fentanyl?

Venezuela doesn't traffic fentanyl.

One can't say that it is because Nicholas Maduro is a dictator. He certainly is a dictator, and the Venezuelan people deserve better, but so is Mohammed bin Salman, who is a leader the President praises all the time.

Mr. Speaker, you can't say that it is about communism, because China is one of our largest trading partners.

So what is this war about?

It is about regime change, power, graft, oil, and land. Yesterday, the President told us he wants to seize the oil and the land. The President has no plans to address rising grocery prices, healthcare prices, childcare prices, and rent that is going up. Instead of attacking Venezuela, he should be attacking those high prices.

These are issues that Americans want us to focus on, but, instead, he is sending American servicemembers into an illegal war.

We have been down this path before. The vote to authorize the Iraq war came to define the legacy of every Member of the 107th Congress. That vote came to haunt many.

Your vote today will be part of your legacy. It will be part of how your service in the House of Representatives will be defined.

I urge you to vote ''yes'' on this bipartisan resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, for every one of my colleagues on the other side, it is about drugs. It is about the drugs being prevented from going into their community, like Representative CASTRO's, who had 101 people die last year from overdose and somebody murdered by Tren de Aragua on June 16, 2024. It is absolutely about preventing those things. It is about preventing those things, and they are going to allow it in.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I am in strong opposition to this resolution because the issue before us is not one of Presidential authority. It is whether Congress should undermine the President's ability to deter threats and protect the United States' interests in our own hemisphere.

History shows that time after time, Mr. Speaker, if you signal weakness, it emboldens your adversaries. A resolution that publicly constrains the Commander in Chief does not promote peace. What it does is it telegraphs weakness to a hostile regime like Venezuela and encourages them to test U.S. resolve.

This is not a distant theater. This is our hemisphere. Supporting the President's authority is not a blank check for war. It is a recommendation that timely, flexible military posturing is what prevents war, and in this case protects Americans against the most lethal attack ever on the American people and the population where we have lost over 250 people per day for the last 3 years.

This is not the time to act in opposition to the Commander in Chief and to oppose him from the most important obligation he has: protect the American public. That is why I oppose this.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), who is the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, no President, Democrat or Republican, can declare war without Congress. Congress is the branch of government vested with this solemn responsibility.

President Trump has not requested or received any authorization for the use of military force against Venezuela. Yet he continues to escalate the situation by striking speedboats, seizing oil tankers, and establishing blockades, which is an act of war.

Congress must be consulted. The President is either trying to distract Americans from the fact that millions of people are going to lose their healthcare, or he believes that he is a king unbound by our laws, unbound by international law, and unbound by our Constitution.

We cannot allow him to unilaterally declare war. Congress must be consulted.

Vote ''yes'' on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded, again, to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ).

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, from the start of the Trump administration, this Republican-led Congress has willingly given up our powers and authority: our power of the purse, our oversight authority, our legislative authority, and now, our war powers.

Members of this body have surrendered their ability to check the executive and have failed to stand up for democracy and the American people.

I say: Enough is enough. Congress must start acting as a coequal branch of government. Trump and his administration, while waging a war in our cities, are committing war crimes in the Caribbean.

While Trump lies to us about how they are going after narcotraffickers, he is pardoning convicted narcotraffickers who are probably responsible for many of the overdoses we have seen around the country.

The hypocrisy is suffocating. The administration is lying, consolidating power, and committing war crimes in order to control, to dominate, and to seize Venezuelan oil and pursue regime change for their imperialistic agenda in the Western Hemisphere. They do this all so they can extract resources, they can expand their wealth, and they can make sure that one day, should they lose their hold on power, which they will, they can be pardoned for their corruption.

It seems like Republicans love Trump and protecting pedophiles more than they love America and children. It is shameful, and it is pitiful. It is filthy, and we have to put an end to it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this resolution. Let's take back the power and authority that rightfully belongs to Congress and put an end to the lawlessness that makes us all less safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded, once again, to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York has 4 minutes remaining.

□ 1440

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Mrs. BIGGS).

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the resolution which seeks to limit the constitutional authority of the President under Article II and micromanage the Commander in Chief during a national security crisis.

While our Nation's first priority must always be the pursuit of peace

over conflict, we cannot remain idle when an indicted drug trafficker weaponizes narcoterrorists to assault our sovereignty. Peace is maintained through strength, and it would be both unconstitutional and irresponsible to tie the hands of the President, who is protecting the American people from drug cartels and terrorist tactics.

Decades of executive branch precedent, affirmed by both parties, establish that restricted engagements involving no ground troops and limited operations do not require congressional authorization.

The President's targeted strikes on narcoterrorist vessels have been precise and targeted and have not put U.S. troops in harm's way.

Passage of this resolution would set catastrophic precedent. It would define any defensive use of force as an act of war, effectively stripping the Commander in Chief of his constitutional mandate to respond to foreign threats and to secure our borders against a criminal regime.

Mr. Speaker, the War Powers Resolution was never intended to be a tool for the legislative branch to conduct tactical oversight of military operations.

We have one Commander in Chief for a reason. Which side are we on: keeping Americans safe or protecting narcoterrorists? I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from Florida have additional speakers? I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I have three more speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this resolution.

This resolution would prohibit the use of United States Armed Forces off the coast of Venezuela without regard for the real and growing threats posed by the foreign terrorist Maduro regime.

Let's be clear-eyed about the danger that we face. The Maduro regime is a designated foreign terrorist organization, a narcoterrorist state that collaborates with other foreign terrorist organizations and violent cartels to flood our hemisphere and our communities with deadly poison.

Venezuela has been taken over. The Venezuelan people are held hostage by a foreign terrorist regime that uses their land as an operating base for international drug trafficking, fueling a crisis that has cost nearly 400,000 Americans their lives since 2021.

This resolution would have us pull back from the fight against designated terrorist regimes and cartels in our own hemisphere, just miles from our shores. It tells the foreign terrorist regime in Venezuela and its criminal allies that Congress is willing to look the other way as hundreds of thousands of Americans continue to die every single year.

We must reject this resolution and send a clear message: The United States will confront narcoterrorist regimes in our hemisphere, stand with the Venezuelan people, and never surrender to terrorist regimes that threaten our security. Too many Americans have already paid with their lives because this threat was ignored.

For the sake of our national security, our communities, and the men and women in uniform who stand the line every day, I urge a ''no'' vote on this resolution. I thank my colleague for yielding me the time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI).

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the War Powers Act was to prevent secret wars from happening after Vietnam. The reason why we have this is so that the administration is accountable to the people. No war should be declared and no war should be prosecuted in the name of the American people without their consent.

If the President wishes to go to war, he must come to the people, explain his rationale, and get their consent. He is not doing that now. When he doesn't do that, bad things happen. Bad things are happening today.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely right, the Constitution is crystal clear that only Congress can start a war. However, in their deliberations on this subject, the Founders also made clear that they were leaving the President certain limited inherent power to react to an attack. For example, he can order up defensive measures or hot pursuit of an enemy or retaliatory strikes. That is the distinction they debated when they substituted ''declare war'' instead of ''make war'' among Congress' enumerated powers.

The supporters of this resolution are correct. Congress has to initiate hostilities, but neither of these resolutions are applicable to current events. H. Con. Res. 64 orders the President to remove forces from Venezuela that are not in Venezuela. Until and unless they are, this is at best an empty partisan exercise. Worse, it could be construed to constrain his inherent powers in the event of an attack by Venezuela that requires an immediate response.

H. Con. Res. 61 orders him to cease attacks on terrorist groups, presumably the drug runners, but these are unflagged vessels carrying contraband in international waters. An attack on them is not an attack on a foreign power and, therefore, not an act of war. It is akin to firing on Somali pirates menacing international shipping.

If the President launched an unprovoked attack on Venezuela or Venezuelan-flagged vessels without congressional declaration, we should have this debate. Until then, I think the Democrats would do well not to cry wolf on such an important matter.

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

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I would ask Mr. MCGOVERN: Is the contention that this is a present condition, that there are U.S. forces in violation of the War Powers Resolution, or is it about a hypothetical future?

I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. The first thing you said.

Mr. DAVIDSON. The contention is it is a pressing condition?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Yes.

Mr. DAVIDSON. I disagree with that. I will be voting ''no.''

Mr. MCGOVERN. Read the intelligence.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I reserve the balance of my time until the gentlemen yield back.

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

Mr. Speaker, I really can't believe this debate from some of my friends on the other side of the aisle. They are talking about things that have nothing to do with the underlying legislation. I mean, they are talking about fentanyl. Well, fentanyl is coming from China. That is the problem. Do you want to bomb China? Then make the case to bomb China. That is where fentanyl is coming from.

They are talking about nuclear war. I don't even know what that has to do with what we are debating here today.

I think what is clear is my Republican friends are basically covering up for the President, who is sleepwalking us right into a war in Venezuela. That is the issue here.

The President, by his own words, has said that he wants to block the airspace in Venezuela. He has talked about troops in Venezuela. He is stationing American forces around Venezuela. Under U.S. law, those are acts of hostility.

I have seen this movie before, where my Republican friends get up and they talk tough: Let's go to war, let's go to war. Then we go to war, and it becomes a catastrophe. Then they say: Well, I never voted for a war. Oh, I didn't do that. That is not me.

Well, under the Constitution, we have a responsibility to declare war. We have a responsibility to debate war. Quite frankly, this Congress, given what is going on in Venezuela, ought to be doing more oversight and ought to be debating this issue. That it is somehow controversial or undercuts our attempts to stop drugs from coming into this country is ridiculous. It is ludicrous.

I have been around for a while. The one thing I can tell you with certainty, it is easy to get into a war. It is hard as hell to get out of war. I have been around long enough to hear Presidents of both parties talk about war as something simple: You can get into it, you get out of it easy, no big deal. That has never happened. That has never happened.

□ 1450

Even the Pentagon says it will be very complicated to topple Maduro, and what might result might be more violence, more chaos. It could be a quagmire.

All we are saying here is, let's do our job. If you don't want to do the job, I don't know why the hell you are here, seriously. The Foreign Affairs Committee ought to be taking the lead on this. This shouldn't be controversial.

My resolution is a bipartisan resolution. It deserves bipartisan support. This is the least we can do. This is the least we can do.

When we go to war, our troops have no choice but to follow the orders that are given to them. The bottom line is, we have a responsibility to make sure they don't get sent into a mess, that we know what the hell we are doing, that there is a clearly defined mission, and that this is the right thing to do.

It is the wrong thing to do, in my opinion. We have homeless veterans. We can't provide people in this country with healthcare. People don't have adequate housing. People are hungry.

You want to spend billions and trillions of dollars on another war. Well, I don't want any part of it. Please vote for this resolution.

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

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

I am not going to talk to my colleagues because they are not going to answer the question of why two convicted people, not just indicted, were pardoned by the United States President.

Mr. Speaker, I will address my fellow Americans. Congress would need to pass an Authorization for Use of Military Force if President Trump wanted to put boots on the ground or conduct military strikes in Venezuela to abide by the law.

For that, Republicans in Congress would need to cast their vote on whether to commit U.S. Armed Forces to an open-ended conflict that their constituents, the American people, certainly do not want.

Trump ran on ending forever wars, but now he has forgotten what they are, what his own Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, characterized as ''interventionism, undefined wars, regime change . . . . and feckless nation building.'' Yet, with Venezuela, Trump is provoking a new war right in our backyard and threatening to destabilize the entire region.

Let's be clear: Claiming a war with Venezuela will be quick and easy is a fantasy. Maduro is by no means a good guy. He lost the last election and has violently repressed the Venezuelan people to stay in power against their democratic will. To think that if the U.S. military just chases him out, then Venezuela's military and armed groups around the country will welcome democracy with open arms is naive at best.

This administration has no plan for the day after. It has no strategy. If Members do not vote for Mr. MCGOVERN's War Powers Resolution, they are signing their name to everything that comes after, a forever war in our own hemisphere, a quagmire the likes of Vietnam in a country twice the size of Iraq for a length of time that is completely unknown.

How many billions of dollars of taxpayers' money would be spent so Pete Hegseth can play a wartime general? How many U.S. servicemembers would make the ultimate sacrifice so Donald Trump can do in Latin America what Vladimir Putin does in Europe?

The power over matters of war and peace belongs to the United States Congress. It is our most solemn duty given in the Constitution of the United States, and votes like this are our most consequential. They are literally about life and about death.

If history has taught us anything, it is that wars are easy to start, but they are incredibly difficult to end. The choice you make on this vote will carry a long, a very long, a very long part in this history.

Mr. Speaker, I will end with this. Let me just tell you, the cameras of history are rolling. What will be the downstream effects of destabilizing the country, an entire region? Anyone who tells you they know, they are lying.

What we do know is that the American people don't want this. That is unequivocal. Even President Trump's supporters do not understand why he would do this.

I ask you, let's vote in this House for Mr. MCGOVERN's bill. It is the right thing to do. Vote so the American people know how you stood at this point in history.

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

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

The defense of America is what is on the table here. The questions are simple: Does the President have the authority to defend the United States of America against these cartels, against their drugs, their beheadings, their murders? Does he or does he not?

My Democrat friends are arguing that he does not have the authority to defend our country, to protect the people of the United States of America, to protect the people in their communities. That is their argument.

The fact of the matter is, the President has the authority to defend our country, and he has the duty to defend our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no,'' and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to the order of the House of December 16, 2025, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

The question is on adoption of the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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.

PROTECT CHILDREN'S INNOCENCE ACT

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to House Resolution 953, I call up the bill (H.R. 3492) to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration of minors, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BICE). Pursuant to House Resolution 953, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. 3492

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 ''Protect Children's Innocence Act''.

SEC. 2. GENITAL AND BODILY MUTILATION OF A MINOR; CHEMICAL CASTRATION OF A MINOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 116 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 116. Genital and bodily mutilation of a minor; chemical castration of a minor

''(a) GENITAL OR BODILY MUTILATION.—Except as provided in subsection (g), whoever, in any circumstance described in subsection (d), knowingly performs, or attempts to perform, genital or bodily mutilation on another person who is a minor, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

''(b) CHEMICAL CASTRATION OF A MINOR.—Except as provided in subsection (g), whoever, in any circumstance described in subsection (d), knowingly chemically castrates a minor shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

''(c) CERTAIN OFFENSE RELATED TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.—Except as provided in subsection (g), whoever, in any circumstance described in subsection (d), knowingly—

''(1) facilitates or consents to female genital mutilation of a minor; or

''(2) transports a minor for the purpose of the performance of female genital mutilation on such minor,

shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

''(d) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—For the purposes of subsections (a) and (b), the circumstances described in this subsection are that—

''(1) the defendant or victim traveled in interstate or foreign commerce, or traveled using a means, channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce, in furtherance of or in connection with the conduct described in subsection (a) or (b);

''(2) the defendant used a means, channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce in furtherance of or in connection with the conduct described in subsection (a) or (b);

''(3) any payment of any kind was made, directly or indirectly, in furtherance of or in connection with the conduct described in subsection (a) or (b) using any means, channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce;

''(4) the defendant transmitted in interstate or foreign commerce any communication relating to or in furtherance of the conduct described in subsection (a) or (b) using any means, channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means or in manner, including by computer, mail, wire, or electromagnetic transmission;

''(5) any instrument, item, substance, or other object that has traveled in interstate or foreign commerce was used to perform the conduct described in subsection (a) or (b);

''(6) the conduct described in subsection (a) or (b) occurred within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or any territory or possession of the United States; or

''(7) the conduct described in subsection (a) or (b) otherwise occurred in or affected interstate or foreign commerce.

''(e) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN DEFENSE.—It shall not be a defense to a prosecution under subsection (a) that female genital mutilation is required as a matter of religion, custom, tradition, ritual, or standard practice.

''(f) PROHIBITION ON PROSECUTION OF VICTIM.—No person who is chemically castrated or on whom genital or bodily mutilation is performed may be arrested or prosecuted for an offense under this section.

''(g) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(1) PROCEDURES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Genital or bodily mutilation or chemical castration is not a violation of this section if such genital or bodily mutilation or chemical castration is—

''(i) necessary to the health of the minor on whom it is conducted, and is conducted by a person licensed in the place of such conduct as a medical practitioner; or

''(ii) in the case of female genital mutilation, performed on a minor in labor or who has just given birth and is performed for medical purposes connected with that labor or birth by a person licensed in the place it is performed as a medical practitioner, midwife, or person in training to become such a practitioner or midwife.

''(B) HEALTH OF A MINOR.—For the purposes of subparagraph (A), the health of a minor does not include—

''(i) mental, behavioral, or emotional distress; or

''(ii) a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder.

''(2) EXEMPTION.—Genital or bodily mutilation or chemical castration is not a violation of this section if such genital or bodily mutilation or chemical castration is conducted with respect to any of the following individuals:

''(A) An individual with both ovarian and testicular tissue.

''(B) An individual with respect to whom a physician has determined through genetic or biochemical testing that the individual does not have normal sex chromosome structure, sex steroid hormone production, or sex steroid hormone action.

''(C) An individual experiencing infection, disease, injury, or disorder caused or exacerbated by a previous genital or bodily mutilation procedure or chemical castration.

''(D) An individual suffering from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the individual in imminent danger of impairment of a major bodily function unless the procedure is performed.

''(E) An individual diagnosed with precocious puberty, to the extent such genital or bodily mutilation or chemical castration is for the purpose of normalizing puberty.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) GENITAL OR BODILY MUTILATION.—The term 'genital or bodily mutilation' means, with respect to an individual, any of the following:

''(A) Female genital mutilation.

''(B) Any surgery performed for the purpose of changing the body of such individual to correspond to a sex that differs from their biological sex, including—

''(i) castration;

''(ii) orchiectomy;

''(iii) scrotoplasty;

''(iv) vasectomy;

''(v) hysterectomy;

''(vi) oophorectomy;

''(vii) ovariectomy;

''(viii) metoidioplasty;

''(ix) penectomy;

''(x) phalloplasty;

''(xi) vaginoplasty;

''(xii) vaginectomy;

''(xiii) vulvoplasty;

''(xiv) reduction thyrochondroplasty;

''(xv) chondrolaryngoplasty; and

''(xvi) mastectomy.

''(C) Any plastic surgery that feminizes or masculinizes the facial or other physiological features for the purposes described in subparagraph (B).

''(D) Any placement of chest implants to create feminine breasts for the purposes described in subparagraph (B).

''(E) Any placement of fat or artificial implants in the gluteal region for the purposes described in subparagraph (B).

''(F) Any surgery to reconstruct the fixed part of the urethra, whether or not such surgery includes a metoidioplasty or a phalloplasty, for the purposes described in subparagraph (B).

''(2) CHEMICAL CASTRATION.— The term 'chemical castration' means administering, supplying, prescribing, dispensing, distributing, or otherwise conveying to an individual medications for the purposes described in paragraph (1)(B), including—

''(A) gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues or other puberty-blocking drugs to stop or delay normal puberty;

''(B) testosterone or other androgens to biological females at doses that are supraphysiologic to the female sex; and

''(C) estrogen to biological males at doses that are supraphysiologic to the male sex.

''(3) BIOLOGICAL SEX.—The term 'biological sex' means, with respect to a person, the classification of the person as male or female at birth.

''(4) FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.—The term 'female genital mutilation' means any procedure performed for non-medical reasons that involves partial or total removal of, or other injury to, the external female genitalia, and includes—

''(A) a clitoridectomy or the partial or total removal of the clitoris or the prepuce or clitoral hood;

''(B) excision or the partial or total removal (with or without excision of the clitoris) of the labia minora or the labia majora, or both;

''(C) infibulation or the narrowing of the vaginal opening (with or without excision of the clitoris); or

''(D) other procedures that are harmful to the external female genitalia, including pricking, incising, scraping, or cauterizing the genital area.

''(5) MINOR.—The term 'minor' means any person under the age of eighteen years.

''(6) MALE.—The term 'male' means a person who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for a congenital anomaly, historical accident, or intentional or unintentional disruption, the reproductive system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes sperm for fertilization.

''(7) FEMALE.—The term 'female' means a person who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for a congenital anomaly, historical accident, or intentional or unintentional disruption, the reproductive system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes eggs for fertilization.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 7 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item related to section 116 and inserting the following:

''116. Genital and bodily mutilation of a minor; chemical castration of a minor.''.

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 the Judiciary or their respective designees.

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in House Report 119–411, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

□ 1500

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3492.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we as a Nation are facing one of the greatest crises of our time: Child abuse disguised as medical intervention. Children are being coerced by adults in positions of authority into life-altering and medically questionable gender transition procedures without a full understanding of the meaning or that impact.

Democrats have embraced an extreme position on this so-called gender-affirming care. They are more interested in promoting the radical left policies than protecting our children from harm. Despite the American public's widespread rejection of the practice in 2024, the radical left continues to distort the debate surrounding so-called gender affirming care.

Instead of accurately describing the procedures as harmful and life-altering, the left deceptively frames the

procedures as being necessary to improve the health and the well-being of our children.

Through gender-affirming care, Democrats are indoctrinating children and causing them to make life-altering decisions about their body involving hormones and surgery and jeopardizing their health. So-called gender-affirming care is the genital mutilation and chemical castration of children. It is not lifesaving care. It is child abuse.

All evidence points to the fact that gender transition procedures, including the puberty blockers, the hormones, and the surgeries, are a form of genital mutilation. More and more detransitioners, such as our brave Chloe Cole, are coming forward to share their horrific experiences of being used as experiments of the medical establishment. The majority of these brave transitioners are girls and women.

The first rule of medicine is do no harm. Yet, those in the medical community performing these grotesque procedures on children are committing some serious harm. In fact, these procedures are so grotesque that during the markup of this legislation, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle had a hard time hearing these specific procedures described. This begs the question: If they cannot bear to hear this, why are they forcing it on our children?

Doctors across the U.S. and other countries are beginning to take a stand against those in the medical community who insist on these being lifesaving procedures. They should be questioned. Even our neighbors to the North have acted responsibly.

In Canada, all genital surgeries are only available to children who are 18 years of age or older. This policy aligns with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health standards. According to these standards, a person must be the age of majority to undergo reassignment surgery.

Likewise, in Austria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden, the minimum age requirement to undergo any sex reassignment surgery is 18. We should not fall behind these countries when it comes to protecting our children.

The Protect Children's Innocence Act will hold those accountable who perform or attempt to perform genital mutilation and chemical castration on our children. This bill expands the covered offenses to include body mutilation and chemical castration of minors. Victims are protected by ensuring that they cannot be arrested or prosecuted if one of these, or other prohibited procedures, are performed on them.

This legislation continues President Trump's important priority to protect children. Earlier this year, President Trump issued an executive order titled: ''Protecting Children From Chemical and Surgical Mutilation.'' This order defunds the chemical and surgical mutilation of children and halts the use of Federal funds supporting gender-affirming medical care for youth under the age of 19.

H.R. 3492 works to codify President Trump's executive order and amends section 116 of the United States Code to explicitly include bodily mutilation and chemical castration.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have lamented: Leave our children alone. Madam Speaker, that is exactly what this bill does. This issue is simple. Do not force children into making decisions that they will not be able to reverse. Do not make these children lifelong patients and dependent on the medical system. Most importantly, do not abuse our Nation's children.

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

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

Madam Speaker, the bill would subject doctors, nurses, other medical providers, and even parents to up to 10 years' incarceration in Federal prison and up to $250,000 in criminal fines for providing gender-affirming healthcare like hormone therapy to minors.

They want to criminalize more than a dozen different evidence-based medical treatments and procedures that are presently being recommended and used for gender dysphoria including the prescription of puberty blockers, which are commonly used by families for young people who are not trans but who face all the medical and social problems associated with early-onset puberty.

The gentlewoman's bill would engineer a massive invasion of the privacy rights of families engaged in medical decisionmaking in America. I thought a belief that families should be able to make their own decisions for their own children was something that united Liberals and Conservatives.

These are hard and often agonizing decisions that loving American families in our country face. Our colleagues now want to invite the Federal Government to come barging into the family dining room and in the doctor's exam room like a raging bull in a china shop.

Does anyone believe the Freedom Caucus and President Trump love America's children more than their own parents do or that they can make better decisions for tens of thousands of American children than their own parents? I can't understand the logic of it.

At a time of skyrocketing healthcare costs—which our colleagues will do nothing about except perhaps a handful of them who have crossed over to join us today in a discharge petition—at a time of skyrocketing healthcare costs, grocery prices, and housing, not to mention the recent news of escalating unemployment higher than the last 4 years, does anybody think that what the American people need right now and are looking for is a Federal law authorizing FBI agents and government prosecutors to investigate doctors, nurses, hospitals, and parents for providing AMA-recommended medical care to children?

The politicians that have brought America to a point of crisis in healthcare coverage for millions of Americans—and can't seem to do anything about it—cannot be trusted to make the most intimate and fundamental decisions for the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of America's children. Let us leave it to people's parents. Let us leave it to the families.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to mention that Gavin Newsom signed a bill into law recently not to notify parents. Administrators and schoolteachers don't notify parents that their kids are considering a transition. We do trust parents in many cases, but in a lot of cases in some of these blue States parents are not notified.

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

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, one of the most serious responsibilities we have as adults, and particularly those of us who are elected and hold power when it comes to legislating and making law, is to protect children.

Today, the House is delivering on what the American people voted for. This is the opportunity to vote to end the gender mutilation of children via transgender treatments for children. I introduced this important bill years ago, and it is finally set for a vote in the House today.

It will criminalize gender-affirming care on minors, not adults, on minors who have not yet grown up to make adult decisions. It will end gender mutilation and chemical castration of children and imprison offenders for up to 10 years.

This is a direct legislative reflection of President Trump's executive order and every single Republican's campaign promise in 2024. It was also one of the top issues across the country.

Most Americans agree that kids just need to grow up before they do anything radical like a mastectomy on a 15-year-old girl, castrating themselves through surgery, or even taking dangerous drugs that have lifelong effects.

□ 1510

American children are being systematically indoctrinated with perverse gender ideology by teachers, doctors, mental health counselors, and on social media platforms. Autistic children are particularly vulnerable and are three to four times more likely to have gender dysphoria.

Joe Biden's former Assistant Secretary of Health, Richard Levine, who identifies himself as Rachel Levine, called for the Federal Government to

empower kids to go on puberty blockers and obtain sex-reassignment surgeries.

We truly don't know the lifelong effects of puberty blockers, but we do see the lifelong effects of sex-reassignment surgeries.

For far too long, children have been sexually exploited under the malicious falsehood of so-called gender-affirming care. Mutilating children's bodies and giving them sterilizing drugs is anything but affirming and anything but care.

These types of surgeries and hormone treatments are destroying children's lives all across the country, while this perverted multibillion-dollar industry rakes in profits. Pharmaceutical company Pfizer led the way in hormone production drugs, with revenues up to $74 million from those products in 2022 alone. Total revenues for transgender drugs and surgeries in 2023 were estimated to surpass $4.4 billion, and by 2030, the market is expected to grow to nearly $8 billion.

There are for-profit pediatric gender clinics as well as hospitals that receive Federal funding that are engaged in this type of child abuse. One of the Nation's top children's hospitals in the country, Boston Children's Hospital, even released videos that explained its surgeries, promoting sterilization, castration, and mutilation of children to kids and their parents. The hospital had been discovered to have performed gender-affirming chest surgeries on 15-year-old girls—girls that are not even old enough to get a tattoo, buy nicotine, buy alcohol, and even vote.

Jamie Reid, who worked at a gender clinic and directly assisted transitioning 1,500 patients, she says, age 3 to 25 years old over 5 years, publicly came out to discuss the atrocities happening to children at these gender clinics.

''When a female takes testosterone, the profound and permanent effects of the hormone can be seen in a matter of months. Voices drop, beards sprout, body fat is redistributed. Sexual interest explodes, aggression increases, and mood can be unpredictable.''

One of the side effects includes sterility.

Can you imagine this happening to a young woman before she is ever even of legal age to be considered an adult?

Jamie Reid has full blown come out as a whistleblower on how fraudulent the entire industry is. The clinicians didn't care about the symptoms of the child. If the child believed they were trans, the clinicians took their word for it.

If a child believes that they are a unicorn, do adults take their word for it, as well?

We have laws that prevent children from being sexually exploited already on the books. As a matter of fact, in 2020, this body passed a law to stop the female genital mutilation of young women all across America. My bill has the exact same Commerce Clause that is in the law preventing FGM.

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we already have Federal laws that stop the sexual exploitation of children related to porn and sex crimes against children, and these Federal laws are so important because they protect children all across America.

There is historical data that shows that 60 to 90 percent of prepuberty children with gender dysphoria stop identifying as trans once they grow up. In 2022, there is a statistic that says that only 12 percent of boys with gender dysphoria continue it into adulthood.

This is a matter of common sense. This is a vote of good versus evil. It is our duty as a governing body, filled with responsible adults, to protect children from making the worst mistake of their lives before they are ever grown up and have the ability to enter into adulthood.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to vote ''yes'' on the Protect Children's Innocence Act and do the right thing for America's children.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the chair of the Congressional Equality Caucus.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill. There are not words strong enough to express my disgust.

I will respond to the gentlewoman from Georgia. Gender-affirming surgery is never performed on young children. It is extremely rare for older transgender adolescents. This bill would have little impact on surgeries for transgender young people because surgery is already extremely rare for transgender adolescents.

Republicans keep bringing up surgeries to shift attention away from how extreme this bill is. This bill hypocritically bans safe and effective medications for an entire group of people just because of who they are, while still allowing them for everyone else.

This bill will not lower the cost of your healthcare. It will not protect children. It will not ease the strain on doctors and other healthcare providers.

What it will do is interfere with parental choice and open private medical data up to Federal investigation. It threatens to jail doctors who follow evidence-based practice supported by every medical association in the United States. It deprives children of proven lifesaving medical care.

My Republican colleagues should be ashamed. I am ashamed of what they are doing. I am ashamed that trans children out there may see this debate in the people's House and watch elected officials lie about them. I am ashamed that the world sees this democracy spending its time wielding the law as a weapon to attack a few rather than use the law as a shield to protect the vulnerable.

I am furious that, while millions of families struggle to afford groceries, healthcare, rent, and basic necessities, this is the vindictive, petty garbage that Republicans are using the people's House to put to a vote.

Banning healthcare for trans people cannot be justified by science. Using the Federal Government to strip parents of their right to make decisions for their children is a massive violation.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, jailing doctors and, in some cases, parents for following best medical practices is backward, ignorant, and dangerous.

My colleagues who support this bill are not vested with the power to say that someone does not deserve medically necessary care. This body has a duty to protect the vulnerable. This bill is a radical perversion of that duty and a disgusting abuse of power.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, this is not rare; 5,700 children had these surgeries, mainly between 2019 and 2023, in mainly blue States.

Here on PBMs, it says that puberty blockers have not been approved by the FDA for the indication of gender dysphoria, and they are off-label uses. So these are not safe uses in many cases of these transitions.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE).

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Protect Children's Innocence Act.

When we are talking about ''shameful,'' shameful is castrating a kid. Shameful is chopping off the breasts of an underage girl, and that is what the Democrats are doing today. It is obscene. It is disgusting. You are seeing in real time Democrats wanting and defending grooming of children, and it is abhorrent.

There is a lie at the heart of the debate that we are having today that I have to correct. No child is born in their wrong body. There are only two sexes. They are male, and they are female. There are no others.

Every child is created in the Lord's image, and we cannot remain silent while demonic forces are here today on the floor, the left, here to groom children and defend it.

Children are innocent. For too long, Democrats have tried to mainstream satanic, irreversible procedures which destroy the bodies of young children and often lead to kids being sterilized for life. It leads to disease, leads to cancer, and leads to suicide.

Democrats say to protect trans kids. I came here today to the floor of the House of Representatives to say: There is no such thing as a trans kid. Transgenderism is a mind virus perpetuated by the far left to groom kids.

□ 1520

This is not gender-affirming care. It is genital-destroying child abuse.

This chemical and surgical mutilation of children has devastating consequences on their physical and mental health, and many live to regret it. Many live to detransition if they make it out at all.

This is sick. This is disgusting. We cannot allow the left to prey on underage kids any longer.

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

Madam Speaker, at a time when our colleagues are perfectly content to see millions of Americans lose their health insurance, when they do nothing to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits that millions of Americans are depending on, at a time when they are happy to throw millions of people off of Medicaid coverage, they decide to change the subject in order to vilify and demonize a small minority.

That is a time-honored tactic in the authoritarian playbook, to pick a small minority of citizens—here, we are talking about around 2 million people who are transgender in America—and scapegoat them, dehumanize them, demonize them, satanize them, take away their basic freedoms, and even deny their very existence.

It is happening to gay people right now in Putin's Russia and in Orban's Hungary. It is happening to Uyghurs and Tibetans in China. It is happening to Christians and free-thinkers in Pakistan. It is happening to Muslims in India. Now, it is happening to trans people in America when they are happy to attack them, vilify them, and try to destroy their community. If they purport to be acting in the name of the trans community, why is it that the trans community opposes their legislation so strongly?

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI).

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3492.

This measure would allow politicians, not doctors, not families, to decide medically necessary care for family members. It criminalizes medically necessary, evidence-based lifesaving care, and it threatens parents and physicians with prison time for providing care for their kids.

As millions of Americans face losing their health insurance, Republicans are not working to protect coverage or lower costs. Instead, they are focused on throwing the parents and doctors of trans youth into jail.

We should be strengthening care, not dismantling it. We should trust doctors and families, not replace medicine with ideology. No parent should have to fear prosecution for trying to get their child the care they need, and that is exactly what this measure would do.

Madam Speaker, I urge a strong ''no'' vote.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I join many of our colleagues in opposing this hateful and harmful legislation. This is a devastating moment for transgender youth, their parents, and their healthcare providers across the country.

The so-called Protect Children's Innocence Act is a blatant attack on the rights of parents. It allows the government to interfere with very personal healthcare decisions.

My Republican colleagues have spent years touting parental rights, yet now they want to put moms and dads and doctors in prison for deciding how to best support their own children. It is dangerous, and it is wrong. These decisions belong to parents, their children, and their healthcare providers, not politicians.

Every parent wants what is best for their children. As a parent, I cannot imagine how I would feel if a doctor told me that Republicans in Congress banned lifesaving, evidence-based care that would help my child.

Medical care for transgender youth is safe, effective, and supported by major medical associations. Access to transgender-related healthcare is critical, medically necessary, and often lifesaving.

The President and my Republican colleagues have spent the year scapegoating a very small group of very vulnerable children because they have no solution to strengthen the economy, reduce healthcare costs, or make our communities safer. This legislation is just the latest attack.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. As I close, Madam Speaker, I find it disturbing that my—

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

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. I find it disturbing and disappointing that my colleagues seem to be more obsessed with what genitals are in people's pants than whether they can afford their healthcare or housing bills.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, we know that the proponents of this legislation are certainly not speaking for the families that have to deal with this problem because all of them are lobbying against this. They are saying that the last thing we want at this point is to send the FBI and Federal prosecutors in to deal with the problem. Let them deal with it. Well, perhaps they are speaking from medical authority? No, not at all.

Look at the letter that was just sent to Members of Congress. ''We, the undersigned medical professional organizations, write in strong opposition to H.R. 3492 and H.R. 498. These bills would criminalize and dismantle healthcare for transgender young people and as such represent a direct threat to patient welfare. We urge you to reject these extreme proposals.''

Look who signed this: American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American Psychiatric Association, and so on.

The leading medical authorities in the country are saying: Hey, we can work this out at the State level.

The gentleman referred to California. There are States that are regulating in the field as they regulate lots of different kinds of medical treatments and procedures. Suddenly, we are going to turn the United States Congress into a super-medical licensing board for the entire country?

This is why our colleague from the other side of the aisle, Mr. ROY, raised the question of whether this is even constitutional. Where is the Federal jurisdictional nexus for us to be overriding State medical boards in order to bulldoze into people's living rooms and their kitchen tables to usurp the family decisionmaking process of Americans across the country?

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS).

Ms. SALINAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this disgusting bill that does nothing to protect children's innocence.

It endangers parents, healthcare providers, and children. It allows healthcare providers and parents to be fined and possibly jailed if they help a minor access lifesaving care. It permits Federal law enforcement to act as the national gender police, allowing them to invade children's private medical records.

This bill puts even more children in harm's way and exacerbates the mental health crises that our young people are facing because it stops them from actually receiving the care that they need right now.

Madam Speaker, why is our focus on this when what I am hearing from constituents is that Republicans are falling short in addressing the cost of groceries, healthcare, and housing?

To my Republican colleagues, why not focus on the issues that will impact millions of families who are just one paycheck away from homelessness or losing their healthcare instead of waging a war on children's genitals? What is this unhealthy obsession? Let's end it today by voting ''no'' on H.R. 3492.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in February 2024, the American College of Pediatricians released a position statement detailing

how social transition, puberty blockers, and cross-sex hormones have no demonstrable long-term benefits on the psychological well-being of adolescents in gender dysphoria.

I am reminded of a quote that a Vanderbilt University doctor said in 2022. He said: ''These affirming procedures are huge moneymakers.''

We are here to protect the children.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

I thank Congresswoman GREENE for bringing this bill up for debate here on the floor. I am a proud original cosponsor of this legislation.

We have heard a couple of people say that we are made in the image and likeness in God. For all of our clever scientific methods and self-rationalization out there, that is an absolute truth.

What this legislation is trying to do, and what it is going to do, God willing that it is signed into law, is prevent child abuse. That is what is going on in this country by allowing this. It is going to make it a felony for anybody to continue this abusive genital mutilation in this country on minors, on children. It is abhorrent what is being allowed right now in this country.

A felony, I think, is what is going to be able to stop this, and it should have been a felony a long time ago. I thank God that we have legislation that is going to make this criminal because it is a criminal act that is being done on the most vulnerable people in our society.

I point to a longitudinal study that was done by a Dr. Zucker years and years ago in Canada. They took minors who were looking at transitioning and actually gave them mental health counseling. By the end of that, at the age of 18, they had the option to transition or not. Ninety percent or more did not transition.

We have a mental health crisis in this country. Instead of addressing it, we are cutting people's body parts off. I rise in strong support of this legislation.

□ 1530

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER), who is both a mom and a doctor.

Ms. DEXTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say as clearly as I possibly can: Politicians have no role in the medical exam rooms.

As a physician who spent 20 years caring for patients, I know responsible care requires building trust and understanding between a patient, their parent, and their physician. I never consulted a politician, and no doctor ever should.

At a time when our country is facing a critical physician shortage, Republicans are threatening them with going to prison simply for providing evidence-based care.

This legislation fundamentally breaks a critical trust between patients, their parents, and their physicians, pulling them into a dangerous political crusade that targets our vulnerable transgender youth.

I offered two amendments: One to ensure no doctor can be imprisoned for providing evidence-based care and one to provide parents with protection when supporting their children's health. Republicans refused a vote on both.

We should be empowering doctors to take care of their patients, not locking them up. I will be relentless to keep politicians out of the exam room.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Madam Speaker, Republicans' whole healthcare plan is to restrict our ability to access healthcare. They are raising premiums, kicking millions off of Medicaid, and now forcing children to go without lifesaving care.

Under this bill, doctors and parents will spend 10 years in prison for saving kids' lives. If trans kids need care, they should have the freedom to get it, and their parents and doctors should not be jailed for it.

It amazes me that Republican politicians can't think of any better use for the power of the Federal Government than to bully transgender kids in bathrooms and schools. Now they want to be inside of their doctors' offices.

What amazes me even more is that they dare to call this bill the Protect Children's Innocence Act. Do you know what actually robs a child of their innocence? When they have to hide in a closet, in a bathroom, or in a locker as someone shoots and murders their classmates right in front of them.

If you want to protect the innocence of a child, why don't you ban assault weapons instead of banning healthcare. After all, the leading cause of death for a child in this country is bullets.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ).

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, the Republican Party is quickly becoming the party of child suffering. Under their leadership and because of their policies, children are sick from cuts to Medicaid and the end of the ACA subsidies. They are hungry from cuts to SNAP. They are orphaned by violently abducting their parents. They are criminalized and strip-searched at the border, and now they are denied lifesaving gender-affirming care.

Since my Republican colleagues seem confused about what love, care, and protection looks like, let me be very clear. The Protect Children's Innocence Act is not it. No one who causes or tolerates the suffering of children can claim to be their protector.

Love for our children would ensure each of them have every single thing they need to thrive assured to them.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to vote ''no.'' Let's build a future where our children, including our transgender little ones, are seen, are loved, and are valued.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Every major medical and mental health association in the United States of America, representing 1.3 million doctors—the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Psychiatric Association—all reject this legislation that is being advanced here. They all support gender-affirming care according to the most up-to-date science and medicine.

So if they are not speaking for the transgender community, which certainly they are not; if they are not speaking for all of the families and parents who are involved, which certainly they are not; if they are not speaking for the medical community and the scientific community, who indeed are they speaking for?

They describe the position that these medical associations have as satanic. I mean, are they looking for an exorcism to deal with the reality of lives for millions of people in the country?

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE).

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Madam Speaker, today, we are not voting to reduce the cost of healthcare or make groceries or housing more affordable or to take back the power of Congress from the executive branch in determining tariffs or deciding whether or not we should invade a sovereign nation.

We are voting today on inserting government into private medical decisions. To listen to my Republican colleagues, you would think there is an epidemic of children being forced into unnecessary gender-affirming care. There is not.

The epidemics killing our children are drug addiction, overdoses, gun violence, and preventable diseases like measles. Let's work on that.

Banning doctors from providing healthcare to transgender young people has serious unintended consequences. Politicians are getting in the way of doctors, who have years of training and experience and are practicing according to professional standards of care. They know what is best for their patients. This is their area of expertise, not ours.

Providing care and advice is a doctor's job. Taking care of your children

is a parent's duty. Let's keep it that way.

I am proudly voting ''no.'' I ask my colleagues to do the same.

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

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this poster displayed here is the result of females having their skin and flesh stripped from their arms and their legs in order for a surgeon to create a fake penis and have it sewn on their body. These are the horrific scars and damage that these women are left with for the rest of their lives after undergoing these barbaric surgeries.

This is not something any child, any minor under the age of 18 years old, should ever undergo. This is not healthcare. This is not a parent's choice for a child. This right here is child abuse. This is child abuse. No one under the age of 18 should ever make that decision, and no doctor should ever perform a surgery like this on a child simply because they are suffering from gender dysphoria and are confused about their feelings of how they identify and how they see themselves.

This condition that so many young people are suffering with—and it has been on the rise in the past 10 years—was something that was a very small percentage. But young people today have been indoctrinated on social media. They have been indoctrinated by school counselors, teachers, and many adults, even their own parents. They are being indoctrinated to believe and take that confusion they are having just as a child, whether it is prepuberty or while they are going through puberty, to believe they want to change their gender.

Here is the real truth. God only creates two sexes and two genders, male and female, and God does not make mistakes. No child is a mistake. No feeling they have inside of themselves can change that. No barbaric surgery, no chemical-castrating drugs that are given to sex predators, can change that. No amount of hormones can change that.

The reality is that parents and adults across the country can use our God-given responsibility to protect children while they are growing up. We have laws that do that. We have laws that say they can't register to vote until they are 18 because they are not adults yet to make those kinds of adult decisions.

□ 1540

We have laws that say they can't get ink tattooed on their skin until they are of legal age, and in most States it is 17 or 18 years old. We have laws that say they can't buy nicotine or even see an R-rated movie until they are 17 years old. This isn't an argument between Democrat and Republican. This is simply common sense, and most Americans agree.

The best thing that we can do for our children across this country is to say: You are not ready to make these decisions. Your feelings are very likely going to change.

It is proven through the statistics. The statistics show one study from a doctor in Finland who happens to be the leading expert, Dr. Kaltiala, who says that four out of five gender-questioning kids grow up—four out of five stop questioning their gender. They stop those feelings. Twelve percent of boys with gender dysphoria continue it into adulthood, only 12 percent. These are major changes.

We already have Federal laws, and that is incredibly important to recognize. The legislation that made it a Federal law against female genital mutilation, which has the same Commerce Clause in the Protect Children's Innocence Act, the bill that we are considering that I have introduced, passed by voice in 2020. That meant that no Member of this body raised up and said that we needed a recorded vote because they wanted to vote ''no.'' It simply passed by voice.

We also have so many other laws to protect children from sexual exploitation. This is something that doesn't affect people's sexual identity. It is in no way, shape, or form insulting to anyone who identifies as gay or lesbian or bisexual. This is simply a bill that tells kids, ''Hold on,'' tells parents, ''Hold on,'' before they have double mastectomies, before they are castrated, and before they take drugs that are not FDA approved for the use that they are given, that are chemical castrating drugs. We have to stop.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to vote ''yes'' on the Protect Children's Innocence Act.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, we are invited to believe that the United States Congress is not only more competent to make medical decisions for America's children than their own parents, but that the United States Congress is more competent than all 50 State legislatures to run medical practices within their States.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER), who is both a mom and a pediatrician.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, as the first and only pediatrician in Congress, I rise today to condemn the so-called Protect Children's Innocence Act.

I have served children and their families for over 20 years, and I find this piece of legislation to be dangerous and an absolute slap in the face for parents and for doctors who have dedicated their lives to caring for children and families.

This bill could put doctors behind bars for up to 10 years for providing medically appropriate care for children, and it doesn't even stop there. It could put parents behind bars for making, after deep consideration, and in many cases, anguish, the decision that they deem best for their own child.

This bill will instill fear in doctors and patients and rob parents of their freedom to make decisions for and with their own children. Instead, it puts that power in the hands of D.C. lawmakers.

Healthcare decisions are deeply personal. The confidential relationship between a patient, their parents, and their physician is sacred. Physicians follow evidence-based guidelines and use their best clinical judgment.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentlewoman from Washington.

Madam Speaker, it is outrageous for the government to commandeer those decisions.

Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to all vote ''no.''

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Georgia for introducing this bill. It has so much common sense. It is so scary that our country has gone so far downhill that we would allow young people, sometimes as young as 14 or 13 years old, to take powerful drugs, puberty blockers, or do surgeries on them in the name of this idea that we, all of a sudden, have this epidemic of transgenderism, which is something that nobody ever miraculously seemed to know about 50 years ago.

Instead, in our society, we have all the helping professions, the guidance counselors, the psychologists, and the psychiatrists, as well as our pop culture icons from California, out there pushing our poor young people into the idea that it is cool to be transgender.

In fact, recently, it has come out that the number of kids who are transgender, and I think it is 18- or 19-year-olds, has been cut in half, which proves what anybody with commonsense knew all along: It was a cool thing created so that young people could say: Look at me. I am transgender.

The life of some of these kids is ruined. It is a testament, by the way, that this is not genetic. All you have to do, Madam Speaker, is look at the fact that these kids have to continue to take powerful drugs even after surgery. If it was a natural thing, then you wouldn't have to keep taking the drugs.

In any event, I strongly hope we take up this bill.

I should also point out that last year doing doorbells, like politicians do, I ran into two grandparents who had one granddaughter and one grandson going down this rabbit hole. I felt so sorry for them because when somebody makes this decision, it affects not only themselves, but it affects the whole family.

In any event, I am glad the bill is introduced. I hope they have the common sense in the Senate—they probably won't—to pass the bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT).

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in fierce opposition to Representative GREENE's bill that would throw doctors and parents in jail for providing lifesaving medical care. Even for Republicans, this bill is extreme.

Are we really attempting to lock up parents and doctors?

Your kids' medical care is none of their damn business.

We should call their obsession with being in your kids' pediatrician's office and what treatment they are getting in a pediatrician's office what it is. It is creepy. It is a creepy obsession we have had to deal with for years.

The science is clear: Evidence-based, medically necessary care for transgender youth is safe, effective, and supported by every major medical association in the United States, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

My Republican colleagues know this, because this intentionally discriminatory bill includes a bunch of exemptions to allow other kids to receive the exact same medical care.

I call on my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this truly reprehensible piece of legislation. Congress should not be making medical decisions for your kids.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would ensure that this bill does not compromise the private medical records of a minor or result in parents and doctors being thrown in jail.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, we obviously disagree vehemently on this bill, but this may be the last time that I get to share the floor with the distinguished gentlewoman from Georgia. I thank her for her hard work and her thoughtful comments in CNN news recently which moved me when she said: ''I would like to say, humbly, I am sorry for taking part in the toxic politics. It is very bad for our country. It has been something I thought about a lot, especially since Charlie Kirk was assassinated.''

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and wish her and her family all the best in her future.

Having said that, on the gentlewoman's bill, Madam Speaker, there are lots of people in the country who are not getting their kids vaccinated for different reasons and for different kinds of illnesses. A lot of people in the country reject that and oppose that, and perhaps the vast majority do.

Does that mean we should come forward with a bill to the United States Congress to say that we are going to put in jail any parents who don't vaccinate their children because we think they are making the wrong decision for their children?

In other words, we know better than the parents do, and we know better than the doctors do. We know better than the medical associations do, and we know better than all of the States do.

□ 1550

Madam Speaker, I think that would be an absurd abuse of our power and, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) has been saying, a very questionable deployment of Federal power, given the fact that the United States Congress has limited powers that are supposed to deal with actual national and Federal issues, which is why medical care has always been left to the States to deal with.

This is like a bulldozer going into everybody's house if you happen to be dealing with this particular kind of medical crisis. You don't have to agree with any particular decision that any particular family or set of parents have made. All you have to do is respect their right to make decisions with and for their own children. That is all that we are talking about.

Do you know who is on this side and opposed to this legislation? Medical associations, like the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association, representing more than a million doctors in the country, are saying: No, don't let the politicians start finger painting all over the protocols for dealing with an actual medical problem that millions of people have had to deal with in our country.

We will stand with the families. We will stand with the doctors. We will stand with the medical associations. We will stand with the States. We have got enough real work on our hands.

Let's just try to get medical care and medical attention to the people of America. Millions of people are losing their access to health insurance and to Medicaid. Why don't we try to deal with that before we barge into the doctors' offices, and the living rooms and kitchen tables of America to try to take over what is a fundamentally private and personal decision that we should be trusting families to make for themselves?

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, how about we just don't mutilate our children? I think that is a good call. This is allowing people above the age of 18 to make those decisions.

Most of us here were young people at one time or another. I can remember being in the second or third grade. There was a thing called cooties. I don't know if you all remember that, but if you hung around the girls, they would say: Oh, don't do that, you are going to get the ''cooties.'' I don't know if you ever heard that term. It is a south Alabama thing, Madam Speaker.

By the time we were in the sixth grade, we were on the gym floor, trying to decide whether or not to ask—we didn't have the courage to ask the girls to dance.

By the time we were in the 10th or 11th grade, we were hoping they would notice us in the hall. By the time we were seniors, maybe we had the courage to ask them on a date, and maybe they said yes.

The decisions they are wanting to make, these are kids that are in the second and third grade. These are not kids that are either old enough to understand that we might be interested, we might want to go in that direction. Like Marjorie said, only 12 percent of the males who go through this actually stick with it.

It is important to us to understand that these are children, and in many cases they are being bullied by the physicians. One of the physicians at Vanderbilt said: We make a boatload of money on these procedures.

Often, I think that it is more about the children and protecting the children than driving this ideological leftwing whatever it is and the mutilation of our children.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 119–411 will not be offered.

Pursuant to House Resolution 953, 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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Balint of Vermont moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3492 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The material previously referred to by Ms. BALINT is as follows:

Ms. Balint moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3492 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end of the text, add the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States determines that this Act will not compromise the private medical records of a minor or result in the arrest or prosecution of a parent or health care provider for providing necessary health care.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RELIABLE POWER ACT

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 951, I call up the bill (H.R. 3616) to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review regulations that may affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, 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 951, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. 3616

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 ''Reliable Power Act''.

SEC. 2. COMMISSION REVIEW AND COMMENT FOR COVERED AGENCY ACTIONS.

Section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking ''The ERO'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The ERO''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) ANNUAL LONG-TERM ASSESSMENT.—The assessments under paragraph (1) shall include an annual long-term assessment, which shall include—

''(A) an analysis of the ability of the bulk-power system to supply sufficient electric energy necessary to maintain an adequate level of reliability, taking into account generation resource mix, transmission development, and electric energy demand trends;

''(B) an analysis of the risk of future electric energy supply shortfalls under normal and extreme weather conditions, and the risk of any such shortfalls within each region of the bulk-power system; and

''(C) a determination of whether additional generation resources are necessary to supply sufficient electric energy to maintain an adequate level of reliability during the assessment period.

''(3) NOTICE OF GENERATION INADEQUACY.—In conducting a long-term assessment under paragraph (2), if the ERO finds that the bulk-power system is at risk of not having adequate generation resources to supply sufficient electric energy to maintain an adequate level of reliability, the ERO shall publicly notify the Commission that the bulk-power system is in a state of generation inadequacy.

''(4) DATA COLLECTION.—To conduct a long-term assessment under paragraph (2), the ERO may collect information and data from users, owners, and operators of the bulk-power system.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (h) through (k) as subsections (i) through (l), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) COMMISSION REVIEW AND COMMENT FOR COVERED AGENCY ACTIONS.—

''(1) NOTICE TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.—If the ERO notifies the Commission under subsection (g)(3) that the bulk-power system is in a state of generation inadequacy, the Commission shall promptly notify the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and any other Federal agency the Commission determines appropriate of such state of generation inadequacy.

''(2) SUBMISSION.—Upon receiving notice under paragraph (1), the head of each Federal agency that received such notice shall provide to the Commission for review and comment any covered agency action by the Federal agency—

''(A) on the first date on which such covered agency action is provided to the Office of Management and Budget or any other Federal agency for review and comment; or

''(B) if such covered agency action is not provided to the Office of Management and Budget or any other Federal agency for review and comment, not later than 90 days before the date on which the covered agency action is published in the Federal Register or is otherwise made available for public inspection or comment.

''(3) COMMISSION COMMENTS.—The Commission, in consultation with the ERO and transmission organizations, shall, by order, provide to the agency head that provided to the Commission a covered agency action under paragraph (2)—

''(A) comments on such covered agency action, which such comments may include an assessment of the effect of the covered agency action on rates, terms, and conditions for services pursuant to the authority of the Commission under sections 201 and 206; and

''(B) if applicable, recommendations for modifications to the covered agency action to prevent a significant negative impact on the ability of the bulk-power system to supply sufficient electric energy necessary to maintain an adequate level of reliability.

''(4) AGENCY RESPONSE.—The head of a Federal agency may not finalize a covered agency action that is provided to the Commission under paragraph (2) until—

''(A) the agency head responds in writing to the Commission with an explanation of how the agency head modified, or why the agency head determined not to modify, such covered agency action in response to any comments and recommendations provided by the Commission under paragraph (3); and

''(B) the Commission finds that the covered agency action will not be likely to have a significant negative impact on the ability of the bulk-power system to supply sufficient electric energy necessary to maintain an adequate level of reliability.

''(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES.—An agency head shall include any comments, recommendations, and responses for the covered agency action when—

''(A) submitting the covered agency action to the Federal Register for publication; or

''(B) otherwise making the covered agency action available for public inspection or comment.

''(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COVERED AGENCY ACTION.—The term 'covered agency action' means a regulation that—

''(i) relates to, or otherwise directly affects, any generation resource in the bulk-power system; and

''(ii) is under development to be proposed or otherwise under consideration in a rulemaking prior to finalization on the date on which the Federal agency receives notice from the Commission under paragraph (1).

''(B) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term 'Federal agency' means an Executive department (as that term is defined in section 101 of title 5, United States Code) or any other Executive agency that is in the President's cabinet.''.

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 Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

□ 1600

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3616.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3616, the Reliable Power Act, sponsored by my colleague from Ohio's 12th Congressional District, Mr. TROY BALDERSON.

Put simply, this bill protects reliability that is critical to the economy as well as public health.

The bill protects the public from future Federal rules that would force the premature retirement of power generation that is absolutely essential to keeping our grid reliable.

Madam Speaker, our Nation today is confronting a reliability crisis. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, which is the Nation's electric reliability organization, shows vast regions of our Nation are at risk for blackouts when weather events and peak demand collide. It is only going to get worse.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has repeatedly heard from grid authorities about the massive number of premature retirements of baseload power in our very own electric system.

These retirements take much-needed energy out of the grid system without adequate replacement of the types of baseload power needed to maintain reliability.

The numbers are staggering, Madam Speaker. Over the next decade, 115GW of power is expected to come offline while 151GW of demand is needed to come online. Do that math.

For too long, radical green activists in the Obama and Biden administrations were able to hijack environmental agencies with no authority over the grid to force shutdowns of power plants without regard to the impacts on that very reliability I said we depend on.

Madam Speaker, if the Biden EPA's radical clean power plan 2.0 had gone forward, it would have shut down most of the Nation's coal-fired power and threatened the closing of a substantial number of existing gas generation plants to disastrous effect.

We cannot—we must not—let Federal agencies with no authority over electric reliability undermine that very vital electric service. Congress already established the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as the reliability authority, but when FERC is needed most, there is no requirement that its expert views should be accommodated. This bill fixes that. Let me repeat: This bill fixes that.

During periods of increased reliability risks, FERC, informed by the technical expertise of grid operators and NERC, can require changes before a rule can be finalized. FERC will not stop agencies from pursuing their policy responsibilities effectively. It just protects reliable power.

The legislation is necessary to provide a mechanism to adjust Federal rules to ensure they protect electric reliability, which is so essential, Mr. Speaker, to the economy, our public health, and, yes, our safety.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3616, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3616, yet another Republican bill that puts large corporate polluters over people. At a time when American families are struggling with rising monthly energy bills, this legislation does nothing to address the affordability crisis.

Electricity prices continue to go up. They have increased by 13 percent just since President Trump took office, and they are about to get worse as the Republicans' big, ugly bill is expected to increase those prices another 61 percent.

You would think Republicans would want to do something to address the affordability crisis, but this is just more of the same from them. They refuse to address healthcare affordability, and this afternoon, they continue to ignore the crisis with regard to electricity.

I guess we shouldn't be surprised. After all, they just blindly follow President Trump, who simply does not care. He does not believe the affordability crisis is real. In fact, he recently said: ''Affordability is a Democrat scam.'' That is what he actually said. The President should tell that to the hardworking families who are facing skyrocketing prices across the board. It is a crisis, and Republicans are simply ignoring it.

This bill is basically a thinly veiled attempt by Republicans to obstruct any future administration's EPA regulations that keep our air, lands, and water clean. This bill would allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, to block any regulation from any other agency under certain circumstances. It takes what should be an apolitical process, a neutral review of the reliability of our Nation's electric sector, and twists it into a fully partisan exercise. That is why we should reject this bill entirely.

Right now, a number of Federal agencies have authorities that could impact the power sector. FERC and the Department of Energy have the ability to comment on those regulations if they have concerns and work through the interagency review process to ensure that those concerns are heard.

FERC Commissioners in recent years have not been shy about using their powers to publicly highlight and comment on Federal actions that they deem flawed or insufficient. Agencies can, and do, respond to that feedback, as we saw with the EPA during the previous administration.

What no agency has the power to do now is to arbitrarily block another agency's regulations that Congress gave that agency the power to make. That is simply ridiculous.

If Republicans have their way, agencies would not only have to seek review from the Office of Management and Budget but will also have to ask permission from FERC to see if FERC likes the regulation or not. If not, even if the White House likes the regulation, the agency can't finalize it.

If that is not bad enough, FERC testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee that it does not even have the capacity and expertise necessary to investigate every other agency's regulation for the impacts that they will have on electric reliability. That was before the staff attrition that has hit FERC over the past 10 months.

The agency has lost over 11 percent of its staff through September. Who knows how many additional staff have left over the last 3 months because you know that the President is wanting to fire everybody.

Let me just review this, again, because I don't want to be too bureaucratic here, Mr. Speaker. House Republicans want FERC to do something it has no ability to do, that would politicize our Nation's electric reliability regulator, and that would make FERC into a super-authority with powers rivaling those of certain White House offices.

This is all to kill regulations that keep our air clean and our water drinkable. That is what this is all about. Let's not pretend that House Republicans are worried about regulations coming from the Trump administration. They knew those regulations were all going to destroy whatever clean air or clean water we have.

Instead, they are worried about the next time we have a President who actually cares about protecting public health and the environment, a President who wants to restore the bedrock environmental laws that the Republicans have gotten rid of.

Republicans then want to use this bill as a shield to protect polluters. If the polluter now, under a new President, isn't going to have the protection, and the public is going to have the protection to make sure that the water and the air are clean, then they want to make sure they have some shield to protect the polluters.

We shouldn't let them do that. That is not what we are supposed to do. We are supposed to worry about the public.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3616, the Reliable Power Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

My home State of Georgia has been named the number one State to do business in for 12 consecutive years, making it a popular destination for new manufacturing facilities and data centers. While I join Georgians in welcoming these economic drivers to our State, it also presents increased demand for our grid that we must address.

We know electricity demand is expected to grow significantly over the next several years, which means this body has a duty to ensure our constituents have a dependable grid that meets the needs of hardworking families.

□ 1610

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, both the Obama and Biden-Harris administrations were guilty of using the EPA to promote radical policy designed to drive out baseload generation in favor of wind and solar, which simply cannot assure adequate grid reliability. It increases the risk of rolling blackouts.

H.R. 3616 will correct that very problem by improving Federal rulemaking to ensure that future regulations impacting power generation will not harm electricity reliability, especially in already vulnerable regions.

Under this bill, if FERC finds that a proposed rule will have a significant impact on reliability, the rule cannot be finalized. That is about as commonsense as it gets.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has an abundant energy supply. The question we must ask ourselves is not if we

have enough energy resources but can we produce energy at the necessary levels to meet the growing demand? The Reliable Power Act will help us do just that, and I urge a ''yes'' vote on H.R. 3616.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Energy.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member PALLONE for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3616. It is another Republican bill that fails to address skyrocketing electric bills that are a part of the overall affordability squeeze that is gripping the country right now.

What should we be doing on the floor of the House right now?

We should bring up the discharge petition to make sure that healthcare costs don't skyrocket for 20 million Americans and 4.7 million Floridians back home in the Sunshine State.

Now that the discharge petition has the necessary number of votes to come to the floor and extend those lifesaving and cost-saving ACA tax credits, we should be doing that instead. That would have a real impact. That would send a great sign to folks back home who are struggling with the rising cost of living and are wondering how they will pay for their health coverage next year. That would really help our neighbors back home. Alas, we are not doing that.

At a time when prices are up, inflation is up, and despite the Republican promises to do something about it, all of their bills and their policies are making it worse and making life even more expensive. Household electricity prices are up across America by about 13 percent and a lot higher in some places.

Why is that the case? First of all, the big, ugly bill that Republicans passed in July to provide tax breaks to the wealthy and well-connected took away tax credits to keep cleaner, cheaper energy producing across America. They ripped away rebates for households to help them afford the cost of upgrading their homes, making their lives more energy efficient.

Also, these arbitrary Trump tariffs are at the highest levels since the 1930s. We see it in our grocery bills, but it is also impacting electricity costs. Costs are way up for poles and wires and things that we import for our electricity systems. Those are being passed along to consumers.

The Trump administration has canceled hundreds of projects across America, some that were permitted and approved, ready to bring cleaner and cheaper energy onto the grid to help keep electricity prices lower. All of that is a recipe for skyrocketing electricity bills.

What do Republicans in Congress do? They keep bringing these random bills to the floor to boost the profits of polluters. This bill is a good example of that.

This bill would elevate the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission above any other Federal agency, give it unprecedented veto power, and transform it and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation into political actors. That is a world away from the independent agencies that they are now where they act in the public interest and not in the interest of polluters.

Mr. Speaker, FERC doesn't even want this power. They lack the capacity and the staff for this highly technical work.

When we discussed this bill 2 years ago, David Ortiz, then FERC's Director of the Office of Electric Reliability, testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee that FERC couldn't execute on the bill because FERC does not have the capacity to assume other agencies' expertise. That was before FERC lost 11 percent of its staff—hardworking public servants—due to resignations and layoffs under the Trump administration.

This bill doesn't do anything to provide FERC with the staff or funding they would need to implement the bill. No, it doesn't. Polluters simply want to short-circuit any oversight of their higher costs and pollution. That is what this is about.

FERC already has the power to intervene and comment on agency rulemaking dockets if they think there could be a reliability issue, as does NERC, as does any of the grid operators, and any utility. This polluter-friendly bill is a way to sabotage cleaner and cheaper energy, however, and energy storage. It is a recipe for higher costs and electric bills for American families.

Regional grid operators have the necessary expertise and staffing to maintain reliability on their grids already. Regional operators know that there are cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable energy sources available, not just expensive coal and gas.

There are modern grid solutions that the committee has refused to take up this year. That is another reason electric bills are so high. There are solutions like energy storage, demand response, grid-enhancing technologies, and regional and interregional coordination that can provide reliability at a lower price with less pollution.

Republicans also don't want us to know that, while this bill gives FERC more responsibilities that it cannot meet and does not want, the Trump administration has been busy gutting the agencies that are already working to ensure that we have a reliable grid.

For example, the Trump Department of Energy eliminated the Grid Deployment Office last month. That was an office created under the bipartisan infrastructure law to manage important and cost-saving investments to make our grid more reliable. Over $3 billion in grid deployment investments were cut in October.

The real Republican mantra should be a less reliable grid with higher costs because that is what this year has produced. Republican energy policy is creating a less reliable environment for businesses, making it harder for companies to invest in America.

Just yesterday, Ford announced they were laying off all 1,600 employees at their battery manufacturing plant in Glendale, Kentucky. In October, on top of the grid modernization cuts at the Department of Energy, DOE canceled 321 awards, totaling $8 billion in funding. The largest award was $316 million to support the manufacture of components from recycled EV batteries in Kentucky. That would have helped us compete with Chinese batteries.

Mr. Speaker, $197 million was supposed to help a plant in St. Louis producing 30,000 metric tons annually of critical minerals products. Mr. Speaker, $117 million was intended to support production of synthetic graphite, including construction of a large plant in Alabama. Also, $31 million was cut that was going to build an advanced glass factory at the site of an old coal plant in Detroit.

As a result, the United States will have less capacity to support real and reliable power. This bill does not solve problems. It doesn't tackle the affordability crisis. It makes it worse. It doesn't even support more reliable power. Republicans are just trying to slap a new permitting reform label on bad ideas that they have never been able to pass into law.

Here we are, the last week in session this year, Mr. Speaker, and Republicans have not brought a single bill to the floor of the House that would lower costs for hardworking families. They have no new ideas here. They have no ideas on how to make energy more affordable for everyday Americans and no ideas to help us out of this healthcare crisis.

Mr. Speaker, people really deserve better. They deserve better over the holidays, and they deserve better from this Congress. I urge my colleagues to vote against the bill.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), the author of this bill.

□ 1620

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Vice Chair WEBER for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, America's electric grid is facing a reliability crisis, one created by heavyhanded Federal rulemakings that prioritize politics and ignore the realities of power generation and the needs of American families. That is why I rise today in support of my bill, the Reliable Power Act.

Under the Biden administration, Federal agencies pushed out rapid-fire climate rules and mandates with little coordination and even less accountability. Instead of listening to grid operators, they raced to advance extreme policies that threaten our most dependable power sources with the American people paying the price.

The Reliable Power Act puts an end to this by preventing Federal rules from moving forward if they threaten the ability of the grid to keep the lights on. This legislation ensures proper coordination between FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Federal agencies proposing regulations that could affect the power generation and grid reliability.

It strengthens Federal accountability, streamlines communication, and puts in place commonsense guardrails needed to protect the bulk of the power system.

Since introducing this bill in the spring, I have heard from energy leaders across Ohio—energy co-ops, utilities, manufacturers, and grid operators—who all say the same thing: Regulatory chaos driven by climate activists is putting grid reliability at risk and driving up costs.

Just look at this map I have with me today. You can see for yourself how shortsighted policies can drive up electricity costs from one State to the next. When Democratic States sidelined reliable, conventional fuels and mandated rushed transition to renewables, consumers paid more.

I don't know about New York or California, but Ohio cannot afford rolling blackouts, price spikes, or uncertainty about whether our grid can meet future demand.

Earlier this year, the Department of Energy released a reliability report warning that blackouts could increase by 100 percent by 2030.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. BALDERSON. The Reliable Power Act directly responds to those concerns. First, it requires NERC, the electricity reliability organization, to conduct annual long-term assessments of the bulk power system. If NERC finds the grid is at risk of inadequate generation, it must notify FERC.

FERC must then notify the Department of Energy, the EPA, and other relevant agencies. Once notified, those agencies must send the proposed rules back to FERC for review, comment, and recommendations to prevent severe impacts on grid reliability.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan, commonsense legislation to ensure that no future administration or unelected Federal bureaucrat can unilaterally jeopardize grid reliability.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot of respect for the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), who just spoke, but the bottom line is that I think it is dishonest for Republicans to claim that the cost of compliance with environmental regulations is driving up utility prices.

The regulatory chaos that the gentleman from Ohio mentions is created by the Trump administration. Since President Trump took office, his administration has created tremendous regulatory uncertainty through DOGE, senseless tariffs, and unprecedented executive actions. As a result, as I mentioned, electricity prices are up 13 percent, and natural gas prices are up 8 percent since the President took office.

Mr. Speaker, this holiday season, Americans are struggling to afford record-high utility bills and skyrocketing grocery prices. Donald Trump and the Republican Party were elected on their promise to bring prices down. Instead, the Republican Party is about to become the grinch who stole Christmas. They want to let the Affordable Care Act credits that kept health insurance affordable for families expire on January 1.

This bill, the Reliable Power Act, would let the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, kill any environmental regulations they don't like. In other words, this bill would make Americans sicker as health insurance prices are skyrocketing.

Republicans in Congress are just not delivering on their promise to bring down prices. The big, ugly bill will increase electricity prices for American families by 61 percent. Instead of passing partisan bills this week that would increase energy prices, Republicans should be working with us and Democrats on bipartisan proposals that can decrease energy bills.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are just begging for relief on skyrocketing prices, and President Trump's only response has been to call the affordability crisis the ''Democratic hoax.'' His rhetoric is an insult to the American people, but my Democratic colleagues and I are taking the affordability crisis very seriously. We hear the concerns of the public, and we strongly urge our Republican colleagues to come to the table to pass commonsense legislation that brings prices down for the American people.

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER).

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3616, the Reliable Power Act.

Mr. Speaker, if the Democrats cared one whit about affordability, they would join me in that support. In Missouri's Third Congressional District, families, farmers, and manufacturers rely on affordable, dependable electricity. Our district is powered by a diverse mix of nuclear, hydropower, natural gas, and coal. That diversity is a strength, which is why Missouri consistently enjoys lower energy prices than the rest of the Nation.

However, reliability is threatened when Washington policies force premature plant closures and prioritize ideology over affordability. The Reliable Power Act restores common sense. It ensures that grid reliability is not sacrificed and that critical baseload generation is protected when reliability is at risk.

This bill protects consumers from price hikes, safeguards American manufacturing, and keeps power flowing in communities like mine.

Mr. Speaker, reliable power is not a luxury. It is essential.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3616.

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

Mr. Speaker, I stress again that the President promised to cut Americans' power bills in half. Instead, he and his Republican accomplices in the House are causing those prices to soar with their backward policies and, essentially, their war on cheaper, clean energy.

Thanks to Republicans, electricity prices are climbing more than twice as fast as inflation, and more than 80 million Americans are struggling to pay their utility bills. Many of these Americans are having to make the impossible choice of either paying for housing, medicine, and food, or keeping their lights on.

Let me just give some examples. Since President Trump took office, electricity prices are up, 13 percent nationwide, as I mentioned. However, in Iowa, they are up 23 percent. In North Carolina, they are up 21 percent. In Pennsylvania, they are up 16 percent.

Mr. Speaker, electricity prices aren't the only bills that are skyrocketing. Residential natural gas prices are now 8 percent higher than they were a year ago nationally, but, again, 19 percent in Pennsylvania, 14 percent in Wisconsin, and 13 percent in North Carolina.

We mentioned that the big, ugly bill will raise electricity prices by a staggering 61 percent over the next decade due to its attacks on cleaner and cheaper energy and its crippling of the American clean energy industry.

The big, ugly bill destroyed tax credits that were designed to incentivize developers to build more domestic energy projects, raising barriers to those buildings in the process, and it will half the deployment of cheap, renewable American energy and imperil our power grid. These historic price hikes are on top of the $29 billion in electricity bill rate hikes that utility companies have requested since the start of President Trump's term.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to just talk about prices because the bottom line is we are also talking with this bill about a cost to Americans' health and safety.

This bill allows FERC to override regulations established by other agencies. This is the Christmas gift to some of the Nation's largest polluters. Think about that. FERC, which has no expertise in public health or environmental protections, would just be able to stop another agency's regulation meant to protect public health.

These are regulations that are responsible for safe drinking water, for

reducing air pollution, and preventing exposure to cancer-causing chemicals. We are not just talking about price increases here that the Trump administration has imposed. We are also talking about the impact on health and people's ability to breathe and drink clean water.

By advancing this bill, Republicans are telling communities that their health and safety is not a priority. Pollution is exacerbating your child's asthma. Who cares? Your water may be contaminated. That is nothing to worry about. We don't care.

Other agencies spent years crafting regulations, often after an extensive analysis that shows that the benefits of that regulation from a health and safety point of view outweighs the costs. However, this bill would throw all of that out the door by allowing FERC, which has no expertise in these areas, to just say ''no,'' and FERC doesn't even want to do it. They told us.

As the ranking member of the Energy Subcommittee, Ms. CASTOR, said—they literally told us at the committee—that they didn't want to do this and didn't have the capacity to do it.

□ 1630

We have made so much progress in the United States on environmental protection over the last 50 years. Our Nation's rivers used to catch fire. Now, they don't. Smog used to surround our cities, particularly Los Angeles. Now, it doesn't.

President Trump and House Republicans want to undo all of that. They have waged an all-out war against public health, and this bill is just one piece of that.

If my colleagues care about public health, if they care about prices, if they want to make sure people can breathe and can still pay their electricity bills, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. It just makes common sense.

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio's 12th Congressional District, TROY BALDERSON, for sponsoring this important legislation.

H.R. 3616, the Reliable Power Act, provides a critical tool to protect the public from future Federal rules that would force the premature retirement of power generation that is absolutely essential to keeping our grid reliable.

The Reliable Power Act, Mr. Speaker, is about safety. It is about security. It is also, quite frankly, about affordability. There is nothing more expensive, Mr. Speaker, than a blackout, a rolling blackout. I know.

There is nothing more costly than green visions that drive out affordable power for expensive overbuilding of weather-dependent generation and backup power. That is why these electric bills are rising.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to let radical rules destroy reliability in our great Nation. H.R. 3616 provides a way to adjust proposed rules to absolutely ensure good Federal policies while protecting electric reliability. A ''yes'' vote on H.R. 3616 is a vote for that kind of reliable power. There is nothing more important for our electric policy than that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 3616, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 951, 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. WEBER of Texas. 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 4 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes 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:

Adoption of H. Con. Res. 61;

Adoption of H. Con. Res. 64;

Passage of H.R. 3616;

The motion to recommit H.R. 6703;

Passage of H.R. 6703, if ordered;

The motion to recommit H.R. 3492; and,

Passage of H.R. 3492, if ordered.

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.

DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(c) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES WITH PRESIDENTIALLY DESIGNATED TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 61) directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities with presidentially designated terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 216, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 345]

YEAS—210

Adams	Fletcher	McCollum
Aguilar	Foster	McDonald Rivet
Amo	Foushee	McGarvey
Ansari	Frankel, Lois	McGovern
Auchincloss	Friedman	McIver
Bacon	Frost	Meeks
Balint	Garamendi	Menendez
Barragán	Garcia (CA)	Meng
Beatty	Garcia (IL)	Mfume
Bell	Garcia (TX)	Min
Bera	Gillen	Moore (WI)
Beyer	Golden (ME)	Morelle
Bishop	Goldman (NY)	Morrison
Bonamici	Gomez	Moskowitz
Boyle (PA)	Goodlander	Moulton
Brown	Gottheimer	Mrvan
Brownley	Gray	Mullin
Budzinski	Green, Al (TX)	Nadler
Bynum	Grijalva	Neal
Carbajal	Harder (CA)	Neguse
Carson	Hayes	Norcross
Carter (LA)	Himes	Ocasio-Cortez
Casar	Horsford	Olszewski
Case	Houlahan	Omar
Casten	Hoyer	Pallone
Castor (FL)	Hoyle (OR)	Panetta
Castro (TX)	Huffman	Pappas
Cherfilus-McCormick	Ivey	Pelosi
Chu	Jackson (IL)	Perez
Cisneros	Jacobs	Peters
Clark (MA)	Jayapal	Pettersen
Clarke (NY)	Jeffries	Pingree
Cleaver	Johnson (GA)	Pocan
Clyburn	Johnson (TX)	Pou
Cohen	Kamlager-Dove	Pressley
Conaway	Kaptur	Quigley
Correa	Keating	Ramirez
Costa	Kelly (IL)	Randall
Craig	Kennedy (NY)	Raskin
Crockett	Khanna	Riley (NY)
Crow	Krishnamoorthi	Rivas
Davids (KS)	Landsman	Ross
Davis (IL)	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz
Davis (NC)	Larson (CT)	Ryan
Dean (PA)	Latimer	Salinas
DeGette	Lee (NV)	Sánchez
DeLauro	Lee (PA)	Scanlon
DelBene	Leger Fernandez	Schakowsky
Deluzio	Levin	Schneider
DeSaulnier	Liccardo	Scholten
Dexter	Lieu	Schrier
Dingell	Lofgren	Scott (VA)
Doggett	Lynch	Scott, David
Elfreth	Magaziner	Sewell
Escobar	Mannion	Sherman
Espaillat	Massie	Simon
Evans (PA)	Matsui	Smith (WA)
Fields	McBride	Sorensen
Figures	McClain Delaney	Soto
	McClellan	Stansbury

Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—216

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
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)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—7

Courtney
Diaz-Balart
LaMalfa
McBath
Murphy
Swalwell
Womack

□ 1801

Messrs. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, BURCHETT, WEBSTER of Florida, EMMER, CLINE, SIMPSON, JOHNSON of Louisiana, ROUZER, BEGICH, Mses. BOEBERT, MALLIOTAKIS, Messrs. JOHNSON of South Dakota, NEHLS, WESTERMAN, PFLUGER, and HERN of Oklahoma changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. DEXTER, Messrs. HUFFMAN, CLEAVER, and SCOTT of Virginia changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the concurrent resolution was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF THE USE OF UNITED STATES FORCES FOR HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST VENEZUELA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 64) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the concurrent resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 211, nays 213, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 346]

YEAS—211

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Bacon
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Massie
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—213

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—9

Courtney
Fulcher
Gonzalez, V.
Hageman
McBath
Mills
Murphy
Swalwell
Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1808

So the concurrent resolution was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 346.

RELIABLE POWER 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. 3616) to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review regulations that may affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, 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 225, nays 203, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 347]

YEAS—225

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Correa
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
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)
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Gray
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—203

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Costa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Walkinshaw
Wasserman
SchultzWaters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—5

Courtney
McBath
Murphy
Swalwell
Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1814

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOWER HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 6703) to ensure access to affordable health insurance, offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 218, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 348]

YEAS—210

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar

Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—218

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—5

Courtney
McBath
Murphy
Swalwell
Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1821

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 211, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 349]

YEAS—216

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—211

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
García (CA)
García (IL)
García (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Massie
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—6

Courtney
McBath
Murphy
Palmer
Swalwell
Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1827

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECT CHILDREN'S INNOCENCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 3492) to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration of minors, offered by the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 218, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 350]

YEAS—210

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—218

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—5

Courtney
McBath
Murphy
Swalwell
Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1834

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 211, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 351]

YEAS—216

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Graves
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—211

Adams	Golden (ME)	Ocasio-Cortez
Aguilar	Goldman (NY)	Olszewski
Amo	Gomez	Omar
Ansari	Goodlander	Pallone
Auchincloss	Gottheimer	Panetta
Balint	Gray	Pappas
Barragán	Green, Al (TX)	Pelosi
Beatty	Grijalva	Perez
Bell	Harder (CA)	Peters
Bera	Hayes	Pettersen
Beyer	Himes	Pingree
Bishop	Horsford	Pocan
Bonamici	Houlahan	Pou
Boyle (PA)	Hoyer	Pressley
Brown	Hoyle (OR)	Quigley
Brownley	Huffman	Ramirez
Budzinski	Ivey	Randall
Bynum	Jackson (IL)	Raskin
Carbajal	Jacobs	Riley (NY)
Carson	Jayapal	Rivas
Carter (LA)	Jeffries	Ross
Casar	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Case	Johnson (TX)	Ryan
Casten	Kamlager-Dove	Salinas
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Sánchez
Castro (TX)	Keating	Scanlon
Cherfilus-McCormick	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Chu	Kennedy (NY)	Schneider
Cisneros	Kennedy (UT)	Scholten
Clark (MA)	Khanna	Schrier
Clarke (NY)	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
Cleaver	Landsman	Scott, David
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Conaway	Latimer	Simon
Correa	Lawler	Smith (WA)
Costa	Lee (NV)	Sorensen
Craig	Lee (PA)	Soto
Crockett	Leger Fernandez	Stansbury
Crow	Levin	Stanton
Davids (KS)	Liccardo	Stevens
Davis (IL)	Lieu	Strickland
Dean (PA)	Lofgren	Subramanyam
DeGette	Lynch	Suozzi
DeLauro	Magaziner	Sykes
DelBene	Mannion	Takano
Deluzio	Matsui	Thanedar
DeSaulnier	McBride	Thompson (CA)
Dexter	McClain Delaney	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	McClellan	Titus
Doggett	McCollum	Tlaib
Elfreth	McDonald Rivet	Tokuda
Escobar	McGarvey	Tonko
Espaillat	McGovern	Torres (CA)
Evans (CO)	McIver	Torres (NY)
Evans (PA)	Meeks	Trahan
Fields	Menendez	Tran
Figures	Meng	Underwood
Fitzpatrick	Mfume	Vargas
Fletcher	Min	Vasquez
Foster	Moore (WI)	Veasey
Foushee	Morelle	Velázquez
Frankel, Lois	Morrison	Vindman
Friedman	Moskowitz	Walkinshaw
Frost	Moulton	Wasserman Schultz
Garamendi	Mrvan	Waters
Garcia (CA)	Mullin	Watson Coleman
Garcia (IL)	Nadler	Whitesides
Garcia (TX)	Neal	Williams (GA)
Gillen	Neguse	Wilson (FL)
	Norcross	

NOT VOTING—6

Courtney	McBath	Swalwell
Gosar	Murphy	Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1840

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the chamber today. Had I recorded my vote, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 343, No on Roll Call No. 344, Yea on Roll Call No. 345, Yea on Roll Call No. 346, Nay on Roll Call No. 347, Yea on Roll Call No. 348, Nay on Roll Call No. 349, Yea on Roll Call No. 350, and Nay on Roll Call No. 351.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 345, NAY on Roll Call No. 346, YEA on Roll Call No. 347, NAY on Roll Call No. 348, YEA on Roll Call No. 349, NAY on Roll Call No. 350, and YEA on Roll Call No. 351.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CISCOMANI. 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING LOCK HAVEN KIWANIS CLUB ON CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

(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 congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, on its 100th anniversary.

Since the club's founding on January 26, 1926, the members of the Kiwanis Club have been a crucial part of the community in Lock Haven.

The club has 43 members, and it works to help children by improving literacy rates, health, and educational outcomes.

Lock Haven Kiwanis sponsors two Key Clubs, one at Central Mountain High School and the other at Jersey Shore High School. It awards annual scholarships to Key Club members at both schools.

The club recently started a Bringing Up Grades, or BUG, program at the Robb Elementary School in Lock Haven. It also partners with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build and deliver beds to children and youth who do not have beds.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Lock Haven Kiwanis Club for 100 years of dedicated service to the Lock Haven community and wish them the best as they work toward many more.

ROB AND MICHELE REINER TRIBUTE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to think of anyone more remarkable and excellent in every field and endeavor than those pursued by Rob and Michele Reiner.

Rob was creative, funny, and beloved. Michele, successful in her own right, was an indispensable partner, intellectual resource, and loving wife.

Personally, Rob and Michele were, first and foremost, very loving parents. Rob cared deeply about people and demonstrated it in the community beyond family by supporting the First 5 Initiative.

First 5 Initiative took money from the tobacco tax and applied it to the first 5 years of a child's birth. Children born in California, including my own grandchild, have a packet that they take home and teaches them how to care for an infant child.

Rob also fought against the discriminatory Proposition 8.

Civically, he was a champion for the First Amendment and the creative rights of artists. Professionally, he was an iconic figure in film and made us laugh, cry, and think—and think—with the movies he created.

Paul and I and our entire family mourn the loss of our dear friends and pray for their loved ones.

His children, Jake and Romy, put out a statement thanking everyone for their good wishes but asking for privacy. We respect that.

Mr. Speaker, I will provide a fuller statement for the record of the great life achievements and beautiful, beautiful love of community of Rob and Michele Reiner.

I just want to say three things.

Do you recognize this? It is the things that have been said in his movies:

''I'll have what she's having.''

''You can't handle the truth.''

''As you wish.''

''Go to 11.''

Do you know what that is?

Mr. Speaker, I rise to sadly pay tribute to Rob and Michele Reiner

Rob and Michele Reiner embodied creativity, generosity and moral courage in every chapter of their lives. The deadly assault on them in their home earlier this week was devastating and heartbreaking beyond words.

Rob was truly one of a kind—a gifted storyteller whose humor, humanity and brilliance enriched our culture and brought people together. From his memorable roles on television to his extraordinary achievements as a director, filmmaker and actor—whether When Harry Met Sally . . . , The Princess Bride, A Few Good Men, Stand By Me, This is Spinal Tap or 'Meathead' in All in the Family, and so many others—Rob's work gave us stories that made us laugh, cry and think, and reflected our shared humanity in profound ways. Who can ever forget: 'You can't handle the truth,' 'I'll have what she's having,' 'As you wish,' or 'Up to eleven.'

Michele was Rob's indispensable partner and a success in her own right—a formidable intellect, trusted counselor, and loving wife whose insight and strength shaped their work and their impact on the world.

Personally, Rob and Michele, first and foremost were devoted parents. They cared deeply about people and they demonstrated that every day in their community. They championed Proposition 10 for tobacco tax revenues to fund early childhood development through the transformational First 5 initiative which has benefited millions of California children. And they stood up for equality and dignity by fighting against the discriminatory

Proposition 8. Indeed, they lent their voices and resources to countless causes rooted in fairness and opportunity for all.

Civically, Rob and Michele were fierce champions of the First Amendment and the creative rights of artists, never wavering in their belief that freedom of expression is essential to a vibrant and just society. They understood that democracy depends on compassion, engagement and the courage to speak out.

Professionally, Rob was an iconic figure in film and television whose work will endure for generations. And Michele's own leadership—behind the camera and in support of artistic expression—were integral to the couple's success. Their partnership was a testament to the power of collaboration and the beauty of shared purpose—and their legacy lives on in the countless lives they touched through art and advocacy.

Paul and I, and our entire family, mourn the loss of our very dear friends Rob and Michele with profound sorrow. (And moved by the loving statement by Jake and Romy, we hold their loved ones close in our hearts and are praying for them, and all who are grieving during this unimaginable time of pain. May Rob and Michele's memory be a blessing, and may their lives continue to inspire kindness, courage and hope.)

RECOGNIZING JOHNNY WAYNE FARRIS

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend, Johnny Wayne Farris, who was recently nominated as candidate for Time magazine Dealer of the Year. He is also being recognized nationally by Time magazine for his community service and industry accomplishments.

Johnny Wayne Farris is the president of Farris Motor Company, founded by his grandfather in 1929. Farris grew up in the industry and joined the company full-time in 1972—when I was in the second grade, Mr. Speaker—after graduating from Tennessee Tech University.

Farris Motor Company's mission is to be the dealer of people and truly has accomplished that in his time with the company across Tennessee.

Farris has an honorable record of humanitarian aid and philanthropy, as well. He has shipped over 140 containers of humanitarian assistance over the last 12 years to support east Tennessee families and refugees at home and abroad.

Johnny Wayne Farris is not only a great businessman; he is in my fraternity, Sigma Chi. He is also even a better member of his community, helping anyone and everyone he can.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my dear friend, Johnny Wayne Farris, and thank him for all that he has done for east Tennessee and me and my family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN E. CORRIGAN

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this month, my community, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, lost a giant, Jean E. Corrigan.

Whenever I hear the term ''grassroots'' or ''boots on the ground,'' I think of Jean. She believed wholeheartedly and full-throatily in Democratic values and devoted her life to them. It didn't matter if it was for the school board or the American President; Jean gave herself entirely to candidates who she believed in.

She led by example, always willing to knock doors, make calls, and volunteer at polling places. She served on countless committees and was vice chair of her local party, the Abington-Rockledge Democratic Committee.

Her front porch was an election season hub of lawn signs, literature, lists, and listening sessions on the latest intel. All the while, Jean was a devoted wife and mother.

Her husband, Pete; children, Joe, Dave, and Pauline; and her beautiful granddaughters were lucky to have them in her corner. I was lucky to have Jean in my corner, too, and we were all lucky that the Corrigans shared Jean and her many talents with us.

May God bless Jean Corrigan. She taught us well.

□ 1850

FEDERAL RECOGNITION FOR LUMBEE TRIBE

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

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, today marks a monumental day for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, the effects of which will transcend generations. The Lumbee have fought tirelessly for decades to achieve full recognition by the U.S. Congress. Today, that day has arrived.

The Lumbee Fairness Act, which I offered as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, will soon head to the President's desk, as part of the annual defense bill, for his signature, providing full Federal recognition. This is a historic milestone, decades in the making, and a moment of celebration for a community that has never wavered in its resolve.

This amazing achievement would not have been possible without the steadfast leadership of Chairman John Lowery and generations of Lumbee. Their voice has been heard, and their commitment and perseverance have brought us to this historic moment.

I commend and thank President Trump for his tremendous support, as well as our current Senators THOM TILLIS and TED BUDD, former Senators Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr, and my many colleagues here in the House who continually supported this effort.

Madam Speaker, I thank them all, for the Lumbee are a great and honorable people who deserve Federal recognition with all the rights and benefits that come with it.

REMEMBERING DONALD PAYNE, JR.

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Donald Payne, Jr., on what would have been his 67th birthday.

There were a few differences between Donald Payne and me. We often got confused. His birthday was on December 17; mine was on December 13. He came from north Jersey; I come from south Jersey. I served the First District; he served the 10th District.

What mattered most was what we had in common. We both fought for families in the State of New Jersey. Don brought to New Jersey the values of what we were to be from New Jersey each and every day.

He was tough. For those of you who knew him, he had dialysis in the morning and would come here in the afternoon and continue to work. For anybody who has ever been through dialysis, that was tough, and he knew it. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for coming to work each and every day.

I will always remember him for his kindness, his compassion, and his open heart; and I will be forever grateful for his friendship.

Madam Speaker, from one Don to another from New Jersey, we miss him and his bow tie.

HONORING TENEILIA ''SWEET TEA'' ANDERSON

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Madam Speaker, we all know the simple joy of a glass of sweet tea—refreshing, comforting, a lift to the spirit. Teneilia ''Sweet Tee'' Anderson of Fernandina Beach, Florida, brought that same sweetness into every room she entered.

This week, at the age of 86, she passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends and family, and today, I rise to honor her life of service.

Sweet Tee was a devoted wife and mother, a clown, a business owner, and a woman of deep faith. I would often see her at the hospital dressed as her alter ego, Lucianna the clown, with her husband, Don, as Hambone, visiting sick kids, reminding us that healing begins with kindness and connection. Even up until her death, she was working with my office to protect children.

My thoughts are with her husband, Don; daughter, Kim; granddaughters, Brook and Ashley; and her entire family.

Madam Speaker, Sweet Tee's life was like her name, a steady sweetness that brightened every day, and her legacy will continue to inspire. Sweet Tee will be missed.

RECOGNIZING ANNIE MALONE AND FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE CARE COALITION IN ST. LOUIS

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

Mr. BELL. Madam Speaker, as the holidays roll around, I want to say this to folks across the St. Louis region: This season isn't just about what is under the tree. It is about who we show up for.

There is a lot happening in the world right now. Some of it is heavy. At home, I see a community that still believes in looking out for one another, especially our children. Not every child has the stability they deserve, through no fault of their own. When families can't carry that load alone, the rest of us have to help.

That is what organizations like the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition do every day, and it is what Annie Malone has done for generations, helping young people aging out of the system find their footing.

As we celebrate with the people we love, I hope we also think about how we can help others. That is how we make this season matter.

Madam Speaker, I wish St. Louis happy holidays.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST L. ''ERNIE'' STEVENS, JR.

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

Mr. WIED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ernest Stevens, Jr., a proud citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, who sadly passed away recently.

For more than two decades, Ernie Stevens served as chairman of the Indian Gaming Association, where he was elected to 13 consecutive terms. Under his leadership, Tribal government gaming grew into the largest segment of the U.S. gaming industry, generating more than $43 billion annually and supporting healthcare, housing, education, and jobs in Native communities.

He also served his own Nation as a member of the Oneida Business Committee and was a steadfast advocate for Tribal sovereignty, always reminding us that Tribal gaming was about building nations, not just business.

Beyond his professional achievements, he was a mentor, a family man, and a source of inspiration to countless young leaders. He leaves behind his wife, Cheryl; their five children; and 20 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, the people of Green Bay, the Oneida Reservation, and all of Indian Country mourn the loss of this remarkable leader. May his memory continue to inspire generations to come.

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS ARE NOT INEVITABLE

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

Ms. ANSARI. Madam Speaker, only in the United States of America do we now have college students who have survived not one but two school shootings.

That is the reality for students at Brown University right now, students like Zoe Weissman, who was a middle schooler at the school next to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School during the Parkland massacre. Years later, she found herself again facing an active shooter on a college campus. Mia Tretta was shot as a teenager at Saugus High School and survived, and now, she has lived through yet another school shooting at Brown.

Let that sink in: Two shootings in one lifetime, all before graduating college.

We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to this. This level of trauma is not normal. It is not inevitable. It is not acceptable.

If we are serious about protecting young people in America, Congress must act now. That means universal background checks, a ban on assault weapons designed for mass killing, cracking down on ghost guns, and investing in mental health and safe storage policies grounded in data.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. Fedorchak). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. ANSARI. I will say it again. This is not inevitable.

□ 1900

HONORING LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA, ON ITS BICENTENNIAL

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the bicentennial celebration of Lowndes County, Georgia.

Two hundred years ago, the Georgia State legislature established Lowndes County, named after a prominent lawyer and Congressman from South Carolina.

The area quickly became a haven for settlers seeking opportunity and prosperity, evolving with the times while never losing its sense of community.

From moving entire towns to meet the railroad's arrival in the 1850s to developing thriving industries like textiles, timber, and turpentine, the county spirit of adaptability is evident throughout its history.

Today, the county and the city of Valdosta are still thriving, being a critical hub for Georgia with Valdosta State University and having nicknames like Winnersville and Title Town.

Not only does it have culture, but it offers thousands of acres of beautiful wetlands from the Grand Bay swamp.

These traditions, these values, and achievements make Lowndes County a shining example of Georgia's enduring spirit and a model community to be honored and emulated.

I congratulate Lowndes County on 200 years. Here is to 200 more.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S TARIFF POLICIES

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, any day now, the Supreme Court will issue a ruling on whether the President can impose tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

President Trump's tariff policies have hurt America's small businesses, who often cannot absorb the cost of higher duties. Now, the economy is showing warning signs. Unemployment has risen to 4.6 percent, and small businesses shed 120,000 jobs in November alone.

That is why I recently joined 20 of my colleagues in sending a letter to Treasury Secretary Bessent and Homeland Security Secretary Noem urging both Departments to dedicate resources to planning for the Supreme Court's decision. Proper planning is needed around an information campaign for small businesses on how to navigate the tariff protest process, ensuring that eligible tariff refunds are provided on an expedited basis. Without a plan, the complexity and time needed to pursue a refund will further burden small businesses.

I urge the Trump administration to work quickly to guarantee that small businesses, the lifeline of our economy, are not left behind because of this erratic policy.

HONORING EARL LACKEY

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

Mr. BEGICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Earl Lackey, a pioneer of Alaska's motorsports community and the driving force behind Alaska Raceway Park.

Earl's commitment to racing spans more than half a century. In the early 1960s, while stationed in Germany as an Army helicopter mechanic, he worked on a pit crew at the legendary Nurburgring.

Those early days sparked a lifelong devotion to motorsports. He raced

sports cars in Wisconsin before moving to Alaska in 1983, and in 1994, he helped purchase a small drag strip. By 1998, he became its sole owner.

With his family, Earl built, literally by hand, the foundation of what would become the northernmost NASCAR-sanctioned track in the world. Anyone who has ridden in Earl's pace car knows the magic that he helped create in Alaska.

Earl shaped a track that NASCAR calls a model for community racing. The raceway is a family endeavor: Karen, his wife, at the ticket booth; his son Jim on the ground; and his daughter Michelle managing operations. Together, they built a gathering place where generations of racers, families, and visitors find excitement and camaraderie.

Madam Speaker, we honor Earl Lackey for his vision, his perseverance, and the community he forged at Alaska Raceway Park. His legacy, in the view of Alaska's Pioneer Peak, will endure for generations to come.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express condolences to Illinois Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton and her family on the passing of her father, Dr. Henry Wiggins, a renowned physician, military veteran, and health activist.

I also express and convey condolences to the family of my good friend Reverend Charles Bowers, who recently passed away last week at the age of 95.

On a happier note, I extend congratulations to my dear cousin and high school classmate, Cora Henderson, and her husband Floyd, on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. Sixty-five years is a long time.

CELEBRATING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CARLOS MANUEL HALLEY

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mr. Carlos Manuel Halley, an extraordinary member of our south Florida community who embodies perseverance, family, and the pursuit of freedom.

Born November 4, 1925, in Santiago de Cuba, Mr. Halley married Marcilia Mancebo de Halley and built a beautiful family.

Following the Cuban revolution, as a man of deep conviction who believed in liberty and democracy, Mr. Halley made the difficult decision to leave his homeland.

Mr. and Mrs. Halley and their five children settled in Miami, determined to rebuild. Through his faith and perseverance, all of his children became professionals, and his legacy now extends to 56 family members.

Surrounded by his family and loved ones, he celebrates this remarkable milestone. Mr. Halley remains full of life. He enjoys spending time with friends, charming everybody with his humor, and he still proudly considers Burger King as his favorite restaurant.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Carlos Manuel Halley and recognizing the strength of his faith, the love of his freedom, and deep devotion to family.

GUN VIOLENCE TRAGEDIES

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

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, two different countries experienced gun violence tragedies. In one they targeted a Hanukkah celebration, and at another they targeted students in an engineering classroom.

Both of these countries were founded by Europeans who landed on a large land mass, took control from the Natives with their superior arms, and developed a cowboy culture at the heart of their national ethos.

One of those countries responded by acting like an adult. Having initiated gun buyback programs after their last tragedy, they are now working to further tighten gun regulations.

The other one of these countries acted like a child. Our FBI Director and President shared misinformation. The Vice President suggested that the politics of one of the victims was the real tragedy. The Republican Party remained committed to defending the rights of people who think it is fun to play with things that go bang, bang.

Gun violence is still the number one cause of death among actual American children. They are dead because Members of this Chamber, who claim to be adults, keep acting like children.

I would point out that the Brown University shooting was the 389th mass shooting in America this year.

GRAY WOLVES IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, in my district, the wolf problem is not just some abstract issue. They are on the ground. They are creating real problems for a lot of people and a lot of wildlife.

This past weekend in my district, gray wolves were seen dangerously close to Little Shasta Elementary School right here in Siskiyou County.

As a precaution, law enforcement was contacted, a local emergency was declared, and students were kept indoors for the entire school day, including recess and PE. That is an elementary school that changed its daily operations because of predators in the area. This is exactly what I have been warning about.

Federal policy has made wolves untouchable, even when they show up near homes, schools, and working lands. Local officials are left to try to manage the consequences of this threat while Washington bureaucracy tells them to wait.

We have a bill, H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act, which is a giant step toward fixing this. It gives States and locals more authority to deal with problem wolves before someone gets hurt.

Ignoring this doesn't make it go away. It makes it worse. Devouring wildlife and livestock with no compensation is not something just to be ignored. What are we going to do, kids next?

IN SUPPORT OF MARAD

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, it has been only 7 months since billionaire Elon Musk fled town and barely 1 month since his heartless DOGE machine collapsed, yet the damage keeps spreading.

Now, the target is the U.S. Maritime Administration, MARAD, at the Department of Transportation. MARAD strengthens our maritime industry, and it protects our economic and national security. In the Great Lakes, our Nation's third and longest coast, we rely on a strong, capable American shipping fleet. Our economy depends on it.

MARAD supports 13 public and 50 commercial ports across the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In my district in northwestern Ohio, the Port of Toledo and Sandusky Harbor connect us to global markets for energy, metal, farm commodities, and more.

In 2024, South Bass Island and the Put-in-Bay Port Authority received $10.3 million from MARAD to improve infrastructure, and they needed it.

Our ports generate real dollars for families and jobs, nearly $900 million in annual economic activity and 8,000 jobs by the latest count.

Apparently, this does not matter to the President and his administration. Unemployment has been rising.

Let's be honest. DRP does not mean Deferred Resignation Program. It means destroy, ruin, and punish.

Madam Speaker, stop this madness. Protect MARAD. Protect our ports. Protect our workers. Protect and grow jobs in America.

□ 1910

NATIONS AREN'T NATIONS WITHOUT BORDERS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to interject a little bit of common sense in the deportation debate we have had going on here.

No one knows exactly how many people are in this country illegally. I think it is safe to say that under President Biden that number went up by about 8 million, which means almost certainly it is over 15 million.

There are some muddled up people here who claim that all we should do is remove the illegal immigrants if they are breaking the law. That, obviously, makes no sense.

I applaud President Trump and Kristi Noem for trying to remove all people who are here illegally, otherwise we have no immigration law in the first place. If someone comes here illegally and all they have to do is avoid committing a serious crime, then we have no country.

Our next President will wind up getting another eight to ten million people crossing here, together with the increased welfare costs, housing costs, and government services it applies, together with the change in culture in the United States away from the culture that we have had that has allowed America to go so long.

I thank Donald Trump and Kristi Noem.

CALL A VOTE ON HEALTHCARE NOW

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, imagine being so ideologically committed to destroying an imperfect healthcare bill that has helped millions of Americans access care over the last 15 years that you would block a vote—just a vote—to extend the lifesaving credits that help keep millions of Americans on their healthcare.

Madam Speaker, imagine that you would block members of your own party from bringing an amendment to extend those credits and that those members would be forced to join all 214 Democrats to force a vote on the floor. Also imagine that you would kill a motion to vote on that one day before you plan to send everyone home for the holiday.

Welcome to Donald Trump's America and the Republican Congress where the leadership would rather let children, seniors, veterans, and small businesses lose their healthcare than even take a vote.

Thankfully, we have filed a discharge petition that will ripen in 7 legislative days, but we know that is not enough. We are calling on the leadership to call a vote now.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF COLONEL VU VAN LOC

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

Mr. LICCARDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of Colonel Vu Van Loc, a South Vietnamese Army veteran and beloved community member and leader in San Jose, for his selfless dedication to Vietnamese refugees and to cultural preservation.

Born in 1933 in northern Vietnam, Loc Vu and his family fled their homeland during the fall of Saigon, ultimately finding refuge in San Jose, California, the largest community of ethnic Vietnamese of any city outside of Vietnam.

Soon after arriving, Loc Vu founded the Immigrant Resettlement and Cultural Center to aid fellow refugees in rebuilding their lives. Over the next four decades, the IRCC became a lifeline to Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian families throughout our region.

He also founded, funded, and passionately led the creation of the Museum of the Boat People and the Republic of Vietnam to ensure future generations understand the tremendous sacrifice, courage, and resilience of the thousands who came to our shores after the Vietnam war.

Loc Vu passed away peacefully this November at the age of 92. I was fortunate to have known Loc Vu for two decades, and I will miss our community's friend, mentor, and leader. His legacy lives on in the hearts of the more than 20,000 neighbors he has helped to support and uplift.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE ON HIS BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, today would have been Congressman Don Payne, Jr.'s, 67th birthday.

Don was more than a colleague to me. He was family. He called me Uncle Frank, and that meant a lot to me. In the House, our names often appeared right next to each other on the voting board, Pallone, P-A, and Payne, P-A-Y.

Many times, when we were voting on civil rights, housing, or issues affecting urban communities, I would look to see how Don voted because to me he was the conscience of our delegation. He was someone who grounded big national decisions in live reality.

Don dedicated his life to public service, from the Newark City Council to county freeholder to Congress, and always it was trying to improve peoples' lives on healthcare, the environment, or public safety.

Happy birthday, Don. Your legacy continues, and we are carrying the work forward.

WISHING A HAPPY HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY TO THE HONORABLE DONALD PAYNE, JR.

(Mrs. MCIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCIVER. Madam Speaker, I rise to wish a happy heavenly birthday to my predecessor in representing New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, the Honorable Donald Payne, Jr.

He served as Newark City Council president and went on to succeed his father in this body.

Donald M. Payne, Sr., was the first African American elected to New Jersey's congressional delegation, and his son carried that legacy while blazing his own path.

A leader on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Payne secured critical investments that made rail travel in New Jersey safer and more affordable.

In honor of his legacy that inspires my leadership and shapes my home district, today I introduced a bill to rename Newark Penn Station in his honor: The Donald M. Payne, Jr. Transit Center at Newark Penn Station.

Newark Penn Station is where so many workers start their mornings, where families reunite, where students, seniors, and commuters pass through every single day.

When people walk into that station, they should know the name of the man whose name helped keep it moving.

Happy birthday, Congressman Payne. We miss you.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, the late Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., as we commemorate what would have been his 67th birthday.

Donald and I were good friends and neighbors both representing the cities of Newark and Jersey City together. A proud son of Newark, Congressman Payne dedicated his life to fighting for his neighbors, ensuring no one was left behind.

In his decades of public service, Congressman Payne was among the most progressive voices in our country fighting for every single American.

What I admired most about my colleague was the courage and bravery he displayed in making his battle with diabetes public so he could advocate for better treatments and solutions for the horrible disease that ultimately took him from us.

Until the very end, Congressman Payne continued to fight for his constituents, introducing legislation to protect people with disabilities within our healthcare system.

I miss my friend. I miss his style. I miss his flair, and I miss his laugh, but

I know that his spirit lives on and that we will continue the work he committed himself to.

Happy birthday, Donald.

We miss you, and we will always be better for the work and dedication that guided your years of service.

□ 1920

WE MUST EXTEND ACA TAX CREDITS

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

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, in just 14 days, hardworking families, seniors, and veterans across America will face the largest healthcare insurance premium increase in history, which will make healthcare unattainable for so many Americans.

When healthcare becomes unattainable, it turns treatable illnesses into a death sentence. Americans will be forced to figure out their healthcare. For people with high blood pressure, diabetes, or heart disease, figuring it out means going without medication that is lifesaving. This is cruel and simply unacceptable.

Congress has the responsibility to act and finally make healthcare affordable for all Americans because a single mother in Lauderhill who is rationing her medication to keep the lights on is counting on us. The disabled veteran in Riviera Beach who is working two jobs is counting on us. The recent college grad in Tamarac who makes enough money only to pay rent is counting on us.

We must deliver and extend the ACA tax credits because America is counting on us to survive, to thrive, and to have another chance.

HONORING FRANKLIN DOUGLAS MOSS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of my good friend and former Fort Worth City Councilmember, Franklin Douglas Moss, better known as Frank Moss.

Frank Moss was an incredible man. He worked in real estate and had his own real estate firm, Moss RED Group. He was so well known throughout the community for the work that he did in the Stop Six area and the Carver Heights community in which he lived. He was just an incredible believer in the community, helping on maternal health issues, HIV awareness, and preserving historic neighborhoods.

He was an incredible person, and the family had just such a long and distinguished legacy of service to the community, as his wife was one of our former school board members. However, most of all, Frank Moss was the keeper of the Black history in Fort Worth, Texas. He knew about the first African-American politicians, doctors, lawyers, dentists, people who really helped change and shape Fort Worth for all. He did such a tremendous job in sharing those stories.

I know that he is going to be missed as a deacon at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where he was a proud member. We will all miss Frank not just because of his work on the council, but because he really cared about making sure that stories in our community were elevated in Fort Worth and Tarrant County. That is something that we will all truly miss.

My prayers go out to his family during this time.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO THURSTON EDWARD QUINN

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Thurston Quinn, who turned 100 years old.

Mr. Quinn has been a central figure in our veterans community. He served in the 89th Infantry Division during World War II, fighting in France and Germany. He had a distinguished service career, receiving two Bronze Stars, a Combat Infantry Badge, and an Occupation Badge. When the war ended, he returned home, and he continued to serve his community.

Mr. Quinn's legacy is preserved at the Disabled American Veterans office in Goldsboro, where the cafeteria bears his name. What a true American hero.

It was a pleasure to join his family and friends at his church to wish him a 100th birthday.

REMEMBERING DONALD PAYNE, JR.

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, last April, Jersey and our Nation lost a dedicated father, husband, public servant, and just a real giant.

I miss Don Payne, like we all do. He was a Member of Congress for nearly 14 years. The son of Newark was an incredible champion for hardworking Jersey families. He fought for healthcare issues and fought to upgrade our transportation, rail, and infrastructure, but beyond that, he just was there for all of us.

When I was first elected, Don showed me the ropes, shared his wisdom, and gave me a good Jersey ribbing whenever he could. His great sense of humor and meaningful experience made it a true privilege to serve in the House with him. In those suits, he was the man.

A true family man, Don always beamed about his loved ones. I will miss him greatly, like we all do, as we mark today on what would have been his 67th birthday. We remember the impact Don made on so many not just in this great Chamber but across the Garden State and across the country.

May his memory be a blessing. We miss Don.

REPUBLICANS HAVE DELIVERED IN 2025

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MOORE of Utah was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I am glad to be joined by several of my colleagues for this last Conference Special Order of the year to talk about ways we have delivered for all Americans through our legislative action, committee work, and more.

I understand some of my colleagues have commitments, and I am going to be respectful of their time, so I will have them start us off before I provide some of my own comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY), a good friend.

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Utah for yielding and leading this important discussion on how Republicans are focusing on making healthcare more affordable for hardworking American families. We have taken action and are committed to doing more to fix the broken system of ObamaCare that empowered Big Insurance at the expense of our taxpayers.

As a family practice doctor for over 25 years, I hear directly from my patients about the skyrocketing cost of insurance and prescription drugs. Democrats promised Americans lower costs, more choices, and better care. More than a decade later, too many families are asking a simple question: What happened?

Former President Obama, in pushing the ACA, promised that the bill would lower healthcare premiums by up to $2,500 per family per year, but since ObamaCare went into effect, premiums have nearly tripled and deductibles have more than doubled. The cost of coverage for a family of four has increased by more than $10,000.

Back in July of this year, this Republican Congress passed the Working Families Tax Cut Act. This important legislation puts more money back into the pockets of Americans and will help lower the cost of healthcare as well as childcare.

Thanks to the Working Families Tax Cut Act, all Bronze and Catastrophic ACA Marketplace plans are now considered high-deductible plans, allowing more people to contribute to health savings accounts.

Health savings accounts can now be used to pay for direct primary care arrangements that cut out the middleman and allow patients to coordinate care directly with their chosen provider.

High costs are not the only ObamaCare failure. It also resulted in a major increase in fraud. A 2024 GAO investigation found that fake identities were approved for ObamaCare subsidies at a 100 percent rate, often remaining enrolled despite missing or falsified information.

In 2023, $21 billion in subsidies were paid out with no evidence of tax reconciliation. Taxpayers were left footing the bill, as reused Social Security numbers, subsidies paid on behalf of deceased individuals, and billions in unreconciled payments expose a system unable to protect public funds.

In the Working Families Tax Cut Act, Republicans restored accountability and fairness to the healthcare marketplace through reforms that save taxpayers billions of dollars and drive down costs for everyone. There is full income and eligibility verification before subsidies are issued, ensuring assistance goes only to those who qualify. We have ended ''anytime'' enrollment abuse that fueled fraudulent signups and drove premiums higher for everyone. We closed loopholes that allowed illegal immigrants and other ineligible groups to access taxpayer-funded health benefits.

Many Americans have insurance on paper but still cannot afford to use it. I am committed, along with my Republican colleagues, to addressing the root cause of rising costs to provide real relief for taxpayers and families. I appreciate my congressional colleague from Utah for yielding to me.

□ 1930

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah, a physician and attorney, for bringing up all of these issues. It is so important to call up the reality of it.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK).

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and former member of my congressional staff, Mr. John Bart Mitcham, on his milestone birthday and for his service to Georgia's 11th Congressional District, the State of Georgia, and the United States of America.

Mr. Bart Mitcham was born on December 24, 1945, in Ada, Oklahoma, to John and Virginia Mitcham. Bart's parents both served in the United States Navy during World War II, with his father serving as a naval aviator on the USS *Hornet* during some of the most critical moments in the Pacific theater.

Bart knew from an early age that he wanted to serve his country as a naval aviator. So eager to learn to fly, Bart washed aircraft in exchange for 1 hour of flight time while he was in high school. He also served as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, the civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

Bart attended Tyler Junior College on a music scholarship, where he played in the school's band and performed at high-profile events, including the Cotton Bowl, as well as Dallas Cowboys games. He later transferred to the University of Oklahoma, Edmond, where he graduated in 1968, commissioning as an ensign in the United States Navy.

Fulfilling his lifelong dream to become a naval aviator like his father, Bart began naval flight training and, upon graduation, was assigned to Naval Air Station Dallas, where he flew the storied F–4 Phantom.

Bart was then transferred to the USS *Enterprise*, where he flew combat missions in Vietnam. He later served at the Defense Intelligence Agency and as a commanding officer at Naval Air Station Atlanta before retiring at the rank of captain in 1994, almost 26 years of service.

Bart is not only recognized for his exemplary service to our country as a veteran, but he is also recognized as a man of numerous talents and passions. Bart attained a law degree from Woodrow Wilson Law School, attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and earned a master of divinity from Andersonville Seminary. He operated a real estate appraisal business while pastoring churches.

During his service in the United States Navy, Bart studied several martial arts disciplines before achieving a seventh-degree black belt. He then taught martial arts and self-defense classes, developed his own self-defense technique, and was inducted into the Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

Wanting to use his expertise, training, and talents to continue to serve others, Bart became a licensed private investigator and an executive protection agent. As his reputation expanded, Bart opened his own agency and began teaching and facilitating classes in private investigation and executive protection. For a time, he served as a member of the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies.

Due to Bart's vast experience and reputation, he became part of my staff when I entered Congress. He was our veteran engagement liaison and the security director for several years. He was an excellent choice for this role, reaching out to help fellow veterans as well as helping to ensure the safety and security of myself and our staff.

Bart continued his legacy of community service by taking on the role of an associate magistrate judge for Bartow County, Georgia.

Throughout his exemplary career of service to others above self, Bart has touched countless lives across our country.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, the people of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I wish my friend, Bart Mitcham, a wonderful 80th birthday and extend my sincerest gratitude for his lifetime of service. May God bless him, and I wish him a happy birthday.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST).

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the Christmas story as recorded in Luke Chapter 2.

''And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.''

''And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

''And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.''

''And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the King. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men.''

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I will one more time point out what should be the most important issue facing this body in 2026. I have talked before about the huge marriage penalties that we build into our income transfer programs, also known as welfare programs.

When you add up the penalties that you have to endure if, say, a single mom marries a husband with an income, and we look at the food stamps, the low-income housing, the earned income tax credit, the TANF check, and the Pell grants, you can easily wind up in a situation in which you are penalized $25,000 a year if you get married.

This is the primary reason why, in the 1950s, we only had about 4 percent of the newborn children in this country

born without a mother and father at home, and now, we are over 40 percent.

It is not difficult if people in this body would meet with some average people rather than the lobbyists or the big campaign contributors. It is very easy to find young people today who are not getting married specifically because they find that the Federal Government has almost a policy of punishing people who get married.

Even the Republican Party in its big, beautiful bill has, as I count—maybe there are more—three programs in which we are penalizing married couples. I found out today on the tuition credits for private schools that we are supposed to brag about, there is a big marriage penalty there, as we punish people who want to go to private school who are married.

We also increased the low-income housing tax credit so that more and more Americans are in housing in which they are discouraged from getting married.

They are also, by the way, discouraged from working harder because in all these programs, in addition to being penalized for getting married, there comes a point where if you take on overtime or get a raise, they begin to take the benefits away from you.

That is what they do in the low-income housing tax credit. If you are paying so much in rent and decide to work overtime or decide to get a second job, the housing development will have to say: Sorry, you are working harder, so we have to raise your rent. That is another thing we should be looking at and trying to change.

□ 1940

Madam Speaker, a third penalty comes in a mild increase in Pell grants with regard to technical schools. In order to get it, a Pell grant is another one of those programs where a person can't work that hard and can't be married to somebody with an income.

In any event, I implore my colleagues and implore my leadership team to see what they can do in the year 2026 by not penalizing Americans for getting married and not penalizing Americans for working too hard so we try to work our way back.

There was a time with stronger families—I realize all families can succeed, and I know all sorts of families who do succeed by being very conscientious with their children. Nevertheless, I think we would all agree America would be better off if we worked our way back from the 42 percent of children born without a mother and father at home back down to the 6 percent or 5 percent or 4 percent that it was in the 1950s or 1960s.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin and the issue that he brings up. It is something that some of my State legislators are working on, namely Ms. Melissa Garff Ballard. She is an excellent policymaker and lawmaker back home. This is something she cares deeply about and is doing quite a lot of good work on at the State level. I applaud her for that.

Madam Speaker, I thank you and all my colleagues for your comments this evening. It is very much appreciated.

As we move into the next couple of weeks when we get to celebrate the holidays, it is excellent to look back and think about the amazing work that has taken place over the last year. As it is dominating the headlines, we recognize there is a lot to talk about with healthcare, particularly this week. I want to touch on a few aspects.

To be abundantly clear, Republicans are currently dealing with the aftermath of what has been a decade or so of failure. The Democrats put in place an unaffordable and fraudulent healthcare system.

For years, Democrats promised ObamaCare would lower costs. In reality, premiums have increased nearly 80 percent since the so-called Affordable Care Act was enacted. The average premium for family coverage is nearly $27,000 per year.

A report from the Government Accountability Office confirms what Republicans have said for years. There is significant fraud associated with COVID-era enhanced premium tax credits established by the trifecta of President Joe Biden and majorities in the House and Senate led by Democrats.

Again, in 2021, Democrats put in place what is called the enhanced premium tax credits. They did this during their COVID-era bills: The American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act. These were two bills that were massive expansions for several programs. In particular, they were able to pass this legislation on party-line votes and set it for 4 years. Democrats set this policy during COVID to last for 4 years and expire at the end of this year.

In this study, GAO found that 58,000 enrollees matched Social Security death records, with 7,000 of them being deceased before enrollment began. One Social Security number was even associated with 125 different ObamaCare policies in one year. That is the first level of potential fraud.

The second item is that a zero-dollar premium obviously leads to more fraud, and that is what we have seen happen. Enrollment went up without people using or even knowing that they had coverage. This is something we need checks and balances on.

When they moved the original Obama subsidies—and those aren't going anywhere. They are still in place. They are not expiring at the end of this year. They have existed from the start. It is only the Democrat Party's 2021 enhanced version that is expiring.

The worst aspect of those, in my opinion, is the fact that a person used to be required to pay just 2 percent of their annual income toward health insurance premiums. The taxpayer dollars paid the insurance company the remainder of that. A person was only required to pay 2 percent. That moved to zero percent in 2021.

Since 2021, there was a massive expansion of people being on these premiums and this insurance coverage but never using it. They never used it year over year, but the insurance company continued to get taxpayer-funded subsidies directly to them to cover nothing because they never used it.

The percentage of people who weren't using their health insurance went up significantly. It wasn't like people were getting hurt or sick at a similar rate. What was happening was they didn't know they were in the system. As part of the GAO study will explain, they were getting signed up.

The last final piece that I will highlight here are the income caps. People could still be making 400 percent above the Federal poverty level the insurance companies that they were getting signed up for were still receiving these subsidies.

Originally, when we talk about ObamaCare, it was just for folks who were very low-income and were uninsured and didn't have the ability to make any payments toward covering their own insurance.

What ObamaCare does is it says if a person is 100 percent or 150 percent of poverty level, all that is required is that the person pay 2 percent of their income, the Federal taxpayers will cover the rest, it will be sent it to the insurance company, and the subsidy will be covered. In most cases that is $300 a year a person would have to cover of their own.

When that moved to zero dollars, that is when a lot of fraud happened. Even if a person is paying $5, $10, or $20 a month toward insurance, at least you know it is an actual policy and going somewhere. When it becomes zero dollars, all sorts of shenanigans can happen. That is something we have to move away from.

With this enhanced version of these COVID-era subsidies expiring on the Democrats' timeline, then that zero-dollar aspect will go away. It will be $200 a year for some folks, as opposed to zero dollars. That alone will create an opportunity to cut away a lot of fraud.

Democrats created a program that Americans can't afford. The unaffordable care act works for insurance companies, but it does not work for patients. Like I mentioned, it is filled with waste and fraud.

Insurance revenues have increased from $245 billion, when ObamaCare was originally passed, to $1.4 trillion in 2023. I love it when private-sector company growth happens. I am a big supporter of it. I have supported tax policy to ensure that can happen.

That type of increase, when ObamaCare gets established, to see that rampant amount of growth, there is a problem there. We can celebrate economic growth across the board, shareholder value, and all that stuff.

When we look at the massive increase year over year, aside from revenue and profits, there is something wrong with this entire situation. We can directly correlate it to when ObamaCare came into play.

We can't have insurance companies seeing such record profits and at the same time taxpayers are forced to sort of subsidize these plans. That is not a healthy way to grow a market.

The Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare, ACA—broke the American healthcare system. It created numerous problems over the last decade. Since its inception, these premium costs have skyrocketed. Networks have shrunk, and the system has become bloated and inefficient.

It is important to remember that the enhanced premium tax credit expiration at the end of the year, again, was set by Democrats. When they are complaining that Republicans are going to let this expire, that was their timeline. This zero-dollar issue and then not capping it, so it is only targeted towards lower-income individuals, had to go away. Even in compromise and bipartisan approaches to deal with this expiration, those aspects had to go away. Those are things that were on the chopping block.

Again, I think when folks understand, the subsidies aren't going away entirely. If a person is a low-income individual and making 100 percent of the Federal poverty line—and for a single person, that is maybe $15,000 or $20,000 a year—that plan will only require that person to pay a few hundred dollars a year.

Just by moving it so it doesn't go to zero dollars creates it so there is not so much fraud in the system. Then, hopefully, over time we don't see this rapid, rapid increase in premiums because that is bad for all Americans.

□ 1950

Americans simply deserve better, and we have not been giving the healthcare system with the exception of ObamaCare.

This is why House Republicans have proposed legislation that delivers real relief. The Lower Healthcare Premiums for All Americans Act focuses on lasting policies that provide predictability and transparency.

As the name suggests, this is focused on the entirety of the individuals on healthcare. This isn't just targeted toward a small 7 percent of the total population that is that narrow margin in ObamaCare. This is touching every single person, and that is the only way to actually lower health premium costs over time.

This bill lowers premiums through pharmacy transparency and cost-sharing reductions. This legislation improves options for workers by expanding access to associated health plans. It also ensures that small and midsize employers can offer more tailored, affordable care, and it codifies and strengthens CHOICE arrangements, permitting employees to pay their premiums pretax.

All of those things are targeted toward a broad group of people and not just this tiny little subset that we are hearing a lot of complaining about right now. We are actually focused on the entirety of the world that is out there paying more and more for their health insurance.

It is time to implement policies that work for all Americans and that provide predictability and affordability.

I am grateful to be a voice from Utah on the Committee on Ways and Means Health Subcommittee during this critical moment, and I am excited to see this legislation move forward and delivering real results, savings, and peace of mind for Utahns and Americans across the country.

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

FUN WITH MATH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I promise you at least this one. I think I have the half an hour. I am going to try not to use all of it, and I will try to slow down some of the speaking.

Madam Speaker, I had a couple of odds and ends and then some basic optimism on one or two things. First off, let's do some cleanup.

Last week, I actually walked through a little bit of an economic report. We got a preview of it. I think it will be published fairly soon. It is ''Measuring What Matters,'' and the title is: ''Why Italy May Be in Better Fiscal Shape than the U.S.''

This is done by some of the super economic geeks out of Boston and Cambridge, but what terrified me because I am actually doing my best to read these sorts of documents is the little sentence I have highlighted here. I tried to point this out last week. This is for supergeeks. If you use a 6 percent discount rate, you need 104 percent of a child's lifetime income who is born next year and this year just to cover the pension and healthcare benefits in our country. You need more than they are ever going to earn in their entire life just to cover those promises.

Now, if you take it down to a 2 percent discount rate, which is a way you sort of say that here is where inflation and these things are going to be, you still need a 22 percent increase on their lifetime taxes just to cover pension benefits. This is actually based on some numbers where I think they may have too high a fertility rate.

The reason I point that out is we are not having the really difficult conversation here. What happens in a country this year when my economists on the Joint Economic Committee are saying that we may have zero population growth in the United States this year and the fact that we have fewer 18-year-olds today than we had 20 years ago but almost double those who are 65 and older?

Madam Speaker, I keep coming here week after week after week and showing charts about the debt and the unfunded liabilities. Now I am seeing some stories today saying that net interest will be over $1 trillion this year if you add in the paying back because we have to pay interest back to the Social Security trust fund and all of those when we borrow the money. It could be $1.25 trillion of interest.

What you should understand there is—let's walk through some of the hierarchy. Social Security is number one. We are going to spend $1.5 trillion to $1.6 trillion this year on Social Security. Guess what the number two expense in our country is now? It is interest. If you do the total interest load, interest.

The next is Medicare.

Number four turns out to be the ObamaCare, or the ACA subsidies and Medicaid. That is number four.

Guess what is number five now in our spending? It is defense.

So often, I will talk to my liberal brothers and sisters, and they will turn to you and say that we should cut defense. That way, we can give out more money. It is now number five.

Look, it breaks my heart because we keep having these discussions, and I have come behind this microphone for over a decade now and feel like sometimes I am doing a junior economics lecture.

The point is trying to say: Here is the scale of the problem, but there are actually solutions if we can be bold, if we can be creative, and if we can take on the entrenched incumbency of the bureaucracy and business models.

Let's actually do a couple of things here and see if I can make this make sense. Let's march along—this is sort of important—and see if I can make this make sense.

This is last year. The red is spending. The blue is tax receipts. That gap is debt. You will notice, actually, that our projection for the fiscal year 2026 is our tax receipts—so tax collections are actually up. They are actually up almost 17.8 percent, which is wonderful. Most of it is capital gains. You know, the stock market is doing well.

Oddly enough, our spending is actually slightly down, but we still have this massive gap. Our best guess is that we are still running a $2 trillion deficit this year. Depending on what the Supreme Court does in regard to the enhanced tariffs, we may pick up some other liability that we are going to have to find out a way to work out with the White House.

Madam Speaker, this is an improvement, but the scale is still terrifying. It is still a couple trillion dollars. I know there are some products that have come out of the White House, CBO, and others saying that debt may only be $1.6 trillion or $1.8 trillion. It is not what we are tracking because so

far, the first quarter of this year—we still have a couple more weeks on it—for every dollar in tax receipts, we are spending about $1.62. We think this will even out to being about $1 of taxes in, and we are going to spend about $1.43.

Guess what? Most of that debt—that growth and that debt is interest because we have been refinancing a lot of our debt that was sold a few years ago when interest rates were very, very low, and healthcare costs.

A point I want to make—and I am going to come back to this a couple of times here—a couple hours ago, we had the Joint Economic Committee over in the Senate. It is one of my blessings. I get to chair it. We did something, and both sides were pretty good. Some Democrats took some pokes at us, but the theme of this Joint Economic Committee hearing was healthcare.

We, as a body—we, as Congress—we, as a society, have turned into financial engineering. The ACA, ObamaCare, is a financing bill. It is who pays and who gets subsidized? The Republican alternative had much better—well, somewhat better actuarial distribution, but it was still a financing bill. It is who got to pay, and who got subsidized? Medicare for all is almost completely a financing bill.

How about if we held a hearing where we talked about not the financing of healthcare but things that could disrupt the cost of healthcare? We had one gentleman from one of the biggest life insurance companies in America come in and talk about it saying that here are the things we do to keep our insured population alive and healthier.

□ 2000

We do things. We reward them for doing these data rings, or putting things on their wrists, or how they eat, or we gamify some exercise, and talk about how much healthier the population is. For them, it is a profit model. Turns out, if you sell life insurance, the longer someone keeps making their premium payments, the more money you make. They were incentivized.

We had one of the lead medical officers from a healthcare system in Arizona called Banner talking about how they are trying to align a system that actually they get rewarded for helping populations be healthier and the technology they are using to do it.

The fact of the matter is that we are finally trying to drag the conversation around this place from being financial engineering is the future of healthcare, ''Let's subsidize more populations,'' even though I am going to show you a couple of boards here of how much of that subsidy, your tax money, is just disappearing.

Maybe the crazy conversation here is what happens with the combination of the use of technology, of cures, of availability.

If it is true that semaglutides, you think of the GLP–1s, one of the deals the President made is the tablet version is going to go to $149 sometime next year. We know from the Milken study a few years ago that obesity is 47 percent of U.S. healthcare spending. Wouldn't it help if we could help our brothers and sisters get healthier? Yes, obesity is complex. Diabetes is complex, autoimmune. There are all sorts of things that go on. I accept the complexity.

The morality of what happens in a society if you could, over a couple of years, help your brothers and sisters get healthier, it turns out you could have these remarkable changes in costs. How many times have you heard the saying in healthcare that 5 percent of the population is over 50 percent of the spend? It turns out that much of that 50 percent of spending is on people who have multichronic conditions. A substantial portion of that is because of obesity.

Let's not be afraid to talk about it. Let's do the moral thing of helping ourselves, helping our brothers and sisters. It actually helps the debt and deficit.

We published a major report 2 years ago now, showing that obesity will be responsible for $9.1 trillion of additional healthcare spending over 10 years, making it the single most expensive thing in our country. Yet, how much work have you seen behind these microphones, saying maybe we shouldn't always talk about the subsidization of healthcare and start talking about what we all pay.

For a decade, I have come behind these microphones with technology and ideas. We are going to walk through just a little bit on the ACA because I can't stop myself after what I heard a couple of our Democrat colleagues say.

This is from the audits and the Joint Economic research, and it is a very simple thing. This is on the ACA, the ObamaCare subsidies, and then the enhanced subsidies, so it is the subsidies on top of the subsidies.

We actually get to the point where it appears only 33 percent of the money actually goes to you as a consumer for your healthcare, for your getting well.

We have 27 percent of what I call deadweight. It just disappears. It is someone who is insured who has never made a claim, even though they may have been 100 percent subsidized. Now, we are finding out huge portions of that appear to be fraud. Last year, over 41 percent of the ACA population, which is 7 percent of healthcare, so ACA, the ObamaCare population, 41 percent paid no premiums. If you are not paying premiums, you see how easy it would be to sign someone up, take the commissions, and no one ever has to know because you are not getting a bill. We are discovering stunning amounts of fraud.

The other thing, which was just fascinating, is that in the study, we have almost 38 percent of these dollars disappearing, functioning insurance. You go, but they can only hold 6, 7 percent of it. That is not actually what happens.

We published an entire paper on this 2 weeks ago in the Joint Economic Committee. Go to the website, Joint Economic Committee Republicans, and you will see our methodology and where the math is.

We are back to, once again, arguing: Is this how you want your taxpayer dollars to disappear? We want our brothers and sisters to have the most affordable healthcare possible in America, but to do it, do you want us to funnel your cash, your tax dollars, into this level of fraud? We have to walk through this.

Why the fixation, particularly for my Joint Economic Committee and myself, on changing the actual costs of healthcare is you look at the long-run charts, the national healthcare expenditures, we have the substantial gap—and I know these types of charts are almost impossible to read, but what I am trying to help you understand here is here is the gross domestic product. We are growing as a country, but the cost of healthcare is growing substantially faster.

A factoid, I beg of you, whether you be on the left side, or the right side, or confused somewhere in between, in 7 years, the $1 trillion we spend this year on Medicare becomes $2 trillion. We double the spend on Medicare in the next 7 years, and in 7 years, the trust fund is gone, meaning if you are a hospital or a doctor and part of your revenues that you receive on Medicare patients is from the Medicare Part A trust fund, it is gone. It is gone in 7 years. Let alone, the Social Security trust fund is also gone in 7 years, and we will double senior poverty.

We are not allowed to talk about that. I will get an angry text message this evening saying: DAVID, you can't talk about that, as the Democrat political consultants are saying, oh, good, more attacks.

The immorality of this place to not want to tell the truth about our demographics and the complete barrier we have built legally on innovation—I have a couple of really geeky things here, but I am going to skip them and go to something that is a little crazy.

Every week when I do these, I try to come here with something that is optimistic. A few years ago, I got behind this microphone and talked about a University of Houston drug that basically takes fentanyl in your system—and I am sure I am describing it partially wrong, but I am doing my best—and attaches a protein to it, and, therefore, the drug can't pass the blood-brain barrier. It lasts for 6 months to a year.

What would happen if I came to you and showed you some of the economic studies we have done in the Joint Economic Committee by reading the literature? Some of our data, we are a few years out of date, but in 2020, we were approaching $1.5 trillion for the cost of fentanyl in America in 2020. Do you realize that is more than the defense budget? That is almost what we are

going to spend this year in Social Security, the cost to society from fentanyl.

What happens if someone like me comes to you and says, hey, and anyone that is interested, look it up because WIRED Magazine last week actually did an amazingly detailed article—it is a long article; it is a long read—on the labs around the country. They featured the University of Houston and a couple of the private companies that are trying to bring these things to market. They call it a fentanyl vaccine. It is technically not a vaccine. What would happen in our society if someone who has used a synthetic opioid, it has rewired their brain, and it is one of the ways we help them get through rehab? How about if you are the police officer who doesn't have to worry about having Narcan close by?

The other challenge I will give you is to go look up a couple of the articles that are about Philadelphia and some of the animal tranquilizers, and this is beyond the xylazine and—I think that is spelled with an x. It is a whole other category that makes it almost impossible to detox because the cravings are so violent.

□ 2010

Once it starts on the East Coast, it is coming across the country. I beg of everyone here to start to think about what happens if our ability to help bring a solution, a drug solution to help our brothers and sisters and protect our first responders—because so far, the data on—let's call it a fentanyl vaccine—is that it is 92 to 98 percent effective. What if this were worth a few hundred billion dollars in economic savings to our society in a single year?

Repeatedly, I come here and I talk about helping our brothers and sisters with obesity, the technology, that you can walk around and have a medical lab attached to your body. Here are some of the others that I talk about, with biology and synthetic biology and other solutions. They are out there. But how do I get the brain trust around here to come together and say: We are going to take all of these ideas and build a unified theory, and this unified theory is how we crash the price of healthcare, instead of spending a couple more years arguing back and forth on how much more money we should borrow to hand out as subsidies, particularly to insurance companies.

That is my simple theory I am trying to sell. There are solutions. They are complex. You have actually got to read a lot of long articles to try and understand what is going on. You have got to stop being afraid, and you have got to stop protecting incumbent business models that are terrified of having cures, solutions, better and faster ways to do it, and the use of technology. If we get rid of that fear and start doing what is moral and economically rational around here, we are in the time of miracles.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to let you go back to your lives. I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 165. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1491. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the postponement of certain deadlines by reason of disasters applicable to the limitation on credit or refund, and to take postponements into account for purposes of sending collection notices.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 216.—An Act to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 222.—An Act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 284.—An Act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

S. 2878.—An Act to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 9 a.m.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE A COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 17, 2025.

To the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XV, I, Hakeem S. Jeffries, move to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution. H. Res. 780 entitled, a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1834) to advance policy priorities that will break the gridlock, which was referred to said committee September 30, 2025, in support of which motion the undersigned Members of the House of Representatives affix their signatures, to wit:

1. Hakeem S. Jeffries.
2. James P. McGovern.
3. Katherine M. Clark.
4. Suzan K. DelBene.
5. Joyce Beatty.
6. Terri A. Sewell.
7. Rashida Tlaib.
8. Julia Brownley.
9. Diana DeGette.
10. Gilbert Ray Cisneros.
11. Chellie Pimgree.
12. Hillary J. Scholten.
13. George Whitesides.
14. Grace Meng.
15. Debbie Dingell.
16. Lauren Underwood.
17. Nikema Williams.
18. Robin L. Kelly.
19. Frank Pallone.
20. Frank J. Mrvan.
21. Janice D. Schakowsky.
22. Veronica Escobar.
23. Robert Menendez.
24. Adriano Espaillat.
25. Marilyn Strickland.
26. Salud O. Carbajal.
27. Laura Gillen.
28. Kristen McDonald Rivet.
29. Zoe Lofgren.
30. Kweisi Mfume.
31. Cleo Fields.
32. Sara Jacobs.
33. Shontel M. Brown.
34. Emilia Strong Sykes.
35. Henry C. ''Hank'' Johnson.
36. Jahana Hayes.
37. Emily Randall.
38. Andrea Salinas.
39. Judy Chu.
40. Shomari Figures.
41. Chrissy Houlahan.
42. Bradley Scott Schneider.
43. Dwight Evans.
44. Joaquin Castro.
45. Nellie Pou.
46. Yassamin Ansari.
47. Deborah K. Ross.
48. Sydney Kamlager-Dove.
49. Nanette Diaz Barragán.
50. Mike Levin.
51. Thomas R. Suozzi.
52. Donald G. Davis.
53. Norma J. Torres.
54. Wesley Bell.
55. Sylvia R. Garcia.
56. Gabe Amo.
57. Ted Lieu.
58. Sarah Elfreth.
59. Julie Johnson.
60. Timothy M. Kennedy.
61. Ayanna Pressley.
62. Jill N. Tokuda.
63. Mary Gay Scanlon.
64. Becca Balint.
65. Gabe Vasquez.
66. Steven Horsford.
67. Dave Min.
68. Betty McCollum.
69. Doris O. Matsui.
70. Sean Casten.
71. Herbert C. Conaway.
72. John W. Mannion.
73. Glenn Ivey.
74. Mark Pocan.
75. Derek Tran.
76. Maxine Dexter.
77. Madeleine Dean.
78. Paul Tonko.
79. Melanie A. Stansbury.
80. James R. Walkinshaw.
81. George Latimer.
82. Seth Magaziner.
83. Pete Aguilar.
84. Darren Soto.
85. Joe Neguse.
86. Ilhan Omar.
87. Lori Trahan.
88. John B. Larson.
89. Valerie P. Foushee.
90. Mark Takano.
91. Donald Norcross.
92. Yvette D. Clarke.
93. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick.
94. Lois Frankel.
95. Alma S. Adams.
96. Steny H. Hoyer.
97. Kathy Castor.
98. Johnny Olszewski.
99. Brad Sherman.
100. Delia C. Ramirez.
101. Greg Casar.
102. Eric Sorensen.
103. Steve Cohen.
104. Jamie Raskin.
105. April McClain Delaney.
106. Suzanne Bonamici.
107. David Scott.
108. Troy A. Carter.
109. Bennie G. Thompson.
110. Maggie Goodlander.
111. Laura Friedman.
112. Nikki Budzinski.
113. Stephen F. Lynch.
114. Maxine Waters.
115. Summer L. Lee.
116. Janelle S. Bynum.
117. Adam Gray.
118. Kevin Mullin.
119. Robert C. ''Bobby'' Scott.
120. Brendan F. Boyle.
121. Joe Courtney.
122. Ritchie Torres.
123. Morgan McGarvey.
124. Jerrold Nadler.
125. Ed Case.
126. William R. Keating.
127. Rosa L. DeLauro.
128. Jason Crow.
129. Rick Larsen.
130. Jim Costa.
131. Brittany Pettersen.
132. Kim Schrier.
133. Luz M. Rivas.
134. Lateefah Simon.
135. Lucy McBath.
136. Jimmy Panetta.
137. Danny K. Davis.
138. Greg Stanton.
139. Teresa Leger Fernandez.
140. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.
141. Raul Ruiz.
142. Dina Titus.
143. Sarah McBride.
144. Shri Thanedar.
145. LaMonica McIver.
146. Gregory W. Meeks.
147. Andre Carson.
148. John Garamendi.
149. Juan Vargas.
150. Mark DeSaulnier.
151. Haley M. Stevens.
152. Jonathan L. Jackson.
153. Jared Huffman.
154. Linda T. Sánchez.
155. Sanford D. Bishop.
156. Ami Bera.
157. Lloyd Doggett.
158. Bill Foster.
159. Mikie Sherrill.
160. Vicente Gonzalez.
161. Marcy Kaptur.
162. Pramila Jayapal.
163. Jimmy Gomez.
164. James A. Himes.
165. Suhas Subramanyam.
166. Christopher R. Deluzio.
167. Henry Cuellar.
168. Josh Gottheimer.
169. Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

170. Kelly Morrison.
171. Chris Pappas.
172. Frederica S. Wilson.
173. Al Green.
174. Nancy Pelosi.
175. Bonnie Watson Coleman.
176. Adelita S. Grijalva.
177. Mike Quigley.
178. J. Luis Correa.
179. Joseph D. Morelle.
180. Eric Swalwell.
181. Daniel S. Goldman.
182. Patrick Ryan.
183. Ro Khanna.
184. Mike Thompson.
185. Seth Moulton.
186. Josh Riley.
187. Greg Landsman.
188. Lizzie Fletcher.
189. Josh Harder.
190. Robert Garcia.
191. Eugene Simon Vindman.
192. Jesus G. ''Chúy'' García.
193. Gwen Moore.
194. Nydia M. Velázquez.
195. Raja Krishnamoorthi.
196. Jennifer L. McClellan.
197. Emanuel Cleaver.
198. Maxwell Frost.
199. Adam Smith.
200. Jasmine Crockett.
201. Donald S. Beyer.
202. Sharice Davids.
203. Angie Craig.
204. Marc A. Veasey.
205. Susie Lee.
206. Jared F. Golden.
207. James E. Clyburn.
208. Sam T. Liccardo.
209. Richard E. Neal.
210. Val T. Hoyle.
211. Jared Moskowitz.
212. Scott H. Peters.
213. Jake Auchincloss.
214. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez.
215. Brian K. Fitzpatrick.
216. Michael Lawler.
217. Robert P. Bresnahan.
218. Ryan Mackenzie.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–2436. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, transmitting the Board's final notice — Revisions to the Large Financial Institution Rating System and Framework for the Supervision of Insurance Organizations [Docket No.: OP-1868] received December 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2437. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's 2025 annual report to Congress on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1637 note; Public Law 100-583, Sec. 8; (102 Stat. 2969); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2438. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's 111th Annual Report covering operations for calendar year 2024; to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2439. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the ''Annual Report to the Congress on the Presidential $1 Coin Program'', pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5112(p)(3)(B); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 109-145, Sec. 104); (119 Stat. 2670); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2440. A letter from the Senior Advisor for Congressional Affairs, Office of Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's 2024 Office of Minority and Women Inclusion Annual Report to Congress, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5452(e); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 342(e); (124 Stat. 1541); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2441. A letter from the Senior Advisor for Legislative Affairs, Office of Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting a report titled ''Fair Debt Collection Practices Act'' for 2025, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1692m(a); Public Law 90-321, Sec. 815(a) (as amended by Public Law 111-203, Sec. 1089(1)); (124 Stat. 2092); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2442. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Resources, transmitting the Department's report titled ''Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act: Section 1004 Medicaid Drug Review and Utilization'' for FY 2022, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396a(oo)(2); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XIX, Sec. 1902 (as amended by Public Law 115-271, Sec. 1004); (132 Stat. 3911); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2443. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arizona; Arizona Department of Environmental Quality; Stationary Source Permits; West Pinal County; PM10 [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-1113; FRL-12927-02-R9] received December 10, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2444. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Plan Submittals for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2016-0168; FRL-13109-01-R1] received December 10, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2445. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0199; FRL-12749-02-R9] received December 10, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2446. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department; Volatile Organic Compounds and Particulate Matter; Solvent Cleaning; Architectural Coatings; Incinerators, Burn-Off Ovens, and Crematories [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0317, EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0321, EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0458; FRL-12915-02-R9] received December 10, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2447. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; South Carolina; Second Planning Period Regional Haze Plan [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0367; FRL-10406-02-R4] received December 10, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2448. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; Second Period Regional Haze Plan [EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0308; FRL-10404-02-R4] received December 10, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2449. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an update on cooperative efforts with the governments of Mexico, the People's Republic of China, and other countries of concern with respect to combating foreign opioid traffickers; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–2450. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the six-month period ending September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2451. A letter from the Deputy Administrator and Chief Operation Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting the 2025 Annual Report of the Bonneville Power Administration, pursuant to the Third Powerplant at Grand Coulee Dam Act, 16 U.S.C. 835j; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2452. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report to Congress from the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration covering the reporting period of April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2453. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period ending September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2454. A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2025, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2455. A letter from the Acting Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2025 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–2456. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a compilation and summary of reports received from chief district judges detailing each public event conducted in accordance with the POWER Act's requirements during fiscal year 2025, pursuant to Public Law 115-237, Sec. 4(b)(1); (132 Stat. 2448); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2457. A letter from the President, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, transmitting the Council's 2024 annual independent audit report; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 5778. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve outreach and education on employee ownership, and for other purposes (Rept. 119–412). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 6771. A bill to facilitate the development of fair and affordable housing, decrease

housing costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 6772. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report to Congress that examines the costs and benefits that could be associated with establishing a Federal uniform residential building code; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 6773. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require that grantees of the Community Development Block Grant program maintain a database of publicly owned land; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 6774. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, acting through the Federal Housing Commissioner, to establish a pilot program to increase access to small-dollar mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 6775. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to reauthorize the farmers' markets and local food promotion program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 6776. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 with respect to the use of cash-value benefits and coupons for purchases of fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods from community supported agricultural entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. BENTZ:

H.R. 6777. A bill to provide for the establishment of a grazing management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6778. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use revenue collected from speed safety cameras on highways in the National Park System for maintenance and construction purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Mr. ROSE):

H.R. 6779. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for direct loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become bona fide operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with farm ownership, operating, or emergency loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. GARCIA of California):

H.R. 6780. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish research centers of excellence for alternative protein innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 6781. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the standard deduction for taxable years 2026 and 2027 by the tariff rebate amount; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 6782. A bill to protect clean air and public health by expanding fenceline and ambient air monitoring and access to air quality information for communities affected by air pollution, to require hazardous air pollutant monitoring at the fenceline of facilities whose emissions are linked to local health threats, to ensure the Environmental Protection Agency promulgates rules that require hazardous air pollutant data measurement and electronic submission at fencelines and stacks of industrial source categories, to expand and strengthen the national ambient air quality monitoring network, to deploy air quality systems in communities affected by air pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 6783. A bill to provide for conservation on Federal lands in Southern California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6784. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for taxpayers who remove lead-based hazards; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CROW (for himself, Mrs. KIM, Mr. VASQUEZ, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia):

H.R. 6785. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to States, territories, and Indian tribes to support local resiliency offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. ANSARI, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. SIMON):

H.R. 6786. A bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation and to ensure that employers consider these requests, and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain occupations with evidence of unpredictable and unstable scheduling practices that negatively affect employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, 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 Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BERA, Ms. CHU, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 6787. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a carbon border adjustment based on carbon intensity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, 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. DOWNING:

H.R. 6788. A bill to release from wilderness study area designation certain land in the State of Montana, to improve the management of that land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FOUSHEE (for herself, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 6789. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require the Bureau of Prisons to ensure the availability of opioid antagonists at Federal correctional facilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York):

H.R. 6790. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit railroad carriers from blocking railway-highway crossings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas (for himself and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 6791. A bill to authorize the Land Port of Entry Community Infrastructure Program to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of land ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODEN (for himself, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. FOXX, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 6792. A bill to clarify provisions of the United States Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act and Foreign Trade Zones Act with respect to the appropriate tariff treatment of merchandise in a United States foreign-trade zone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GOODLANDER (for herself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 6793. A bill to prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense to carry out a hiring freeze, reduction in force, or hiring delay without cause at a public shipyard; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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. HAMADEH of Arizona (for himself and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 6794. A bill to require directors of medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit annual fact sheets to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the status of such facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 6795. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve direct certification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BACON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 6796. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a digital system for the submission of complaints relating to access issues at military medical treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. JACOBS (for herself, Mr. LALOTA, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 6797. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide fertility treatment under the TRICARE Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASTEN, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H.R. 6798. A bill to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Calumet National Heritage Area in the States of Indiana and Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. BACON, and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 6799. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with young-onset Alzheimer's, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 6800. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MACE (for herself and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 6801. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to ask the citizenship status of patients as a condition of participation in the Medicare program and to require reports on the cost of furnishing hospital services to noncitizens; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MALOY (for herself, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 6802. A bill to prohibit the administration, implementation, or enforcement by the Forest Service of the rule relating to ''Law Enforcement; Criminal Prohibitions''; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. MCIVER (for herself, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KEAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. POU, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 6803. A bill to designate Newark Penn Station in Newark, New Jersey as the ''Donald M. Payne, Jr. Transit Center at Newark Penn Station''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 6804. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen Medicare rural hospital flexibility program grants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOORE of North Carolina:

H.R. 6805. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expand the scope of the advanced reactor demonstration program to test and develop fourth-generation nuclear reactors, small modular reactors, and microreactors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. BALINT, and Mr. FROST):

H.R. 6806. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish within the Department of Justice the Office of the National Coordinator to Counter Antisemitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, Homeland Security, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6807. A bill to provide that an individual who uses marijuana in compliance with State law may not be denied occupancy of federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ROSE, Mr. VAN EPPS, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 6808. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 417 West 7th Street in Columbia, Tennessee, as the ''Pharmacist's Mate First Class John Harlan Willis Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 6809. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reduce losses of life through better school safety standards and responses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Homeland Security, 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. PANETTA (for himself and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 6810. A bill to direct certain heads of Federal agencies to develop a strategy to improve Federal investigations of organized postal theft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on 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. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 6811. A bill to require the Postal Service to establish a website providing information on post offices experiencing emergency suspensions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. YAKYM):

H.R. 6812. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make extend the delimiting date for certain benefits for surviving spouses of Persian Gulf War veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 6813. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to insurance for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 6814. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to memorial affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. RIVAS (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 6815. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a geospatial mapping tool to identify disproportionately burdened communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. ROSS (for herself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 6816. A bill to improve the administration of justice by requiring written explanations by the Supreme Court of its decisions and the disclosure of votes by justices in cases within the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court that involve preliminary injunctive relief, and other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 6817. A bill to establish a home-based telemental health care grant program for purposes of increasing mental health and substance use services in rural medically underserved populations and for individuals in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SIMON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CHU, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LIEU, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. CASAR, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. MAGAZINER):

H.R. 6818. A bill to extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and to ensure equitable treatment in the workplace; to the Committee on

Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, 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 Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WALKINSHAW, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 6819. A bill to reduce State administrative costs for administration of both the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and the summer electronic benefits transfer program for children under the Richard B. Russell School Lunch Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 Mrs. SYKES (for herself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. STANTON, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 6820. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue certain regulations relating to airline passenger flight compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 6821. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to include reducing injuries and deaths resulting from crashes in school zones as eligible programming under State highway safety programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 6822. A bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by internet retailers to ensure equitable consumer access to products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. MCBRIDE):

H.R. 6823. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to facilitate the development of certain traumatic brain injury diagnostics for members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself and Mr. KUSTOFF):

H.R. 6824. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for qualified combined heat and power system property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6825. A bill to require Federal monitors and receivers of public housing agencies to testify before the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VINDMAN (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6826. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the advanced manufacturing production credit to include black mass; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VINDMAN (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6827. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the advanced manu-facturing production credit to include recycled copper, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 6828. A bill to require the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency to submit to Congress an intelligence assessment on the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco Cartel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 6829. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to make improvements to the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. BALINT, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6830. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to permit a State attorney general to bring a civil action for damages as parens patriae for injuries sustained by reason of price discrimination in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act amendments to the Clayton Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mrs. MCIVER, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 6831. A bill to require reimbursement for costs associated with Presidential travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and 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. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 6832. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to include requirements for recyclable, compostable, and reusable claims for packaging for a consumer product, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 954. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. GARCIA of California):

H. Res. 955. A resolution recognizing the importance of a continued commitment to ending pediatric HIV/AIDS worldwide; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself and Mr. MAST):

H. Res. 956. A resolution condemning the antisemitic shooting in Sydney, Australia, and all forms of hatred and violence directed at religious communities; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H. Res. 957. A resolution a resolution honoring the service and sacrifice of United States Army Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard and United States Army Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, who were killed in action in Palmyra, Syria, in a targeted assault against United States service members on December 13, 2025; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. CRAIG):

H. Res. 958. A resolution supporting the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the enactment of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and reaffirming the commitment of the House of Representatives to expanding access to higher education for all Americans; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 6771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 6772.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 6773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 6774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 6775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 6776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BENTZ:

H.R. 6777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill protects multiple uses, preserves motorized access for specific activities while designating approximately 950,000 acres in Malheur County, Oregon as wilderness.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 6779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 6780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 6781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 6782.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 6783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 6785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 6786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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 Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 6787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. DOWNING:

H.R. 6788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. FOUSHEE:

H.R. 6789.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause) and Article I, Section 9, clause 7 (Appropriations Clause)

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 6790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 6791.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GOODEN:

H.R. 6792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defefense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the

By Ms. GOODLANDER:

H.R. 6793.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona:

H.R. 6794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12, 13, and 14 grant Congress the powers to raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a navy, and to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 6795.

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 Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 6796.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 6797.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 6798.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. KIM:

H.R. 6799.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 6800.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 6801.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 6802.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mrs. McIVER:

H.R. 6803.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution; the ''Commerce Clause''

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 6804.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MOORE of North Carolina:

H.R. 6805.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1, U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 6806.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6807.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 6808.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 6809.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 6810.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that ''Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that ''Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that ''Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that ''Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Ms. RIVAS:

H.R. 6815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 6816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 6817.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 6818.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:
H.R. 6819.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mrs. SYKES:
H.R. 6820.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Ms. TITUS:
H.R. 6821.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. TONKO:
H.R. 6822.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among several States, and with the Indian tribes.
By Mrs. TRAHAN:
H.R. 6823.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Ms. VAN DUYNE:
H.R. 6824.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. 1 Sect. 8
By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:
H.R. 6825
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. VINDMAN:
H.R. 6826.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. VINDMAN:
H.R. 6827.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. VINDMAN:
H.R. 6828.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Ms. WATERS:
H.R. 6829.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the power vested in Congress).
By Ms. WATERS:
H.R. 6830.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:
H.R. 6831.
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.
By Mr. WEBER of Texas:
H.R. 6832.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 116: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 269: Ms. MCDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 349: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 429: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 491: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 492: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 507: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 589: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 621: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 721: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 742: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.
H.R. 759: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 1046: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 1065: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1103: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 1154: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1189: Mr. MOYLAN and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1231: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 1266: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1269: Ms. FEDORCHAK.
H.R. 1300: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 1329: Mr. VAN EPPS.
H.R. 1343: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1346: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1357: Mrs. MCCLAIN.
H.R. 1361: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 1363: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1397: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1518: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 1521: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ and Mr. EVANS of Colorado.
H.R. 1588: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1661: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 1810: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 1849: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 1920: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1970: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 1993: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2025: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2028: Mr. VASQUEZ and Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 2059: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2094: Mr. VASQUEZ and Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 2168: Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 2192: Mr. WALKINSHAW and Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 2231: Mr. JACK.
H.R. 2251: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 2362: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 2398: Mr. BERA and Ms. MCDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 2402: Mr. BELL.
H.R. 2486: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2514: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 2527: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 2531: Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 2538: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 2547: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2585: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 2586: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2736: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 2741: Mr. WALKINSHAW and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2853: Mr. TRAN and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 2902: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2936: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2964: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 2978: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. WHITESIDES.
H.R. 3049: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3132: Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 3270: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 3277: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 3296: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 3316: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 3415: Ms. PRESSLEY and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 3497: Mr. EZELL, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CLINE, Mr. MESSMER, Ms. PEREZ, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 3513: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 3532: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 3598: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 3705: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 3743: Mrs. MCBATH and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 3753: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 3757: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 3772: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 3774: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 3777: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3885: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 3946: Mr. PERRY, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of Florida, and Ms. BYNUM.
H.R. 3954: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3986: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 4002: Mr. GILL of Texas.
H.R. 4084: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 4103: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 4105: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 4206: Ms. MORRISON and Mr. WHITESIDES.
H.R. 4235: Mr. KUSTOFF.
H.R. 4253: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 4282: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 4284: Mr. HURD of Colorado.
H.R. 4304: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 4398: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 4400: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4407: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4428: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 4582: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. MIN.
H.R. 4583: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. MIN.
H.R. 4606: Mr. WHITESIDES.
H.R. 4611: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 4630: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4667: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 4681: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 4796: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.
H.R. 4877: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 5031: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 5064: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 5106: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5221: Mr. MEUSER, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. WHITESIDES, and Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 5249: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5282: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 5325: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5332: Mr. FONG.
H.R. 5336: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5343: Mr. BEAN of Florida.
H.R. 5351: Mr. OBERNOLTE and Ms. MCDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 5403: Ms. MCDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 5434: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5438: Mr. PALMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 5461: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5486: Mr. BERA, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.
H.R. 5521: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5573: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5584: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 5599: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 5699: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 5715: Ms. MCDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 5725: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 5740: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5774: Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 5783: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 5913: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 5916: Mr. BELL.
H.R. 5942: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 6075: Mr. MIN, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 6081: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6082: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6086: Mr. STAUBER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 6089: Mrs. MCCLAIN Delaney and Mrs. BICE.
H.R. 6090: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6116: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6121: Mr. FITZGERALD and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6125: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 6126: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 6130: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 6131: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.
H.R. 6151: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.
H.R. 6161: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 6166: Mrs. GRIJALVA, Mr. LIEU, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Ms. RANDALL.
H.R. 6176: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 6177: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 6181: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6201: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 6203: Ms. MCDONALD RIVET and Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6219: Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 6221: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6259: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 6267: Mr. SHREVE.
H.R. 6289: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6336: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
H.R. 6356: Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 6375: Ms. DELBENE and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 6389: Mrs. DINGELL and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 6391: Mr. MORELLE and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 6397: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 6411: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6418: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 6423: Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 6431: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6437: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6438: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 6440: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 6444: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 6502: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 6521: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 6524: Mr. VINDMAN and Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 6529: Mr. COHEN and Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 6550: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.
H.R. 6567: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 6574: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 6606: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 6633: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
H.R. 6649: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 6651: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6671: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6685: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 6718: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6731: Ms. ANSARI, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. MANNION, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 6732: Mr. MCDOWELL.
H.R. 6757: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 6760: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 6766: Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. PANETTA.
H.J. Res. 77: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.J. Res. 122: Mr. LEVIN.
H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 61: Ms. DELBENE.
H. Con. Res. 64: Ms. STANSBURY.
H. Res. 776: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H. Res. 915: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. SUOZZI, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H. Res. 929: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 948: Mr. SHERMAN.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative ROY, or a designee, to H.R. 3492, the Protect Children's Innocence Act does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025 No. 213

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID MCCORMICK, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our hope for years to come, guide our lawmakers on each step of their pilgrimage. Make them supreme in compassion, mercy, and love. Inspire them to fellowship with one another in a way that will promote unity.

Lord, bring our Senators more and more into oneness with You. May they obey Your commands. Fill them with the spirit of Your peace. In their weakness, give strength; in their troubles, give serenity; and in their doubts, give hope. Work through them to fulfill Your will for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your wondrous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID MCCORMICK, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1071, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Message to accompany S. 1071, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill.

Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Thune amendment No. 3961 (to the House amendment to the bill), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3962 (to amendment No. 3961), to change the enactment date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, either today or tomorrow, we will confirm another nominations package, bringing the total number of the President's nominees confirmed this year to more than 400. That far exceeds the total confirmations of both President Trump's previous term and President Biden's.

It is an impressive number on its own, but it is particularly impressive when you consider the obstacles the Democrats have put up. I am not exaggerating when I say that President Trump's nominees have faced a historic level of obstruction from Senate Democrats.

When you look at this term, President Trump remains the only President on record not to have had a single civilian nomination confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote.

Let me repeat that. President Trump remains the only President on record not to have had a single civilian nomination confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote.

Democrats have required a rollcall vote on every single one of the President's nominations, an unprecedented level of obstruction in modern times.

Now, of course, Democrats would like you to believe that they have engaged in this historic level of obstruction because the President has put up, in the words of the Democrat leader, ''historically bad nominees.'' The only problem is a lot of these nominees have gotten Democrat votes on final passage. So either Democrats are voting for ''historically bad nominees'' or something else has been going on here. That something else looks a lot like petty partisanship.

It became abundantly clear, a while ago, that the real reason Democrats have been dragging out nominations for Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is nothing more than

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

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petty politics. Democrats cannot deal with the fact that the American people elected President Trump, and so they have engaged in this pointless political obstruction and revenge.

Republicans, however, have not been daunted. We have just kept plowing through confirmations, racking up an impressive number of hours in session and a historic number of votes in the process.

In September, we took steps to restore Senate precedent on largely noncontroversial Presidential nominees to ensure that no other President has to face the kind of petty partisanship President Trump has encountered.

When the American people elect a President, they expect that President to be able to get his or her team in place. That doesn't mean that Senators should never oppose nominations, but it does mean the nominations should not be held up for purely partisan reasons. Or, in the words of the Democrat leader, just a few short years ago:

> That doesn't mean we don't disagree. But it does mean, when nominees are held up, opposed, or blocked—it's for a legitimate purpose, not for leverage in partisan games, to score political points at the expense of public safety.

Democrats have engaged in a lot of partisan games this year, but Republicans have just kept doing our jobs. I am proud of just how much we accomplished on nominations, and I look forward to continuing to get the President's team in place in the new year.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Republican Party has delivered for the American people. We promised and delivered a country that is safer, stronger, and more prosperous. That is what we have seen in the last year.

Americans are now seeing more money in their pockets. Inflation is now under 3 percent. During the Biden years, it was at a 40-year high of 9 percent inflation.

This Christmas, gas prices are going to be the lowest that they have been, basically, in the last 5 years. In 38 States, including mine, Wyoming, we now have gasoline prices lower than $3 a gallon. That is because Americans are seeing the impact of Republicans who have unleashed American energy.

Our borders are now secured. Not a single illegal immigrant has been released into this country under this administration. Compare that with 10,000 illegal immigrants, every day, flooding across our southern border and bringing with them the drugs and the crime, as so many of them were released into the country and others were never captured.

What we see happening globally is the world's most successful companies are investing in America, and $10 trillion is coming to our shores. Record investment is driving job growth. It drives innovation and drives opportunity.

We passed a comprehensive economic plan called the working families tax cut law. It is the central part of our economic plan. I really want to thank Senator MIKE CRAPO, chairman of the Finance Committee, for his hard work on seeing this through.

Republicans cut taxes. Every single Democrat voted to raise taxes to the tune of $4 trillion. That would have impacted every working family in America. It would also have been the largest tax increase in American history.

So why is it that we want to cut taxes for American families? It is because you want more money in their pockets. You want waiters and barbers and bartenders to be able to keep up to $1,300 more in money that they wouldn't have in their pockets now but by what we passed, which is no tax on tips.

In my home State and in yours, nurses and firefighters and police officers and coal miners are going to see about a $1,400 increase in their take-home pay in their paychecks next year because of the no tax on overtime.

Seniors are going to see more money in their bank accounts, as well. There is a new $6,000 deduction on Social Security income. Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN fought hard to make sure that deduction stayed in the bill.

Thanks to Senator KATIE BRITT of Alabama, Republicans modernized tax credits for childcare. That helps parents pay for childcare.

Thanks to Senator TED CRUZ of Texas, new parents now get a $1,000 Trump account for every newborn child. Parents can use that to invest in their child's future. Also, parents get a bigger tax credit—$2,200 for every child.

America is now energy dominant once again. The working families' tax cuts unleashed American energy. It reopened Federal lands and waters for energy production.

This is a historic victory for Wyoming. Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket. We have world-class coal and world-class oil and natural gas, and this Republican bill helps American energy workers compete globally.

Republicans also rolled back punishing Biden regulations. Those regulations were burdensome, expensive, and time-consuming. By reining in Biden's heavy-handed bureaucrats, we have saved the American public $180 billion. That pencils out to over $2,000 in savings for each and every working family.

Republicans repealed 23 bad Biden regulations, and we used the Congressional Review Act to do it. That is a record as well.

We stopped California's electric vehicle mandate madness. Thanks to the leadership of Senators SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, DEB FISCHER, MARKWAYNE MULLIN, and BERNIE MORENO, Americans are now back in the driver's seat.

My colleague and friend Senator CYNTHIA LUMMIS of Wyoming led the repeal of the harmful Buffalo Resource Management Plan. That is really good news for Wyoming's energy producers. The Powder River Basin in Wyoming supplies about 45 percent of all the coal in the country.

Senate Republicans also cut wasteful Washington spending. We cut over $1 trillion in waste, fraud, and abuse as part of the working families tax cuts law.

We also passed the first standalone rescissions bill in over 30 years—a special thanks to Senator ERIC SCHMITT of Missouri.

Taxpayers saved over $9 billion because we cut liberal projects. Let's look at some of them. One of those pet projects included net-zero cities in Mexico. Another cut out electric buses in Africa and taxpayer-funded classes on ''environmental racism.''

Additionally, Republicans created a $50 billion rural hospital fund. It is the single largest Federal investment in rural healthcare in American history.

Do you want to help patients with rare diseases find treatments? We were able to do that. We passed a bill that I introduced called the ORPHAN Cures Act. As a doctor in Wyoming, I saw the challenges that patients faced when they had few or no treatment options. That is why I fought to bring hope for millions of Americans living with rare diseases.

Republicans are also making our communities safer. We began this year by passing a bill from Senator BRITT and from Senator TED BUDD of North Carolina. It is called the Laken Riley Act. It was the first bill that we passed this year and the first bill that President Trump signed into law. It mandates the detention of illegal immigrant criminals. Amendments from Senator JONI ERNST and Senator JOHN CORNYN made it even stronger.

We also passed the HALT Fentanyl Act. It cracks down on deadly fentanyl trafficking. This is thanks to Senator BILL CASSIDY of Louisiana and CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa. They have done incredibly hard work and important work.

On top of that, the working families tax cuts made a historic $170 billion investment in border security. It finishes the wall. It hires more ICE and Border Patrol agents.

As we finish this year, Senate Republicans have confirmed a record number of President Trump's nominees. We began the year by confirming President Trump's Cabinet faster than any Senate in modern history. By week's end, President Trump will have 417 nominees confirmed by the Senate this year. That is far more than the 365 that Joe Biden had in his first year in office.

This historic record comes despite unprecedented obstruction from the Democrat minority. What have they done?

Well, basically, they have just tried to obstruct. They have spent the entire year on the side of higher taxes, on the side of illegal immigrant criminals, on the side of wasteful spending, and on the side of burdensome regulations. If Democrats had their way, Americans would face the largest tax increase in history. If Democrats had their way, illegal immigrants would get free healthcare. If Democrats had their way, the government would still be shut down.

Republicans are putting more money in people's pockets; we are delivering safer neighborhoods; and we are providing more opportunities. Republicans are going to continue to deliver the safety and the prosperity that the American people want and deserve.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Isaacman nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, after Mayor Mamdani was elected in New York City, the word ''affordability'' became all the buzz among the political classes and among the media as if this were something new. Obviously, affordability is not something new. It has, actually, always been the most important issue that voters and my constituents in Texas and Americans, generally, have felt was important because, of course, it deals with their quality of life and their standard of living. It has always been an important issue.

But, a year ago in November, the American people delivered a clear message that the Biden administration, which presided over 40-year high inflation, was taking the country in the wrong direction. President Trump received the electoral vote and the popular vote, and he won every swing State. Republicans secured majorities in both the House and the Senate.

This year, it has been up to the Republicans to course-correct. One of the most significant factors that has guided us is the need to address the burden of rising costs on everything: inputs into farming and ranching and the cost of commodities—food on the kitchen table. All of these are very real and important and urgent issues that we have tried to address, and there is more we can and should do.

But, under President Biden, the country experienced, as I said, historic levels of inflation not seen since Jimmy Carter was President of the United States. The cumulative inflation from the time President Biden took office until he left was 20.6 percent. Stated another way, everything cost more than 20 percent more from the time President Biden took office to the time he left. That is a huge cut in the standard of living and a huge increase in the cost of living for all Americans.

By the time he left the White House, a typical family in Texas, for example, would have to pay an additional $12,427 every year just to maintain the same standard of living that they had enjoyed when President Biden first took office. So that is like getting a $12,427 pay cut each year for the average Texas family.

Last November, when President Trump was reelected, 58 percent of Americans said they thought the country was on the wrong track. So it is no surprise that they voted for a new direction. Actually, I think two things helped President Trump the most. One was his pledge to secure the border, which he has done. Secondly, it was his pledge to deal with this issue of rising inflation and the increasing cost of living.

President Biden's policy, no doubt, contributed to the pain that families were and still are feeling in their paychecks.

Of course, it is one thing to identify a problem, but it is harder still to do something about it. There is, obviously, no silver bullet that can magically make inflation disappear. The Federal Reserve continues to struggle with this issue when they deal with the monetary policy, with what the interest rates are. The good news is the rate of inflation has gone down, but we still have the higher baseline sticking around from the Biden era. In other words, prices are rising more slowly, but they are still high.

The good news is that Republicans have taken important steps that will help ease the affordability crunch for all Americans, particularly when it comes time to file their taxes next year. The Working Families Tax Cuts Act was signed into law by President Trump on July 4. This is one of the most significant pieces of legislation that we have seen in a long, long time, and one of the challenges we have had in trying to explain it is there is so much in there that it is really hard to break it down into digestible pieces that folks can understand.

The truth is, this legislation will help Americans keep more of what they earn by lowering taxes across the board, and not a single Senate Democrat voted for it. Essentially, by voting against it, they voted for a $3,000 tax increase on most families back in Texas.

The Working Families Tax Cuts Act permanently increased the standard deduction to $15,750, including an annual adjustment for inflation. Without our legislation, the standard deduction would have dropped to $8,300 next year. This means that the 12 million Texas families who claim the standard deduction each year would have had to pay an additional $7,450 in taxes next spring without that legislation having passed. The lower rates from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act from 2017 were set to expire at the end of this year, but the Working Families Tax Cuts bill made these lower rates permanent.

In addition to the increased standard deduction and lower rates across all income brackets, our legislation delivered targeted relief to those who were feeling squeezed the most. One of these groups is families with children. Those with small kids often have to choose between living on one income or incurring the increasingly high cost of childcare. If we hadn't passed the Working Families Tax Cuts bill, these families would have been slapped with a tax increase, with the child tax credit scheduled to decrease from $2,000 to $1,000. Our legislation prevented this from happening. We raised the child tax credit up to $2,200 and indexed it to inflation so that it will continue to go up year after year.

We also permanently strengthened the employer-provided childcare credit. This tax credit will incentivize businesses to provide childcare for their employees.

Of course, for some families, these credits seem like a drop in the bucket compared to the cost of raising a family, but I hope these small steps are a step in the right direction toward making family life more affordable, which we must do.

Another area my colleagues and I have been discussing on both sides of the aisle, which is a real issue for most Texans, is the rising cost of healthcare.

Now, if you have only been listening to our Democratic colleagues, you would be forgiven for thinking Republicans have done nothing to address the cost of healthcare in this country. But that is not true.

In the working families tax cuts, we expanded access to health savings accounts, also known as HSAs. These savings accounts allow individuals to save pretax dollars and then use those funds to cover eligible medical expenses. These accounts are particularly useful in the case of a medical emergency when an unexpected bill arrives.

We expanded eligibility for these health savings accounts to individual bronze market and catastrophic plans starting in 2026. We also ensured that high-deductible health plans cover telehealth and other remote access or virtual healthcare services before the deductible kicks in, while remaining HSA-eligible.

I know we are all concerned about access to healthcare, and actually one of

the biggest, most important things that came out of the COVID pandemic and the way we responded, in addition to Operation Warp Speed, was the broader application of telehealth.

Most places around the country are being served by broadband. Many people have access to the internet. Now we have provided the incentives and the reimbursement for more people to get access to healthcare through the internet using telehealth. Not every medical condition requires people to show up at a hospital or emergency room or a doctor's office. Many people can more conveniently, more inexpensively be served by accessing telehealth, and we made that more available.

Of course, there is a lot more work that needs to be done, and I look forward to working with all of our colleagues next year to continue to develop policy solutions that will lower costs for patients and families. But one of the things we should not and we must not and we will not do is expand the fraud-riddled ObamaCare enhanced subsidies that were provided during the Biden administration.

The Biden administration and Democrats at the time took the cap off of the subsidies for healthcare for people making well in excess of half a million dollars a year. That is crazy. We ought to be focused on the vulnerable, the people who need access to care, and not people who can afford to buy healthcare on their own.

In addition to medical bills, many families struggle to deal with their car payments. You have to have a way to get around. Not everybody has access to mass transportation.

Interest rates have remained high because of the historic levels of inflation during the Biden administration and the efforts by the Federal Reserve to combat that inflation through keeping interest rates high. But these interest rates mean that the monthly loan payments for cars have been higher and that buying a new car for most families is more expensive.

For those making less than $100,000 a year, the working families tax cuts introduced a new deduction that will ease this burden when it comes time to buy a new car. These individuals—those who make less than $100,000 a year—can now deduct up to $10,000 for interest paid on a new vehicle if that vehicle was made here in the United States.

This was a much needed course correction from President Biden's so-called Inflation Reduction Act—which did nothing to reduce inflation, by the way—which offered tax credits for electric vehicles that are produced with reliance on Chinese supply chains and, perversely, taxed low-income and working-class families in order to provide the subsidies for rich people who could buy electric vehicles. Just bizarre.

Instead of incentivizing the purchase of these exotic vehicles that undermine American manufacturing, Republicans are rightly delivering tax relief to the working middle class who are struggling just to make ends meet and, in this case, to afford a new car.

But that is not all. This legislation also delivered a historic win for the working class with no tax on tips and no tax on overtime. Many folks—me included—at some point in their adult lives end up working waiting tables or in some sort of service industry. So the idea now is that more folks working their way up the economic ladder can now enjoy no tax on tips and no tax on overtime, which will actually incentivize people to work more, which we need, without seeing their tax bill go up.

Employees and self-employed individuals can now deduct up to $25,000 in qualified tip income through 2028.

Next time you go to a restaurant or a bar, why don't you ask the waitstaff what they think about President Trump's no tax on tips and no tax on overtime. I have done that, and it is no surprise that they welcomed that with open arms.

Single filers can now deduct up to $12,500 on qualified overtime income. A lot of our law enforcement personnel and first responders work more than one job. They may work a side job in security or something like that. Now, if they choose to work overtime, they can now deduct up to $12,500 in qualified overtime income.

Now seniors can deduct an additional $6,000 on their Social Security benefits.

All of these enhanced deductions will ensure that those who are experiencing the brunt of the affordability burden will have a little more breathing room when tax day comes around next year.

The Biden administration created long-lasting harm with its profligate spending habits. It is wasteful Washington spending which drove inflation and prices high and inputs for everybody who makes anything in America or grows anything, for that matter.

So while we tackle the 40-year high inflation rate—and it is coming down, thankfully—these steps we have taken in the Working Families Tax Cut Act I think will help us nudge the economy where it matters most—which is at the kitchen table—in the right direction and make life more affordable and the standard of living better for our constituents.

The working families tax cuts may seem abstract right now, but when it comes to next year, I think folks back home in Texas, Pennsylvania, California, and all around the country are going to welcome the good work that we did, together with President Trump, to pass the Working Families Tax Cuts Act because it will improve their standard of living and make life more affordable for them.

There is still more work to be done, but I believe Republicans have delivered an important first step toward making life more affordable for the people we represent.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tonight, President Trump will address the Nation on what he claims is a speech on his supposed victories this year.

President Trump can say whatever he wants on camera, but the reality is for Americans across the country that costs are up, unemployment is rising, the holidays are more expensive and stressful than ever, and tariffs are taxing people to no end.

If Donald Trump had any shred of honesty and self-respect and self-insight, he would look into the camera tonight and say to the American people: I have failed you.

I mean, just last week, Donald Trump seriously suggested the one way families can lower costs is for parents to buy their kids fewer toys. What kind of Christmas is that? Donald Trump is like the Grinch—just with a lot more bronzer.

Now, today, Senate Democrats will hold a special caucus lunch to roll out a new initiative to lower costs for the American people and show precisely how Donald Trump and Republicans have made life far more expensive for Americans.

This morning, a report came out that Americans will pay 13 percent more on energy costs than they did last year. In part, why? Because Donald Trump and his obeisant Republicans cut out the cheapest way to get new power and new electrons on the grid—solar energy. They cut it out in obeisance to the oil industry. It was disgraceful.

That is what is wrong with this government—the corruption. The oil industry promises Donald Trump that Harold Hamm will raise him a ton of money, so Trump cuts out clean energy, and these guys went right along with it. The cost of groceries is up. Rent is up. Housing foreclosures are up. Healthcare is about to soar through the roof while Republicans refuse to do anything about it. JOHN THUNE said he doesn't want to extend the ACA tax credits at all. And Americans will pay the price.

Donald Trump and his billionaire buddies and the Republican Senators just don't get it. They don't understand what it is like to struggle to pay for groceries or struggle to keep a roof over your head. They don't know what it is like if your car breaks down and you don't have enough money to fix it and you wonder, how am I going to get to work?

Donald Trump, after all, calls affordability a hoax.

Well, if anything is a hoax, Donald Trump, it has been your promise to lower costs on day one.

The biggest hoax on affordability was Donald Trump's promise to lower costs on day one.

So, today, Democrats are going to come together to do precisely what Republicans refuse to do, fight on behalf

of the American people to lower their costs. We are going to focus on five major issues: healthcare, energy, housing, groceries, and Donald Trump's tariffs. When Americans think about lowering costs, these are five things they think about most, and these are the issues that will be our focus.

Senate Democrats will focus on these five issues like a laser. We will come back to them again and again and again, in the coming weeks, just like we came back to healthcare, over and over and over again, this fall. And the American people know who is on their side when it comes to healthcare costs.

Americans are tired of feeling like the cost of living is a constant crisis. Americans are tired of hearing Donald Trump call their struggles a hoax. Americans didn't sign up for higher grocery costs and more expensive healthcare, but that is what the Republicans and Donald Trump have given them in just 1 year in office.

So Democrats will show the American people another way forward, a way focused on lower costs, more prosperity, and an agenda focused on the working- and middle-class families of America—not the billionaires, not the special interests, not the huge lobbyists who seem to dictate what the Republicans do.

U.S. COAST GUARD

Mr. President, on the Coast Guard swastika, earlier this week, the U.S. Coast Guard enacted a policy downgrading the swastika from its list of recognized hate symbols.

Can you believe it? Can you believe it? The swastika is no longer a recognized hate symbol?

They did this just after the horrible shootings in Sydney and so many other shootings—anti-Semitic shootings—and activities that have been plaguing America.

The new policy of the Coast Guard is shameful. It is dangerous and another troubling instance of the Trump administration normalizing the threat of Nazism and White supremacy.

This policy has all the markings of a dog whistle. It is a ''stand back and stand by'' in the form of an office memo. Not 4 days ago, 15 Jews were slaughtered in cold blood—a beautiful picture of a little 10-year-old girl celebrating the first night of Hanukkah—and a day later, the Trump administration chose to soften its stance against Nazis and swastikas.

Can you believe it? Can it get any lower? Can it get any more insensitive? Can they be any more in a bubble than they are in?

And for the millions of American men and women who served in the Coast Guard, this is an insult to them. How about the Coast Guard members who served during World War II and fought that swastika? Why was this policy change even necessary at all? Why did the administration go out of its way to soften its policies against swastikas of all things?

Today, Republicans will attempt to confirm the Commandant of the Coast Guard by unanimous consent, before the end of the year. If he is to be the head of the Coast Guard, this new nominee must reverse this egregious policy, and I am asking him right now: Change that policy now.

Let's be very clear. If you are a Jew, if your family gave their lives to fight the Nazis in World War II, if you are a minority in any way, there is nothing, nothing potentially divisive about a swastika. It is just about the most unmistakable hate symbol in existence.

Now, this is part of an emerging pattern on the right. Young Republicans were texting about gas chambers. Trump officials were talking about having a Nazi streak. Tucker Carlson interviews Nick Fuentes, and Donald Trump refuses to condemn Fuentes. Yesterday, JD VANCE took to social media to suggest that anti-Semitism only exists because of immigrants.

Where has he been? Does he know the history of anti-Semitism? What an ignorant statement from VANCE. Sometimes you think he must know better, but he doesn't. He just plays along with the rightwing, sucks up to them.

And now, according to the Trump administration, swastikas no longer count as hate symbols within the Coast Guard. This is exactly why I introduced my resolution condemning Nick Fuentes, Tucker Carlson, and neo-Nazism. Neo-Nazism is no longer a fringe or theoretical threat. It is real. It is growing. It threatens our democracy, and every elected official must condemn it forcefully.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, now, on healthcare, there is breaking news this morning—good news—that the discharge petition in the House got the necessary 218 signatures to move forward.

It shows that the demand by the American people for Congress—the House and the Senate—to extend the ACA premium tax credits is undeniable. Yet Republican leaders inside the House and the Senate are making it clear that they are opposed and will be responsible for healthcare costs rising through the roof.

Yesterday, Leader THUNE admitted:

> We're not going to pass anything by the end of this week.

That is a clear admission of failure—a failure to govern, a failure to lower costs for the American people.

The damage has been done, no matter what happens, because, at this point, Republicans have made it impossible to prevent many Americans from paying more on their monthly premiums on January 1. And Republicans can't even say they tried to stop it.

House Republicans, meanwhile, are on the warpath to vote on a rightwing healthcare sham bill, one that doesn't extend the ACA credits a day, doesn't lower premiums, and does absolutely nothing to help people afford coverage.

So let's be very clear. There is only one reason—one reason—Americans' premiums are going through the roof starting in just 14 days: It is because Republicans—Trump, the Republican Senate, the Republican House—chose for it to happen.

VENEZUELA

Mr. President, on Venezuela, yesterday, President Trump announced ''a total and complete'' blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela—another dangerous escalation with no clear plan whatsoever. Donald Trump has offered precisely zero explanations—zero—to the American people for what he is trying to accomplish in the Caribbean.

Most Senate Republicans, meanwhile, appear to have no interest in doing any congressional oversight in a serious way of the administration's military buildup. We have had no serious public congressional hearings on the threat of military conflict off the coast of Venezuela, no public testimony from Defense officials on this issue.

Where are Senate Republicans? Where is the oversight?

The purpose of hearings is to challenge an administration when it may well be going off course, and they certainly seem to be going off course in Venezuela.

Donald Trump talks one way, then another. I have asked some of our leaders: Where is the limit to how far they will go? No answer. Could this be getting us into an endless war?

The American people fear that above most other things, maybe all things. That is why we need oversight, and the Senate Republicans are nowhere.

Meanwhile, the briefing we had, yesterday, with Secretary Rubio and Hegseth was utterly disappointing. The administration walked into the room totally empty-handed. They gave us no real answers about what the objective is in the Caribbean. Hegseth also refused to give Senators full access to the video of the September 2 strikes.

The same, same lack of transparency that is affecting the September 2 video is affecting our whole policy in the Caribbean and with Venezuela—no oversight, no plan, no discussion with either the Senate, the House, or the American people. That is what leads to trouble—big trouble.

Let's be very clear. Donald Trump does not have the authority to use military force to carry out his current plans in the Caribbean, without authorization from Congress. If Trump acts without congressional authorization, the Senate stands ready with a bipartisan resolution—led by Senator KAINE, myself, Senators PAUL and SCHIFF—preventing the unauthorized use of force.

TRIBUTE TO GERMAN VAZQUEZ

Mr. President, finally, let's say goodbye to German Vazquez—a very special good-bye to one of the Senate's unsung heroes, German Vazquez, who will retire soon, after 28 incredible years of service.

The public may not know German, but every single Senator knows him. You see his face, and you smile. You

can always find him near the Chamber, working as a doorkeeper, at the elevators, or up in the Gallery. No matter the role, he is professional, warm, and a positive presence that makes the Senate come to life.

He has been wonderful to our staffs, as well—kind, steady, and generous in the way that matters every day in a place like this.

So, German, on behalf of all of us in the Senate, thank you, thank you, thank you. Godspeed on your next adventure, and we wish you and your family all the best.

I yield the floor.

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

S. 1071

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, at the beginning of every year, the White House, on behalf of the President of the United States, and the Department of Defense come to Congress with a request. They come to Congress as a coequal branch of government to ask that we, Congress, authorize and appropriate the funding they need to defend our Nation and to protect our national interests on the world stage. And that request traditionally includes a justification and a rationale for the proposed plan.

For over 60 years, Congress has met its responsibilities, not by rubberstamping the Department of Defense's requests but by, yes, identifying areas of agreement, identifying and negotiating or saying no to areas of disagreement, and, ultimately, passing, on a bipartisan basis, what we refer to as the National Defense Authorization Act, the final product reflecting the priorities of both Congress and the White House for protecting our Nation. That is how it normally works.

But make no mistake, this year is anything but normal. What we have seen just 1 year into this second Trump administration is the destruction of eight decades of bipartisan foreign policy consensus and the destruction of postwar alliances that have kept Americans safe for generations.

And we have seen growing abuses of power meant to enrich Donald Trump and his allies. And as best as I can tell, the Trump doctrine in his second term is a transactional national security and foreign policy, not of values but to the highest bidder.

Under Trump, the United States has pulled away from NATO and grown closer to authoritarian dictators like Xi, Kim, and Putin, who Trump idolizes. He has engaged in repeated hostilities against our closest European democratic allies and cozied up to anyone who will shower him with gifts or praise or both.

He is enabling Russia's plans to carve up Ukraine, a catastrophic decision that will only encourage future aggression and pain for innocent civilians.

He has even threatened to forcibly annex Greenland from our ally Denmark.

And, earlier this month, the Trump administration released its new National Security Strategy.

And some folks may wonder: What is the National Security Strategy document?

It is a blueprint that provides strategic guidance for the administration. It sets priorities and articulates a vision for achieving them—or at least it should.

Trump's strategy rejects leading with democratic values in favor of making short-term, transactional alliances. It is a complete abandonment of the idea that democracies should stand together against authoritarian governments.

And while it is foolish and shortsighted, it is also not surprising to hear Defense Secretary Hegseth recently declare, at the Reagan Defense Forum, an end to what he calls ''idealistic utopianism,'' while calling for a renewed focus on the Western Hemisphere.

So what exactly does a renewed focus on the Western Hemisphere look like for the Trump administration?

So far it has meant bombing alleged drug traffickers in the Caribbean and Pacific, on shaky legal grounds—so shaky they won't release the legal opinion that they are using to try to justify it.

Now, just this week, we heard the White House Chief of Staff—the White House Chief of Staff—admit on the record that Donald Trump ''wants to keep on blowing boats up until Maduro cries uncle.''

Folks, the fact of the matter is, Congress has not declared war, nor has Congress authorized the use of military force in Latin America. Do you want to have that debate? Let's have that debate. Let's put that up for a vote if you agree, but that has not happened yet. And we know the American people overwhelmingly oppose a military campaign there as well.

But every week—it doesn't matter—Donald Trump keeps testing us to see just how much he can get away with, threatening now a land invasion of Venezuela and even seizing an oil tanker off its coast. Now, if this were solely about stopping drug traffickers, I don't think there would be disagreement or objection here to a law enforcement-based approach to do exactly that. Of course, we want to stop drug trafficking. But the Trump administration seemingly can't decide if it wants to be crime fighters or warmongers, and they have decided to use the U.S. military to bomb their way through the Caribbean either way.

And that is the larger point here. Donald Trump wants unchallenged use of the military to achieve his every whim and every grievance—even when it means violating our international norms, betraying our allies, and violating the Constitution. How is that going to make us any safer?

If we can't be trusted in Europe and if we are manufacturing conflicts in Central or South America, who would want to work with us in the future? And if the United States won't respect international law, why should we expect other countries to do so?

But somehow, even more shocking, is what is happening domestically. Donald Trump is politicizing our servicemembers both by word and by deed. He has diverted military resources away from numerous—numerous—critical missions for his chaotic and violent mass deportation campaign. He has federalized and deployed National Guard troops in American cities against our own citizens in violation of the law.

That is why just last Friday the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered National Guard troops off the streets of Los Angeles, ruling the deployment was unlawful. But that won't stop Trump from targeting States and cities led by Democratic Governors and mayors for speaking out against his power grabs.

Now, just imagine if President Biden would have federalized and deployed troops into Florida or Texas to combat gun violence. Republicans would be beside themselves. They would be apoplectic.

Finally, when six of our colleagues published a video reminding servicemembers of their oath to the Constitution of the United States and reminding servicemembers about their obligation to refuse unlawful orders, Trump called that ''seditious behavior, punishable by death.'' And he demanded that the FBI and top Defense officials investigate them and intimidate them.

This President is trying to corrupt the military for his own personal gain and to silence all opposition. He is pushing the legal limits of his authority.

But through all those unprecedented and dangerous decisions, what has been the response from the Republican majority in Congress—both the House and the Senate? ''Sir. Yes, sir.'' Maybe not quite, but their silence has equaled acquiescence. Congress, under this Republican majority, is nowhere near acting like the ''equal branch of government'' that it is.

Let's just look at the record from this past year. Congress, not just once but twice, failed to pass a War Powers Resolution and assert its constitutional authority in response to the escalating attacks in the Caribbean. In reaction to the controversial double-tap strike against survivors in the Caribbean, the Defense Department has refused to release videos so the American people can see for themselves what played out. And if it is too sensitive to release to the American public, then at least show it to all Members of the Senate, even if it is in a secure classified setting. But the Defense Department refuses to do even that.

Meanwhile, congressional committees have failed to conduct our oversight responsibility and to demand it from the administration. With each

passing day, Donald Trump continues to use the Department of Defense as an extension of his administration's border enforcement apparatus. Republicans have cheered him on the whole way, abdicating their responsibility to this institution, to their constituents, and to their oath of office.

And even with a majority party bending to his will, the Trump administration is still floating proposals to blow up the bipartisan Defense appropriations process altogether and pursue a party-line reconciliation bill instead.

Colleagues, this is the President doing everything he can to build unquestioned power over our military and a Republican Party that refuses to challenge him.

At a time when the Trump administration is abusing its power, destroying our standing in the world, deploying troops against our own people, the annual Defense authorization bill offers an important opportunity. It is an opportunity to hold this administration accountable, not just out of responsibility to our constituents but to the Constitution and to this coequal branch of government.

Mr. President, $900 billion is a lot to rubberstamp, and I refuse to hand this administration any more tools to enrich themselves and undermine our national security and our standing in the world. So for these reasons, I will be voting no on this year's NDAA and encourage all of you to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled rollcall vote: Myself for up to 10 minutes, Senator WICKER for up to 10 minutes.

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

The Senator from Washington.

WASHINGTON STATE WEATHER

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in favor of the nomination of Jared Isaacman to be the next NASA Administrator, but first, I want to make a few comments about the unbelievable weather events that are impacting the Pacific Northwest.

We have had, as many people have seen from national news, atmospheric rivers and unbelievable rain impacting many of our rivers in the western part of Washington—reaching record levels and above record levels and impacting flooding throughout the region.

We, obviously, had another weather event last night, and the last couple of days have had what some people described as 50 to 60 miles per hour winds that ultimately, in some places in the State, were recorded at 90 miles per hour winds. So, this morning, we are facing 350,000 people who are without power and a blizzard on the way.

And, while I think that some people think, well, it is a very mountainous area and you should probably have severe winter weather, not really in the history of our State. I think we have only had a few lowland blizzards in the whole history of our State. So the fact that now a blizzard is on the way, on top of the record flooding and the flooding events still predicted to come back to record cresting of many of our rivers, is making it a very challenging time for the State of Washington.

So we certainly appreciate all the first responders, all the law enforcement that are working in the community, all the work that the Governor's office is doing, all the work that we are—a partnership we are now getting from FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Homeland Security to try to address this as a national emergency and clearly to try to gather information about the direct economic impacts in hopes that we will get support for these issues.

We have had a border crossing, that that was closed and certainly is still closed to commercial traffic. We have one of our major highways, Highway 2, that the Governor has now announced will be closed for months, greatly impacting transportation and trade within our region. We have other routes across the Cascades duly impacted.

So I can say that there are some positive stories out of this, that coordination, that actually things that mitigated and adapted with a levee system to prevent some of the record amount of rain from doing even more damage have been successful. I am sure that we will all share this with our colleagues in the future, but right now, we need continued help and focus in the State of Washington, given these severe weather impacts. And again, I appreciate those Federal Agencies who are helping: FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

NOMINATION OF JARED ISAACMAN

Mr. President, I support the Isaacman nomination. In fact, I supported him the first time he was nominated. He was not pushed through the Senate, not the usual path for somebody to be nominated, and then their nomination reversed, but then supported again by the President. But I do believe Mr. Isaacman is capable of successfully navigating the challenges facing the Agency.

I want to take a minute and thank Secretary Duffy for serving as an excellent steward of NASA during his tenure where we had an acting Administrator. I hope the experience is giving the Secretary an increased appreciation for the expertise and research capabilities that NASA brings to bear in developing technology to protect aviation safety and the competitiveness of our aeronautics sector.

That is clearly an important missing aspect of the FAA—having the best technology and the best understanding of how that technology impacts aviation safety. So I support more partnerships here. I also want to highlight a key decision that Secretary Duffy made that I believe is important to our national leadership in human space exploration.

In September, witnesses told the Commerce Committee that the SpaceX lunar lander would not be ready to put Americans back on the Moon, either in 2027 or 2028. This would almost certainly mean we would lose the race to the Moon to China, which was unacceptable. In response, Secretary Duffy directed NASA to reopen the competition for the Artemis lunar landing mission to ensure that a lander can be ready by the end of 2028, and I believe this was a correct decision, and I am pleased that our nominee Mr. Isaacman agrees.

I would also like to note that Secretary Duffy came to NASA in a particularly perilous time for the Agency, as evidenced in a whistleblower report that my office released in September. Before Secretary Duffy arrived, OMB Director Vought had been pushing NASA to implement dangerous cuts in the President's proposed budget proposal for fiscal year 2026, disregarding the law and the impacts on NASA's mission and safety.

As my colleagues know, the President's budget request called for cutting NASA's budget nearly a quarter, its workforce by nearly a third, and its science funding by half. Simply put, this is not the way we are going to win the race to the Moon or accomplish anything else enduring, for that matter.

Fortunately, I believe Mr. Isaacman recognizes that some of the most talented people in America work at NASA. I know the Presiding Officer agrees with this, and that we need to be investing in NASA's mission, not gutting them. During his nomination process, Mr. Isaacman emphasized the importance of developing a pipeline of future scientists, engineers, researchers, and astronauts to support the science and technology development and align with NASA's objectives. I strongly agree.

I look forward to working with Administrator Isaacman on the future STEM talent with both NASA and more broadly with the aerospace and innovation sector. Fair questions have been raised about Mr. Isaacman's Project Athena strategic plan, which was drafted in May and leaked to the press. I have asked Mr. Isaacman about this plan.

In response, he told me the plan was intended to be a proposed approach to collecting data and information from NASA and the space community, serving as a starting point in an in-depth conversation with NASA's management employees on how to ensure NASA remains the world's preeminent aerospace and technology organization.

Mr. Isaacman assured me that this plan was not part of a misguided effort to sell off capacities or slash the workforce or have reckless actions like DOGE had proposed earlier. He promised to share with us the results of the study and analysis with Congress and to engage in a dialog with the committee before doing any implementation. I take Mr. Isaacman at his word,

and I do look forward to working with him on these particular promises.

So, Mr. President, I know you are a huge supporter of Mr. Isaacman and have helped promote his renomination. We are here now with an important mission between this institution and what our national objectives are in going back to the Moon. I am optimistic that Mr. Isaacman will bring a steady hand and clear vision to NASA.

I hope we can partner together, all of us, to achieve this incredible thing for the American people. I know it is time for us to return to the Moon, and there is much at stake with international competition.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting Mr. Isaacman on the floor.

S. 1071

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, every year, Congress considers the National Defense Authorization Act which has critical investments in our national defense, including in Maryland. In my State, tens of thousands of military personnel and civilians work at military installations and in the defense sector, driving innovation and research to advance our defense. The NDAA governs this work and provides essential support to our servicemembers and veterans.

But at this moment, we are at an inflection point in the United States. We are witnessing increasingly authoritarian actions by President Trump and his administration. The President is using tools of government to pressure and silence dissenting voices, terrorize communities, lead our Nation into conflict without congressional authority, and undermine institutions critical to our democracy.

As I noted during Senate consideration of the NDAA a few months ago, the President has played politics with our Nation's military and tried to use them to advance his authoritarian agenda, be it here at home or abroad. He has deployed the National Guard to the District of Columbia, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Chicago and has attempted to deploy the National Guard to Portland. These deployments are a flagrant violation of U.S. law, including the Posse Comitatus Act, as noted in recent court decisions. Not only have these deployments created chaos in American cities and communities, they have also pulled the military away from its mission and expended funds meant to defend our Nation. Senator WARREN and I, along with several other colleagues, put out a report that outlines how the Pentagon has diverted at least $2 billion from its core missions to support the President's mass deportation agenda.

The President's decision in DC and others cities to activate the National Guard without the recipient State Governor's or mayor's consent is why I offered an amendment to the Senate version of the NDAA to block the President from deploying the National Guard to a State, or the District of Columbia, if that State's Governor, or the DC Mayor, objects. Unfortunately, the effort failed, and this bill does not prevent the President's efforts to militarize American streets.

And abroad, Trump has resurrected a policy of a bygone era: the Trump version of the Monroe Doctrine, carrying out an illegal airstrike campaign against boats in international waters, which have been flagrant violations of both U.S. and international law, and can only be seen as extrajudicial killings amounting to state-sanctioned murder. Trump has pursued these actions not to stop ''narco-terrorists,'' as the administration claims, but as a pretext to start a regime change war in Venezuela. There is simply no evidence that these vessels posed an imminent threat, nor is there an active armed conflict between the United States and Venezuela. The Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war, making the President's acts flat out illegal. Trump's warmongering with Venezuela, including the recent declaration of a blockade on oil tankers from Venezuela is not about stopping drug traffickers. The real goal is regime change and to grab Venezuelan oil and gas reserves for the President's billionaire friends.

These escalating abuses demonstrate an administration increasingly willing to sidestep the law using military force. They also underscore my broader concern about unchecked increases in defense spending, despite the Pentagon's repeated audit failures, including in November 2024. From FY 2021 to FY 2025, defense authorizations rose from $740 billion to $895 billion, a 21 percent increase, and this bill would raise that to $900.6 billion, approximately $8 billion more than the President's budget request. That excludes the July 2025 reconciliation bill, which added over $150 billion in mandatory spending. We need to more carefully examine how our defense spending increases year after year, seemingly without fail, and demand the same accountability from the Department of Defense as from every other Agency.

In addition to these concerns, embedded within this legislation is a provision that walks back a key National Transportation Safety Board recommendation implemented in the wake of the deadly air collision between a commercial airplane and a U.S. Army helicopter near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, DCA, specifically that military aircraft in the area broadcast their location to other aircraft using the most effective collision avoidance technology available. It also allows the military to waive their own requirements for usage of any collision avoidance technology in the DCA area. The inclusion of these provisions is unconscionable when families are still grieving, and the airspace congestion has not improved.

I also remain concerned by the Trump administration's actions to weaken the merit-based civil service across the Federal Government, including at the Department of Defense. One such action was a recently issued executive order that misuses national security exemptions, expanding them to cover two-thirds of the Federal workforce, including many civilian employees at DOD who have long been protected by collective bargaining. For decades, collective bargaining agreements at DOD have enhanced transparency and allowed employees to perform their work free from political interference. The Trump administration's move to limit these protections undermines employee trust and could harm the DOD's ability to maintain a skilled workforce. The bill before us strips out a House-passed bipartisan amendment to restore collective bargaining rights of DOD employees.

I appreciate that the NDAA process each year gives us the opportunity to conduct oversight, update our defense policy, and assert congressional prerogatives. This bill does include important provisions, including an increase in pay for servicemembers, investments in research, and reauthorization of the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. It includes a provision I worked on to ensure continued public access to Greenbury Point near the Naval Academy and my efforts with Senator KENNEDY to protect investors from foreign insider trading. And there are provisions that will assist in future oversight by requiring the Department of Defense to share more information with Congress.

But these are not ordinary times. We must go farther to stand up to an administration that is currently diverting the military to conduct local law enforcement operations. That is conducting unlawful military operations in service of regime change and threatening further actions, including troops on the ground.

Our military is meant to protect and defend our homeland and our citizens, not carry out actions against them. It must be governed by the rule of law, not undermine it. I am opposing the NDAA because we must do more to rein in these abuses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Our colleagues in the House of Representatives have passed this year's National Defense Authorization Act, and we are about to follow suit. This will be the 65th year in a row—the 65th consecutive year—that Congress has come together across the aisle and across two Chambers to send the President a bill designed to sustain and strengthen the national defense.

Everyone in this Senate played a role. I want to thank all 99 of my colleagues. First among them, I thank JACK REED, the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who has been a steadfast partner. I also express my gratitude to the other distinguished members of the committee from both sides of the aisle who worked hard to shape this legislation.

In July, the Senate Armed Services Committee approved the committee

version of the bill on a vote of 26 to 1. The bill at that time contained 985 items formulated by our fellow Members. Over the next few months, we continued working across this body to add amendments.

Our September substitute amendment had 20 Republican, 20 Democrat, and 9 bipartisan amendments. The second managers' package was similarly bipartisan.

In October, we considered the NDAA amid stark partisan divide during the longest Federal shutdown in the history of our Republic. Nevertheless, during that shutdown, this body came together to pass this very important legislation. We debated amendments, and we improved on the bill, and we approved it. We passed the NDAA after 14 rollcall votes and 9 voice votes. For once, we did it in prime time, finishing around 9 p.m. It cleared this Chamber by a vote of 77 to 20. We sent a strong bill to the House of Representatives, and it had the clear backing of a huge majority of this body.

Now that negotiations between Chambers have concluded, we have a bill that provides for the common defense, as the Constitution requires. This NDAA helps us align the priorities of the U.S. military with the threats of today, and they are serious—serious threats from the People's Republic of China and the entire axis of aggressors that it leads and partners with. It makes warfighting a top priority of the Department, and it reinforces a culture of merit in the Armed Forces.

Servicemembers will receive a 3.8-percent pay raise. We expanded initiatives that will reinforce President Trump's recruiting surge, and we supercharged our efforts to rebuild the American defense industrial base.

Let me talk about that for a moment. This legislation reforms decades of bureaucratic inefficiency in the Pentagon's acquisition process. It contains numerous elements of my bill, the Fostering Reform and Government Efficiency in Defense Act, more easily known as the FORGED Act.

We are about to pass and the President will enthusiastically sign the most sweeping upgrades to DOD's business practices in 60 years. This is a monumental achievement.

The 21st century poses threats that will require the most creative and innovative defenses. Americans are already building the technology to meet those threats, and these reforms will help the Pentagon tap into that energetic innovation ecosystem.

Secretary Hegseth and his staff have been strong partners in these efforts as we seek to implement our shared peace through strength agenda with President Trump. Our reforms, plus our increased defense investments, will enable us to achieve that vision. Through this bill, we will continue revitalizing the defense industrial base—an absolute requirement during these dangerous times.

I am thankful to all of my colleagues for putting in the work to make this bill good for our servicemembers and for national security. It succeeds because it is driven by Members across this body.

I am, as I said, especially grateful to the ranking member, JACK REED. He is himself a distinguished veteran, a patriot, a statesman, and a great partner in this work.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the staunch partnership we have with our House counterparts: Chairman MIKE ROGERS and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH. That goes, too, for the many other committee chairs and ranking members who worked so hard all year to include crucial legislation in this National Defense Authorization Act.

Speaking of great partners, I want to specifically thank my soon-to-be-retired staff director John Keast. John has been with me for the better part of three decades now—since I first ran for Congress in 1994. He will be retiring from the Senate in January to return to Mississippi, where his family lives, and to pursue new opportunities.

This bill, this 65th NDAA in a row, would not have been possible without John Keast. His work ethic, his sound advice, and his partnership with his Democrat counterpart Liz King—all were essential. We could not have achieved this bill without his tireless leadership.

I want to thank him and the rest of my staff who have labored long days and nights and weekends—Saturdays and Sundays—to get this legislation done. They include Adam Barker, Kristina Belcourt, Jonathan Bowen, Leah Brewer, Levi Brunt, Luke Chaney, Glen Diehl, Cody Emerson, Marty Fromuth, Megan Galindo, Mike Gerhart, Anna Given, Meredith Gravatte, Madeline Guenther, Isaac Jalkanen, Lauren Johnson, Katie Karam, Greg Lilly, Eric Lofgren, Katie Magnus, Jonathan Moore, Katie Stanton, Sophie Schloegel, Mike Tokar, Eric Trager, Adam Trull, Mike Urena, Dave Vasquez, Christina Sandstedt—who has been give privileges of the floor this very day—Julia Wood, Terry Miller, Emily Yetter, Dan Hillenbrand, Beth Spivey, Brendan Gavin, Brad Patout, Rick Berger, and, as I said before, my adviser and personal friend John Keast.

That is a lot of names and a lot of effort and a lot of talent. That is just the members on my side of the aisle.

I thank them all, and I thank this Senate and our friends in the House for coming together in the spirit of patriotism and comity to get this very important quantum leap in our defense accomplished.

With that said, let's begin the vote and take the next step to rebuild America's national defense.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the motion to concur with the Senate amendment No. 3961.

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

The motion to concur with amendment is withdrawn.

The amendment No. 3962 falls.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur to House amendment to S. 1071.

Mr. WICKER. 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 executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 648 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Alsobrooks	Graham	Mullin
Baldwin	Hagerty	Murkowski
Banks	Hassan	Ossoff
Barrasso	Hawley	Peters
Blackburn	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Blunt Rochester	Hirono	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Rosen
Britt	Husted	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Schumer
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kelly	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	King	Slotkin
Cramer	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Luján	Tillis
Curtis	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warnock
Fetterman	McCormick	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moody	Wicker
Gallego	Moran	Young
Gillibrand	Moreno	

NAYS—20

Bennet	Merkley	Schiff
Booker	Murphy	Smith
Cantwell	Murray	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Padilla	Warren
Kim	Paul	Welch
Lee	Sanders	Wyden
Markey	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—3

Coons	Ernst	Grassley

(Mr. RICKETTS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The yeas are 77, the nays are 20.

The motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1071 is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

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. 593, Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Joni Ernst, Markwayne Mullin, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, John Barrasso, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz, John Kennedy, Deb Fischer.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Mr. ERNST) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 649 Leg.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Graham	Moreno
Banks	Hagerty	Mullin
Barrasso	Hassan	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Heinrich	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schiff
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kelly	Shaheen
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Kim	Slotkin
Crapo	King	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville
Durbin	Marshall	Warner
Fetterman	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	McCormick	Young
Gallego	Moody	
Gillibrand	Moran	

NAYS—30

Alsobrooks	Luján	Sanders
Bennet	Markey	Schatz
Blumenthal	Merkley	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Murphy	Smith
Booker	Murray	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Ossoff	Warnock
Duckworth	Padilla	Warren
Hickenlooper	Peters	Welch
Hirono	Reed	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Coons	Ernst	Grassley

(Mr. RICKETTS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—THE CALENDAR

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the American people understand to varying degrees but have a general understanding of the fact that the work we do here in the Senate is a combination of things.

Some of the things that we address are controversial. Some of them make the daily or evening news or the cover of the newspaper the next day. Those tend to be the things that are more controversial, things on which there might be sharp disagreements, sometimes sharply divided down partisan lines, reflected based on where one's desk sits in relation to the center aisle of this Chamber.

Other times, there might be controversy, but the controversy doesn't cut cleanly across party lines. We might have some Republicans and some Democrats on one side or the other.

In many instances—maybe not enough but, mercifully, there are many instances—there is not only not much controversy but no controversy at all.

There is a significant amount of legislation that passes through this Chamber every single year unanimously, without a single ''no'' vote. Some of this, to be sure, might recognize the naming of a post office or it might recognize—I don't know—''National Sofa Care Month,'' if there is such a thing. Others deal with discrete, local issues—issues that, while important to a select few people who live around, for example, a particular piece of land owned by the Federal Government and might be affected by the land management policy associated with that parcel, are very important to that local population but might be completely unknown not only to people on the other side of the country but even to people in other parts of that same State.

There is a fair amount of legislation that moves through the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources—a committee that I currently chair—that fits into each of these categories: controversial bills where there is a sharp Republican-Democratic divide; bills that have some controversy that cut across party lines; and, yes, mercifully, this other category of noncontroversial votes without a single substantive objection.

The American people understand that there will be opposition to a lot of pieces of legislation, but they also, justifiably, expect us to consider and pass bills on their merits. As to this category of bills that are important to some, unknown to most, and controversial to no one, well, they expect us to get those passed in a timely fashion.

I am trying to do this quickly, expeditiously, and to do it in the right way.

Now, I tried doing it the right way—the same way I am going to try today—back in May, on the 22nd of May. I tried to do it the right way again on July 29. I tried doing it the right way again, 2 weeks ago. This will be my fourth attempt to try to pass a small handful of extremely noncontroversial bills that already passed this Chamber unanimously, without a single ''no'' vote in the last Congress, at the end of last year, and that have moved forward from the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—again, without opposition from either side of the aisle, from any Senator—earlier this year.

Each of these times, I have received an objection from the Democratic side of the aisle. At no point have I heard a single substantive objection to any of these bills in this category that I have tried to pass through this procedure—a procedure which is well-worn and which exists for exactly this circumstance. You know, across multiple committees—certainly within the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—there is a lot of legislation that falls into that category.

We are told repeatedly that there are simply too many bills for the Senate to consider individually. This is often the case. And it is often the case, in particular, that for a bill that has no opposition, for a bill that is very important to a population of people within a particular State as to a discrete issue—it might be important or interesting to literally no one else in any other State or in other parts of the same State—we are told that these bloated bills that sometimes get combined, which are multiple pieces of legislation, sometimes amounting to thousands of pages at a time, can become a necessary evil to accommodate all of the small lands bills important to our States.

I am here to tell you that this is simply not the case. It certainly need not be the case here, and it isn't.

Now, had we moved these bills each time I have been on the floor this year, we certainly would have already been able to make significant progress in clearing the backlog, so that we could deal with this problem that many people cite as a reason we would need a massive, all-or-nothing, bloated, sewn-together lands package—take it or leave it, all or nothing.

If we really need the bills passed, why can't we start, at least, with the low-hanging fruit?

I have no delusions that this makes everything easy. It certainly doesn't, as there is a lot of this process that can be difficult. But we ought to start with the bills that are noncontroversial,

that have yet to receive a single substantive objection on their merits, and that are things that we all agree on.

Why can't we move the bills that have already passed unanimously, that have already been vetted in committee this year and last year, and that passed on the Senate floor without a single ''no'' vote last year?

Why come down here and object, over and over again, to bills that are noncontroversial?

Well, sometimes this is the muscle memory that can start to evolve, that can start to take hold within this body. But it need not be this way; it ought not be this way, as it doesn't lead to good decisions. If this is how we treat the things that are noncontroversial, it is going to make the things where there is some debate, some opposition, some dissent more difficult and, as to the stuff that is sharply partisan, impossible.

If you have a bill that you know can't pass on its own, well then, what do you do?

Well, perhaps what you want to do is pair it with a bunch of other bills that are themselves noncontroversial, hoping that it won't get noticed or hoping that there will be enough other Senators who will say: I guess we have to take it or leave it; so let's let it all pass.

They might say: Are you really going to sink all of this important work just for one section of this much larger bill that you disagree with?

Well, look, taken to its logical conclusion and repeated, over and over again, and applied even to noncontroversial bills, this ends up being sort of extortive in its effect, and it doesn't produce a good outcome—not for people of either party, not for people of either legislative Chamber, and, certainly, not for the American people.

Just yesterday, we were able to do some things on the floor the right way. Senator SULLIVAN came to the floor and passed his bill to extend the deadline for Alaska Native Vietnam-era vets to claim the land allotments that they earned through their service. This was only after Democrats—including my friend and colleague the distinguished senior Senator from New Mexico, Senator HEINRICH—had objected to it twice. But his bill—Senator SULLIVAN's legislation that I just mentioned—is now headed to the President's desk to be signed into law. Now, there is no reason that that success that we tasted, just yesterday afternoon, can't continue here with similarly situated, similarly noncontroversial, unanimously passed bills.

So, again, I have got four bills that I will be asking unanimous consent to pass here today. They include S. 1084, which is the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act of 2025. This bill, sponsored by Senator HOEVEN, passed last year with unanimous support and would authorize equal value exchanges to enable the State of North Dakota to manage its own State lands.

S. 1142 is the Scarper Ridge Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act. This bill, sponsored by Senator PADILLA, passed last year and would make a minor boundary adjustment to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. It is entirely noncontroversial.

S. 1016 is the Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act. This bill, sponsored by Senator WICKER, is a minor but important boundary adjustment to the park, and it passed last year with unanimous support.

S. 603, sponsored by Senator KAINE, designates the George C. Marshall House in Virginia as an affiliated area within the National Park System. It is simply allowing them to be affiliated with the National Park Service. This bill also passed with unanimous support.

What do these bills have in common? Well, they are bipartisan. They all passed the body unanimously, without a single ''no'' vote in the last Congress. I have heard zero substantive objections on the merits to any single one of these bills.

I stand ready to work with any Member—Republican or Democrat—to move their bills off the floor, especially with regard to these noncontroversial bills.

We can get this done. We can work through this broken process. It need not be broken, especially as to this category of bills. This is the easy stuff. Let's not make the easy stuff hard, lest we incur the risk of making the harder stuff impossible.

So to that end, Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc; further, that the bills, as amended, if amended, where applicable, be considered read a third time and passed en bloc and that motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc: S. 1084, North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act of 2025 from Senator HOEVEN; S. 1142, the Scarper Ridge Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act from Senator PADILLA; S. 1016, the Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act with a substitute amendment from Senator WICKER; and S. 603, to designate the General George C. Marshall House in the Commonwealth of Virginia from Senator KING.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as I have said a number of times now, I am not willing to send Democratic bills to the House without an agreement to get them through the House and to the President's desk.

Just last week, we saw the House pass a Senate Republican bill without the Senate Democratic bill that it had been paired with. Both bills are bipartisan; both even have a budget score, and yet the Democratic bill sits with no plan to get it signed into law.

We need to pass bills over here in a way that ensures that both Republican and Democratic priorities and bills become law.

In addition, I do have substantive concerns with S. 1084. I was not the ranking member of the previous Congress, but it would give away public land without an equal value exchange or payment for conservation of other public land.

The public is simply left out of the equation. That is not something I can support, and I am certainly willing to work with the bill's sponsor on finding a path forward. But in its current form, I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I appreciate my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from New Mexico, who has a genuine concern. It is a worthy concern, and it is a concern that I share in the sense that I want to make sure that both Democrats and Republicans serving in this body on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, when they submit these bills—particularly bills in this category that I described that have passed unanimously in this body—be given ample opportunity for consideration and passage over in the House of Representatives.

He is understandably concerned about the possibility of Republican and Democratic bills being sent over together, only to discover after the fact, that the Democratic bills would languish. I understand that concern. I am deeply sympathetic to it.

And it is because I share that concern—and not in spite of it—that I believe this is the way we ought to do things. This is the way we do things elsewhere in the Senate where we have got noncontroversial legislation. Let's move them forward. Now, we have moved them forward. You have seen pairings here; Democratic bills brought to the floor, not stitched together surgically in one legislative package but paper-clipped together in one stack so that we are presenting them for unanimous consent passage at the same time but not as part of the same legislation.

Why do we do this rather than the other way?

Understanding the legitimacy of his concerns, we want to make sure that bills in this category, in particular, receive fair consideration regardless of whether there is a Democrat or Republican sponsor of the bill.

No. 1, our House counterpart committee and others within the House of Representatives have told us that not only is this their preference—that they would rather have them paper-clipped and not stitched together as one bill but sent over as separate bills—they

said this will actually expedite, facilitate their ability to get them passed, whether they are introduced by Republicans or Democrats in the House or in the Senate.

Not always, by the way, is a Democrat bill here a Democrat bill on the other side of the Capitol. Sometimes it switches. But regardless, even for the bills that are introduced by a Democrat here and a Democrat there, these bills are considered—and we have been told over and over again by those with responsibility over this, they have got a better chance of passing separately than they would if we start stitching them together.

In their view, as they have told me repeatedly, it will hinder—not expedite or facilitate—their chances of being passed if we surgically stitch them together in one bill.

There are a number of reasons for this, including the fact that the laws of gravity don't always operate the same way here as they do on the other side of the Capitol. Sometimes a bill that can move through over here without a single objection might draw some opposition on the other side of the Capitol for reasons that can be difficult to predict.

In any event, there is a great safeguard in all of this in the way the House of Representatives passes this—and I think this is inherent in why it is that they want them as separate bills that can be paper-clipped together for purposes of getting it passed by unanimous consent over here—over there.

When they do it over there, they use a procedure in the House known as suspension of the rules. Under suspension of the rules, you have got to have 290 votes to pass it rather than a simple majority of 218 votes. That feature ends up replicating, to a significant degree, the effect of the cloture standard over here such that it has got to be bipartisan. So they can't afford to—and therefore don't on bills like this—favor Republican bills over Democrat bills.

Now, my friend and colleague the distinguished Senator from New Mexico noted a moment ago that his concerns are already materializing and that they are neglecting Democrat bills in the House while preferencing Republican bills.

I don't see this. In fact, to the contrary. Within the last week, the House of Representatives has passed multiple bills—I believe it was three or four bills—introduced by Democrats; Democrat bills run through the suspension of the rules calendar passed this week.

They are not depreferencing them. And from what I have heard from multiple credible sources on the other side of the Capitol, this is because of the way the suspension of the rules practice works over there. They don't, in part, because they can't get these passed if they preference Republican bills and depreference Democrat bills in this respect.

Look, at the end of the day, we have to remember that a lot of what this Chamber does operates by means of unanimous consent, certainly in scheduling votes, scheduling just about anything. Heck, scheduling what time we are going to go to lunch or adjourn for the evening until the next day requires unanimous consent.

But a lot of legislation we pass gets done that way, too, and thank Heaven above that it can. If we can't do the easy stuff this way, the harder stuff becomes much more difficult. And the really tough stuff, the stuff that still needs to get done—things like permitting reform, for example, where on both sides of the aisle you have strong opinions, you have a strong desire overall to see that permitting reform gets accomplished, you have somewhat differing ideas on what must be in there and what must not be included—things like that that are very important to the public but that are by no means noncontroversial become far more difficult to impossible.

Let's get the easy stuff done. We did it yesterday afternoon. We can do it again. I will be back as I am determined to push these bills forward, Republican and Democrat. And if we tie them together surgically in one bill, it will impair their passage, Republican and Democratic alike. We don't need to do that here. We ought not. This is unfortunate, but I will be back soon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

REMEMBERING NORMAN PODHORETZ

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I am sad to share that Norman Podhoretz, a towering figure of American letters and politics, passed away last night.

Not many men change the course of history. Those who do usually do it through their actions, like GEN Ulysses Grant's brilliant military campaigns in the Civil War. Fewer still do it with a combination of words and actions like Abraham Lincoln.

Perhaps rarest of all are men like Norman Podhoretz, who changed history with mere words—and what words they were. Norman was not only the longtime legendary editor and soul of Commentary Magazine but also a prolific author of a dozen books, hundreds of essays, articles and columns and no telling how many speeches.

He could turn out 10,000 words of elegant, sparkling, cogent prose, seemingly, at a moment's notice while identifying for his readers the deeper meaning of the day's news. Norman was an original neoconservative and proud to be so.

These days, some historically illiterate podcasters and so-called influencers use the term ''neocon'' as an all-purpose slur for anything they don't like. But the neocons were just that, new conservatives, a collection of anticommunist liberals between World War II and the Vietnam war who were, as the saying goes, mugged by reality—in this case, the reality of the New Left's turn against America.

Norman followed this path and blazed it for others. Born in 1930 to working-class Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn, Norman later said the first Republican he met was in high school. Blessed with natural abilities and good teachers, Norman earned a scholarship to Columbia, while at his father's insistence, he also studied concurrently at the Jewish Theological Seminary and earned a degree in Hebrew literature.

After more studies at Cambridge and 2 years in the Army, he returned to New York and wrote for magazines such as The New Yorker and Partisan Review and ran in the liberal intellectual social circles of the times with the likes of Norman Mailer and Allen Ginsberg.

He also wrote for and worked at Commentary, a journal of Jewish thought which, at the time, fit well into those circles. He became editor-in-chief in 1960, on the eve of the disorder, chaos, and anti-Americanism that would be unleashed by the New Left that decade.

> They considered this country to be evil—
>
> Norman said of the New Left in 1995.
>
> We neoconservatives were not only outraged by this attitude and thought it intellectually wrong in almost every detail, but also thought it was morally outrageous, contemptible, and dangerous.

Soon enough, Norman and Commentary defined this neoconservative movement, especially on foreign policy. They published famous path-setting essays, such as Jeane Kirkpatrick's ''Dictatorships and Double Standards'' and ''The United States in Opposition'' by Pat Moynihan.

No less a titan than Ronald Reagan called Norman a ''must-read'' for conservatives of all stripes.

Norman, Kirkpatrick, and other neocons both followed and led Reagan into the Presidency, helping to shape a strong and confident foreign policy of defending American interests and free peoples against the menace of Soviet Russia and anti-American insurgencies around the world.

Norman maintained a friendly dialogue with Reagan over the years and received a richly deserved Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush.

Norman turned over the reins of Commentary in 1995, but he never put down the pen. I am thankful he didn't because that was also the year I discovered the magazine and became a 30-year subscriber.

Norman and Commentary were there to chronicle the threat from militant Islam, communist China, and growing anti-Semitism and radicalism at home.

Thanks to great thinkers like Norman, I cannot claim to be a neoconservative. I was, if I could borrow the phrase, ''right from the beginning.'' Generations of young readers learned the easy way from Norman what he had learned the hard way, never flirting with liberalism in our youth.

As, in his own words, ''a filthy little slum child'' of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, Norman was eternally grateful to America for welcoming his

family and providing him with unlimited opportunity. Norman said that he had ''a love affair with America.''

A love affair with America—I think that is a very apt way to put it, something we should all try to emulate and instill in our kids and grandkids.

Norman's love affair with America, I suspect, was behind his dogged support for Donald Trump when so many of his old friends abandoned our party in 2016. But Norman saw President Trump's election as ''a kind of miracle.'' He believed that President Trump could, in his words, ''save us from the evil on the Left.''

Despite all their differences, with their shared love of America, their hatred of communism, their shared New York roots—indeed their shared Brooklyn-to-Manhattan journey—Norman and the President may not be quite the strange bedfellows they first appeared to be.

I am confident that Norman was pleased with the President's muscular defense of the American way of life upon his return to office and especially pleased that Norman lived to watch America join with Israel to devastate Iran's nuclear program on President Trump's watch.

One of the great benefits of my work as a Senator is the opportunity to cross paths with great men like Norman Podhoretz. After learning from his writing for so many years, I have had the occasion to meet him and share a modest correspondence. I can share that Norman may have receded from public writing in recent years, but he remained as witty, brilliant, and courageous as ever in his private correspondence.

Yet, as we all sometimes do when we reflect on our lives, Norman too acknowledged that he at times wondered ''what it all amounted to'' and sometimes feared the answer was ''not much.'' But nothing could be further from the truth, I assured him. For nearly 70 years, Norman informed, educated, persuaded, and succeeded with his words. He taught multiple generations not just to love our country but also why we should love it and how to defend it. His words reached to the U.S. Congress, the Oval Office, and into the councils of nations.

Without Norman and the little magazine he led, the course of history—the Reagan revolution and the Cold War in particular—might indeed have been very different.

I, therefore, join Norman's family not only in mourning the loss of this great man but also in celebrating the highly consequential life of a true American patriot.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

REMEMBERING ELLA COOK

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor the life of Ella Cook, one of the victims in last weekend's horrific attack that killed two and left more wounded at Brown University.

Ella was a 19-year-old female and a sophomore at Brown. Her life was taken far too soon in a disgusting act of violence that leaves all of us searching for answers.

You know, moments like this remind all of us how short life really is and how important it is to take advantage of every moment. Ella certainly took advantage of every moment she had with us here on Earth.

She grew up in Mountain Brook, AL—a suburb of Birmingham—with two loving parents, Anna and Richard, and two siblings, Hooker and Mary Hamner.

Ella loved to play piano, dance, and travel. She was studying French at Brown University. She also loved kids and spent much of her time babysitting and serving in Sunday school. She believed her highest calling was to be a mom one day.

But the most important thing to know about Ella is that she was a devout Christian. She was very involved in her church, the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, and was loved by everyone there.

In her obituary, it says:

> Not only did her personal faith shine out like a bright Christmas star, but she loved others as real people, not as objects. Ella loved God with her whole heart and she loved people—with her whole heart!

The reverend of Ella's church described her as ''an incredible, grounded, faithful, bright light'' who ''lifted up those around her.'' I can't think of a better legacy to leave behind than that.

She went off to college at Brown, where she was studying French, mathematics, economics, and was obviously very, very smart. She also was a patriot who loved this country, and she served as vice president of the College Republicans at Brown University. She was clearly a very courageous young lady, and I can't imagine that was an easy job on such a liberal campus as Brown. But Ella was resolute in her mission to speak the truth and to fight every day for Christian values that have made this country great.

The president of the College Republicans of America described Ella as being ''known for her bold, brave, and kind heart as she served her chapter and her fellow classmates.''

You know, the true measure of a life is not found in its length but its impact. And in the stories shared and the grief that is being expressed, it is clear that Ella left a lasting imprint on the people she touched. Alabama misses Ella, and we join her family and friends in grieving her loss.

You know, it certainly seems like this might have been a targeted attack. We will not rest until the deranged psychopath who did this is brought to justice. But that being said, may God bless the Cook family and give them peace and comfort in the midst of unspeakable tragedy. And may we honor Ella by carrying forward the values she lived by. Though her life was taken far too soon, we know she is in Heaven now, and we will make sure that Ella's legacy of patriotism and faith lives on here on Earth.

May God bless the Cook family, and may God bless Ella Cook.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, we are quickly approaching the end of 2025, and this past year, particularly here in Congress, we have been met with a lot of challenges, chaos, as well as change. But there is one issue that unfortunately has not changed, and that is our ballooning national debt.

Throughout the year, I have repeatedly come to the Senate floor to pound the drum on this very serious issue. I have outlined the history of how we got to this point, and I have urged all of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to join me in taking action to address our runaway debt before it is too late.

So as we end the year, I am back on the floor today to remind my colleagues of the dire financial situation we currently face and to focus specifically on the harmful consequences that it has on the everyday lives of hardworking Americans.

Let's first take a quick bird's eye view of the situation. At the start of 2025, our national debt sat at a staggering $36.2 trillion. Today, thanks in part to the irresponsible ''Big Ugly Bill'' that Republicans and President Trump passed this summer, that number has now ballooned by $2 trillion. Just 1 year later, our debt now sits at $38.4 trillion.

To put that number into perspective, when I was sworn into Congress back in January of 2009, the national debt stood at $10.6 trillion, so that means that in 16 years, our national debt has nearly quadrupled. Unfortunately, it is only getting worse.

I think I speak for most Americans when I say it is hard to even fathom that amount of money. And Americans might wonder what our debt actually means for them and for their personal finances. Well, the reality is that it isn't some abstract, made-up number; the national debt is a real-life burden that our country has to contend with. Ultimately, the brunt of that burden falls hardest on the people who are just fighting to make ends meet in this increasingly unaffordable economy.

So let's break it down. On one front, it is simply an issue of having fewer resources available to invest in American families. Because our debt has gotten so out of control, each year, Congress is having to use more and more of everyday tax dollars to pay down just the interest on that debt. We are not even paying off the debt itself; we are just paying down the interest. In fact, the interest alone that we pay annually on our debt now exceeds the amount we spend on every single Federal program except Social Security.

That means fewer of your tax dollars are being sent back to your community to invest in stronger roads, safer neighborhoods, and better schools. It means that less resources are available for programs that help Americans put food on the table, afford childcare, or gain new skills through workforce training initiatives.

Particularly as American families continue to face an affordability crisis—the prices just keep going up—this support is needed now more than ever. Failing to invest in those who need it most because our debt is bogging us down will only add fuel to that fire.

On another front, Americans have continued to experience high inflation this year that can be tied to this growing national debt. When inflation goes up, the Federal Reserve has to raise interest rates to combat those higher prices. As interest rates rise, so do Americans' largest expenses, from their car payments, to their home mortgage, to their student loans.

Essentially, the longer we go without addressing this national debt, the purchasing power of Americans' hard-earned money will shrink each and every day, and families will continue struggling to afford the cost of everyday life because, unlike the Federal Government, Americans actually have to live within their means and adhere to their household budget. But unfortunately, today, too many American households find themselves trapped in a cycle of debt and financial insecurity just to meet their bottom line. More and more we see this is the case, even when both parents are working and doing everything they can to give their children a better future.

This is an entirely different reality than what Donald Trump and his billionaire supporters live in. Instead of paying their fair share like most Americans, Republicans just wrote for President Trump and the richest Americans a more favorable Tax Code, making sure that they get to hold on to their wealth and watch it grow. And when the richest Americans still don't succeed, they are given the leeway to bail themselves out.

We don't have to look any further than our President, whose companies have filed for bankruptcy at least four times. Four times, filed for bankruptcy—the President of the United States. Yet he contributes less to servicing our national debt than teachers and firefighters and hard-working Americans who play by the rules each and every day. The average American isn't afforded that luxury.

As a result, our Federal deficit has grown, inflation remains high, and the American people are left with nothing but rising prices, stagnant wages, and bitter, bitter feelings about being left behind.

For too long, we have propped up the wealthy and forced middle-class Americans to pay the bill. It is unacceptable, and if we have any hope of getting our fiscal house in order, this needs to change.

Congress is about to wrap up for the year, but when we reconvene, our debt will still be there—the largest it has ever been. We just can't make this debt go away. Lawmakers are going to have to put policies and politics aside and come together to figure out a way to address this issue.

So, in 2026, I am going to keep sounding the alarm on our national debt, highlighting the everyday consequences, and delving into the ways in which we can finally take steps to put our country on more sound financial footing.

We all say that we care about addressing our growing debt—everybody here in this Chamber says it—but in 2026, let's actually put our money where our mouth is, and let's make it happen.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, last week, I had the pleasure of attending the Reagan National Defense Forum at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, CA. I have been to the event a few times before. It is a beautiful setting. The library is such a great tribute to one of our greatest Presidents, Ronald Reagan, who is known for his efforts to rebuild the military through peace through strength in the Reagan years that we often think about and talk so much about today.

The forum has been around for 12 years. This was the 12th annual event, and I have been able to attend the incredible event a few times early on in my time in the House, serving in the House of Representatives. It has been a few years since I have been there.

The event is filled with some of our Nation's top military leaders, Cabinet officials, administration officials—much of the leadership of the Pentagon. It is also a bipartisan event with a congressional delegation from both sides of the aisle. It also includes leaders and innovators in our national defense industry who join the event every year as well.

At this past forum, I participated in a panel discussion about recruitment and retention in our military. I was actually joined by a former Democrat colleague of mine in the House, JIMMY PANETTA, a Democrat from California.

Coincidentally, his father, the former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, was sitting in the audience to hear his son and myself and the other members of the panel talk about this important subject.

The panel got me thinking, though, as we close out 2025, about how far we have come in just 1 year on this subject—recruitment and retention in the military. As we close out 2025, I can think of many big wins that have come out of the Trump administration but none as significant as what President Trump and Secretary of War Hegseth have done to repair the recruitment crisis that took place on Joe Biden's watch. This unbelievable accomplishment doesn't get as much attention as it deserves, and that is why I wanted to come down to the floor today and talk about that incredible success story and share with you some of what I talked about in that panel a little over a week ago.

When I served in the House of Representatives before I got to the Senate, I chaired the Military Personnel Subcommittee on the House Armed Services Committee, so I saw up close how bad things got under Joe Biden—especially at the Pentagon and in our military.

When Joe Biden was President, he presided over the worst recruitment crisis in the over 50 years of an All-Volunteer Force of our military. In 2022, the Army set a goal to recruit 60,000 new soldiers but only managed to recruit 45,000. That is 15,000 soldiers short. The same thing happened again the following year, in 2023, when the Army was again 15,000 soldiers short of its 65,000 soldier recruitment goal.

When you add up the recruitment losses under Joe Biden, between 2021 and 2025, the Army shrank by 40,000 soldiers due to a lack of new recruits—that is as much as 4 divisions of troops in the U.S. Army.

The same story, Mr. President, happened to the Navy, which I know is important to you, and it is important to me. In 2023, the Navy was 7,500 short of its goal to recruit 37,000 new sailors. In 2024, it was nearly 5,000 short of its goal to recruit over 40,000 new sailors. So between 2021 and 2025, the Navy shrank by 16,000 sailors, which is about 3 aircraft carriers' worth of U.S. sailors.

That is how bad the recruitment crisis got on Joe Biden's watch.

How did this happen? I think this is an important context in history when we evaluate where we are today. It is clear to everyone that the Biden administration treated the military as a political experiment. I don't think, Mr. President, we have seen the military politicized in a way that it was under the 4 years that Joe Biden was President ever before in American history.

The Biden Pentagon dropped physical fitness standards to promote equity and supported woke DEI initiatives throughout the armed services.

As a side note, by the way, the marines were the only good news on recruitment during those 4 years because the Marine Corps never dropped their standards.

You had former Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, who immediately, after Joe Biden was sworn into office, ordered a 60-day stand-down to ''combat extremism'' in the military. They spent nearly 6 million man-hours militarywide on that stand-down. Those are hours, Mr. President, that could have been spent on training our troops to combat our biggest enemy, our biggest threat—that being China—or, I would contend to you, those 6 million man-hours could have been spent

on preparing to evacuate and leave Afghanistan in a much more responsible way than what the military did. Instead, they focused it on politics at the beginning of the Biden administration.

Then you had Gen. CQ Brown, who at the time was the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, who issued racial quotas for the U.S. Air Force. You had Joe Biden's Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth arguing that it was a bad thing that more than 80 percent of our recruits come from military families. Think about that for a minute. She said there was ''a risk of developing a warrior caste'' in America. When the Secretary of the Army should have been trying to boost recruitment, she insulted patriotic Americans who are inspired by their parents to serve and suggested that the Army didn't want them. It is no wonder that we had a recruitment crisis in the U.S. Army.

Mr. President, when you combine all of these factors, it is no wonder that the military under Joe Biden failed to meet its recruitment numbers.

Simply put, fewer young Americans wanted to serve because they stopped believing in the mission.

I often think back to an article from the Wall Street Journal that I read back in 2023. It had a poll that showed that patriotism among Americans, especially young Americans, had plummeted to historic lows.

Again, in 2023, Joe Biden is the President; the aftermath of what happened in Afghanistan; all of this other foolish experimentation; the politicization of our military.

According to that poll, only 38 percent of Americans in 2023 said that patriotism was very important to them. That is down from 70 percent in the 1990s.

To this day, this story astonishes me. I would love to see an update from the Wall Street Journal on that poll to show what those patriotism numbers look like today.

Mr. President, I know you know this: You can't build a military without patriots. You can't ask young men and women to put their lives on the line when the culture tells you that the country isn't worth fighting and dying for. You can't expect the next generation of Americans to raise their right hand—Mr. President, like you did, like I did, like so many of our colleagues did in the U.S. Senate—to protect this Nation when so few believe that America is the greatest country in the history of the world.

Something else that I think about is how the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan played a huge part in the shortage in military recruitment under Joe Biden as well. Americans saw 13 brave servicemembers killed at Abbey Gate, including a Hoosier, and American guns and vehicles were abandoned to the Taliban on that embarrassing and disastrous and deadly day. It didn't exactly inspire people to serve. Young Americans asked themselves ''Who wants to be part of that type of military?'' and they said ''Not me.''

Mr. President, the good news, though—and I want to get to the good news because this is really good news. The good news is that this has all been fixed in a really short period of time. President Trump changed everything. In fact, it changed immediately on election day just a little over a year ago. Military leaders testify to the fact that military recruitment increased dramatically the day that Donald Trump won the election. The Army met its 2025 recruitment numbers 4 months early. The Army reached its retention goals for the whole year in just 6 months. Navy recruitment hit a 20-year record.

How did all of this happen? President Trump and Secretary Hegseth inspired young people to serve again because President Trump and Secretary Hegseth are restoring our military's strength and greatness. They cut away the woke DEI initiatives throughout the Department of War and focused on what really matters to our military—patriotism, a sense of mission, and lethality.

Under Joe Biden, young Americans saw the botched withdrawal from Afghanistan. Today, they see a military that puts America first—taking out narcoterrorist drug boats before they can bring deadly drugs into our country.

Seventy-one percent of Americans say they support these strikes on these drug boats. When you ask young men and women if that is the type of military they want to be part of—one that is stopping drugs from flooding into America and killing our brothers, our sisters, our neighbors, our friends—you get an overwhelming yes.

When America is strong, when America is competent, when America wins, our young people want to be a part of that. They want to serve.

Patriotism isn't dead; it was just dormant during those 4 years, waiting for leadership that America can believe in, like what we have in the White House today in Donald Trump.

Secretary of War Hegseth is doing an extraordinary job. He is the exact leader at the Department that we need to restore the focus on lethality after 4 disastrous years under Joe Biden when the focus was on anything but that. He has brought back the warrior ethos to our military and has worked hard to ensure that America's military can meet tomorrow's challenges. Our enemies have been put on notice under Pete Hegseth's leadership at the Department of War.

Mr. President, the path forward is clear: We must continue supporting this administration's efforts to restore our military and make our military as great as it can be again.

Our All-Volunteer military depends on Americans who choose to serve, and Americans will choose to serve when they believe in the mission, trust their leaders, and take pride in this great country. President Trump is giving them that, and America is stronger for it. That is some great news, Mr. President.

As we close out 2025, there are so many things to talk about, but this accomplishment in and of itself—what President Trump and Secretary Hegseth have done to restore recruitment, save our military—is really good news, and I wanted to come to the floor and talk about it as we close out this year, on the eve of going home for this Christmas break.

Mr. President, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year. I am looking forward to a lot more good news like this to come in 2026.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, we heard so much over the weekend from Tennesseans who were reaching out, just so saddened by the series of truly devastating attacks we saw in Syria. Two of our National Guard members from Iowa lost their lives. Indeed, we know that right now, President Trump and Senators GRASSLEY and ERNST are out at Dover to meet with those families. These are two that were killed by an ISIS gunman.

At Brown University, a gunman shot and killed two students that were in a session as they prepared for exams right there on the college campus. One of those was a young woman from Alabama who was vice president of the college Republican Club; another was an aspiring neurosurgeon. These are two young people who had very bright and promising futures in front of them.

In Australia, two terrorists opened fire on a Hanukkah celebration. They murdered 15 people, including a 10-year old girl and a Holocaust survivor.

We know that anti-Semitism is a sickness. It is spreading across the globe, and world leaders must do more to protect their Jewish communities.

Our Nation's prayers remain with all of these victims and with their families and those that experience these tragedies.

We can all be grateful that, in Donald J. Trump, we have a President who is committed to serving that justice when it is needed. Terrorism will not have the last word.

And we have seen how the FBI has worked to thwart these plots that are taking place here in our country. They announced, on Monday, that agents had thwarted a New Year's Eve terror plot that was planned for Los Angeles by a pro-Palestine extremist group. The four suspects are now in Federal custody, and we know they will face the full force of the law.

God bless the men and women in Federal law enforcement and in our armed services who are really working around the clock to restore safety and security here in our country.

Under President Trump, we have seen that national security has become a

priority. In fact, when we look back over the last year, one theme sticks out about the administration's accomplishments is that President Trump is keeping his word. He is making America safer and stronger than ever before.

You can look at the southern border. In a matter of months, President Trump completely fixed the Biden border crisis. The President was right when he said we didn't need more laws. We just needed a new President, one who would enforce the laws.

In October, there were just over 11,000 apprehensions at the southern border. The same month last year, in 2024, there were over 100,000 encounters at the border, and that was under the Biden border policy. Now, even the year before that, there were 240,000 encounters. Think about that: from 240,000 down to 100,000, down to 11,000. And what changed was the fact that we had a President who was enforcing the law.

Now, also in my wonderful State of Tennessee, Memphis saw the highest crime rate per capita in 2024. But since September, the administration's Memphis Safe Task Force has made more than 4,200 arrests, including hundreds of warrant arrests for domestic violence, aggravated assault; and dozens more for narcotics, sexual assault, and homicide. They also have located more than 120 missing children and have recovered 970 illegal firearms and 560 stolen vehicles.

With President Trump and AG Bondi and Kash Patel, and the commitment that they have made to Memphis, this is what you are seeing. Criminals are being apprehended, and the citizens in Memphis feel safe to go out and about. The crime rate has been cut in half. President Trump is replicating the success we are seeing in Memphis. He is replicating this all across the country, whether it is here in Washington, DC, or in Oregon and in other areas.

And around the globe, President Trump has restored peace through strength, after years of weakness from the Biden administration. We have to note, when we talk about globally, what he has done—ending eight wars, making the world a safer place not only for Americans but for so many.

Across the government, President Trump has also rooted out woke programs that abused taxpayer dollars under the previous administration. And we saw a lot of corruption in our institutions. With these programs, the Biden administration pushed a radical anti-American agenda, and now, with the Trump administration, we are restoring common sense and putting the American citizens first.

On the economy, the President's pro-growth and pro-worker agenda is already delivering. Since its peak under Biden, inflation is down 67 percent. Of course, we all remember, under Biden, it was at a 40-year high. And now that has come down 67 percent, and it will continue to come down.

The trade deficit is shrinking. Our Nation is bringing in trillions of dollars in new investments, and this is going to create new factories, jobs, and opportunities.

Mr. President, we are so pleased that some of those jobs are coming into Tennessee. Some of those investments are coming into our State.

And the President has focused on making American energy dominant once again. We were pleased to see that, in his first few days in office, he eliminated a lot of the Green New Deal. And because of that, the national average for a gallon of gas is at its lowest price since March of 2021.

He has also signed Executive orders to support nuclear energy, including speeding up approvals for new reactors and strengthening fuel supply chains. And more than any other State, Tennessee is best positioned to lead our Nation's nuclear renaissance, especially with the work that is being done at the Oak Ridge National Lab and at our universities. I will remind my colleagues that our nuclear energy industry had its birth at the Oak Ridge National Lab, in Tennessee.

We also have the Clinch River site, which should soon be home to the Nation's first small modular reactor. And taking advantage of this opportunity, the Tennessee Valley Authority has got to step up, and they have to lead the way.

This week, the Senate is set to confirm four of the President's nominees to serve on TVA's Board of Directors and ensure that Tennessee and our Nation do lead in nuclear energy.

Supporting all of these accomplishments is the One Big Beautiful Bill, or the working families tax cut bill. This is something that was signed into law on Independence Day. And in that legislation was the largest tax cut in history, of $4 trillion, including no tax on tips and overtime and Social Security, a provision I have worked to achieve for years; historic funding to finish the border wall; $50 billion to support rural health; permitting reforms to make it easier to build in America again; a generational investment in our military; and I could go on and on.

And in the last year, this administration, with President Trump and Republicans, has been hard at work to make certain that we address the cost of living, that we address safety in our Nation and around the globe, and to improve the quality of life in a stronger, freer, and safer country than ever before.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from California.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to ask this body to pass legislation requiring the Department of Defense to show Congress and the American people the September 2 video of strikes that killed two survivors on a shipwrecked vessel after the administration's first strike disabled the craft. The American people deserve to see this video and to witness what is being done in their name.

The administration has proudly published the footage of countless other strikes, including the first one from the very same day, believing it could do so without compromising any sources or methods used by our military or intelligence services. This followup footage should be no different.

Since the beginning of this campaign of unauthorized strikes against boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, there has been one key feature from this administration: an eagerness to push out the videos of these attacks.

We first learned about these strikes when video of an attack was published by the President of the United States, who posted the video of it on his social media. That was video of the first strike on September 2.

In the strikes since—strikes that have killed nearly 100 people in the last few months—the attacks have been announced to the world by the President and the Secretary of Defense, posting videos of them on their social media.

Last week, we saw the administration distribute lengthy footage of the seizure of an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela.

So why not release the video of the second strike that the administration ordered on September 2? Why is the administration hiding it behind closed doors, sharing it with only a small handful of Members, and leaving the rest of Congress and the country in the dark? What is it about the killing of these two survivors that the administration is unwilling to let the people see?

The legality of the entire campaign of striking these boats and killing those onboard, rather than interdicting and arresting them, has been called into serious question. An attack on shipwrecked sailors is expressly prohibited by the laws of war.

The rationale for hiding this video seems far less about any nebulous claim of the need to protect sources or methods, and far more about protecting the administration from accountability and oversight that the American people demand.

This legislation is simple: Make this video available—first, in full, without edits, to all Members of Congress. Then, if there is any legitimate basis to be concerned with the revelation of some source, method, modus operandi, or technology that isn't already apparent with the eager release of all the other videos, make it public with proper redaction.

Surely, the same people who scrub and declassify every other video the Pentagon has publicly posted can be enlisted to do the same for this one.

Or is the so-called ''most transparent administration in history'' afraid of what this video would show? Would it show a clear violation of the laws of war, which use the killing of shipwrecked combatants as the textbook definition of an illegal use of force?

The truth on this is going to come out. We know that it will. Let it be

now. We already know from the reports of our colleagues who have seen the video what it shows—first, a strike on a boat; and then, a short while later, a second strike on the disabled wreckage of the boat and two survivors, killing them.

I should make clear: None of these strikes is lawful because these targets are not combatants. There is no imminent threat of invasion, and there is no legal authorization in the United States or international law for the use of military force for drug interdiction alone.

We have condemned campaigns of extrajudicial killings in other countries that have done so to allegedly combat the drug trade—like the Philippines under Duterte—and we must not engage in that conduct here.

But the second strike on September 2 compounds the illegality. It flies directly in the face of laws and values to underpin the U.S. military.

So I ask my colleagues to support this bill. Allow this legislation to pass and ensure that we are not hiding information from the American people. After all, the President of the United States said he was fine with releasing the footage. ''Whatever they have,'' he said, ''we'd certainly release. No problem.''

It is time we hold the President to his promise to be transparent with the American people. Our servicemembers and their families deserve nothing less.

Right now, we have a massive military force in the region. We have killed almost 100 people. We are beginning a blockade of a country with which we are not at war and with which the American people do not want us to go to war—not over regime change, as despicable as the Maduro regime is. The American people do not want to go to war over regime change, which is apparently the real objective here.

We should pass a War Powers Resolution to make clear that Congress does not support a military campaign that may draw us into another endless war or destabilize the region. And we can start by releasing the video of one deadly strike already undertaken, but the evidence of which has been withheld from the American people.

I urge passage of this bill.

As if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the bill at the desk to require the release of video strikes conducted on September 2, 2025, against designated terrorist organizations in the area of responsibility of the U.S. Southern Command; that the bill be considered read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

The junior Senator from California knows good and well what ''classifications'' mean because he had 15 years on the House Intelligence Committee until his clearance was pulled in 2023. He understands classifications. He understands when certain things can be exposed and certain things cannot because of the sensitivity of them.

He also understands that committees of jurisdiction are privileged with the correct clearance to be able to watch this video because the junior Senator from California stated that himself. It has been shown to not a partisan but a bipartisan group of individuals who do have the accurate oversight and clearances to watch it.

Now, what is this really about? Politics? Maybe.

During the junior Senator's time on the House Intelligence Committee, then-President Obama had 500 strikes on terrorist organizations. Let's keep in mind that we are striking terrorist organizations, and no one is denying that. There are 24 cartels that are being deemed terrorist organizations that are poisoning our streets, that are killing our families, that are killing our friends, that are affecting all of our homes and all of our streets in all of our States all across the country—in fact, to the tune that there have been more people killed in 2024 by drug overdoses—the sum of 10,000 more individuals—than we lost in U.S. personnel during the entire Vietnam war. If that is not an attack on us, I don't know. If that is not a terrorist organization that is truly poisoning our streets, then I don't know.

During the time that the junior Senator from California sat on Intel, not one time did he ever ask for the release of the same videos from the Obama administration that killed 3,700 individuals, including U.S. citizens.

Now, if you think there would be transparency, that would need to be released. We would want to see the videos at least on the U.S. citizens who were killed in this manner, not these narcoboats that are poisoning our streets. But that really isn't what this is about, and the junior Senator from California knows that. This is all about politics. That is what this is about.

Why are we protecting the ones who are poisoning our streets? Shouldn't we be trying to protect the ones who are on our streets?

I don't think it is crazy to think that we would want to be proactive about going after narcoboats. I, for sure, want to. I have zero issue with this. I have been able to be briefed. I know the junior Senator was recently briefed; he is just upset that he may not have the clearances to watch the videos anymore.

But there is sensitive material, and it was clearly explained why it can't be released.

Of all the people in this Chamber, the junior Senator from California knows that when it is in certain classifications, there is a reason for that.

With that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, first, as my colleague served on the Intelligence Committee when I chaired the committee, he should well know that Members of Congress actually don't hold clearances that can be revoked; we either serve on certain committees or we don't.

But more to the point, in listening to my colleague address this motion to release the video to the American people, I have heard very little of the basis for an objection to releasing this video except some nebulous claim that somehow this footage must be classified.

I would pose this question to my colleagues: Do you recognize that this video has already been partly displayed to the American people? The administration was all too proud to show the first part of this same video, the first attack on this ship, to the American people. There was no objection, obviously, to classification or to source of method. They showed that to the whole world. They just didn't show all of us the rest of that video; that is, they only showed the footage of the first strike. What they withheld was the footage of the killing of the survivors of the strike.

So, to make the claim here without basis that, well, somehow the continuation of that footage is confidential but that the beginning of that footage showing the first attack can be released without injury to sources or methods—it just doesn't pass the smell test.

This is going to come out. It is just a question of how long we have to fight to make this available to the American people.

But if the administration is proud of this, if the administration is proud of what it is doing in the name of the American people, it should be proud to show this video to the American people. And we should hold the President, who said: Whatever they have, we would certainly release; no problem—we should hold the President to that commitment.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ROTORCRAFT OPERATIONS TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT REFORM ACT

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, in January of this year, tragedy struck just a few miles from here when an Army Black Hawk helicopter collided with American Airlines Flight 5342 at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Sixty-seven souls were tragically lost in an instant.

After the crash, it quickly became evident that there were commonsense changes that would immediately enhance aviation safety.

The Army helicopter, flying along the Potomac River, had deliberately chosen not to broadcast its location to other aircraft or to air traffic control

using the common aviation technology called automatic dependent surveillance broadcast, or ADS-B. Had the Black Hawk been using ADS-B, like every other aircraft is required to do, tragedy could well have been averted.

We have since learned from the National Transportation Safety Board that the military was routinely flying by its own set of rules, particularly around Reagan National, which meant that there had been numerous near misses before this deadly crash. In fact, just last Friday, an Air Force tanker was flying without using ADS-B and nearly collided into a JetBlue plane headed to New York despite the justifiable public outrage over what happened at DCA. Clearly, the Pentagon's behavior needed to change.

In July, I, alongside eight of my Republican colleagues, introduced the Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform—or ROTOR—Act. After several weeks negotiating a bipartisan agreement with the ranking member of the Senate Commerce Committee, MARIA CANTWELL, the committee passed the ROTOR Act unanimously.

Here is what the ROTOR Act does:

No. 1, it tightens the rules for military aircraft so air traffic control and other pilots have a better idea of nearby planes and helicopters.

No. 2, it requires all aircraft, civilian and military, to equip and receive ADS-B signals.

No. 3, it directs the FAA to comprehensively evaluate the safety of airspaces around airports across the country so that no other airspace has the same risk of collisions that DCA did.

No. 4, it improves aviation safety information sharing between the FAA and the military. No longer will there be silos of safety data.

These improvements will save lives.

Earlier this week, the families of the DCA crash victims joined Senator CANTWELL and me at a press conference to highlight how the NDAA had a provision moving backwards on safety and to call for the passage of the ROTOR Act.

Two of those family members, Amy Hunter and Laura Augendre, are in the Gallery today. I am happy that they are here to witness the Senate passing the ROTOR Act, along with the language removing the offending NDAA provision. Senator CANTWELL, Senator MORAN, and I have made significant progress with our Senate colleagues, and we have reached an agreement that will allow the Senate to pass this bill unanimously today.

I am also pleased to report that the ROTOR Act now has the explicit backing of the White House on this revised product. The White House is committed to helping us work with our House colleagues to see that the ROTOR Act passes in that Chamber. We still have a few small outstanding issues, but I am optimistic that we are going to get this done and signed into law as soon as next month.

Before turning it over to my colleagues, I want to note two things.

One, I want to say thank you to Senator CANTWELL for her partnership. She and I have worked hand in hand on this. I am grateful for the trust we have with each other and for the work ethic displayed by Senator CANTWELL and by her staff, who have worked very hard on this matter.

I also want to say that this bill will be a fitting way to honor the lives of those lost nearly 1 year ago over the Potomac River.

The goal of the victims' families is to ensure that no one else endures a similar, avoidable, completely unnecessary tragedy.

With that, I yield to Ranking Member CANTWELL.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to support the gentleman's future request here and to say that the bipartisan ROTOR Act, the Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform bill represents a major step forward for aviation safety.

Not even 1 year ago, 67 people lost their lives when a Black Hawk helicopter collided with American Airlines Flight 5342 over the Potomac, and it was one of the deadliest aviation disasters in history. I do thank the families who are represented in the gallery today for their steadfast support. This is an important step to honor the memory of their loved ones.

I want to thank Senator CRUZ for his bipartisanship in reaching this agreement. He and I worked together on legislation we had originally introduced called the Safe Operations of Shared Airspace Act and, working with him, achieved a date certain for when these requirements had to be met. We came together to craft that bill because safety is not a partisan issue, and this bill reflects it. Most of all, I want to thank the families for their steadfast pursuit of the right answers. Even in unimaginable grief, they refused to let their loved ones be forgotten.

When the NDAA language became public that rolled back postcrash safety measures that the FAA, NTSB, and the military had agreed to, the families spoke up. They stood at a press conference with Senator CRUZ and me. They made phone calls. They demanded better, and today, we are closer to delivering on that and what they have asked for.

The ROTOR Act ends the exemption for planes to be in the airspace without a broadcast signal—that includes the military, so no more flying in the dark. And what is most important, it strikes the deadly language that is in the NDAA bill that just passed here that had widened that loophole. The Senate passed the NDAA with that provision in it, but this bill repeals it, and we hope that our House colleagues will take it up very expeditiously, and I thank the chairman for working with the White House and the House to try to get that commitment from them.

But just as we have said, we have no idea how this language got in the bill in the first place. I won't be surprised if somebody tries to stop us again. But we will be ready, along with the families, along with our colleague Senator MORAN, to fight for this.

This bill requires broadcast technology in aircraft operating in busy airspace. It gives pilots situational awareness and real-time alerts. And NTSB Chairwoman Homendy and her predecessors have been recommending this for over 15 years. So we want to thank her for her leadership.

It also mandates comprehensive safety reviews for all airports across the United States, military and civilian aircraft where they share the same skies. So not just here, but places like San Diego, Tampa, and Norfolk, and it requires the FAA to establish an office dedicated to FAA-DOD coordination. That is really important. It requires a memorandum of understanding with the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard to share safety data, and it directs the Army inspector general to audit pilot training, maintenance protocols and the compliance.

This bill represents real progress. I want to thank the chairman, Chairman CRUZ, for working with all of us on the committee to get this legislation where it is today, passing the U.S. Senate with a firm commitment for aviation safety.

We will work with our House colleagues to continue to strengthen this. We will work with our House colleagues in the future. But passing this bill today may not be the final step, but it is a huge step forward in getting this legislation to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I now yield to Senator MORAN, who has been a critical leader in fighting to pass the ROTOR Act and to ensure we have accountability and that we do not repeat the tragic mistakes that led to that horrific accident.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, Senator CRUZ, the Senator from Texas, and Senator CANTWELL, the Senator from Washington State, thank you very much for the opportunity to join with you today and throughout a long process since January 29, earlier this year.

That flight—Flight 5342—originated in Wichita, KS, and, as we know, on January 29, it collided with an Army Black Hawk helicopter, and it changed the way we look at air safety every moment since then.

I appreciate the leadership of my two colleagues on the full committee, as well as Senator DUCKWORTH, my colleague on the Subcommittee on Aviation, to make certain that we take all the steps necessary and to make certain for the families who remind us today, and almost every day since January 29, about the importance of making the skies of the United States safe for those who fly today and in the future.

There are numerous—numerous—circumstances that led to this horrific incident, and NTSB's critical investigation into this collision is continuing. While NTSB's final recommendations have not yet been released, the Chair of the NTSB, Jennifer Homendy, took the unprecedented step of publicly stating that the National Defense Authorization Act does not adequately address the safety concerns surrounding the mixed airspace at DCA.

And while the NDAA is critical to bolstering our defense capabilities, I have major concerns with the portion of the bill that is being fixed by the efforts today, here on the Senate floor, with this unanimous consent request.

After numerous conversations with my colleagues Senator CRUZ and Senator CANTWELL, we secured an agreement from the Senate leadership—and I thank that Senate leadership, Senator THUNE—for an amended version of the ROTOR Act that would be quickly brought to the Senate floor for consideration to reinstate and advance critical standards of safety for commercial and military aviation.

We are doing that right now.

The ROTOR Act closes the loopholes that have been described by my colleagues and strengthens ADS-B requirements for commercial and military aircraft, among many other things.

It requires safety reviews of DCA, and it requires better coordination between the FAA and DOD. I commend the FAA Administrator for his commitment, and particularly Secretary Duffy, for their combined commitment to air safety.

In fact, when we conclude this effort here on the Senate floor, our committee is in session. Our subcommittee is in session with Administrator Bedford, the FAA Administrator, to review what other steps are being taken across the country for safe airspace at every airport.

We are bringing technology to bear that has only been talked about in the past and is now being accomplished. Our aviation system is fragile, and over the last year, Congress has passed significant legislation investing in that airspace to increase the safety and to make sure that all who fly can be and are safe and feel safe.

Now is not the time to take any steps backward, and that is what we were worried and concerned about that the NDAA provision does.

While Congress works to ensure in law the safety of our airspace, our DOT and FAA leaders are committed to abide by current safety standards, maintaining that safety at the DCA airspace.

As both have said, more work can be done, but it is a pretty good day to be taking the steps we are taking and knowing that more is to come in honor of those who perished, on January 29, from Kansas, across the country, and around the world.

I yield back to the chairman of the committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 269, S. 2503.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2503) to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform Act'' or the ''ROTOR Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) ADS–B IN.—The term ''ADS–B In'' means onboard avionics equipment that receives and processes Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast transmissions that are broadcast in accordance with sections 91.225 and 91.227 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), and other aviation advisory information from ground stations, that provides the aircraft with awareness to the location of other aircraft and traffic advisories.

(3) ADS–B OUT.—The term ''ADS–B Out''—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 91.227 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) broadcasts information from the aircraft in accordance with sections 91.225 and 91.227 of such title 14 (or any successor regulations).

(4) AFFECTED AIRCRAFT.—The term ''affected aircraft'' means any aircraft that is required to operate in accordance with section 91.225 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(5) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(6) CABINET MEMBER.—The term ''Cabinet Member'' means an individual who is the head (including an acting head) of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of State, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, or the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other individual who occupies a position designated by the President as a Cabinet-level position.

(7) FAA.—The term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(8) NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION; NCR.—The terms ''National Capital Region'' and ''NCR'' mean the geographic area located within the boundaries of—

(A) the District of Columbia;

(B) Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties in the State of Maryland;

(C) Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

(D) all cities and other units of government within the geographic areas described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(9) POWERED-LIFT.—The term ''powered-lift''—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

(B) includes vertical-lift flight mode and wing-borne flight mode, as such terms are defined in section 194.103 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(10) ROTORCRAFT.—The term ''rotorcraft'' has the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(11) TRANSPORT AIRPLANE.—The term ''transport airplane'' has the meaning given such term in section 44741(i) of title 49, United States Code.

(12) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ''unmanned aircraft system'' has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 3. REVISION TO EXCEPTION FOR ADS–B OUT TRANSMISSION.

(a) ADS–B OUT REFORMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this section, in applying section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the term ''sensitive government mission'' shall be narrowly construed and shall not include training flights, proficiency flights, or flights of Federal officials below the rank of Cabinet Member.

(2) RULEMAKING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall—

(i) issue or revise regulations to update section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to comply with the requirements of this section; and

(ii) revise any memorandum of agreement between the FAA and any other Federal, State, local, or Tribal agency to conform with the revised regulations described in clause (i).

(B) REPORT.—If the Administrator fails to issue or revise regulations pursuant to subparagraph (A) or revise any memorandum of agreement between the FAA and any other agency pursuant to such subparagraph, the Administrator shall, within 30 days, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of such regulations, including the reasons that the Administrator has failed to issue or revise such regulations within the period required under such subparagraph.

(b) GAO REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) review the utilization of exceptions under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), to determine—

(A) whether the Department of Defense and other relevant Federal agencies or other applicable operators have utilized such exceptions in accordance with relevant laws and regulations; and

(B) the extent of such utilization;

(2) compare the utilization of exceptions specified in such section 91.225(f) before and after the issuance of revised regulations under subsection (a); and

(3) submit to the Administrator and the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the review conducted under paragraph (1) and the comparison conducted under paragraph (2).

(c) FAA REVIEW OF NON-COMPLIANT OPERATORS.—Upon submission of the report under subsection (b)(3), the Administrator shall—

(1) determine whether any Federal agency or other applicable operator that has been found to

have not utilized the exceptions under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), in accordance with relevant laws and regulations shall be permitted to continue to utilize such exceptions; and

(2) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the report under subsection (b)(3), brief the appropriate committees of Congress on such determination.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, each Federal, State, local, and Tribal agency that performs sensitive government missions as described in section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), shall submit to the Administrator a report that includes—

(A) an attestation that such operations are regularly transmitting ADS–B Out and are conducted with proper consideration to aviation safety; and

(B) a list of operations delineated by flight in which the ADS–B Out equipment is not in transmit mode because the aircraft was performing a sensitive government mission, including the airport, airspace location, date, time, duration, and mission type of each such operation.

(2) TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and biannually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the frequency and nature of the ADS–B Out exceptions granted to Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a). Such report—

(i) shall include—

(I) aggregated data on the operations in which ADS–B Out equipment is not in transmit mode by each agency described in paragraph (1); and

(II) a determination from the Administrator as to whether each operation described in paragraph (1)(B) jeopardizes aviation safety; and

(ii) may include a classified annex.

(B) SPECIAL NOTIFICATION.—If an agency described in paragraph (1) operates a flight using an exception granted under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), 5 or more times in a calendar month, or fails to provide to the Administrator the attestation required under paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such use within 14 days of being notified of such use. For the purposes of this subparagraph, a flight shall be interpreted as the period beginning when an aircraft moves under its own power for the purpose of flight and ending when the aircraft lands.

(e) ANNUAL INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation (in this section referred to as the ''Inspector General'') shall conduct an annual audit of FAA oversight of all operations that utilize an exception under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), including Federal agency operations.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting an audit under paragraph (1), the Inspector General shall assess the efficacy of FAA oversight related to the following:

(A) Ensuring exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation) are strictly utilized by operators in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

(B) Ensuring exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation) are not routinely used by operators.

(C) Identifying and engaging with any operator not in compliance with relevant laws and regulations relating to exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation).

(D) Any other factor determined appropriate by the Inspector General.

(3) BRIEFINGS TO CONGRESS.—The Inspector General shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on an annual basis after the completion of each annual audit.

SEC. 4. ADS–B IN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ADS–B IN OPERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue a final rule in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to require any person operating an aircraft (other than an unmanned aircraft, as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) required to be equipped with ADS–B Out in accordance with section 91.225 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), to be equipped with and operating with ADS–B In equipment that provides the aircraft with awareness to the location of other aircraft and traffic advisories, unless otherwise authorized by air traffic control.

(2) COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) include an effective date of not later than 60 days after the date on which such final rule is published in the Federal Register; and

(B) require aircraft described in paragraph (1) to be equipped with ADS-B In not later than December 31, 2031.

(3) FINAL REGULATION REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, at a minimum, do the following:

(A) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Administrator shall establish appropriate performance requirements for ADS–B In equipment to provide integrated safety-enhancing capabilities for a pilot or other flight crew, including by increasing situational awareness to the location of other aircraft and providing traffic advisories with alerting sufficient to provide traffic advisory indications while airborne and on the airport surface, such as visual and aural advisories.

(B) ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY.—With respect to aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operating under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the Administrator shall establish performance requirements for alternative equipment or technology that the Administrator determines acceptable in satisfying the ADS–B In requirement. The performance requirements shall, at a minimum—

(i) provide similar or improved situational awareness to the location of other airborne traffic, as well as traffic advisory information; and

(ii) leverage the use of portable ADS–B In receivers or equipment that allow display on an existing or future electronic flight bag or panel mounted display, provided that the installation or use of such equipment does not adversely affect other required avionics or the airworthiness of the aircraft.

(C) GUIDANCE.—The Administrator shall issue relevant guidance for aircraft operators and other appropriate stakeholders regarding the types of equipment that satisfy the performance requirements described in this paragraph.

(4) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include—

(A) requirements for ADS–B In equipment and the use of such equipment;

(B) technical assistance to facilitating ADS–B In equipage across the entire fleet of affected aircraft, including, as appropriate, guidance under part 26 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide support for affected transport airplane operators in complying with the requirements of this section;

(C) any other associated guidance necessary to assist operators and other stakeholders in identifying equipment that satisfies the ADS–B In performance standards described in paragraph (3) prior to the compliance deadline described in paragraph (2)(B);

(D) a determination of alternative equipment or technology described in subsection (e); and

(E) a presumption, absent clear and compelling evidence to the contrary, that ADS–B In equipment is cost beneficial and improves aviation safety.

(5) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and every 90 days thereafter, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress, as well as publish a publicly available report, on the status of—

(A) the ADS–B In rulemaking required under paragraph (1); and

(B) after the compliance deadline described in paragraph (2)(A), the implementation and oversight of such ADS–B In requirement.

(b) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.—

(1) COMMITTEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator may establish a negotiated rulemaking committee (in this section referred to as the ''committee'') pursuant to section 565 of title 5, United States Code, to negotiate proposed regulations to implement the requirements described in subsection (a).

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, the committee shall be composed of—

(i) representatives of—

(I) the FAA;

(II) air carriers;

(III) avionics manufacturers;

(IV) aircraft manufacturers; and

(V) general aviation organizations;

(ii) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots;

(iv) aviation safety experts outside of the FAA; and

(v) any other representatives determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, the Administrator shall do the following:

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall direct the committee to make recommendations relating to—

(i) ADS–B In equipment and its use;

(ii) ADS–B In equipment performance standards pursuant to subsection (a)(3);

(iii) the consideration of effective approaches to facilitating ADS–B In equipage across the entire fleet of affected aircraft, including requirements under part 26 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide support for affected transport category airplane operators in complying with the requirements of this section; and

(iv) with respect to aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operating under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, a recommendation for low cost alternative equipment or technology in accordance with subsection (e).

(B) LACK OF COMMITTEE CONSENSUS.—In the event the committee does not reach a consensus regarding a recommendation for low cost alternative equipment or technology under subparagraph (A)(iv), the Administrator shall, after the submission of the committee under paragraph

(3), consider prescribing a low cost alternative that includes the criteria described in subsection (e).

(3) SUBMISSION TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the committee shall submit to the Administrator—

(A) a consensus proposal of regulations to implement the requirement described in subsection (a)(1); or

(B) in the event the committee does not reach a consensus, a report identifying any points of agreement and disagreement with respect to such proposed regulations.

(4) PROPOSED RULE.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, not later than 180 days after receiving the submission of the committee under paragraph (3), the Administrator shall issue a proposed rule, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, that either—

(A) to the maximum extent possible consistent with the legal obligations of the FAA, uses the consensus proposal of the committee under paragraph (3)(A) as the basis for the proposed rule for notice and comment, including with respect to any standards or requirements described in subsection (a)(3); or

(B) in the event the committee does not reach a consensus, considers the points of agreement and disagreement submitted by the committee under paragraph (3)(B).

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED WITHOUT NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.—If the Administrator does not establish a committee under subsection (b), prior to issuing a final rule, the Administrator shall consult with appropriate stakeholders in conducting the rulemaking required under subsection (a)(1), including at a minimum the representatives described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

(d) PHASED-IN RETROFIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In issuing a final rule under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall—

(A) establish a process by which the operator of an affected aircraft, in service as of the date on which the final rule under subsection (a)(1) is published in the Federal Register in accordance with subsection (a)(2)(A), may apply to the Administrator to request additional time, not to exceed a period of 1 year after the deadline described in subsection (a)(2)(B), to finalize equipage of its fleet and make ADS–B In operational, provided that—

(i) an aircraft operator, owner, or their agent submits an application deemed acceptable to the Administrator for additional time for compliance, including a justification for such request and an attestation of actions to date demonstrating progress toward achieving compliance;

(ii) the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, determines additional time is required to mitigate a significant disruption to air transportation; and

(iii) the Administrator determines the aircraft operator or owner does not have any uncorrected violations of subchapters F and G of chapter I of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) notify the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 14 days after making a determination under clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (A).

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR AGENTS.—With the exception of an agent representing an owner or operator of transport airplanes, for the purposes of this subsection, an agent may represent more than 1 aircraft operator or owner of the same type, model, or manufacturer and may submit 1 or more applications under paragraph (1)(A)(i), each of which may contain multiple aircraft operators or owners.

(e) LOW COST ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF COMPLIANCE.—In issuing a final rule under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall determine low cost equipment or technologies that provide similar or improved situational awareness to the location of other airborne traffic, as well as traffic advisory information, that satisfy the ADS–B In equipage requirement for aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operated under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations. In making such a determination, the Administrator shall consider the use of—

(1) portable ADS–B In receivers; and

(2) equipment that allows display on an existing or future electronic flight bag or panel mounted display, provided the installation or use does not adversely affect other required avionics or the airworthiness of the aircraft.

(f) PROACTIVE EQUIPAGE.—With respect to any aircraft for which ADS–B In equipment is available and complies with the requirements of the final rule issued under subsection (a)(1), the operator of any such aircraft shall take all appropriate actions necessary to equip such aircraft with ADS–B In prior to the compliance deadline described in subsection (a)(2).

(g) SEPARATION STANDARDS; RELEVANT CONTROLLER TRAINING.—

(1) RULEMAKING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the effective date of the final rule described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish separation standards, as appropriate, that leverage ADS–B Out or ADS–B In equipment, and all other available technological capabilities in the air traffic control system, to achieve safety and efficiency benefits throughout the national airspace system, including on an airport surface and within Class E airspace (as defined in section 71.71 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation).

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the rulemaking under this subsection, the Administrator shall consult with appropriate stakeholders, including, at a minimum—

(i) representatives of—

(I) air carriers;

(II) original equipment manufacturers; and

(III) general aviation organizations;

(ii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots;

(iii) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code;

(iv) aviation safety experts from outside the FAA; and

(v) any other stakeholder deemed appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) REQUIRED UPDATES TO FAA ORDERS.—Not later than 18 months after the issuance of the notice of proposed rulemaking under paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall complete revisions, as appropriate, to FAA Order 7110.65 and other relevant FAA Orders, to increase safety and efficiency benefits in the national airspace system.

(3) RELEVANT CONTROLLER TRAINING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the compliance deadline described in subsection (a)(2), the Administrator shall revise initial and recurrent air traffic controller training, as appropriate, in accordance with FAA Orders 3000.22 and 3120.4 and revise associated orders and directives, as appropriate, to ensure such controllers are trained to apply any new separation standards and procedures.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In revising training under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

(i) consider human factors impacts, appropriate phraseology adjustments, and surface movement applications; and

(ii) consult with the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code.

(h) ACAS–X ACTION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an action plan for advancing the deployment of the Airborne Collision Avoidance System-X (in this section referred to as ''ACAS-X''), or any variant or successor technology, in the national airspace system. The Administrator shall publish the action plan in a publicly available format not later than 10 days after submitting such action plan to Congress.

(2) CONTENTS.—In developing the action plan under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include—

(A) a strategic roadmap for the deployment of ACAS-X technology, including steps required for widespread adoption among aircraft operators (including rotorcraft operators);

(B) actions and funding necessary to complete any applicable research, development, testing, evaluation, and standards development needed to support the certification of such technology;

(C) plans for engagement with appropriate stakeholders, including—

(i) aircraft operators, including those in the Department of Defense;

(ii) aviation safety experts outside the FAA;

(iii) avionics manufacturers;

(iv) aircraft manufacturers;

(v) general aviation organizations;

(vi) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code;

(vii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(viii) any other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator;

(D) engagement with foreign civil aviation authorities to harmonize international standards for certification of such technology;

(E) ACAS-X interoperability considerations for aircraft operators (including rotorcraft operators) equipped with ADS–B Out and ADS–B In equipment;

(F) an assessment of safety benefits for aircraft operators equipping with such technology, including civil and military operators; and

(G) any recommendations for administrative or legislative action, as determined appropriate by the Administrator, to advance such technology deployment.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator may take actions, as appropriate, to implement the action plan developed under paragraph (1).

(4) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator submits the action plan under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the contents of such action plan and any prospective actions to implement such plan.

(i) ARAC TASKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall task the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the ''ARAC'') with reviewing and assessing the need for aircraft operating in Class D airspace to be equipped with ADS–B Out and ADS–B In equipment.

(2) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after initiating the review and assessment under this section, the ARAC shall submit to the Administrator—

(A) a report on the findings of the review and assessment under paragraph (1); and

(B) any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action the ARAC determines appropriate.

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the ARAC submits the report under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on—

(A) the findings and recommendations included in such report; and

(B) any plan to implement such recommendations, including a justification for any recommendations the Administrator determines should not be implemented.

SEC. 5. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMY AUDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Army shall initiate an audit to evaluate the Army's coordination with the FAA, pilot training, and qualification standards, and the Army's use of ADS–B Out and whether it adheres to Army policy, regulation, and law.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—In conducting the audit required by subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Army shall assess practices and recommendations for the Army, including—

(1) whether Army policy and United States law was adhered to, and the Army's coordination with the FAA, during National Capital Region (''NCR'') operations of pilot training and qualifications standards in the NCR;

(2) the Army's policy on ADS–B Out equipage, usage, and activation;

(3) maintenance protocols for UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters operated by the 12th Army Aviation Brigade including, but not limited to, the calibration of any system that transmits altitude and position information outside the aircraft and the calibration of systems that send altitude and position information to the pilots inside the aircraft, and the frequency with which such maintenance protocols occur;

(4) compliance with the September 29, 2021, Letter of Agreement executed between the Pentagon Heliport Air Traffic Control Tower and the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Air Traffic Control Tower regarding flight operations in the NCR; and

(5) the Army's review of loss of separation incidents involving its rotorcraft in the NCR along with possible mitigations to prevent future mishaps.

(c) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 14 days after the audit required by subsection (a) is concluded, the Secretary of the Army shall—

(1) transmit a report on the results of the audit, without redactions, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) publicly release the report without redactions, except to the extent required for national security reasons.

(d) INTERIM REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after initiating the audit required by subsection (a), and every 180 days thereafter until such audit is concluded, the Inspector General of the Army shall brief the committees of Congress described in subsection (c)(1) regarding the progress of such audit.

SEC. 6. SAFETY REVIEWS OF AIRSPACE.

(a) FAA-DOD COORDINATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish or designate an office within the FAA as the ''Office of FAA-DOD Coordination'' (in this section referred to as the ''Office''), which shall—

(1) coordinate airspace usage of military aircraft and rotorcraft with relevant FAA lines of business, including the Air Traffic Organization;

(2) coordinate with the Office of Audit and Evaluation of the FAA to ensure employee complaints and whistleblower protections are considered;

(3) consider opportunities to improve management and consolidation of aviation safety information system databases to enhance civil and military aviation incident reporting; and

(4) carry out the safety review required by subsection (b).

(b) SAFETY REVIEWS.—

(1) REVIEW OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Office is established or designated, the Administrator shall initiate a safety review of all military, law enforcement, and civilian rotary wing, powered lift, fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft system flight operations and flight routes in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area Special Flight Rules Area, including but not limited to flight operations conducted by the Department of Defense, emergency response providers, and air medical transport operators, to evaluate any associated safety risk to commercial transport airplane operations at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting a safety review under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consult with—

(i) the Secretary of Defense;

(ii) Federal, State, and local agencies;

(iii) law enforcement agencies;

(iv) emergency response providers, including air medical transport operators;

(v) air carriers;

(vi) aviation labor organizations, including, at a minimum—

(I) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code; and

(II) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(vii) other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) OTHER AIRPORT REVIEWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct safety reviews of all military, law enforcement and civilian rotary wing, powered lift, fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft system flight operations and flight routes at other Class B airports (as listed in section 1 of Appendix D to part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) and within the lateral boundary of Class B airspace, at commercial service Class C airports (as listed in FAA Order JO 7400.11J (or any successor order)) and within the lateral boundary of Class C airspace in the national airspace system, and at Class D airports that provide passenger service under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, determined to meet the risk criteria set forth in subparagraph (C), including flight operations conducted by the Department of Defense, emergency response providers, and air medical transport operators, to evaluate any associated safety risk to commercial transport airplane operations.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting a safety review under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consult with—

(i) the Secretary of Defense;

(ii) Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies;

(iii) law enforcement agencies;

(iv) emergency response providers;

(v) air carriers;

(vi) aviation labor organizations, including, at a minimum—

(I) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code; and

(II) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(vii) other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(C) PRIORITIZATION AND RISK CRITERIA.—In prioritizing the safety reviews of Class B, Class C, and Class D airports described in subparagraph (A) and conducting the safety reviews pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall, at a minimum, consider the following risk criteria:

(i) The type of airspace the airport is located in and the type of tower at the airport.

(ii) Whether the airport has radar on the field.

(iii) The total number of air traffic operations at the airport per calendar year, as reported in the Operations Network (OPSNET) data of the FAA, and the rate of growth measured over a 20-year period prior to the initiation of a safety review under this section.

(iv) The Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) resolution advisory rates at the airport compared to the number of arrivals at the airport.

(v) The presence of parallel runways.

(vi) The presence of visual flights (in this subparagraph referred to as ''VFR'') corridors in proximity to the airport.

(vii) The presence of a helicopter corridor in proximity to the airport or nearby helicopter operations.

(viii) The presence of dense VFR operations at the airport.

(ix) The presence of complex VFR procedures at the airport or in the adjacent airspace.

(D) DEADLINE OF INITIATION OF REVIEWS.—The Administrator shall initiate the reviews under this paragraph by the following deadlines:

(i) CLASS B AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class B airports, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section.

(ii) CLASS C AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class C airports, not later than 90 days after the initiation date of the Class B airport reviews.

(iii) CLASS D AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class D airports, not later than 90 days after the initiation date of the Class C airport reviews.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the safety reviews required by paragraphs (1) and (2), the Office shall do the following:

(A) Analyze air traffic and airspace management.

(B) Evaluate the level of coordination the Administrator exercises with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of any other Federal agencies, and emergency response providers as appropriate, to inform the designation and approval of airspace use and flight routes for nontransport airplane operations.

(C) Assess any risks posed to transport airplanes from military aircraft and rotorcraft, civil rotorcraft, powered lift aircraft, and unmanned aircraft systems operating in Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace in proximity to Class B, Class C, or Class D airports.

(D) Review relevant incidents submitted to the Administrator through Air Traffic Mandatory Occurrence reports (as documented via FAA Form 7210-13), Aviation Safety Reporting System reports, and Aviation Safety Action Program reports, and relevant reports submitted to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration through the Aviation Safety Reporting System, to identify any safety trends regarding the operation of military aircraft and rotorcraft, civil rotorcraft, powered lift aircraft, and unmanned aircraft systems in Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace near Class B, Class C, or Class D airports.

(4) DEADLINES FOR COMPLETION OF SAFETY REVIEWS.—

(A) RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—The Administrator shall complete the safety review required by paragraph (1) not later than 120 days after the date on which such review is initiated.

(B) OTHER AIRPORTS.—The Administrator shall complete a safety review required by paragraph (2) not later than 180 days after such review is initiated.

(5) REPORTS.—

(A) REVIEW OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—Not later than 60 days after completing the safety review required by paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the analyses and results of such review, together with relevant findings and recommendations, including any corrective action

plans to address any risks identified, and recommendations for legislative or administrative action determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(B) OTHER AIRPORT REVIEWS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, and every 6 months thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the analyses and results of the safety reviews completed pursuant to paragraph (2) since the preceding report under this subparagraph (or, in the case of the first such report, since such date of enactment), together with relevant findings and recommendations, including any corrective action plans to address any risks identified, and recommendations for legislative or administrative actions determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(6) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall designate a person within the Senior Executive Service of the FAA to be directly responsible for the completion of the requirements of this subsection.

(7) STAFFING.—The Administrator shall ensure adequate staffing to conduct the safety reviews within the deadlines specified in this section.

SEC. 7. FAA-DOD SAFETY INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) MOU WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of the Army to permit, as appropriate, the sharing of information from the Army's Safety Management Information System with the FAA to facilitate communications and analysis of any applicable impacts to the safety and efficiency of civil aviation operations and to mitigate risk in the national airspace system.

(b) OTHER DOD MOUS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the following military departments to permit, as appropriate, the sharing of information from applicable aviation safety information systems to facilitate communications and analysis of any applicable impacts to the safety and efficiency of civil aviation operations and to mitigate risk in the national airspace system:

(1) The Department of the Navy.

(2) The Department of the Air Force.

(3) The Coast Guard.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 7 days after the date on which the Administrator enters into any Memorandum of Understanding under subsection (a) or (b), the Administrator shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8. REPEAL OF PROVISION REGARDING ADS–B EQUIPMENT ON CERTAIN AIRCRAFT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Section 1046 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is repealed.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; the Cruz-Cantwell substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 4070), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

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

The bill (S. 2503), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, congratulations, again, to my colleagues. Thank you to the U.S. Senate and its leadership for seeing that a version of the ROTOR Act was passed by unanimous consent.

NOMINATION OF JARED ISAACMAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today we consider the nomination of Mr. Jared Isaacman to serve as NASA Administrator, a critical position whose leadership will help determine the success of America's ambitious scientific and exploratory goals in space science.

The next NASA Administrator will be tasked with leading the United States and all of humanity to places humans have never ventured, but they will face equally great challenges here on Earth, leading a workforce that has faced a year of upheaval and navigating an administration that has grounded progress rather than fostered it.

Last Spring, President Trump requested a $6 billion cut to NASA, the largest cut in the Agency's history, with cancellation of more than 40 missions and cuts to others, including some already in the final pre-launch stages, such as the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. Then, only a few months later, the administration worked to push out as many scientists and engineers as possible through their resignation program, resulting in thousands of experienced and dedicated workers leaving the government, often as a result of fear and uncertainty around the future of their jobs. Some of these top scientists were recruited to research labs and universities in other nations, further eroding America's competitive edge. Now, 11 months since the inauguration, the workers remaining at NASA are simply looking for the stability and opportunity to do their world-leading work. The next administrator must bring a greater respect for and commitment to the NASA workforce.

In addition to their attacks on the workforce, vital earth science missions have faced cancellation because the Trump administration dislikes that they provide us with information about our changing climate. There has been bipartisan pushback to this direction for the Agency coupled with bipartisan support for providing NASA the resources they need to conduct their operations. Despite this resistance, the tension between the branches of government remains, and the next administrator will have a vital role to play in standing up for the Agency.

Maryland is the cornerstone of innovation in space science, centered around the crown jewel of American space science, the Goddard Space Flight Center, the Space Science Telescope Institute, AURA, and the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, alongside contractors and small businesses who support their essential work. Wallops Space Flight Center is just over the border in Virgina, but many of its employees and contractors call Maryland home. Space research and technology are a critical and productive part of Maryland's economy, and in turn, these entities are critical to the United States' broader space goals.

When President Trump attempted to cut NASA's fiscal year 2026 budget by an unprecedented amount, he did not target all parts of NASA equally. NASA Science was singled out for a 46-percent reduction in overall budget, which would disproportionately impact Goddard. The next Administrator will need to be ready to fight not just for individual parts of the Agency or flashy programs, but for the entire mission. If NASA seeks to take us back to the Moon and eventually to Mars, it will be cutting-edge science that takes us there and that path runs through Maryland.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Isaacman twice and watch both of his confirmation hearings, and I appreciate his willingness to engage on Maryland and national priorities for NASA's mission. During both my meetings with Mr. Isaacman, he relayed his belief in the importance of the NASA Science mission and the work done at the Goddard Space Flight Center. At the same time, however, I was alarmed to read Mr. Isaacman's Project Athena, his proposed plan for the Agency that suggested that NASA science should be a service to the commercial industry, rather than continuing to serve the public. I was further discouraged by his proposed plan to move certain mission control operations away from Goddard and to mark other Goddard facilities for possible ''deletion.'' The next NASA Administrator will need to approach the highly technical work and the people who perform it with respect and understanding for how their contribution fits into our larger goals.

I expect Mr. Isaacman's nomination to be confirmed, and it is my sincere hope that he means it when he says that he intends to prioritize and foster the cutting-edge research and science done by NASA, rather than cut it. I intend to work with him and the entire Agency through my role as Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science—CJS—Appropriations Subcommittee to support and provide critical oversight over the important work of NASA in Maryland, across the country, and around the world.

Mr. Isaacman's actions on the job, not his words during the confirmation

process, will be the true test of his commitment to the workforce and the future of the Agency. I look forward to working with him to achieve those goals.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise further today in support of the nomination Jared Issacman to lead the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. That is the vote that is now ensuing, just a few minutes later than scheduled.

Last week, for a second time, the Commerce Committee favorably reported Mr. Isaacman's nomination with bipartisan support.

Now, as NASA takes on some of the most significant tests in its nearly 70-year history, including the beating of China and other adversaries back to the Moon and positioning America for historic deep-space exploration, the Agency needs a permanent, Senate-confirmed leader.

As chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Space and the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science, I serve in both roles, as an authorizer of legislation and the appropriator for NASA.

I have worked with my colleagues and with previous administrations to provide the Agency with clear direction and the resources needed to achieve NASA's noble goals.

I trust that if he is confirmed, Mr. Isaacman will be a reliable partner in continuing that legacy.

Over the course of his nomination, I have had several opportunities to speak at length with Mr. Isaacman about his qualifications for this role, his assessment of NASA's current circumstances, and his vision to lead the Agency into the future. I am confident that he will provide the leadership that NASA needs to sustain and advance America's leadership in space.

NASA's mission is not solely the domain of space. Just a couple of weeks ago, at Mr. Isaacman's confirmation, I had the chance to discuss with him the critical importance to many Kansans, including those in agriculture, of NASA's Earth Science Division for supporting Kansas agriculture producers. I was pleased that Mr. Isaacman shares my view that NASA must remain steadfast in its commitment to science.

I want to thank Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy for his leadership of the Agency as Acting Administrator over the past several months.

Confirming, now, Mr. Isaacman as the next permanent Administrator for NASA will equip our space Agency for success. I will be voting yes on Mr. Isaacman's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

VOTE ON ISAACMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Isaacman nomination?

Mr. MORAN. 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 Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 650 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Graham	Moreno
Banks	Hagerty	Mullin
Barrasso	Hassan	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Heinrich	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schiff
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kelly	Shaheen
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Kim	Slotkin
Crapo	King	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville
Durbin	Marshall	Warner
Fetterman	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	McCormick	Young
Gallego	Moody	
Gillibrand	Moran	

NAYS—30

Alsobrooks	Luján	Sanders
Bennet	Markey	Schatz
Blumenthal	Merkley	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Murphy	Smith
Booker	Murray	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Ossoff	Warnock
Duckworth	Padilla	Warren
Hickenlooper	Peters	Welch
Hirono	Reed	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Coons	Ernst	Grassley

The nomination was confirmed.

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action for the Isaacman nomination and any nominations confirmed during Wednesday's session of the Senate.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Weaver nomination.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 594, Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Tim Sheehy, Bernie Moreno, John Cornyn, Pete Ricketts, Roger F. Wicker, Tommy Tuberville, Josh Hawley, Rick Scott of Florida, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, Bill Cassidy, Shelley Moore Capito.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026, 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 Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 69, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 651 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Banks	Hawley	Murkowski
Barrasso	Heinrich	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hoeven	Padilla
Boozman	Husted	Paul
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Budd	Johnson	Ricketts
Capito	Justice	Risch
Cassidy	Kelly	Rounds
Collins	Kennedy	Schiff
Cornyn	Kim	Schmitt
Cotton	King	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Klobuchar	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Shaheen
Cruz	Lee	Sheehy
Curtis	Lummis	Slotkin
Daines	Marshall	Sullivan
Duckworth	McConnell	Thune
Fetterman	McCormick	Tillis
Fischer	Merkley	Tuberville
Gallego	Moody	Welch
Graham	Moran	Whitehouse
Hagerty	Moreno	Wicker
Hassan	Mullin	Young

NAYS—27

Alsobrooks	Gillibrand	Sanders
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kaine	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Van Hollen
Booker	Murphy	Warner
Cantwell	Murray	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Peters	Warren
Durbin	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Coons	Grassley	Luján
Ernst		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). On this vote, the yeas are 69, the nays are 27. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mrs. MOODY. As if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 3082 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table. And prior to any further ruling by the chair, if I might make a comment—I withdraw so I might be able to make a comment, and then I will resubmit it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It has been withdrawn.

The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, I rise today to move for unanimous consent on the American Shores Protection Act, and this would codify President Trump's 2020 moratorium on drilling off Florida's Gulf of America and Atlantic coasts.

Florida has worked with President Trump for years to keep these operations off our pristine coast and not just for a sunny day to enjoy the gulf but because our coasts are a vital component of our State's economic success. In fact, Florida's beaches alone generate more than $127.7 billion a year in tourism spending and support more than 2.1 million related jobs.

However, these great resources are vulnerable to risks posed by new offshore drilling.

We all saw the devastating harm caused by the Deepwater Horizon oilspill in 2010. That disaster wiped billions of dollars from Florida's industries and caused horrific damage to our environment and coastal communities. Places like Panama City Beach, Pensacola, and Destin all saw dramatic drops in tourist revenues that summer, following the catastrophe. Even places like Clearwater, St. Petersburg, and Miami Beach suffered a decline in visitors after the oilspill.

Our coasts also play an important role in securing our Nation. The Gulf Test Range, a big part of the Department of War's training to ensure mission readiness, is supported by multiple military bases in Florida's Panhandle. More than 50,000 jobs in the Panhandle depend directly on operations at military facilities in this area. Eglin Air Force Base, in Okaloosa County, alone employs 20,000 people and provides the country with $11 billion in economic impact every year.

If there were new offshore drilling in the Gulf Test Range, these activities that support national security would have to be reduced, meaning job cuts in an area that depends heavily on military activities.

As a fifth generation Floridian, preserving our State's natural beauty is deeply important to me and all Floridians and the millions that call the Sunshine State home, as well as those who come to visit and vacation. It is my mission to protect our State's coastline, from Pensacola Beach, where the Blue Angels fly, to Duval Street in Key West; from the iconic South Beach in Miami to Fernandina in the very tip of Northeast Florida, all for our next generation.

I appreciate my colleague's support as we work together to ensure oil drilling stays off our beaches and we pass the American Shores Protection Act.

And if I may defer to my fellow Senator from Florida, Senator RICK SCOTT.

Mr. SCHMITT. The senior Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I want to first thank my colleague from Florida, Senator MOODY. I am proud to work together with her to protect Florida's shores, which is very, very, very important to Floridians.

As Floridians, we know that our beaches and coastal waters are vital to the State's economy, environment, tourism, and military community. I have worked for years, both as Florida's Governor and U.S. Senator, to keep oil drilling off our coast. We do not want oil drilling on our coast.

In 2018, I was proud to work with President Trump, during his first term, to extend the moratorium on oil drilling off Florida's coasts through 2032, and I have fought to codify this action since I got to the Senate.

Florida's shorelines are not only an iconic and pristine part of the State's environment; they also generate jobs in the area and support billions in tourism revenue.

Florida's beaches alone contribute more than $127 billion per year to the State's economy, just in tourism spending. People come from all over the world to enjoy our beaches. And 2.1 million jobs held by Floridians are tourism-related jobs.

Our coasts are also a critical national security point for military training with the Gulf Test Range. Anybody that has done testing, if you have served along the Panhandle, you know how important the military training is on the testing there for the Gulf Test Range. This range is an essential part of the Department of War's military training and is supported by several military communities along Florida's Panhandle.

It is the largest multidomain military training complex in the country, where our Armed Forces can conduct advanced military testing, training, and evaluation of air and weapons systems. There is no place in the world like being able to test and train off the coast of Florida.

The administration is right. We need to unleash America's energy, including American oil, but we can do that without sacrificing America's most important military training ground or hurting Florida's economy or shoreline.

I recently wrote a letter that was signed by the entire bipartisan Florida delegation—it is led by Senator MOODY and me—urging President Trump to continue his commitment to keeping Florida's coast off the table for oil drilling and uphold his moratorium.

Along with Senator MOODY, I will always fight to keep oil drilling off of Florida's coast to support our economy, our environment, and our Nation's military readiness.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with the President, Senator MOODY, and all our colleagues on this important issue.

I yield back to my colleague from Florida, Senator MOODY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Florida.

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 3082 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Reserving the right to object, this legislation has not been through regular order. It has not received a legislative hearing, and it hasn't been marked up. And it hasn't been reported by the committee of jurisdiction. As a result, there has been no opportunity, with all of those stops along the legislative pathway having been skipped—there has been no opportunity—for Members of this body, for members of the Trump administration, for the two principal involved Agencies within the U.S. Department of the Interior, known as BOEM and BSEE, to provide their feedback or offer testimony on the implications of this legislation.

Now, look, the Senate's committee process exists, and it exists for a reason. It exists for exactly these sets of reasons. While it might have slightly different implications depending on the committee involved and depending on the type of legislation, there are reasons why these things are there, and almost regardless of which committee is affected, you can normally benefit from this. And, in fact, it is normally quite hazardous to just bypass all of this, because that is how we legislate, without making sure that we have gone through all the necessary steps.

This process that has evolved over the last, roughly, two and a half centuries allows legislation to be examined in a transparent and a deliberative

way, with input from affected Agencies, from industries, from the President of the United States and members of his administration, and Senators on both sides of the aisle, including but not limited to the Senators of the States who might be behind the legislation in question.

Before legislation is advanced to the floor, it should be vetted through that process so that the Senate can fully understand and appreciate its scope, its effect, its legal posture, and whatever unintended or intended consequences the legislation might have.

I have made it clear, from the beginning, that I am willing to work with the Senator from Florida. In fact, I have offered to place it on the agenda for the next subcommittee hearing within the Energy Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. That would provide the Trump administration with the opportunity to weigh in with its views and allow us to hear analysis from BOEM and BSEE and any other Agencies that are affected—consistent with how the committee has considered other legislation within its jurisdiction this year, and consistent with the way it has always done it in the 15 years I have been a U.S. Senator.

As chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I have consistently stated that bills within the committee's jurisdiction should proceed through regular order. That process positions bills for successful consideration on the floor, consideration by the House, and, ultimately, enactment into law.

Skipping that process allows a bill to jump ahead of others that have followed the rules and respected the committee system.

So my objection today is not based on the merits of the underlying policy. It is based on the process. But the process is important to getting the policy right. That is why we don't skip it. That is why, in the absence of a compelling, overwhelming, urgent reason, we don't just ignore it, and I can't and won't ignore it here.

The Senate should not abandon its regular order by advancing legislation that has not been considered by the committee of jurisdiction.

I look forward to working with my friend and colleague the distinguished Senator from Florida to consider her bill in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in a transparent matter.

Until that occurs, I must object and object now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for taking the time to come down here today. I will note that he spent a lot of time talking about the long bureaucratic process; that this must go through every single step; and that we must get the policy right and going through the things that might take years, as we have seen happen in the Senate. It is what the American people are tired of, and I did not come here as the newest U.S. Senator to do business as usual. In fact, do you see where my desk is? It is on the very last row, almost to the edge of the Senate, because I am one of the newest Senators. We need to do things different. We need to get things done.

In respect to the pristine beaches of Florida, we have to act with a sense of urgency. As far as getting policy right, this simply codifies President Trump's 2020 moratorium on drilling off Florida's Gulf of America and Atlantic coasts. This policy has been negotiated and talked about, and it is already in a moratorium. This would simply codify that.

I so appreciate my colleague offering to set this on the agenda, and I appreciate that. I hope my other Senate colleagues recognize the urgency to get this done. I can't think of anything more top of mind for Floridians right now.

I am proud to be here, along with my colleague Senator SCOTT, to fight for Floridians and fight for Florida's livelihood, our pristine natural resources.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I respect and deeply appreciate my friend and colleague the distinguished Senator from Florida. And I respect and admire her great devotion to protecting her State, its pristine beaches, and the many qualities that it enjoys. People from all over the United States of America and all over the world love going to Florida. No one wants to take that away.

I, nonetheless, take umbrage—great umbrage in fact—to a couple of characterizations to which I must now respond. First, as to what she characterizes as the ''long bureaucratic process,'' this process is itself quite short, especially in comparison to an actual bureaucratic process, which it is not. Make no mistake, this is not a bureau; this is not bureaucratic process; this is a legislative process. It is a legislative process that has endured for hundreds of years in this country, and it may not be perfect, but it is the best one we have got. It existed for many hundreds of years before that in our mother country, before we became our own country. There are reasons why these things develop. To call it a long bureaucratic process is neither fair nor accurate, and it misapprehends the nature of the legislative task, including the legislative task before us at this very moment.

Now, with regard to the suggestion that by not passing this today—not passing it after leapfrogging over about 10 legislative steps that are essential to that process—we are somehow threatening Florida's pristine beaches and waters, this is simply not true. That couldn't be more untrue.

Let's remember what happened in 2020. President Trump issued a moratorium. That moratorium stays in place until 2032. Absent some other action taken pursuant to that, the status quo is to protect them.

What she is trying to do is to protect against President Trump doing anything consistent with his authority, consistent with that 2020 order. She is trying to tie his hands to prevent him from even figuring out what is there, to figure out whether there is a cost-benefit analysis on any of that.

Now, sure, the Senate can consider that from time to time. And perhaps after the legislative process—not the bureaucratic process. That is something different. That doesn't exist here. Nor is this simply a delay for the sake of delay. I pride myself in running the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and bringing forth these hearings as expeditiously as possible, and I have offered to put it on the next appropriate subcommittee hearing.

Now, if a mere delay of a few weeks or a few months, where it takes that time, isn't acceptable, I would like to know why. We have yet to hear a single reason, a single argument as to the parade of horribles of what could happen if we don't, as she would do here, tie President Trump's hands and bind further legislatively beyond what he has already bound himself to through his own 2020 Executive order.

So this is in place. It will remain in place. And there has yet to be a single reason articulated as to why we should treat this as an emergency. There is nobody going down there to drill right now. We still have got the Agencies that are looking at it. The least we can do in consideration of President Trump, his administration, and the affected Agencies, including those that I have mentioned earlier today—most particularly BOEM—is to hear them out first. In the absence of a compelling reason to leapfrog all of that, I must and will continue to object.

Mrs. MOODY. Thank you. I appreciate my colleague's willingness to work in the next week or few months. Thank you so much.

I yield the floor.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1262

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, I am here today to ask the Senate to pass a bill that helps kids with cancer—the Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act.

Now, very seldom do I actually read remarks. I typically like to just simply speak about it. But I think this is so important that I am actually going to read the remarks that are in front of me because I think it is important for people to know what we are doing, why we are doing it, and who she was—the advocate—and to understand why we are here today.

Mikaela, whom the bill is named after, was a 16-year-old girl from Colorado. As a father of six, this is kind of personal to me, so this is why it is so passionate to me, too, because my son currently—while he doesn't have a cancer like this, we have been going to

Rochester for over a year, and we are doing some experimentative stuff with him too. We got an opportunity—because it is not a death sentence. What he has isn't a death sentence. But we have had to go through this and continue to go through this. So it is even more personal to me now.

In July of 2020, Mikaela was diagnosed with a rare pediatric cancer. She spent nearly 6 years traveling across the country for treatments while also coming to Capitol Hill to advocate for children with cancer. But unfortunately, she tragically passed away October 29 of this year—advocating literally almost every day of her life.

Mikaela was a fighter. She fought so other children could have an opportunity, that one day, the devastating diagnosis that she received would someday be curable for other kids.

Some things that come across your desk in Congress just make sense, and this is one of them. This bill has 33 cosponsors in the Senate, and they are bipartisan, from liberal Democrats to conservative Republicans.

We worked hard to get this bill passed for over a year, and it passed the House by voice. Not one single person objected to this. Why? Because why wouldn't you want to allow kids, our kids, an opportunity to simply have the same opportunity as adults do with cancer? It is called pediatric cancer. Give kids a chance. Why wouldn't we want to do that?

It is hard to explain why we wouldn't want to do that, but yet I understand the Senator from Vermont intends to object to the Senate doing this. I think it is wrong. I think it is dead wrong.

To think that someone is willing to hold hostage a child who is fighting for their life, who simply wants to have an opportunity to try an experimental drug that may extend their life 1 week, 1 day, or may even cure it, and you are willing to take that away from the family because you have other priorities, because you want to hold it hostage so you can try to do something with community healthcare centers?

I support community healthcare centers. I want them. They are important to rural Oklahoma. But there is a time and place for everything, and to hold this bill hostage because of it is not right. You are stealing from a family an opportunity to spend maybe an extra minute or an extra day or maybe a lifetime with a loved one.

I don't know how you argue this. I don't know how you can possibly stand up here with a straight face and say that it is OK; it is just politics. This isn't just politics. We are playing with people's lives. This isn't politics. This is more than just politics.

But I will tell you, if this is objected to and we can't find a path forward here today, I can promise you I will not stop fighting on this. It won't happen. We are going to rinse and repeat and continue to go down this path until we give the families with these rare diseases an opportunity to live because that is what this is about.

I recognize my friend from New Hampshire who may have some comments about this too.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I thank Senator MULLIN for yielding.

I support the motion to send this bipartisan package that you are speaking about to the President.

Obviously, the provisions that Senator MULLIN, my friend from Oklahoma, is discussing are incredibly important. There are other provisions in this bill, too, that have bipartisan support.

This bill would cut costs for prescription drugs through a bipartisan provision that I worked on with Senator PAUL to speed up getting generic drugs to market.

Now, I understand Senator SANDERS' perspective about wanting to attach to this package increased funding for our country's community health centers. They are incredibly important, lifesaving resources to millions of Americans. So as we are talking about saving lives here, we have to recognize the role that community health centers play in that.

They provide vital services in our communities, and I fully support passing this funding increase for them through the House and the Senate as soon as possible. But as I understand it, the House will not act to do so at this time.

So as disappointed as I am that the House isn't ready to support increased funding for community health centers, I also believe that it is important to take action on this package now to help address pediatric cancer and lower prescription drug costs, so I am disappointed that this bill will not move forward today.

Having said that, I hope we can come together and find a way to continue to work with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to get this package over the finish line next month.

Thank you for yielding.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MULLIN. I yield to the chairman from Louisiana, Mr. CASSIDY.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to support Senator MULLIN's legislation, the Mikaela Naylon Give Kids a Chance Act.

Mr. President, I am a doctor, and people become desperate because of their illness, and they want just one more chance for themselves, their child, whomever.

The folks who are most desperate are the parents for their child, and we all know that, because if someone dies when they are 70, it can be tragic, but they have lived 70 good years, and when someone dies when she is 6, she is denied 76 more years. It is the desperation of these families that kind of cries out for this piece of legislation. They want this passed.

The goal of this legislation is to get cures for pediatric cancer to the patient more quickly.

Now, we have been working on this for several years—Democrats and Republicans—trying to make it so that those families, their desperate pleas are actually heard. And just as the Senator from Oklahoma noted, the legislation was recently renamed to the honorable legacy of Mikaela Naylon, who spent her final days advocating for better pediatric drug research.

The irony here is that the objection is going to come out of a genuine concern that people achieve healthcare, a concern I share for increased funding, for funding to be extended for community health centers. I share that concern.

But there is no one way to treat the ills, literally the ills of the United States of America. And to think that we can do it all at once, it is just not true.

But also to say that you are not going to give a chance for children to have a cure for cancer if you don't get what you want, is just not true. It is selfish. It is tragic. These parents are desperate for this act.

Now, this will expand the research and drug development for these pediatric illnesses, and I commit as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee that I will work to pass community health center legislation. I will work to have it well funded. I will not let it sit on the back burner never getting done. There is a commitment from the chairman to work with my Democratic colleague to get it passed this year. If that is the only barrier between offering these children hope, I ask that that not be a barrier.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MULLIN. I, too, want to say I support community health centers. As I said, they are very important in rural communities, very important in my hometown of Westville. In fact, it is the only healthcare that is available. I don't want them to be harmed; I want them to be well funded, but that is a separate conversation we can have.

The chairman just said he will work to get it passed next year. Now, there is no reason to hold our kids hostage anymore.

So, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1262, which was received from the House; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me be very clear: In the midst of a broken and dysfunctional healthcare system, we must do everything that we can to find new cures and treatments for pediatric cancer, and I strongly support that effort, period.

I think we can all imagine the kind of heartbreak that parents go through

when they learn that their babies or their young children have been diagnosed with cancer. And I should say that as the former chair of the HELP Committee, I was actively involved in the bipartisan agreement that we reached over a year ago, which included the Give Kids a Chance Act, bipartisan support, ready to go.

Sadly, that enormously important legislation was torpedoed, as some of you will recall, by a series of tweets by Elon Musk. And Republicans became frightened, and they gave up on that bipartisan legislation.

As the current ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, I believe that we must revive that bipartisan agreement that was worked on month after month after month by Democrats and Republicans.

Therefore, in a minute, I will be making a unanimous consent request to include this bipartisan healthcare package, again, an agreement that was supported by the leadership of the House and the Senate as an amendment to the Give Kids a Chance Act, and I hope very much that my Republican colleague will support that amendment, and we can go forward together.

And let me very briefly describe what my amendment would do, which I hope my Republican friends will support. And I say this at a time, as all people know, not only that our healthcare system is broken but our primary healthcare system is especially broken. Tens of millions of Americans today cannot get to a doctor when they need to. And there are estimates—you talk about people dying, there are estimates that tens of thousands of people die in the United States of America because they are sick, and they can't afford to get to a doctor when they should. And that is why community health centers are so very important and provide healthcare today, dental care, low-cost prescription drugs, mental health counseling to over 30 million Americans.

All we are doing here is asking my Republican colleagues to support the bipartisan agreement we had last year, which would increase funding for community health centers by $340 million.

In fact, according to the Commonwealth Fund, health centers today are facing a disastrous situation. In fact, they face losses of nearly $42 billion in revenue over the next 5 years. So community health centers are a lifeline. They are the way the low-income, working-class people in rural America, urban America, get the healthcare they need, and we are seeing them under enormous financial strain.

Just this past year, we had a health center site in Vermont and I understand two in New Hampshire that were forced to shut down because of lack of funding.

What do you think happens when people can't get to a doctor? You know what happens when they are sick? They die. This is happening all over America. We all know that primary care is critical for children. In fact, in detecting cancer early, saving lives, how do you think children with cancer, how do we learn about it? They go to a doctor. They don't go to a doctor, we don't find out about it.

Researchers at the Emory University School of Medicine and the University of Chicago found that having access to primary care in childhood has been shown to lower the rate of death in blood cancer by over 10 percent.

It is vital that we begin to increase funding for community health centers. If Republicans agree with it, if Democrats agree with it, let us do it, let us do it right now.

Further, the amendment would extend mandatory funding for the National Health Service Corps for 2026. Guess what. In the richest country in the history of the world, we don't have enough doctors; we don't have enough nurses; we don't have enough dentists.

And what that actual health service corps does is forgive medical debt to those professionals who practice in underserved areas where they are desperately needed. Let's do it.

Further, this amendment would extend mandatory funding for the Teaching Health Center Program through September 29, 2029, on an annualized rate that reaches $300 million. Teaching health centers are extraordinarily important because they allow medical school graduates to do their residencies in community health centers, not just in large urban hospitals.

Finally, this amendment would provide $200 million a year for the Special Diabetes Programs, which are so very important. Again, this is not a radical amendment. I am not coming here saying let's do something we have not talked about. I am not talking about passing Medicare For All here. I am talking about doing what the Republicans and Democrats agreed to a year ago but was torpedoed by some tweets from Elon Musk.

Therefore, I ask that the request be modified, that my amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. MULLIN. I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, you know everything that the Senator from Vermont has railed about is why I think he supported the Affordable Care Act a.k.a. ObamaCare. I thought it was supposed to fix all this stuff that he wrote about, and we figured out it hasn't. It has wrecked the system. It is unaffordable for the American people. Yet it was the Democrats that sold us or sold the American people on it—not us, not Republicans, sold the American people on it.

It has been disastrous. And so now he wants to hold kids that are dying of rare diseases and pediatric cancer, wants to hold them hostage, to now try to push his agenda further and not go through the committee of jurisdiction but hold the kids hostage—the kids.

Everything the Senator from Vermont just talked about was political. I am talking about lives. I am talking about giving kids a chance to live an extra day or a lifetime. That is what I am talking about.

This has nothing to do with politics. Nothing. Nothing I am talking about has to do with politics. This has to do with kids. Yet the Senator from Vermont wants to make it about politics. You know, this time of the year at Christmas we talk about grinches, all the time, right? They go in, and they steal the kids' gifts. By the end of the show, their hearts grow bigger and they give the gifts back and they allow kids to be excited about Christmas morning.

What has happened right here in front of us, the grinch is stealing kids' lives, and they are stealing hope from the families, hope from the families that might have an opportunity just to try for a political agenda.

And I hope to God that every single family that is going through this will hold the Senator from Vermont accountable, and the State of Vermont will hold him accountable, too, because he is playing with kids' lives. He is literally killing kids in front of us because of his political movement, and it is ridiculous.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. And I remind Senators that in the course of debate not to disparage other Senators' motives or character.

Mr. MULLIN. Just speaking the truth.

Mr. SANDERS. Well, let's speak the truth.

Mr. MULLIN. I am, sir.

Mr. SANDERS. Don't interrupt me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification? Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. SANDERS. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SANDERS. The Senator from Oklahoma says that I am talking about politics. Well, if talking about politics means that millions of children have the right to see a doctor, I guess I am talking about politics.

If talking about politics means that kids can get dental care when their teeth are rotting in their mouth or get mental health counseling, I guess I am talking about politics.

So, once again, this important piece of legislation, I support, but I also support passing the bipartisan piece of legislation that was worked on last year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

VOTE ON WEAVER NOMINATION

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Weaver nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 652 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Banks	Hassan	Murkowski
Barrasso	Hawley	Ossoff
Blackburn	Heinrich	Padilla
Boozman	Hoeven	Paul
Britt	Husted	Reed
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cassidy	Justice	Rounds
Collins	Kelly	Schiff
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cotton	Kim	Scott (FL)
Cramer	King	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cruz	Lankford	Sheehy
Curtis	Lee	Slotkin
Daines	Lummis	Sullivan
Duckworth	Marshall	Thune
Ernst	McConnell	Tillis
Fetterman	McCormick	Tuberville
Fischer	Merkley	Welch
Gallego	Moody	Whitehouse
Graham	Moran	Wicker
Grassley	Moreno	Young
Hagerty	Mullin	

NAYS—29

Alsobrooks	Gillibrand	Sanders
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kaine	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Luján	Van Hollen
Booker	Markey	Warner
Cantwell	Murphy	Warnock
Coons	Murray	Warren
Cortez Masto	Peters	Wyden
Durbin	Rosen	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The majority leader.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the nominations en bloc pursuant to S. Res. 532.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and the provisions of S. Res. 532 (119th Congress), do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar Nos.: 166, 267, 354, 429, 430, 431, 432, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 461, 462, 463, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 486, 488, 489, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 516, 517, 518, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, en bloc.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Jon A. Husted, Lindsey Graham, James E. Risch, Lisa Murkowski, Bill Hagerty, Todd Young, Markwayne Mullin, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, David McCormick, John Boozman, John Barrasso, Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, Josh Hawley.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the en bloc nominations, provided under the provisions of S. Res. 532, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 653 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—47

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 532, the nominations listed therein are pending en bloc.

With respect to the Weaver nomination, 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 actions.

The Senator from Louisiana.

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes about money—money, money, money—people's money.

Like the Presiding Officer, I have learned a few things in life. I want to mention two. No. 1, money does not buy happiness. No. 2, poverty does not buy a damned thing, and that is the theme of my few minutes as I talk today.

This is about people's money, and it has to do with unredeemed, uncashed savings bonds.

Now, the Presiding Officer knows what I mean when I talk about a bond. Usually, when we are talking on the Senate floor, we are talking about Treasury bonds or Treasury bills or Treasury notes. I want to talk about a different kind of bond today. It is the same principle but a different animal. It is called a savings bond.

Savings bonds used to be very, very popular in America, particularly in the last century, particularly during World War II. They are less popular today because there are so many other ways to earn interest on your money, although many people still believe in savings bonds. I do. It is a great way to invest your money.

What am I talking about when I say a savings bond as opposed to a Treasury bond? Well, let's take the example of one particular savings bond. It is called an EE U.S. savings bond.

A savings bond is just a loan to the Federal Government. Suppose I have $1,000, and I want to loan it to the Federal Government because the Federal Government will pay me interest. I could go to the Federal Government and say: I am going to loan you $1,000.

The Federal Government would say: Thank you very much. Here is your EE U.S. savings bond.

This is how it would work: The Federal Government would guarantee me that after 20 years, my $1,000 would double. So I would hand them—''them'' meaning the government—$1,000, and 20 years from now, I would get back $2,000.

If I didn't really need my money after 20 years, I could let the government keep it—loan it to the government, if you will—for another 10 years, and they would continue paying me interest.

Now, there are two things you need to note about what I just talked about, this EE savings bond.

No. 1, unlike a regular corporate bond, when I loan that $1,000 to the Federal Government and get back an EE U.S. savings bond, I don't get periodic interest payments. The interest accrues and it compounds. When I give the government $1,000, I don't get quarterly interest payments, but at the end of the 20 years, I get back $2,000. Roughly, in today's market, I am making about 2.7 percent a year, but it is very, very safe. If you believe in the sovereignty of the Federal Government—our Federal Government being part of the wealthiest country in all of human history—then it is a pretty safe investment.

The other thing you need to note about the savings bond, in addition to the fact that they don't pay me periodic interest—I get all my interest

when I get my principal back at the end of 20 years—is that at some point, as in the example I just gave, after 30 years, the Federal Government stops paying me interest; interest stops accruing. So if I loan the Federal Government $1,000, and after 20 years, interest is accrued, if I want to, I can redeem my savings bond, and they will give me $2,000. Maybe I say ''OK, I will re-up another 10 years and continue to earn interest,'' but 30 years is the limit. After 30 years, if I don't redeem my bond, I am loaning money to the Federal Government interest-free, and that would be a dumb thing to do.

But not everybody redeems their bonds. A lot of people don't—more people than you would imagine. Life comes at us pretty fast. You know, you buy a savings bond or maybe your grandparents or your parents buy you a bond when you are young. You grow up, you get married, you have kids, and you get a job and then you change jobs. You move around the country. A lot of people forget those savings bonds. They still own the savings bonds, but they just forget to redeem them, so the government just has an interest-free loan.

Here is what I am driving at: Right now, over in the U.S. Department of the Treasury, there are 100 million unredeemed savings bonds. It is money that belongs to the American people. It is no longer earning interest. There are 100 million savings bonds. There are only 340 million people in America, so it is a little less than a third of the people in America—although I realize some may be deceased—who have one of these savings bonds, where the Federal Government owes them money, but the money is just sitting there, and the Federal Government is using it, and they are not paying people interest.

The total amount of these unredeemed savings bonds is $36.27 billion.

And that $36 billion has been there a long, long time because people have either died or they have forgotten that they have these unredeemed savings bonds.

Now, this is very uncool.

A few years ago, back in 2023, I introduced a bill which actually passed; I got it passed. It said to the Federal Government, specifically, the U.S. Department of the Treasury: You have got to give this money back. You have got the names of people on these bonds. In many cases, you have the addresses. In a lot of cases, you have the serial numbers.

Why are you just sitting on this $36 billion, these 100 million bonds? Why don't you contact people and give them their money?

And they said: KENNEDY, you don't understand. First of all, they said, our records are a mess. Some of these bonds go back—I don't know—75 years before there were computers. The Treasury Department said to me: The records are not digitized. We would have to comb through boxes and boxes and boxes to get names and addresses, and it is just—it is just a lot of trouble.

I said: Well, I feel your pain, but you still ought to return the money to people.

So here is what I am going to do: I am going to introduce a bill—and I did, and I passed it—that says the Federal Government has got to return this money to the people to whom it is owed. In that bill, I provided money for the U.S. Department of the Treasury to digitize those records, to go out and hire a consultant to go through all the records and put them in the database so they can be easily searched.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has done that. I want to thank them. Hasn't been the easiest thing I have ever done. I worked with Secretary Mnuchin first and then Secretary Yellen and now Secretary Bessent and all of the good women and men who work for them. But we finally have gotten it done.

Here is what we are ready to do. We are ready to turn the names and addresses and serial numbers over to the treasurer of every State—in Louisiana, in West Virginia, and every other State. We are going to give them the names and addresses and serial numbers so they can contact people in their State and say: The Federal Government has your money, and we want to get it back to you.

Why are we doing it that way through the States instead of just telling the U.S. Department of the Treasury to start calling people up? Well, because the States are very experienced.

Every State has what is called an Unclaimed Property Program. What is an Unclaimed Property Program? Well, every State has a law that says if a business—usually, it is a business, not always—but if a business has your money and it can't find you, that business can't keep it.

At the end of a certain period of time—usually 3 to 4 years—that business has got to turn that money over to the State—it is called unclaimed property—and the State has got to help give it back to people.

What am I talking about? Let's say a utility deposit—happens all the time. People move into an apartment. They post a utility deposit with the electricity company. They move. They forget to get their deposit back.

Apartment deposit works the same way. Tax refunds. Stocks. Maybe you own a stock, and it is being held by your brokerage company and you move and you don't leave a forwarding address or the forwarding address expires. That security company can't—that brokerage can't just keep that stock. That brokerage turns that stock over to the State treasurer of every State, and it is their job to return it to people.

Let me tell you something, the States do a marvelous job. You can go to every single State right now—just Google it—and find the State's unclaimed property program, and you can go spend a few minutes. You put in your name. You can put in your parent's name. You can put in your friend's name. You can put in the name of the town in which you were raised and find people who are owed unclaimed property. The treasurers do a great job of getting it back.

They not only have websites, but they advertise—and toll free numbers. They just do a wonderful job of getting money back to people. When I was State treasurer of Louisiana, I was in charge of Louisiana's Unclaimed Property Program, and I was there for 17 years. I think I returned $400, $500 million to the people of Louisiana. I had a whole unclaimed property section, men and women who would contact people all day long, and we had a very sophisticated database.

So that is why the U.S. Department of the Treasury, under my legislation, is not going to give this money back itself. It is going to return—or give the information to the treasurer of every State, and the treasurer of every State is going to be in charge of contacting people.

We have gone through this. We have been working on it. I passed the bill in 2023, I think, but we worked on it for 2 years prior to that. But we are almost home. What now we have to do is get the State treasurers to sign an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

All the State treasurers have to do is sign an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Treasury to cooperate. The Treasury will send them the names, and we can start returning this money to people.

I am going to be sending another letter out in short order to all the State treasurers asking them to go ahead and sign that user agreement with the Treasury Department so we can start getting this money back to people.

It is free money. And remember, there are 100 million bonds, 340 million people in America, $36 billion that is owed to the American people that the Federal Government has just been sitting on that hasn't been returned. And now we are going to start doing it, if I can just get our State treasurers to turn in these user agreements. Some of them have but others have not yet. You may not get a check for Christmas, but if you hurry up, you can get a check in January or February so you can pay some bills.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIS DELONY

Mr. President, the second thing I want to talk about, I just want to give an attaboy to a young man—he is not young anymore—that I grew up with. His name is Professor Willis Delony.

I grew up with him in Zachary, LA. Professor Delony is a remarkable talent. God has blessed him with so much talent. He is the Boyd Professor of Piano and Jazz Studies in the School of Music at LSU. He has been there since 2000, 24 years.

Before that, he taught at Southeastern Louisiana University and Delta State University.

Professor Delony has earned worldwide acclaim. He is one of America's leading—if not America's leading—classical jazz crossover artists. Willis has also appeared—in addition to his teaching, Willis has appeared as a soloist, a guest pianist, an arranger, a conductor with orchestras throughout the United States, Canada, China, the former Soviet Union, all over the world, an immensely talented man.

Professor Delony, my friend of many years—as I said, I grew up with him—he was just named to the Steinway and Sons Music Teacher Hall of Fame. That is a big deal. It is a big, big deal, and I wanted to spend a few minutes calling out one of Louisiana's best and brightest: Professor Willis Delony, who grew up in little old Zachary, LA, for his remarkable—remarkable—achievement.

With that, I conclude my remarks, and I hope everyone has a merry Christmas and a happy Hanukkah, and I thank you for your time and attention. My work here is done.

Mr. President, I was going to suggest the absence of a quorum, but I see the Parliamentarian over there wants me to call on my good friend, the Senator from Vermont.

So I yield my time to the esteemed, legendary Senator from Vermont who is what cool looks like, Senator PETER WELCH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

VENEZUELA

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I thank my esteemed colleague from Louisiana.

The United States is on the brink of a war, a war of regime change in Venezuela. President Trump has amassed an armada of U.S. warships, fighter planes, and Special Forces off the coast of Venezuela.

Around 15,000 military personnel are in the region, and that includes Special Forces, marines, and specialized units. Reports indicate that 13 warships are operating in the Caribbean right now, and that includes the USS *Gerald Ford* carrier group and several amphibious assault ships. And more than 100 advanced aircraft have been deployed and are being deployed. That includes F–35s from the Vermont Air National Guard.

The President has also deployed combat rescue units, the types of specialists that can rescue pilots who are down in hostile territory. And the President himself has said that the attack could come very soon.

So the question is, Why are our warships, a carrier group, and support assets in the Caribbean? They are not there for drug interdiction. The reason they are there is obvious, and it is even acknowledged.

President Trump wants Maduro gone. He wants regime change. The President has said himself that Maduro's days ''are numbered.''

His Chief of Staff, Susie Wiles, said that the President ''wants to keep on blowing boats up until Maduro cries uncle, and people way smarter than me on that say that he will.''

When Secretary Rubio was asked a few weeks ago if the Venezuelan Government should be concerned about the massive military buildup in the Caribbean he said that ''they don't have a government. There's an illegitimate regime that's basically a narcotrafficking organization that's empowered itself.''

All of us revile Maduro. He is a tyrant. He has tortured and jailed political opponents. His policies have bankrupted his very wealthy country, driving millions of Venezuelans to flee their homes.

Yet we face two questions: First, should the United States go to war for the purpose of changing a regime we despise?

Second, can the President—any President—through his unilateral actions, plunge our country into a war for the purpose of changing regimes and do that without coming to this Congress for approval under the War Powers Act?

We have had experience with wars to change regimes we despise. The Iraq war was sold confidently by its promoters as a simple operation. Our troops would be welcomed as liberators. We remember that, and we know how that ended. True, it only took weeks for America's superior firepower to topple Saddam Hussein's regime.

But that was only the beginning. The war in Iraq unleashed decades of instability, ushering in revolutionary, violent, Islamic insurgencies across the region. And, of course, the war in Afghanistan took only a handful of Special Forces troops and targeted airstrikes to lead to the quick fall of the Taliban regime. But it also dragged our country and many of our allies into our longest war, fighting a 20-year insurgency.

In each case, it was easy to topple the regime, but what followed was tremendously terrible for our soldiers and our taxpayers. Those wars cost the United States and our allies the lives of 10,000 of our brave soldiers. It cost us trillions of dollars, and we are still paying for that.

The Executive has two obligations, and the Congress must demand compliance. First, the administration owes us transparency.

In the buildup of our military presence, the administration has ordered the extrajudicial killings of nearly 100 civilians in international waters. That they were alleged drug dealers or drug couriers does not give the President the authority to direct the military to attack.

The administration has provided absolutely no information to Congress about these attacks, who was killed, or the basis of the attacks; nor has it released the video of the recent attack in which survivors were killed in a second strike; nor has the administration made public the classified legal opinion upon which it relies to justify its actions.

Members of Congress, including me, have had an opportunity to read that opinion, which I found woefully unconvincing. But since it was classified, I can't discuss it. My view, release that opinion to the American people. My view, release that video to the American people.

Second, as the President masses our forces for a war, as he and his associates have explicitly stated, it is one in which their goal would be the elimination of the Maduro regime. The President refuses to come to Congress and seek congressional approval for a military action, as is required under the War Powers Act.

All of us—all of us as elected Members of the U.S. Senate—have vested in us under the Constitution, article I, the responsibility and exclusive authority to declare war. Let us all accept our duty and demand that the Executive be transparent, be accountable, and comply with the provisions of the War Powers Act and come to Congress for our approval of the military action that is clearly underway.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, had I been present for the rollcall vote No. 648, on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1071, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, my vote would have been in the affirmative.

My absence is due to my attendance at the dignified transfer ceremony at Dover Air Force Base to receive the remains of the two Iowa National Guard servicemembers who were killed in Syria this past week. I appreciate the opportunity to record my position.

Had I been present for the rollcall vote No. 651, on the motion to invoke Cloture on the Nomination of Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, my vote would have been in the affirmative.

My absence is due to my attendance at the dignified transfer ceremony at Dover Air Force Base to receive the remains of the two Iowa National Guard servicemembers who were killed in Syria this past week. I appreciate the opportunity to record my position.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, this explanation reflects the status of negotiations and disposition of issues

reached between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

The explanation shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the Explanatory Statement for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 be printed into the record.

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

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

The following is the Explanatory Statement to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (''the Act''), which has been included as Division F of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026. The Explanatory Statement reflects the result of negotiations between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (together, ''the Committees''). The Explanatory Statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of the Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the Committees from publicly disclosing many details concerning their final decisions regarding funding levels and policy direction. Therefore, the Committees have prepared a classified annex—referred to here and within the annex itself as ''the Agreement''—that contains a classified Schedule of Authorizations and describes in detail the scope and intent of the Committees' actions.

The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community to obligate and expend funds as requested in the President's budget and as modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations, subject to applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the Act pursuant to Section 6102 of the Act. It has the status of law. The Agreement supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the Act and in the classified Schedule of Authorizations.

This Explanatory Statement incorporates by reference, and the Executive Branch shall comply with, all direction contained in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (S. Rept. 119–51) and in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the InteIligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (H. Rept. 119–389). The Agreement supersedes all classified direction in the classified annexes to accompany S. Rept. 119–51 and H. Rept. 119–389 related to programs and activities authorized by the Schedule of Authorizations.

The Executive Branch is further directed as follows:

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SUPPORT FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS

The Committees direct that the head of the Office of Counterintelligence of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury shall implement policies and procedures that ensure counterintelligence support to all entities of the Department of the Treasury responsible for safeguarding networks and systems and for coordinating between counterintelligence threat mitigation activities and cyber network and system defense efforts. The Committees further direct that, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the head of the Office of Counterintelligence shall submit a report to the Committees on the status of the implementation of such policies.

REPORT ON DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES GROUP

The Committees direct that, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall provide to the Committees a briefing on personnel matters of the Director's Initiatives Group, which shall include: (1) a list of personnel of such group from the date of the creation of the group; and (2) funding sources for personnel of such group.

REPORT ON SECURE MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS USED TO TRANSMIT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

The Committees direct that, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Acts each Intelligence Community program head shall submit to the Committees a report on the secure mobile communications systems used for transmission of classified information (excluding systems used for purposes of clandestine or covert communications) and available to employees and officers of the Intelligence Community. The report should include the following information: (1) the name, description, and date of purchase or development of each system; (2) the number of employees using each system; (3) the cost of development and operations of each system; (4) a list of the capabilities and the level of classification of each system; (5) identification of any existing service agreements with other elements of the Intelligence Community for use of a system; and (6) identification, description, and deployment timeline of any secure mobile communications systems that are in development. For purposes of this report, the term ''mobile communications systems'' means any portable wireless telecommunications equipment utilized for the transmission or reception of classified information.

UKRAINE LESSONS LEARNED WORKING GROUP

Section 6413 of the Fiscal Year 2025 Intelligence Authorization Act (P.L. 118–159) required the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense to jointly establish a working group to identify and share lessons learned from the Ukraine conflict in order to strengthen United States national security. Despite the critical importance of this mandate, the Committees note with concern that the working group has not been established and that the Intelligence Community has been unresponsive to repeated congressional inquiries on this matter.

The Committees recognize that various efforts are underway across the Executive Branch that may support the objectives envisioned for the working group. However, the Committees underscore the importance of adhering to statutory requirements and ensuring that lessons from Russia's invasion of Ukraine are systematically identified, coordinated, and applied.

Accordingly, the Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense to stand up the Ukraine Lessons Learned Working Group, in compliance with the law, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Act, and to provide a joint briefing to the Committees on the status, scope, and initial findings of the working group not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Act.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

The Committees continue to be concerned with the management of the Department of State's information technology networks and believe the existing management structure for the networks may no longer meet the requirements to support a global diplomatic presence. The Committees therefore direct the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, in coordination with any other bureau or office the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate, to explore optimized reorganization of management of the entirety of the Department's information technology networks and to provide a briefing to the Committees, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Act, on potential concepts of realignment.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT AND USAGE BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Section 6602 of the Act requires the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community to identify commonly used artificial intelligence systems or functions that have the greatest potential for re-use without significant modification by Intelligence Community elements. The Committees direct that, in identifying such systems, the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community shall, in addition to coordinating with the Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Intelligence Community, coordinate with such officials of the Department of Defense, as identified by the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, for any systems used by an Intelligence Community element of the Department of Defense.

Section 6602 also requires the head of each Intelligence Community element to track and evaluate the performance of procured and element-developed artificial intelligence. The Committees are of the view that tracking and evaluating should at a minimum include—

1. Documenting, to the extent information is readily available, the provenance of data used to train, fine-tune, or operate the artificial intelligence system, such as included in industry-standard Model Cards to the extent practicable.

2. Conducting ongoing testing and evaluation on artificial intelligence system performance, the effectiveness of vendor artificial intelligence offerings, and associated risk management measures, including by testing in real-world conditions.

3. The stipulation of conditions for retraining or decommissioning artificial intelligence capabilities.

4. Requiring sufficient post-award monitoring and evaluation for effectiveness of the artificial intelligence system in achieving documented mission outcomes, where appropriate in the context of the product or service acquired.

STUDY ON THREATS POSED BY UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS AT OR NEAR THE LAND AND MARITIME BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES

The Committees are concerned that hundreds of encounters with unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are annually recorded at or near the land and maritime borders of the United States, which present a vulnerability in national security. With the proliferation of affordable drones, a wide range of groups, including malign actors, have sought to make use of this capability. It is critical that the U.S. Government has full situational awareness of the threats these systems pose to U.S. military personnel, other Federal personnel, and civilians.

The Committees therefore direct that, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Undersecretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the

Department of Homeland Security and the heads of any other elements of the Intelligence Community the Director considers appropriate, shall submit to the Committees a study on the threat posed by UAS at or near the land and maritime borders of the United States.

The study shall include the following:

1. An identification of the malign actors operating UAS at or near the borders, including malign actors who cross such borders.

2. The information collected by operators of UAS at or near the borders, and a description of how such data is used by malign actors.

3. The tactics, techniques, and procedures used by malign actors operating UAS at or near the borders, including how such actors acquire, modify, and utilize UAS to conduct malicious activities, including attacks, surveillance, conveyance of contraband, and other forms of threats.

4. A description of how a threat is identified and assessed at or near the borders, including a description of the capabilities of the United States Government to detect and identify UAS operated by, or on behalf of, malign actors.

5. The adequacy of United States technology used to detect, identify, track, monitor, and mitigate threats posed by UAS operated by malign actors at or near the borders.

6. The guidance, policies, and procedures that address the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of persons who lawfully operate UAS at or near the borders.

7. Current authorities of the United States Government to counter the use of UAS by malign actors at or near the borders, including an accounting of the delineated responsibilities of Federal agencies to counter, contain, trace, or defeat unmanned aircraft systems at or near the borders.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREATS TO UNITED STATES CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL SPACE INTERESTS

The Committees are concerned with counterintelligence threats to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and commercial spaceports. Therefore, the Committees direct that, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), shall submit to the Committees an assessment of the counterintelligence vulnerabilities of NASA, if any.

The assessment shall include the following:

1. An assessment of the vulnerability of the security practices and facilities of NASA to efforts by nation-state and non-nation-state actors to acquire United States space technology.

2. An assessment of the counterintelligence threat posed to NASA centers by nationals of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

3. Recommendations for how NASA can mitigate any counterintelligence gaps identified under paragraphs (1) and (2).

4. A description of efforts by NASA to respond to the efforts of nation-state and non-nation-state actors to illicitly acquire United States satellites and related items as described in reports submitted by the Director of National Intelligence pursuant to section 1261(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (P.L. 112–239), along with an evaluation of the effectiveness of these efforts.

Further, the Committees direct that, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the head of the Counterintelligence Division of the FBI, in coordination with the head of the Office of Private Sector of the FBI, and in coordination with the Office of Commercial Space Transportation within the Department of Transportation, shall develop an assessment of the counterintelligence risks, if any, to commercial spaceports and distribute the assessment to each FBI field office in an area of responsibility which includes a federally-licensed commercial spaceport and the leadership of each federally-licensed commercial spaceport, in coordination with the Office of Commercial Space Transportation.

PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION RELATED TO BUDGET FUNCTIONS

The Committees remain concerned with protecting classified information used in the Intelligence Community's budget-related activities. Therefore, the Committees direct that, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall submit to the Committees a study, with a classified annex, outlining the feasibility of and cost associated with the department or agency of (1) the Secretary of Treasury; (2) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; (3) each head of an element of the Intelligence Community; or (4) any other head of a department or agency of the Federal Government carrying out a function specified below, using secure systems that meet the requirements to protect classified information, including with respect to the location at which the system is located or accessed, to carry out any of the following activities:

1. Formulating, developing, and submitting the budget of the department or agency (including the budget justification materials submitted to Congress) under the National Intelligence Program;

2. Apportioning, allotting, and issuing warrants for the disbursement of, and obligating and expending funds under the National Intelligence Program; and

3. Carrying out Federal financial management service functions or related activities of the Intelligence Community.

EVALUATION OF TRAINING DATA PERTAINING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS

It is the sense of the Committees that the Intelligence Community should seek to evaluate training data, methods of labeling data, and model weights pertaining to artificial intelligence systems being considered for use, procurement, or adoption by an element of the Intelligence Community to enable such element to make informed decisions regarding the fitness and reliability of the system and that each element of the Intelligence Community should, to the greatest extent practicable, avoid use of any publicly available artificial intelligence model found to contain information on United States persons that has been obtained unlawfully by the vendor of the model.

ANNUAL SURVEY OF ANALYTIC OBJECTIVITY AMONG OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Section 6305 requires the head of certain elements of the Intelligence Community to conduct a survey of analytic objectivity among officers and employees of such element who are involved in the production of intelligence products. The Committees direct the head of each element to submit to the Committees a report on the findings of the most recently completed survey.

PLAN TO ENHANCE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY COUNTERNARCOTICS COLLABORATION WITH MEXICO

Section 6717 requires each element of the Intelligence Community, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Act, to submit to the Director of National Intelligence a report on that element's relationship with the Government of Mexico, if any, as it relates to counternarcotics collaboration, coordination, and cooperation, including a strategy to enhance such cooperation and recommendations regarding the resources required to effectively implement that strategy. The Committees direct each element head to simultaneously submit to the Committees the same report submitted to the Director, along with any recommendations or requests for changes in authorities or resources to effectuate the element's strategy.

EFFORTS BY DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO MITIGATE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE RISKS

The Committees are concerned by the counterintelligence risks posed by Department of Energy employees' travel to certain countries. Therefore, the Committees direct the Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence at the Department of Energy to develop and implement mechanisms for all personnel of the Department to (1) report to the Office any personal or official travel to a ''country of risk,'' as defined by section 6432 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (P.L. 118–159), or to any other country the Director considers appropriate prior to beginning such travel; (2) at the request of personnel of the Office, receive briefings with respect to travel to such country prior to beginning such travel; and (3) at the request of personnel of the Office, participate in debriefings after travel to such country.

NOTIFICATION OF MATERIAL CHANGES TO POLICIES OR PROCEDURES GOVERNING TERRORIST WATCHLIST AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME WATCHLIST

Section 6522 requires the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to submit to the appropriate congressional committees notice of any material change to a policy or procedure relating to the terrorist watchlist or the transnational organized crime watchlist within 30 days of the date on which the material change takes effect. This section separately requires the Director, within 30 days of a request by an appropriate congressional committee, to submit to that committee all watchlisting guidance in effect as of the date of the request that applies to or governs the use of the terrorist watchlist or the transnational organized crime watchlist. The Committees emphasize that the term ''material change to a policy or procedure relating to the terrorist watchlist or the transnational organized crime watchlist'' includes any change to the watchlisting guidance itself.

NATIONAL SECURITY HARM PREVENTED BY PREPUBLICATION REVIEW

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research to each submit to the Committees, not later than April 30, 2026, a report that describes the five items most harmful to United States national security identified within the last five years by such element during prepublication review, as determined by the head of such element or their designee.

REFORMS TO INACTIVE SECURITY CLEARANCES

Section 6310 of the Act directs the Director of National Intelligence to review and evaluate whether former Intelligence Community personnel who departed federal service within the past five years and previously held a

security clearance could retain access to classified information if they continue to meet applicable standards. The section also requires the Director to assess the feasibility and advisability of applying continuous vetting to inactive clearances and to report the findings to the appropriate congressional committees within 120 days of the date of enactment of the Act. Section 1626 of the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act contains a similar requirement for the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, to review the feasibility and advisability of extending the period during which former Department of Defense personnel may maintain an inactive security clearance. The Committees strongly support these complementary efforts and direct the Director of National Intelligence and the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security to closely coordinate their reviews to ensure consistency, share findings as appropriate, and avoid duplication.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE OPINION LETTER

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the GAO opinion letter dated December 16, 2025.

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

DECISION

Matter of: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program Restructuring Policy Notice

File: B–337604

Date: December 16, 2025

DIGEST

On June 6, 2025, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration published a notice entitled, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (Policy Notice). The Policy Notice modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the May 12, 2022, Notice of Funding Opportunity for the BEAD Program—a grant program to provide high-speed broadband access throughout the United States and several territories.

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) requires that before a rule can take effect, an agency must submit the rule to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as the Comptroller General. CRA adopts the definition of ''rule'' under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) but excludes certain categories of rules from coverage. We conclude that the Policy Notice meets the APA definition of a rule, and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the Policy Notice is a rule subject to CRA's submission requirements.

DECISION

On June 6, 2025, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce), National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) published a notice entitled, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (Policy Notice). The Policy Notice modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the May 12, 2022, Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the BEAD Program—a grant program to provide high-speed broadband access throughout the United States and several territories. We received a request for a decision as to whether the Policy Notice is a rule for purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As discussed below, we conclude that the Policy Notice is a rule subject to CRA's submission requirements.

Our practice when rendering decisions is to contact the relevant agencies to obtain factual information and their legal views on the subject of the request. Accordingly, we reached out to Commerce on June 30, 2025. Although Commerce did not provide a substantive response with its legal views, we determined we have sufficient information to issue a decision on this matter.

BACKGROUND

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

The Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) established the BEAD Program, and appropriated $42.45 billion for it. The BEAD Program is a grant program administered by NTIA that funds high-speed broadband access initiatives, with particular focus on unserved and underserved locations. Funds for the BEAD Program are allocated by formulas in IIJA to Eligible Entities, which include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. In advance of funds being distributed to Eligible Entities, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information (Assistant Secretary) must approve each Eligible Entity's letter of intent, initial proposal, or final proposal.

IIJA required the Assistant Secretary to issue a NOFO for the BEAD Program within 180 days of IIJA's enactment. NTIA published the BEAD NOFO on May 12, 2022. The BEAD NOFO explains the BEAD Program structure; provides information on amounts made available to Eligible Entities under the program; describes the grant application and review process; and outlines the eligibility requirements for the program. The BEAD NOFO also imposes several obligations on Eligible Entities and subgrantees, such as coordinating with political subdivisions and Tribal governments; targeting engagement efforts at underrepresented communities; giving priority to projects based in part on a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws; and demonstrating that the Eligible Entities have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new infrastructure projects. Finally, the BEAD NOFO clarifies some technical aspects of the BEAD Program. For example, IIJA instructs that when awarding subgrants using BEAD Program funds, Eligible Entities shall prioritize funding for deployment of infrastructure for ''priority broadband projects,'' which the BEAD NOFO subsequently defines as ''those that use end-to-end fiber-optic architecture,'' rather than other technologies.

BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

On June 6, 2025, NTIA published a Policy Notice that ''modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the BEAD [NOFO].'' The Policy Notice states that it ''eliminates burdensome and non-statutory requirements contained in the NOFO published on May 12, 2022'' and prohibits Eligible Entities ''from imposing any of the obligations removed by this Policy Notice on subgrantees as part of the BEAD Program.'' According to the Policy Notice, ''Each Eligible Entity must comply with this Policy Notice to gain approval of its Final Proposal from the Assistant Secretary.'' The Policy Notice also rescinded two previously issued Policy Notices for the BEAD Program.

The Policy Notice removed several requirements imposed on Eligible Entities and subgrantees in the BEAD NOFO, such as requirements related to labor, employment, and workforce development; climate change; open access and net neutrality; local coordination and stakeholder engagement; and low-cost service options. The Policy Notice also amended some of the technological requirements of the BEAD Program. For example, the Policy Notice ''eliminates the 'Fiber Preference' section of the BEAD NOFO and permits Eligible Entities to select from all qualifying technologies,'' rather than limiting priority broadband projects to those using end-to-end fiber.

Furthermore, the Policy Notice requires Eligible Entities to conduct an additional subgrantee selection round, which requires Eligible Entities to rescind all provisional subaward selections. The Policy Notice also revises the scoring rubric that Eligible Entities are to use to evaluate subgrantee applications, placing particular emphasis ''on minimizing the cost of deployment under the BEAD Program.'' Finally, the Policy Notice identifies other changes to the administration of the BEAD Program, including changes related to optimizing program locations, funding for allowable non-deployment purposes, and expedited permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4347.

The Congressional Review Act

CRA, enacted in 1996 to strengthen congressional oversight of agency rulemaking, requires federal agencies to submit a report on each new rule to both houses of Congress and to the Comptroller General for review before a rule can take effect. The report must contain a copy of the rule, ''a concise general statement relating to the rule,'' and the rule's proposed effective date. CRA allows Congress to review and disapprove of federal agency rules for a period of 60 days using special procedures. If a resolution of disapproval is enacted, then the new rule has no force or effect.

CRA adopts the definition of rule under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. § 551(4), which states that a rule is ''the whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of an agency.'' However, CRA excludes three categories of rules from coverage: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

NTIA did not submit a CRA report to Congress or the Comptroller General on the BEAD Policy Notice.

DISCUSSION

At issue here is whether the Policy Notice meets CRA's definition of a rule, which adopts APA's definition of a rule, with three exceptions. As explained below, we conclude that it does. In addition, we conclude that the Policy Notice does not fall within any CRA exceptions. Therefore, the Policy Notice is a rule subject to CRA's submission requirements.

The Policy Notice is a Rule Under APA

Applying APA's definition of ''rule,'' the Policy Notice meets all of the required elements. First, the Policy Notice is an agency statement because it was issued by NTIA, a federal agency.

Second, the Policy Notice is of future effect. An agency action of future effect is one ''concerned with policy considerations for the future rather than the evaluation of past or present conduct.'' The Policy Notice concerns the administration of the BEAD Program going forward and outlines changes that Eligible Entities and subgrantees will be required to make to their applications for the program. Therefore, the Policy Notice has future effect.

Third, the Policy Notice implements, interprets, and prescribes law or policy. An agency action implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy When the action creates new regulations, changes regulatory requirements or official policy, or when it alters how the agency will exercise its discretion, among other things. The Policy Notice here implements the requirements of the BEAD Program outlined in IIJA by describing how NTIA will administer the program going forward and outlining the criteria Eligible Entities and subgrantees seeking funding under the program must meet. Furthermore, the Policy Notice prescribes policy by imposing new requirements on Eligible Entities. For example, it states that Eligible Entities ''shall eliminate the following nonstatutory requirements from BEAD application scoring, subgrantee agreements, and subgrantee reporting requirements[,]'' and that ''Eligible Entities are hereby prohibited from imposing any of the obligations removed by this Policy Notice on subgrantees as part of the BEAD Program.'' In addition, the Policy Notice alters the requirements for the prioritization of projects under the program by providing a new definition of a ''priority broadband project'' to include technologies other than end-to-end fiber, which similarly implements and prescribes law or policy.

Our conclusion here is consistent with our previous decisions finding that agency actions implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy when they define procedures by which potential recipients may apply for grant programs, and describe the process by which the agency will evaluate those applications. For example, in B–335488, Oct. 18, 2023, we considered whether a U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) NOFO, which ''outlined the precise eligibility and selection criteria for each program, as well as the types of projects eligible to receive DOT funding under each one'' and changed the criteria used to evaluate applicants and make award decisions from a previous NOFO—including how certain criteria were rated—was a rule subject to CRA. We concluded that the DOT NOFO for three IIJA grant programs implemented or prescribed law or policy and described agency procedures, as it described the process by which eligible entities may apply for three grant programs and defined how DOT would evaluate these applications, among other things. Similarly here, the Policy Notice alters the criteria used to evaluate applications under the program and changes program requirements, as established by the BEAD NOFO. As a result, the Policy Notice also satisfies this element of the APA definition.

CRA Exceptions

We must next determine whether any of CRA's three exceptions apply. CRA provides for three types of rules that are not subject to its requirements: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

(1) Rule of Particular Applicability

The Policy Notice is a rule of general applicability, rather than particular applicability. Rules of particular applicability are rules addressed to specific, identified persons or entities and determine actions that person or entity may or may not take, considering facts and circumstances specific to those persons or entities. Here, the Policy Notice does not apply to a particular entity. Instead, the Policy Notice applies to all Eligible Entities under the BEAD Program—all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several territories—and notes that ''[e]ach Eligible Entity must comply with this Policy Notice to gain approval of its Final Proposal from the Assistant Secretary.'' Therefore, the Policy Notice is a rule of general applicability, rather than particular applicability.

(2) Rule of Agency Management or Personnel

The Policy Notice is not a rule of agency management or personnel. We have previously held that rules that fall into this category relate to purely internal matters. Because the Policy Notice is concerned with the administration of the BEAD Program, rather than management of NTIA or its personnel, it does not meet the second exception.

(3) Rule of Agency Organization, Procedure, or Practice with No Substantial Effect on Non-Agency Parties

Lastly, the Policy Notice is not a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. We have previously explained that this exception was modeled on the APA exception to notice-and-comment rulemaking requirements for ''rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice.'' The purpose of the APA exception is to ensure ''that agencies retain latitude in organizing their internal operations,'' so long as such rules do not have a substantial impact on non-agency parties. Following this interpretation in the CRA context, we have only applied CRA's third exception to rules that primarily focus on the internal operations of an agency. For instance, in B–329926, Sept. 10, 2018, we found that updates to a Social Security Administration (SSA) hearings manual governing SSA adjudicators' use of information from the internet qualified as a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice. There, the manual outlined procedures for SSA employees to follow in processing and adjudicating benefits claims. Because the manual was directed to and binding only on SSA officials without imposing new burdens on claimants, we concluded that the manual met the third exception.

However, rules that are directed at and primarily concerned with the behavior of non-agency parties are not rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice. Here, the Policy Statement is primarily concerned with the behavior of Eligible Entities and subgrantees, rather than with the internal operations of NTIA itself. The Policy Notice prescribes actions program participants should and should not take in carrying out the BEAD Program. Therefore, it is not a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice.

Moreover, the Policy Notice cannot fall under this exception because it also substantially affects the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. In the federal funding context, we have previously determined that rules amending or clarifying the requirements of existing financial assistance programs for non-agency parties substantially affect those parties' rights or obligations. Where a rule modifies an existing financial assistance program through actions such as defining eligibility requirements and selection criteria, it has a substantial effect on non-agency parties who participate in the program. Here, the Policy Notice modifies and clarifies how NTIA will administer the BEAD Program. Among other things, the Policy Notice eliminates certain requirements previously imposed on Eligible Entities and subgrantees through the BEAD NOFO; alters the criteria by which NTIA will evaluate applications; requires Eligible Entities to conduct an additional round of subgrantee selection after rescinding aII preliminary and provisional subaward selections; and modifies the agency's interpretation of statutory terms, such as ''priority broadband project.'' By changing the manner in which the BEAD Program is administered, these actions substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties participating in the BEAD Program. Therefore, the Policy Notice cannot fall into CRA's third exception.

CONCLUSION

The Policy Notice is a rule for purposes of CRA because it meets the definition of a rule under APA and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the Policy Notice is subject to CRA's requirement that it be submitted to Congress and the Comptroller General before it can take effect.

EDDA EMMANUELLI PEREZ,
General Counsel.

H.R. 5100

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I was prepared to come to the floor today to seek unanimous consent to pass H.R. 5100, a bill to temporarily extend the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs until September 30, 2026.

However, because Senator ERNST is unavailable to state her objection to the bill, I have decided not to call for unanimous consent at this time.

I want to express my condolences to Senator ERNST, a combat veteran who served in the Iowa National Guard, for the tragedy in Syria that killed two and injured three Iowa National Guard members.

The bill I would have brought to the floor today would have re-opened the SBIR and STTR programs, which have been shut down now for more than 70 days. The bill was unanimously passed by the House, led by the Republican chairs of the House Small Business Committee and House Science Committee.

Since the SBIR and STTR programs closed their doors, I have heard from hundreds of small businesses across the country that are being forced to lay off employees, cease critical research, and may soon have to close their doors for good. Passing H.R. 5100 is not just a matter of policy; it is about whether small innovative companies can survive. This is the only real path that will immediately reopen this program while we continue to negotiate. Each day the program is shut down, the further behind our innovation economy falls.

The fate of this program lies in the hands of six negotiators: the chair and ranking member of the Senate Small Business Committee, the chair and ranking member of the House Small Business Committee, and the chair and ranking member of the House Science

Committee. Five of these six negotiators agree that the best path forward is to temporarily extend the SBIR and STTR programs, to keep them running while we continue to negotiate reforms and a longer reauthorization. We have been working to try and find a path forward for a long-term reauthorization and will continue to do so, but we have yet to find a solution that does not irreparably harm innovative small businesses, nor have we found a solution that meaningfully addresses foreign due diligence concerns. The SBIR and STTR programs have produced technologies that have changed Americans' lives: the world's smallest heart pump, new cancer therapies, Alzheimer Disease treatments, GPS, and Qualcomm wireless communications systems.

I am disappointed that these programs have been forced to shut down, ending funding for the most cutting-edge technologies being developed by our most nimble allies, small businesses. I am disappointed that a company in Pennsylvania may have to cease scaling their patented brake technology due to the lapse in the programs. I am disappointed that a company in Virginia producing the next generation of energy technologies is being forced to put their research on hold until these programs are reopened. And I am disappointed that a company in Texas must put its progress towards unlocking unprecedented spacecraft maneuvering for our Agencies on hold.

Just because we are unable to come to a long-term solution today does not mean we should decimate a critical part of our innovation ecosystem by keeping these programs closed. In May, I introduced a 52-page bill with my long-term vision for the programs. I want to provide small businesses with the certainty they deserve by making the programs permanent, ensuring we do not watch the clock hit zero like this again.

I want to increase how much Agencies are required to allocate for these programs to maximize our innovation potential. I want to strengthen our commercialization efforts through allowing direct to phase II authority for all Agencies, as well as better data collection, better training, and specifically designated commercialization officers. I want to increase the number of new entrants by reauthorizing and codifying new programs that aim to reach underserved populations. And, like all of my colleagues, I want to make sure that our technology never falls into the hands of our adversaries.

That is why I want to continue the bipartisan foreign due diligence program enacted in 2022, which has already successfully identified and mitigated foreign risk in its short period of implementation. If it were just up to me, I would want my bill to pass tomorrow. However, I understand that is not possible. That is why I have joined the four House negotiators in supporting a temporary extension while we figure out the long-term path forward that not only preserves our innovation ecosystem but supercharges it.

As a long-time champion of the SBIR and STTR programs, I will continue to fight to protect the innovation ecosystem and the small businesses that support it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN SEMPRINI

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Kevin Semprini of Portsmouth as December's Granite Stater of the Month for his work to bolster public safety in his community.

Growing up in Portsmouth, Kevin looked up to the police officers in his neighborhood, admiring the way they worked to foster a strong community. Kevin knew from an early age that he wanted to be a part of that mission, and when he was old enough, he joined the police force.

Soon after joining the force, Officer Semprini saw that there was a need to improve child safety in New Hampshire and worked with the Portsmouth police chief to create a new school safety program. His work took him to local schools where he helped elementary school students learn about safety. Because students had some trouble pronouncing his last name, they quickly landed on a nickname for him, a new name that reflected the warmth and comfort he conveyed: Officer Friendly. It is a nickname that has stayed with him for the rest of his career.

In the years that followed and as the police department continued to evolve, a new chief of police from California introduced Officer Semprini to the DARE program. Officer Semprini worked with the State to pilot the program, which eventually expanded statewide. Officer Semprini also pioneered the school resource officer program at Portsmouth High School and organized local toy drives for the holidays.

As he retires, Officer Semprini carries with him the thanks of the people of Portsmouth and all Granite Staters for his 46 years of service and his steadfast protection of the children of New Hampshire. Officer Semprini's commitment to improving children's safety is a true example of the Granite State spirit of going the extra mile to protect your community. His lifelong work to support Portsmouth students makes me proud to name him December's Granite Stater of the Month.•

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN WILLIAM ''BILL'' CROW

• Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my colleague Senator MARK WARNER, I rise today to honor the life and service of Retired U.S. Navy CAPT William ''Bill'' Crow, a man whose contributions to our Nation's defense and to the shipbuilding industry were matched only by the warmth, generosity, and joy he brought to everyone who knew him.

Bill was born on December 20, 1957, in Morganfield, KY, a place he loved dearly and held closed to his heart despite his wide-ranging travels.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1980, Bill embarked on a distinguished 30-year career as a naval officer, serving in various assignments including as chief engineer on USS *Pharris* (FF–1094), assistant operations officer of Commander Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six, chief engineer on USS *Briscoe* (DD–977), material officer for Commander Destroyer Squadrons Ten and Two, executive officer of USS *Peterson* (DD–969), commanding officer of USS *Austin* (LPD–4), and training and readiness assistant chief of staff for Commander of Amphibious Group Two. He held shore commands at Naval Station Norfolk, Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, and became the first Commanding Officer of Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story. Throughout his naval career, Bill was a dedicated public servant and a great leader, mentor, and friend.

Following his retirement from the Navy, Bill continued his service as president of the Virginia Ship Repair Association for 13 years. In that role, he represented hundreds of member companies across Hampton Roads, strengthening a vital industry that supports both Virginia's economy and our national security. His leadership left a lasting impact on the ship repair community, congressional leaders, and the defense industrial base.

Bill lived a life of faith and loved his family and friends deeply. He was incredibly proud of his children John, Karen, Sara, and Kevin and shared a beautiful marriage with his beloved wife of 40 years, Jeanne. Bill made friends with everyone he met and shared his joy widely especially with his booming laugh. Bill spent the last nights of his life surrounded by the family who brought him joy through his entire life.

Bill's passing is a loss to all who loved him but also to the Commonwealth of Virginia. His dedication to public service, community involvement and joyful life lived on principle were a blessing.

We remember Bill today not only for his distinguished service to the Navy and the ship repair industry, but for his faith, his family, his friendships, and the joy he brought to all who knew him. We will miss him dearly.•

TRIBUTE TO ADRIENNE A. JONES

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, who concluded her historic tenure as speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates on December 4, 2025.

A native of Baltimore County, Speaker Jones has dedicated her life to

serving both the county and our entire State. Her passion for public service was evident early on. After graduating from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, she performed a variety of public roles and quickly became a well-known, dynamic advocate. Notably, she served as director of the Baltimore County Office of Minority Affairs, opened the Baltimore County Office of Fair Practices and Community Affairs as its inaugural executive director, and founded the Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival.

In 1997, Speaker Jones was appointed to fill a vacancy in the House of Delegates, and she won election to her first full term the following year. She has served on numerous committees, including appropriations, rules, and executive nominations, spending affordability, and ways and means. Never one for ideological grandstanding, Speaker Jones maintained a rapt focus on the issues affecting the day-to-day lives of her constituents. She worked tirelessly to direct State dollars to county and community projects, including much-needed school modernizations.

In 2003, after just 5 years as a delegate, Speaker Jones' colleagues recognized her integrity, leadership ability, and inexhaustible work ethic by electing her speaker pro tempore. She served faithfully in this role for 16 years before becoming acting speaker following the death of her predecessor. On May 1, 2019, after a brief and lively campaign, she shattered barriers and made history by being unanimously elected as the first woman and first African-American speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.

Speaker Jones' tenure was defined by her courage, vision, and steadfast commitment to those she was elected to serve. During the chaos of the COVID–19 pandemic early in her speakership, she met the moment and ensured Marylanders received the State support they needed to stay safe and informed. Speaker Jones presided over the passage of consequential legislation, including the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the largest education investment in Maryland's history, steered resources to historically underfunded Black colleges and universities, staunchly pursued commonsense police and education reform, and spearheaded the successful campaign to enshrine a woman's right to choose in the Maryland Constitution.

In recognition of her many achievements, Speaker Jones was named Outstanding Alumna of the Year by her alma mater in 2003, was given the Casper R. Taylor, Jr. Founder's Award—the highest honor the speaker may grant to a sitting member of the House of Delegates—by her predecessor in 2019, and was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2024. She has also received honorary doctoral degrees from Goucher College and Morgan State University.

Throughout her time in public service, even in moments of intense personal tragedy, Speaker Jones has remained unshakably dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders. I am very glad that she will continue to serve as a delegate and that our State will retain the benefit of her great wisdom and experience. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Speaker Jones for her many years of transformative service to the State of Maryland, the impact of which will be felt for generations to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 216. An act to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 222. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 284. An act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

S. 2878. An act to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

H.R. 165. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1491. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the postponement of certain deadlines by reason of disasters applicable to the limitation on credit or refund, and to take postponements into account for purposes of sending collection notices.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 1:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3632. An act to amend the Federal Power Act to adjust the requirements for orders, rules, and regulations relating to furnishing adequate service, to require owners or operators of generating facilities to provide notice of planned retirements of certain electric generating units, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4371. An act to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance efforts to combat the trafficking of children.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3632. An act to amend the Federal Power Act to adjust the requirements for orders, rules, and regulations relating to furnishing adequate service, to require owners or operators of generating facilities to provide notice of planned retirements of certain electric generating units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCONNELL, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, without amendment:

S. Res. 526. A resolution withholding the pay of Senators if a Government shutdown occurs.

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. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3516. A bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by internet retailers to ensure equitable consumer access to products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3517. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to reform copyright laws relating to visual artists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 3518. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to address certain alterations in, and the maintenance and repair of, project works, to provide for the licensing of micro hydrokinetic energy projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. COONS):

S. 3519. A bill to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to provide for control of remote access to items, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. LEE):

S. 3520. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from implementing a Forest Service rule relating to criminal prohibitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3521. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include peer support services at certain facilities under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 3522. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require that State Medicaid programs provide at least one formulation of each type of medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder without prior authorization or limitations on dosage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3523. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a carbon border adjustment based on carbon intensity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 3524. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to modify certain cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield Protection Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SHEEHY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3525. A bill to preserve the franchise business model; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3526. A bill to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3527. A bill to release from wilderness study area designation certain land in the State of Montana, to improve the management of that land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3528. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish research centers of excellence for alternative protein innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3529. A bill to protect clean air and public health by expanding fenceline and ambient air monitoring and access to air quality information for communities affected by air pollution, to require hazardous air pollutant monitoring at the fenceline of facilities whose emissions are linked to local health threats, to ensure the Environmental Protection Agency promulgates rules that require hazardous air pollutant data measurement and electronic submission at fencelines and stacks of industrial source categories, to expand and strengthen the national ambient air quality monitoring network, to deploy air quality systems in communities affected by air pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAMER:

S. 3530. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prohibit discrimination based on energy source in the use of certain authorities under title I and title III of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 3531. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for qualified combined heat and power system property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LEE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JUSTICE, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3532. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline the certification process for State Veterans Homes by allowing certain facilities certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be deemed in compliance with specified Medicare and Medicaid requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3533. A bill to improve the administration of justice by requiring written explanations by the Supreme Court of its decisions and the disclosure of votes by justices in cases within the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court that involve preliminary injunctive relief, and other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 3534. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for increasing wages paid to child care providers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KIM, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3536. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to the safety of driving automation systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 3537. A bill to provide that an individual who uses marijuana in compliance with State law may not be denied occupancy of federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3538. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate origination fees on Federal Direct loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

S. 3539. A bill to require the release of video of strikes conducted on September 2, 2025, against designated terrorist organizations in the area of responsibility of the United States Southern Command; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3540. A bill to ensure that large online platforms are addressing the needs of non-English users; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 3541. A bill to increase competition in Defense contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 3542. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Upper Raritan River Watershed in the State of New Jersey for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3543. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to modify the description of interest for purposes of certain distributions of antidumping duties and countervailing duties and to authorize a special distribution of those amounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. KIM, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3544. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require licenses to acquire or receive firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3545. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to ban the export of natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MOODY, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3546. A bill to repeal section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3547. A bill to extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and to ensure equitable treatment in the workplace; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3548. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to permit a State attorney general to bring a civil action for damages as parens patriae for injuries sustained by reason of price discrimination in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act amendments to the Clayton Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3549. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure that pharmacy benefit managers are considered fiduciaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education , Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 3550. A bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation and to ensure that employers consider these requests, and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain occupations with evidence of unpredictable and unstable scheduling practices that negatively affect employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3551. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and title

XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to provide for coverage of certain drugs used in the treatment or management of a rare disease or condition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 3552. A bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify certain agricultural exemptions for hours of service requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3553. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish a searchable, publicly available website that contains information regarding the Federal civilian workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3554. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3555. A bill to protect the national security of the United States by imposing sanctions with respect to certain persons of the People's Republic of China and prohibiting and requiring notifications with respect to certain investments by United States persons in countries of concern; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 3556. A bill to reauthorize and improve the wildlife crossings program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3557. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to implement the Executive order entitled ''Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

S.J. Res. 100. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against vessels operating in the Caribbean Sea or the Eastern Pacific Ocean that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 547. A resolution expressing unwavering support for the United States-Japan alliance in response to political, economic and military pressure by the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Res. 548. A resolution denouncing the horrors of authoritarianism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 549. A resolution urging the Trump Administration to seize shadow fleet vessels transporting sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 550. A resolution recognizing that climate change is not a hoax, but sound science; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 551. A resolution recognizing that sea levels are rising at accelerated rates due to human-caused climate change; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 552. A resolution recognizing that oceans are warming due to human-caused climate change; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 553. A resolution recognizing that climate change is real; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 554. A resolution recognizing the strong link between climate change and skyrocketing insurance premiums; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 555. A resolution recognizing that climate change poses a threat to the mortgage market and to home values; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 556. A resolution recognizing that Florida's insurance market is gravely stressed by climate risks; to the Committee on Banking, Housing , and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 557. A resolution recognizing that climate change portends a cascade of financial market collapses that would destabilize the national and global economies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 558. A resolution recognizing that climate change-driven extreme weather events are increasing at the same time that the government is dismantling weather monitoring and alert systems; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 559. A resolution recognizing that climate change is making wildfires more frequent, more intense, and more destructive; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 560. A resolution recognizing that mercury pollution can cause severe health problems, including permanent brain damage, kidney damage, and birth defects; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 561. A resolution recognizing that particulate matter pollution can cause heart attacks, asthma, strokes, and premature death; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 562. A resolution recognizing that ozone pollution can cause lung disease, asthma attacks, cardiovascular problems, and reproductive issues; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 563. A resolution affirming that the Federal Government should support school district investment in clean school buses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 564. A resolution recognizing the ability of solar, storage, and wind to quickly and cheaply meet United States power demand growth; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 565. A resolution recognizing that facilities that produce renewable electricity are the cheapest power-generating facilities to operate and reliance on fossil fuel-generating facilities to meet growing power demand drives up wholesale electricity prices; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. Res. 566. A resolution recognizing that care provided by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs is essential for meeting the health care needs of veterans of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LEE:

S. Res. 567. A resolution expressing that any attempt by foreign entities to censor or penalize constitutionally protected speech of United States persons shall be opposed; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 371

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 371, a bill to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be published on the website of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 421

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 421, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 592

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 592, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that plain writing statements regarding the solicitation of subcontractors be included in certain subcontracting plans, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from using assessments generated by the Integrated Risk Information System as a tier 1 data source in rulemakings and other regulatory, enforcement, or permitting actions, and for other purposes.

S. 704

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 704, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the voluntary public access and habitat incentive program.

S. 745

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 745, a bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes.

S. 872

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 872, a bill to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, and for other purposes.

S. 921

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 921, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether hospital emergency departments should implement fentanyl testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an overdose, and for other purposes.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to establish a pilot program to improve the family self-sufficiency program, and for other purposes.

S. 1101

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1101, a bill to authorize the use of Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record information for administration of certain licenses.

S. 1145

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1145, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to include the provision of tree nuts under the seniors farmers' market nutrition program, and for other purposes.

S. 1298

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1298, a bill to authorize the continuation of lawful nonimmigrant status for certain religious workers affected by the backlog for religious worker immigrant visas.

S. 1410

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to provide for health coverage with no cost-sharing for additional breast screenings for certain individuals at greater risk for breast cancer.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 1572

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1572, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Federal carjacking statute.

S. 1695

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to require the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on improving collaboration in housing programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1705

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1705, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to issue standards with respect to chip security mechanisms for integrated circuit products, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1720

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1720, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicaid coverage exclusion for inmates in custody pending disposition of charges, and for other purposes.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit discrimination against health care entities that do not participate in abortion, and to strengthen implementation and enforcement of Federal conscience laws.

S. 1779

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit State standards relating to the control of emissions from existing locomotives and engines used in locomotives, and for other purposes.

S. 1816

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1816, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 1847

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1847, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the treatment of certain association health plans as employers, and for other purposes.

S. 2019

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2019, a bill to establish a Task Force for Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams, and for other purposes.

S. 2120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) 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. 2315

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2315, a bill to establish grant programs to sustain populations of species of migratory waterfowl through the deployment of tools and practices that complement habitat conservation, and for other purposes.

S. 2355

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2355, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency.

S. 2378

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2378, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish funds for investments in aviation security checkpoint technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2511

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2511, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2702, a bill to require local educational agencies, State educational agencies, and other governmental education entities to respect the rights of parents regarding gender transition, and for other purposes.

S. 2709

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program.

S. 2715

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) 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. 2746

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2746, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to produce suspicious activity reports relating to Jeffrey Epstein and his associates, and for other purposes.

S. 3013

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3013, a bill to require all testing relating to the issuance or renewal of a commercial driver's license to be conducted only in English, and for other purposes.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3238, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit approved medical residency training programs under the Medicare program from requiring opt-out abortion training.

S. 3279

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3296, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes.

S. 3302

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 3302, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 3394

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3394, a bill to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to amend the sentencing guideline relating to child sexual abuse material.

S. 3397

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3397, a bill to make coercion of children to commit harm a criminal offense, and for other purposes.

S. 3398

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3398, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize intentional threats to distribute child sexual abuse material, and to provide appropriate penalties for the use of child sexual abuse material to extort or coerce victims.

S. 3466

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3466, a bill to improve health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 58

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 58, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 3996

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3996 intended to be proposed to H. R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4007

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4007 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4012

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4012 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4013

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4013 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4014

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of

amendment No. 4014 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4015

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4015 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4037

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4037 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4056

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4056 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3526. A bill to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California, PUBLIC, Lands Act. This comprehensive bill would permanently protect over 900,000 acres of public lands and promote restoration on another 871,000 acres throughout northwest California, the central coast, and Los Angeles County. This bill includes protections for nearly 600,000 acres of new and proposed wilderness and nearly 700 miles of new wild and scenic rivers.

This legislation would preserve our public lands for the benefit of current and future generations and help protect California communities from impacts of the climate crisis. The PUBLIC Lands Act is grounded in the best conservation principles: it expands access to the outdoors for all, addresses disparities in access to nature, supports locally led efforts, and is based in science.

In northwest California, this bill would designate new wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, special management areas, and forest and watershed restoration areas. Importantly, it would increase wildfire resiliency in northwest California, where the impacts of the climate crisis have resulted in more frequent and severe wildfires.

Along the central coast, the bill would designate nearly 250,000 acres of public land in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument as wilderness and study the feasibility of creating a 400-mile long condor national recreation trail, stretching from Los Angeles to Monterey County. The designations in the bill would protect the abundant biodiversity that make the central coast so special.

In Los Angeles County, this bill would designate nearly 30,000 acres of new wilderness, helping provide permanent protections so that future generations can enjoy the limited wild and untouched spaces in Southern California.

The bill would also provide outdoor recreation opportunities for park-poor communities. This bill enjoys the support of hundreds of local municipalities and elected officials, community groups, businesses, and local outfitters. It is the product of significant public engagement in the legislative process spanning decades.

I want to highlight that this legislation protects existing water rights, property rights, and land-use authorities. The bill also does not create any new public lands, rather, it protects existing public lands through wilderness designations in order to keep these lands as pristine as possible.

The science is increasingly clear that we must conserve 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030 as part of ongoing efforts to solve the climate crisis, protect nature, and save America's wildlife. I am proud that the State of California has made significant strides to achieve this goal, and I am determined to do my part to protect our public lands and waters at the Federal level.

I would like to thank my colleagues and conservation champions, Representatives JARED HUFFMAN, SALUD CARBAJAL, and JUDY CHU, for championing these bills in the House. I also want to thank Senator SCHIFF for cosponsoring this bill and working toward our shared goal of promoting restoration, recreation, and conservation throughout California. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the PUBLIC Lands Act as quickly as possible.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3543. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to modify the description of interest for purposes of certain distributions of antidumping duties and countervailing duties and to authorize a special distribution of those amounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 3543

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 ''Trade Cheating Restitution Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF DESCRIPTION OF INTEREST FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN DISTRIBUTIONS OF ANTIDUMPING DUTIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 605(c)(1) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4401(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) by striking ''October 1, 2014, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection under, or in connection with—'' and inserting ''October 1, 2000, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.''.

(b) FUNDING.—In carrying out the amendments made by subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall use amounts available for such purpose in the ''Refund of Moneys Erroneously Received and Covered'' account of the Department of the Treasury.

(c) SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the amendments made by subsection (a), all interest realized under section 605(c)(1) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4401(c)(1)), as amended by that subsection, for a fiscal year ending before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be subject to a special distribution carried out in accordance with this subsection.

(2) GENERAL NOTICE.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall publish a general notice in the Federal Register announcing the timing of the special distribution required under paragraph (1).

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—Each person seeking a special distribution under paragraph (1) must—

(A) have received at least one distribution under the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 (section 754 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675c; repealed by subtitle F of title VII of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–171; 120 Stat. 154))) during a prior fiscal year;

(B) timely file a certification for the special distribution, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(C) meet the eligibility criteria contained in the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 at the time of filing that certification.

(4) DISTRIBUTION.—Interest specified under paragraph (1) shall be aggregated by antidumping duty or countervailing duty order or finding and distributed on a pro rata basis to persons eligible under paragraph (3) as follows:

(A) For interest realized on or after October 1, 2010, as soon as possible following the date of the enactment of this Act but not later than the date that is 210 days after such date of enactment.

(B) For interest realized on or after October 1, 2000, and on or before September 30, 2010, as soon as possible following the date of

the enactment of this Act but not later than the date that is 210 days after the distribution under subparagraph (A).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 547—EXPRESSING UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN ALLIANCE IN RESPONSE TO POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PRESSURE BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 547

Whereas, since 1951, the United States-Japan alliance has served as the cornerstone of peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific;

Whereas, on October 4, 2025, Japan elected its first female prime minister, Sanae Takaichi;

Whereas, on November 2, 2025, the People's Republic of China's Foreign Ministry harshly criticized a meeting between Prime Minister Takaichi and a senior Taiwan official at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea, despite the fact that such meetings regularly occur at APEC, where Taiwan has been an active member since 1991;

Whereas, on November 7, 2025, in response to a question from a member of the Japanese parliament about a hypothetical Chinese blockade of the Taiwan Strait involving United States forces, Prime Minister Takaichi responded that ''[i]f battleships are used and a naval blockade involves the use of force, I believe that would, by any measure, constitute a 'survival-threatening situation' for Japan,'' a legal term under Japanese law allowing Tokyo to exercise its right to collective self-defense with the United States;

Whereas Prime Minister Takaichi further clarified that ''the Japanese government would make its judgment by synthesizing all information based on the specific circumstances of the actual situation'';

Whereas Prime Minister Takaichi's remarks are in line with previous remarks from senior Japanese leaders, including then-Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi's statement in 2021 that ''[t]he peace and stability of Taiwan are directly connected to Japan,'' and then-Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso's remarks that ''[i]f a major problem took place in Taiwan, it would not be too much to say that it could relate to a survival-threatening situation (for Japan)'';

Whereas, on November 7, 2025, the People's Republic of China's Consul General in Osaka criticized Prime Minister Takaichi's remarks to parliament in a post on X, saying, ''We have no choice but to cut off that dirty neck that has been lunged at us without hesitation. Are you ready?'';

Whereas, since November 7, 2025, the People's Republic of China has effectively suspended or blocked many Japanese cultural performances inside China, including films and concerts, with venues reportedly told that concerts featuring Japanese musicians would be cancelled for the rest of 2025;

Whereas, on November 14, 2025, the People's Republic of China announced travel advisories urging its citizens to avoid travel to or study in Japan, leading airlines to offer refunds to Chinese travelers and cancel flights;

Whereas, on November 16, 2025, Chinese coast guard vessels sailed through waters around the Senkaku Islands, which are administered by Japan, prompting Japan to deploy its own coast guard vessels in response;

Whereas, on November 18, 2025, and December 1, 2025, the People's Republic of China sent letters to the United Nations criticizing Prime Minister Takaichi's remarks;

Whereas, on November 19, 2025, the People's Republic of China announced it would reimpose a 2023 ban on seafood imports from Japan and suspended consultations to resume Japanese beef exports to China;

Whereas, on November 20, 2025, the Department of State Deputy Spokesperson stated, ''Our commitment to the U.S.-Japan Alliance and to Japan's defense, including the Japan-administered Senkakus, is unwavering. The U.S.-Japan Alliance remains the cornerstone of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.... We firmly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo, including through force or coercion, in the Taiwan Strait, East China Sea, or South China Sea.'';

Whereas, on December 2, 2025, the Japanese Coast Guard intercepted and drove away two Chinese coast guard vessels that approached a Japanese fishing boat near the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas, on December 6, 2025, People's Liberation Army Navy's Liaoning aircraft carrier conducted exercises near the Japanese island of Okinawa and two Chinese J–15 warplanes locked radar on two Japanese F–15 military aircraft on separate occasions in international waters;

Whereas, on December 9, 2025, two Russian Tu–95 nuclear-capable strategic bombers joined two Chinese H–6 bombers and four J–16 fighters on a joint patrol in international waters between Japan's Okinawa and Miyako Islands;

Whereas, on December 9, 2025, a spokesperson for the Department of State stated, ''China's actions are not conducive to regional peace and stability. The U.S.-Japan Alliance is stronger and more united than ever. Our commitment to our ally Japan is unwavering, and we are in close contact on this and other issues'';

Whereas, on December 11, 2025, United States strategic bombers joined Japanese fighters in a joint military exercise near Japan's western airspace, with the Japanese Joint Staff saying that the exercises ''reaffirmed the strong resolve to prevent unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force and the readiness between the [Self-Defense Force] and the U.S. forces''; and

Whereas, on December 14, 2025, the People's Republic of China imposed sanctions on Shigeru Iwasaki, a former chief of staff of Japan's Self-Defense Forces Joint Staff and adviser to Taiwan's cabinet, for alleged collusion with ''Taiwan independence'' separatist forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the People's Republic of China's use of economic, military, and diplomatic coercion and aggression against Japan, a United States defense treaty ally;

(2) commends the Government of Japan's opposition to the efforts of the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(A) undermine regional stability; and

(B) unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait by force or coercion;

(3) recognizes Japan's commitments to peace and security and its continuing role as a key ally in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific;

(4) applauds the Government of Japan's efforts to increase its own defense spending to invest in capabilities to enhance deterrence across the region;

(5) applauds the Government of Japan's efforts to diffuse tensions with the Government of the People's Republic of China despite continuous unilateral provocations;

(6) reaffirms the United States' unwavering commitment to Article V of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, and that the Senkaku Islands fall within Article V's scope; and

(7) stands with the Government of Japan and the Japanese people against the Government of the People's Republic of China's attempts to harass and escalate tensions with Japan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—DENOUNCING THE HORRORS OF AUTHORITARIANISM

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 548

Whereas authoritarian ideology necessitates a concentration of power that has, time and time again, collapsed democracies into totalitarian rule, kleptocracies, and brutal dictatorships;

Whereas most modern democracies do not die at the hands of armed militias, but instead at the hands of elected officials who erode the separation of powers to tighten their authoritarian grip;

Whereas researchers find that authoritarianism has repeatedly led to lower health outcomes, decreased life expectancy, higher infant mortality, and harmful economic impacts;

Whereas, in Venezuela, Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro dismantled independent institutions, stripped powers from the elected legislature, repressed opposition parties and civil society, detained political rivals, and presided over a humanitarian and economic collapse under a repressive and authoritarian state;

Whereas, in Turkey, Recep Erdoğan has undermined judicial independence, imprisoned journalists, political opponents, and civil servants on politically motivated charges, closed independent media outlets, and concentrated sweeping authority into the presidency;

Whereas, in Russia, Vladimir Putin eliminated genuine political competition, outlawed major opposition movements, criminalized dissent, oversaw the imprisonment and deaths of prominent political opponents, entrenched a corrupt and repressive authoritarian regime, and launched the illegal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in violation of international law;

Whereas researchers find, ''Free countries across all measures do better than authoritarian regimes in delivering prosperity for their people.'';

Whereas the Constitution of the United States guarantees the separation of powers in the Government and has checks on power that ensure a Government by and for the people rather than authoritarian rule, as such separation of powers is essential;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press;

Whereas kleptocracies are organized and controlled by top political elites, who raid state resources with immunity and impunity;

Whereas Founding Father and President James Madison wrote, ''The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-

appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.''; and

Whereas the United States was founded on the belief in the sanctity of our democracy, undeniable freedoms, independence of each branch of government, and checks and balances on each branch, a belief to which the system of authoritarianism in all of its forms is fundamentally opposed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate denounces authoritarianism in all its forms and opposes the implementation of authoritarian policies in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 549—URGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO SEIZE SHADOW FLEET VESSELS TRANSPORTING SANCTIONED OIL FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 549

Whereas the Russian Federation is the world's third-largest oil producer, and income from the sale of oil has generated revenue to allow the Russian Federation to fund its war in Ukraine;

Whereas, despite Western sanctions, European Union sanctions, and price caps imposed by the G7, seaborne crude and product exports from the Russian Federation have averaged 5,700,000 barrels per day in 2025, a barely marginal decrease from the 5,800,000 barrels per day in 2022 when the Russian Federation began its illegal invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on October 22, 2025, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Department of the Treasury imposed sanctions on the Russian Federation's two largest oil companies, Open Joint Stock Company Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft) and Public Joint-Stock Company Oil Company Lukoil (Lukoil), ''as a result of Russia's lack of serious commitment to a peace process to end the war in Ukraine'';

Whereas the shadow fleet of the Russian Federation comprises at least 561 ships, which have carried between 60 percent and 80 percent of Russian crude exports in recent quarters;

Whereas, in recent years, the United States Government has seized several shadow fleet vessels carrying sanctioned oil from other countries, including from the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas, on December 10, 2025, the United States Government seized the shadow fleet vessel the M/T Skipper, which was previously subject to sanctions for serving as part of ''an international oil smuggling network that facilitated oil trades and generated revenue'' to support Hezbollah and the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, for transporting—

(1) sanctioned oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Syrian Arab Republic in 2024; and

(2) nearly 2,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the People's Republic of China between February and July of 2025; and

Whereas the United States Government, using all authorities, including those inherent under article II of the Constitution of the United States, should seize shadow fleet vessels carrying sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation, whose proceeds in part will benefit designated foreign terrorist organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the use of shadow fleet vessels to transport sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation and views the transport of such oil as conduct that undermines United States national security interests and sanctions regimes;

(2) urges the Trump Administration to seize shadow fleet vessels transporting sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation;

(3) recognizes that seizing shadow fleet vessels engaged in such transport is a lawful and appropriate measure to take against the Russian Federation's evasion of sanctions and illicit financing of its war in Ukraine; and

(4) calls on allies and partners to also seize shadow fleet vessels transporting sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 550—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT A HOAX, BUT SOUND SCIENCE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 550

Whereas, 129 years ago, in 1896, Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius concluded that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities contribute to a global ''greenhouse effect'' driving global warming;

Whereas, in 1959, at a celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the fossil-fuel industry, physicist Edward Teller warned attending representatives of major oil companies that greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels cause a greenhouse gas effect and that increased use of fossil fuels would cause global warming and severe sea level rise;

Whereas, in 1968, Stanford researchers produced a report for the American Petroleum Institute, finding that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were rising, that no explanation for this rise ''seem[ed] to fit the presently observed situation as well as the fossil fuel emanation theory'', and that ''potential damage to our environment'' from this rise ''could be severe'';

Whereas, from 1970 through 2003, Exxon scientists produced a series of reports and projections on greenhouse gas-driven climate change, predicting warming of 0.20 degrees Celsius per decade, which according to recent analysis by Harvard researchers, reflected ''shocking skill and accuracy'';

Whereas, in 1988, a Shell working group produced a confidential report entitled ''The Greenhouse Effect'', which quantified Shell's own contribution to global carbon dioxide emissions, predicted that global carbon dioxide levels could double by 2030, and described a series of climate change impacts, including rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and forced migration;

Whereas 99.99 percent of peer-reviewed scientific papers agree that climate change is happening and that human activity, and specifically the burning of fossil fuels, is the main cause of climate change;

Whereas, as reported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), data from ice cores, rocks, tree rings, and satellites and other instruments ''all show the signs of a changing climate'';

Whereas, as of August 5, 2025, NASA maintains that ''there is unequivocal evidence that Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate'' and that ''[h]uman activity is the principal cause'' of this warming;

Whereas, in its Sixth Climate Assessment in 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that the ''evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a grave and mounting threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet;

Whereas the most comprehensive source of data on climate impacts in the United States can be found in the National Climate Assessments mandated by Congress under the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2921 et seq.) and coordinated under the United States Global Change Research Program (established under section 103 of the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2933)), comprising 15 Federal agencies and subject to ''multiple rounds of expert and governmental review, including evaluation by Federal agencies, external experts, the public, and a National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine review committee'' and published in 2000, 2009, 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2023;

Whereas a sixth National Climate Assessment was planned for 2028, but in 2025 the administration of President Donald Trump fired all the scientists and researchers working on the project, pulled the most recent National Climate Assessment offline, and shut down the United States Global Change Research Program website; and

Whereas greenhouse-gas driven climate change is driving extreme weather, sea-level rise, heat waves, catastrophic wildfires, and other disasters, which in turn are beginning to disrupt insurance, mortgage, and real estate markets: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) climate change caused by fossil fuel combustion is not a hoax;

(2) the reality of human-caused greenhouse gas-driven climate change is sound science; and

(3) Congress should protect legislatively mandated climate research programs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—RECOGNIZING THAT SEA LEVELS ARE RISING AT ACCELERATED RATES DUE TO HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 551

Whereas tide gauges along the coasts of the United States measure accelerating rates of sea-level rise;

Whereas the rate of sea-level rise per year has more than doubled in the past century;

Whereas thermal expansion, or the volume of the ocean that is expanding as seawater warms, is contributing to rising sea levels;

Whereas the thermal expansion of ocean water has caused approximately 56 percent of global sea-level rise since 2014;

Whereas the thermal expansion of seawater can cause greater sea-level variability and unpredictability, increasing the risks for coastal communities;

Whereas thermal expansion of our oceans will affect century-scale acceleration of sea-level rise on the global, regional, and local scales, increasing coastal risks for all people of the United States;

Whereas, depending on greenhouse gas emissions, average sea-level rise could range between 2 and 7.2 feet by 2100;

Whereas, if the Earth warms beyond tipping points or warming thresholds, the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets will be at risk of destabilization;

Whereas researchers believe that those tipping points could be triggered with as little as 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming;

Whereas the Earth has already warmed by at least 1.2 degrees Celsius, with Greenland warming 4 times faster than the average rate of warming across the globe;

Whereas sea levels are expected to raise by 20 to 25 feet with the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and by 10 to 17 feet with the melting of the West Antarctic ice sheet, and both could happen concurrently;

Whereas 30 percent of people in the United States live in coastal areas and are threatened by rising seas;

Whereas $10,000,000,000,000 of goods and services are produced in coastal counties across the United States every year;

Whereas $8,100,000,000 of the $62,500,000,000 in damage from Hurricane Sandy was caused by increased sea levels;

Whereas 3,700,000 individuals in the contiguous United States live on land less than 3.3 feet above high tide, with most of those individuals residing in Florida, Louisiana, California, New York, and New Jersey;

Whereas high water levels that were once rare 1-in-100-year events are becoming 1-in-10-year events due to accelerated sea-level rise;

Whereas sea-level rise will shrink fresh drinking water sources in coastal areas;

Whereas sea-level rise will intensify the flooding effects of hurricanes and strong storms in the United States, costing lives and money, and such effects are already disrupting insurance, mortgage, and real estate markets;

Whereas up to 13,000,000 individuals in the United States could face displacement from rising seas by 2100; and

Whereas sea levels are rising due to fossil fuel emissions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the reality of anthropogenic climate change and the role it plays in dangerously raising sea levels.

SENATE RESOLUTION 552—RECOGNIZING THAT OCEANS ARE WARMING DUE TO HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 552

Whereas climate change is causing the oceans to absorb roughly 14 zettajoules of excess heat every year;

Whereas the top 2,000 meters of the global ocean have been significantly warning, gaining approximately 372 zettajoules of excess heat since 1955;

Whereas, by 2100, it is projected that the rate of ocean warming in the top 2,000 meters will be 2 to 6 times greater than the rate of warming at the time of the introduction of this resolution;

Whereas ocean warming can have deleterious effects on biodiversity and sea life, including the health of coral reefs, which contribute $3,400,000,000 annually to the United States economy;

Whereas ocean warming will cause United States fish populations to move across international boundaries or into the high seas, causing economic uncertainty for fishermen;

Whereas climate change is acidifying the oceans, threatening the environmental health and biodiversity of the United States;

Whereas ocean warming and acidification can cause numerous harms to ocean life, including to species with calcium carbonate shells, which are key components of the ocean's food webs;

Whereas warming sea surface temperatures will shrink populations of the world's most abundant phytoplankton, significantly damaging the ocean food web;

Whereas warmer oceans will increase the risk and severity of harmful algal blooms, especially in the spring and summer months, which at the time of the introduction of this resolution cost between $10,000,000 and $100,000,000 annually on average and harm ecosystems, fisheries, drinking water, public health, recreation, and tourism;

Whereas increased ocean temperatures have expanded Vibrio concentrations in the United States, a bacterial pathogen that can cause severe illness, infection, and death in humans;

Whereas warmer oceans increase evaporation rates, increasing atmospheric humidity, which fuels stronger hurricanes and extreme precipitation events;

Whereas ocean warming caused North Atlantic hurricanes at the time of the introduction of this resolution to be, on average, a category more intense, with wind speeds averaging 18.6 miles per hour faster, wreaking more damage; and

Whereas our oceans are warming rapidly each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that climate change is imposing serious harms on our oceans and on coastal communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 553

Whereas changes in the climate caused by fossil fuel emissions are proven by decades of sound science and are not a hoax: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that climate change is real.

SENATE RESOLUTION 554—RECOGNIZING THE STRONG LINK BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND SKYROCKETING INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 554

Whereas, at the time of the introduction of this resolution, insured losses from natural disasters in the United States exceed $100,000,000,000 annually, up from $8,400,000,000 in 2000, an increase of 1000 percent;

Whereas, from 2013 to 2022, insurance costs more than doubled, and by 2022, these costs accounted for more than 20 percent of mortgage payments;

Whereas insurance premiums have increased 40 percent faster than inflation;

Whereas premiums are projected to increase another 8 percent in 2025, reaching a national average of more than $3,500 annually;

Whereas annual premiums in 2024 averaged more than $14,000 in Florida, almost $11,000 in Louisiana, almost $8,000 in Oklahoma, $6,000 in Texas and Colorado, and around $5,000 in Alabama, Mississippi, and Nebraska; and

Whereas most lenders will not approve a mortgage unless the borrower also purchases insurance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that climate change and the increased risk in frequency and intensity of natural disasters are driving up insurance costs for home owners in the United States, and that a failure to address climate change will make housing even more unaffordable.

SENATE RESOLUTION 555—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE POSES A THREAT TO THE MORTGAGE MARKET AND TO HOME VALUES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 555

Whereas a home is the largest asset of most individuals in the United States;

Whereas analysts have found that sea-level rise is directly to blame for a loss in coastal home value, and that between 2005 and 2017, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia together lost $7,400,000,000 in home value due to sea-level rise related flooding;

Whereas economists have found that housing loses substantial value following a weather disaster, in part because of the market's expectation of future disasters in the same ZIP Code;

Whereas researchers have found that sea-level rise puts more than 300,000 homes and commercial properties in the United States at risk of chronic, disruptive flooding in the next 30 years, with a cumulative value of properties at risk of $136,000,000,000 by 2045;

Whereas, by the end of the 21st century, researchers predict that nearly 2,500,000 homes and commercial properties collectively valued at $1,070,000,000,000 today, will be at risk of chronic flooding;

Whereas The Economist predicts that, over the next 25 years, climate change will cause a $25,000,000,000,000 loss to the value of housing stocks worldwide;

Whereas researchers have found that United States residential property will likely lose nearly $1,500,000,000,000 in value over the next 30 years due to increasingly expensive and unavailable insurance;

Whereas, in April of 2024, the Federal Housing Finance Agency ''recognize[d] the emerging and increasing threat to all stakeholders in the housing system due to climate risk and the increased frequency and intensity of major natural disasters'';

Whereas the Financial Stability Board has warned of cascading risks from climate

change, including increased insurance premiums and reduced coverages, mortgage crises, and bank insolvencies; and

Whereas the last time there were widespread declines in property values, the economy spiraled into the Great Recession, costing millions of people in the United States their jobs, homes, and savings: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that climate change portends significant declines in home values in climate-exposed regions of the United States and a broader economic recession.

SENATE RESOLUTION 556—RECOGNIZING THAT FLORIDA'S INSURANCE MARKET IS GRAVELY STRESSED BY CLIMATE RISKS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 556

Whereas, as reported by Columbia Business School, because climate change is a ''major risk'' in Florida, many home insurers are at a high risk of insolvency;

Whereas, following catastrophic hurricane losses, major insurers left the Florida market entirely, leaving small, local, and less stable insurers behind, many of which have already gone insolvent;

Whereas only mortgages protected by home insurance from insurers with a high financial strength rating are eligible for the government mortgage-backed security program, which maintains liquidity in the mortgage market, and as a result of this, the United States housing market increasingly depends on the credibility of these ratings;

Whereas an insurance rating agency called Demotech has become increasingly utilized by smaller home insurers in Florida;

Whereas Demotech rates 98 percent of insurers ''A'' or above;

Whereas insurers rated by Demotech are 30 times as likely to become insolvent as those graded by rival rating companies;

Whereas, even when Florida homeowners are able to find a stable insurer, they are still forced to pay increasingly high home insurance premiums, now averaging $14,000 annually;

Whereas the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation reports that home insurance rates in Florida have risen 34 percent since late 2022;

Whereas Florida State law allows Citizens Property Insurance, the state-backed insurer of last resort, to levy a surcharge on all policyholders to recoup losses if its reserves fall short, levies that may be uncollectable in real life; and

Whereas there are credible scenarios in which the losses of Citizens Property Insurance exceed its ability to pay claims: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate calls on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to scrutinize Demotech's rating practices and calls on the Treasury Department's insurance office to examine the probability that state-backed insurers of last resort, including Florida's, ask for a Federal bailout.

SENATE RESOLUTION 557—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE PORTENDS A CASCADE OF FINANCIAL MARKET COLLAPSES THAT WOULD DESTABILIZE THE NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ECONOMIES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 557

Whereas climate change drives and exacerbates extreme weather and disaster events;

Whereas United States losses from extreme weather events totaled $165,000,000,000 in 2022 alone;

Whereas more frequent extreme weather events and wildfires are making insurance increasingly unaffordable and unavailable;

Whereas unavailable or unaffordable insurance will destabilize mortgage and property markets, potentially resulting in a $25,000,000,000,000 decline in global residential property values;

Whereas modelers project that unchecked climate change could cost the global economy $178,000,000,000,000 in net present value from 2021 to 2070;

Whereas global financial experts warn that if climate change is not addressed, worldwide per capita gross domestic product could decline by 10 to 20 percent within 3 decades;

Whereas national banks and the international Financial Stability Board predict that climate change is causing and will continue to cause structural risk to the global financial system; and

Whereas financial experts and banks agree that adjusting to the climate reality by organizing an early and orderly transition to a low carbon economy will avoid costly shocks to the system caused by a sudden and disorderly transition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that unchecked climate change poses severe risks to national and global economies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 558—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE-DRIVEN EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ARE INCREASING AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DISMANTLING WEATHER MONITORING AND ALERT SYSTEMS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 558

Whereas climate change drives and exacerbates extreme weather and disaster events;

Whereas peer-reviewed science has established that climate change intensifies hurricanes and drives increased coastal flooding, erosion, and damage;

Whereas climate change drives dangerously heavy rainfall, which can cause life-threatening flooding both in coastal and inland communities; and

Whereas the National Weather Service has lost more than 550 employees since President Trump took office in January 2025, due primarily to layoffs and buyouts, and the administration has sought $2,200,000,000 in budget cuts to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which houses the National Weather Service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that climate change drives and exacerbates life-threatening extreme weather events;

(2) mourns the loss of innocent lives to these events; and

(3) acknowledges the need to fund and maintain weather monitoring and alert systems, and ensure adequate staffing at the National Weather Service.

SENATE RESOLUTION 559—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAKING WILDFIRES MORE FREQUENT, MORE INTENSE, AND MORE DESTRUCTIVE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 559

Whereas climate change increases global temperatures and drought conditions, making ''fire weather'' more common and longer-lasting;

Whereas, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this preamble referred to as ''NASA''), ''human-caused climate change has been found to be the main cause for increasing fire weather in the American West'';

Whereas the United States Forest Service reports that ''[w]hat was once a four-month fire season now lasts six to eight months'';

Whereas data from NASA satellites shows that over the past 2 decades, wildfires have become more frequent, more intense, and larger, and that worldwide extreme wildfire activity has more than doubled;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey calculates that even without considering human health impacts, wildfires cost the United States $424,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas, on January 7, 2025, a collection of wildfires in the Los Angeles metro area destroyed more than 15,000 homes and business, killed more than 2 dozen people, and poisoned the air and soil; and

Whereas a subsequent study confirmed that climate change meaningfully increased the likelihood of the Los Angeles fires: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate acknowledges the reality of climate change-driven wildfire risk and acknowledges the need to fully fund and staff Federal wildfire prevention and response activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 560—RECOGNIZING THAT MERCURY POLLUTION CAN CAUSE SEVERE HEALTH PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE, KIDNEY DAMAGE, AND BIRTH DEFECTS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT

ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 560

Whereas mercury is a powerful neurotoxin;

Whereas mercury occurs naturally in coal, petroleum, and natural gas, and burning those fossil fuels releases mercury into the atmosphere;

Whereas mercury emitted into the atmosphere enters the ground, water, and food system;

Whereas consuming fish from mercury-contaminated waterbodies is the most common way people are exposed to dangerous levels of mercury;

Whereas all 50 States maintain webpages to issue fish advisories for mercury-contaminated waterbodies and the Department of Public Health and Environment of the State of Colorado reports that, as of 2025, there were more than 3,700 mercury advisories in effect across the United States;

Whereas fossil fuel-fired power plants are the largest source of mercury emissions in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 80,000,000 individuals in the United States live within 3 miles of a fossil fuel-fired power plant, approximately 17,000,000 of whom are children;

Whereas exposure to mercury can cause severe health problems, including permanent brain damage, kidney damage, birth defects, and heart disease;

Whereas gestational mercury exposure is particularly dangerous and babies born after mercury exposure in the womb can exhibit severe intellectual impairment, as well as ataxia and cerebral palsy, seizures, vision and hearing loss, delayed developmental milestones, language disorders, and problems with motor function, visual spatial abilities, and memory; and

Whereas there is no known safe level of exposure to mercury: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that mercury pollution can cause severe health problems, including permanent brain damage, kidney damage, and birth defects; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Environmental Protection Agency should not loosen controls on mercury pollution from power plants.

SENATE RESOLUTION 561—RECOGNIZING THAT PARTICULATE MATTER POLLUTION CAN CAUSE HEART ATTACKS, ASTHMA, STROKES, AND PREMATURE DEATH

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 561

Whereas particulate matter pollution consists of tiny airborne particles made of a mix of sometimes hundreds of different chemicals and elements;

Whereas particulate matter particles are so small that when inhaled they can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream;

Whereas particulate matter exposure can cause heart attacks, asthma, bronchitis, decreased lung function, and premature death for people with heart or lung disease;

Whereas people who experience long-term exposure to particulate matter pollution are twice as likely to experience hemorrhagic stroke;

Whereas evidence suggests that particulate matter exposure contributes to lung cancer incidence and mortality, even for nonsmokers;

Whereas a study by the California Air Resources Board found that children growing up in communities with high levels of particulate matter pollution had smaller lungs at age 18 than children living in communities with low levels of particulate matter pollution;

Whereas health scientists agree that particulate matter is a leading health risk factor in the United States and around the world;

Whereas combustion of fossil fuels is the largest source of particulate matter pollution in the United States; and

Whereas an estimated 80,000,000 individuals in the United States live within 3 miles of a fossil fuel-fired power plant, approximately 17,000,000 of whom are children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that particulate matter pollution can cause heart attacks, asthma, strokes, and premature death; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Environmental Protection Agency should maintain and enforce safe nationwide standards for particulate matter.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—RECOGNIZING THAT OZONE POLLUTION CAN CAUSE LUNG DISEASE, ASTHMA ATTACKS, CARDIOVASCULAR PROBLEMS, AND REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 562

Whereas ozone in the stratosphere, ''the ozone layer'', forms naturally and protects the Earth from dangerous solar radiation;

Whereas ground-level ozone, better known as ''smog'', forms when air pollution reacts with sunlight;

Whereas smog, in contrast to stratospheric ozone, is dangerous to human health;

Whereas exposure to smog causes asthma attacks, lung disease, nervous system issues, cardiovascular problems, and reproductive issues;

Whereas children are particularly vulnerable to smog pollution;

Whereas, in 2021, analysts found that long-term exposure to smog contributed to 489,000 deaths globally and 14,000 deaths in the United States, with the United States death rate being higher than that of other high-income countries;

Whereas smog pollution lowers crop yields and crop losses due to smog pollution total between 79,000,000 and 121,000,000 metric tons per year;

Whereas methane pollution (the primary constituent of natural gas) reacts with other pollutants to create smog pollution;

Whereas researchers have found that methane emissions significantly affect the air quality across most of the United States, with especially pronounced effects in central States, and methane emissions can have a determining influence on the ability of a region to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone that are set by the Environmental Protection Agency;

Whereas, in 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency set methane standards that were projected to eliminate 58,000,000 tons of methane pollution over 15 years, a 79 percent reduction from business as usual; and

Whereas the Trump Administration is reconsidering the 2024 methane standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that ozone pollution can cause lung disease, asthma attacks, cardiovascular problems, and reproductive issues; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Environmental Protection Agency should act to reduce smog pollution, including by supporting robust implementation of the 2024 methane standards.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—AFFIRMING THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT INVESTMENT IN CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 563

Whereas diesel exhaust from school buses is a major source of local air pollution, including fine particulate matter (PM2.5), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs);

Whereas children face higher health risk from air pollution because of their smaller, still developing lungs, leading to increased rates of asthma, heart disease, and lung disease;

Whereas approximately 3 out of 10 children in the United States take a school bus to get to school;

Whereas the air pollution from diesel school buses can enter school buildings and degrade classroom air quality;

Whereas air pollution-related diseases lead to missed days of school and hamper the education of children;

Whereas the replacement of diesel school buses with clean school buses, including electric school buses, would dramatically reduce local air pollution, and improve the health and educational attainment of children; and

Whereas Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has historically supported funding for replacing diesel school buses with cleaner alternatives, including through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 429): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate affirms that the Federal Government should support school district investment in clean school buses.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—RECOGNIZING THE ABILITY OF SOLAR, STORAGE, AND WIND TO QUICKLY AND CHEAPLY MEET UNITED STATES POWER DEMAND GROWTH

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the

following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 564

Whereas, as of 2025, United States power demand growth is higher than at any point in the previous 2 decades;

Whereas, over the next 10 years after the date of enactment of this resolution, nearly every region of the United States faces potential power capacity shortfalls;

Whereas, as of 2025, solar and wind are the most cost-effective forms of new power generation on an unsubsidized basis and electricity storage (battery) costs are sharply declining;

Whereas, in 2024, solar, storage, and wind made up 93 percent of new power capacity installations in the United States;

Whereas, as of 2025, solar, storage, and wind make up 95 percent of power capacity awaiting grid interconnection in the United States;

Whereas, in 2024, solar and wind produced more electricity than coal;

Whereas, in 2025, costs of new natural gas construction reached 10-year highs;

Whereas, as of 2025, wait times for turbines for new natural gas-fired power plants are as long as 7 years; and

Whereas forcing large fossil fuel plants that are scheduled to retire in 2026, 2027, and 2028 to keep running could increase costs to ratepayers by over $3,000,000,000 per year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that accelerating solar, storage, and wind deployment is essential to meet rising power demand, and that the United States should increase production of renewable energy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—RECOGNIZING THAT FACILITIES THAT PRODUCE RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY ARE THE CHEAPEST POWER-GENERATING FACILITIES TO OPERATE AND RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUEL-GENERATING FACILITIES TO MEET GROWING POWER DEMAND DRIVES UP WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 565

Whereas electricity prices are generally determined by the level of demand for power and the cost of generating such power used to meet the demand;

Whereas the demand for power in the United States is growing faster than at any point in the past 2 decades;

Whereas power generators with the lowest operating costs are typically dispatched first, thereby meeting the demand for power at the lowest cost;

Whereas, as the demand for power increases, power generators with higher operating costs are dispatched, thereby driving up wholesale electricity prices;

Whereas fossil-power generation from coal, fossil gas, and oil has high operating costs due to the cost of fuel and maintenance; and

Whereas the generation of wind, solar, and other renewable resources has near-zero operating costs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that—

(1) facilities that produce renewable electricity are the cheapest electricity-generating facilities to operate to meet the demand for power; and

(2) reliance on fossil fuel-generating facilities to meet the growing demand for power drives up wholesale electricity prices.

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—RECOGNIZING THAT CARE PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS ESSENTIAL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 566

Whereas, as of 2025, the Department of Veterans Affairs serves more than 7,000,000 patients;

Whereas, in 2024, veteran trust in Department outpatient health care was nearly 92 percent;

Whereas Department hospitals have outperformed non-Department hospitals in quality and patient satisfaction in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' annual star ratings since 2023 when Department facilities began being included in the annual star ratings;

Whereas recent studies have concluded that Department health care is consistently as good as, or better than, commercial health care in areas of quality and safety;

Whereas veterans who are engaged in Department health care in Department medical facilities or through the Department's community care providers should receive high-quality continuity of care and positive outcomes regardless of where they receive their care;

Whereas the Department's 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report found that in 2022 there were, on average, 17.6 veteran suicides per day, of which 7.0 per day were among veterans who received care from the Veterans Health Administration in 2021 or 2022, and 10.5 were among other veterans.

Whereas the Department is the largest educator of health care professionals in the United States, with more than 70 percent of practicing physicians having completed at least some of their training at a Department medical facility;

Whereas, for more than a century, Department researchers have made countless medical breakthroughs, which have benefitted not only veterans, but all people of the United States; and

Whereas the Department has a statutory ''fourth mission'' to support national, State, and local emergency efforts in times of war, terrorism, natural disasters, and public health emergencies, while continuing service to veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Department of Veterans Affairs is essential in meeting the health care needs of veterans, training the medical workforce, conducting critical research, working to end veteran suicide, and improving public health and the preparedness of the United States for emergencies;

(2) urges the Department to support all it's employees, respect their expertise and experience, and empower them with appropriate resources to serve veterans; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to ensuring that every veteran has timely access to high-quality, affordable, and veteran-centered care, whether provided in Department medical facilities or through Department community care providers when direct care is not available or in the best medical interest of the veteran.

SENATE RESOLUTION 567—EXPRESSING THAT ANY ATTEMPT BY FOREIGN ENTITIES TO CENSOR OR PENALIZE CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED SPEECH OF UNITED STATES PERSONS SHALL BE OPPOSED

Mr. LEE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 567

Whereas freedom of speech is a fundamental, constitutional right of every United States person;

Whereas freedom of speech is a hallmark of American exceptionalism;

Whereas freedom of speech is necessary to ensure that truth can always be spoken, lies can always be exposed, and important questions can always be asked, and that the strong can always be challenged and the vulnerable can always be heard;

Whereas no person is fit to govern the thoughts or beliefs of another;

Whereas public forums, including social media platforms, give people the opportunity to exercise their right to free speech;

Whereas undue foreign influence threatens the constitutionally protected right to freedom of speech;

Whereas the Digital Services Act of the European Union requires large platforms to remove certain speech based on the incorrect assertion that politicians are entitled to govern the thoughts and beliefs of other persons;

Whereas the European Union is attempting to force United States entities to use products and technology to censor and undermine free speech occurring in the United States;

Whereas the European Union is threatening steep penalties under the Digital Services Act if United States entities do not implement the censorship regime required under the Act;

Whereas, on August 12, 2024, the European Union threatened Elon Musk with penalties under the Digital Services Act for conducting an interview with President Trump on X, insinuating that the conversation between United States citizens on United States soil would produce ''harmful content'' that would ''spillover'' from the United States;

Whereas, on December 5, 2025, the European Union announced a $140,000,000 fine against X under the Digital Services Act;

Whereas the European Union is actively investigating and discouraging the use of Community Notes-style policies employed by social media companies to avoid censorship and institutional bias, instead pushing for aggressive content censorship models;

Whereas the Digital Services Act authorizes fines of up to 6 percent of a company's global revenue for not complying with efforts to target speech by United States persons;

Whereas the actions of the European Union under the Digital Services Act conflict with the sovereign duty of the United States Government to protect the constitutional rights of United States persons; and

Whereas such actions by the European Union, if left unchecked, may cause a chilling effect on free speech in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to protecting the commercial interests and free speech rights of United States persons;

(2) recognizes that the Digital Services Act is incompatible with the free speech tradition of the United States and the commitments that technology companies have made to hosting a diversity of opinions;

(3) disapproves of any attempt by a foreign entity to export censorship or limit the exercise of free speech by United States persons;

(4) disapproves of any attempt by a foreign entity to levy fines or other penalties against United States persons participating in constitutionally protected activities;

(5) disapproves of the attempts by the European Union to force United States entities to develop or use products and technology in ways that undermine free speech or foster censorship;

(6) commits to oppose any implementation of disapproved activities; and

(7) urges the Trump administration to ensure swift and firm rejoinders to any implementation of disapproved activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4058. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4059. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4060. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4061. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4062. Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4063. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4064. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4065. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4066. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4067. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4068. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4069. Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4070. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2503, to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

SA 4071. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4072. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4073. Ms. ALSOBROOKS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4074. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4075. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4076. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4077. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4078. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4079. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4080. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4081. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4082. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4083. Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4084. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4085. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4086. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4087. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4088. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4089. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4090. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4091. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4092. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4093. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4094. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4095. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4096. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4097. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4098. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4099. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4100. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4101. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4102. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4103. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4104. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4105. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4106. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4107. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4108. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4109. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4110. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4111. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4112. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4113. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2465, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4058. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 426 of division C, strike ", prior to the completion of the cultural resources investigation identified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260)".

SA 4059. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. CLASSIFICATION OF NEVADA TEST AND TRAINING RANGE AS LOCATION WHERE CONTAMINATION OCCURRED AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall classify the Nevada Test and Training Range as a location where contamination occurred.

(b) IDENTIFICATION PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall establish a process to identify members of the Armed Forces and former members of the Armed Forces that were stationed at the Nevada Test and Training Range since January 27, 1951.

(2) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall establish a process to permit members of the Armed Forces and former members of the Armed Forces to provide documentation or evidence of their assignment within the Nevada Test and Training Range to assist the Secretary in identifying those members and former members under paragraph (1).

(3) EFFORTS.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall make all efforts to identify individuals described in paragraph (1) and shall not require members of the Armed Forces or former members of the Armed Forces to submit evidence of their stationing.

(c) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a process to identify members and former members of the Armed Forces who are or have been stationed at a covered location.

(d) COVERED LOCATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered location" means—

(1) any facility on the most recent list of facilities covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384 et seq.) published in the Federal Register by the Department of Energy; or

(2) any location that is data masked or classified by the Department of Defense and where there is or was potential exposure to toxic substances, including from the use of burn pits to dispose of waste.

SA 4060. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. IDENTIFICATION OF CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES POTENTIALLY EXPOSED TO CERTAIN TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a process to identify members and former members of the Armed Forces who are or have been stationed at a covered location.

(b) COVERED LOCATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered location" means—

(1) any facility on the most recent list of facilities covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384 et seq.) published in the Federal Register by the Department of Energy; or

(2) any location that is data masked or classified by the Department of Defense and where there is or was potential exposure to toxic substances, including from the use of burn pits to dispose of waste.

SA 4061. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. No amounts may be obligated for the purpose of changing the name of an asset of the Department of Defense in the State of Georgia that was adopted by the commission established under section 370(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) to any name other than the name that was adopted.

SA 4062. Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLEARINGHOUSE.—The term "Clearinghouse" means the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship established under subsection (b).

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The term "faith-based organization" means a group, center, or nongovernmental organization with a religious, ideological, or spiritual motivation, character, affiliation, or purpose that meets the definition of nonprofit organization.

(4) HOUSE OF WORSHIP.—The term "house of worship" means a place or building, including a synagogue, mosque, temple, and church, in which congregants practice their religious or spiritual beliefs.

(5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term "nonprofit organization" means an organization—

(A) of the type described in subsection (c)(3) of section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under subsection (a) of such section; and

(B) determined to be at risk of a terrorist attack or other threat by the Secretary.

(6) SAFETY AND SECURITY.—The term "safety and security" means prevention of, protection against, or recovery from threats and incidents, including natural disasters, manmade disasters, or terrorist attacks.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the White

House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and the head of any other agency the Secretary determines appropriate, shall establish within the Department a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship.

(B) PURPOSE.—The Clearinghouse shall be the primary resource of the Federal Government to—

(i) educate and publish online best practices and recommendations for safety and security for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship; and

(ii) provide information relating to Federal grant programs available to nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(C) PERSONNEL.—

(i) ASSIGNMENTS.—The Clearinghouse shall be assigned such personnel and resources as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry out this subsection.

(ii) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may coordinate detailees on a reimbursable or a nonreimbursable basis as required for the Clearinghouse.

(iii) DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—There shall be not fewer than 1 employee assigned or detailed to the Clearinghouse who shall be the designated point of contact to provide information and assistance to nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, including assistance relating to the grant program established under subsection (d).

(II) CONTACT INFORMATION.—The contact information of the designated point of contact under subclause (I) shall be made available on the website of the Clearinghouse.

(iv) QUALIFICATION.—To the maximum extent possible, any personnel assigned or detailed to the Clearinghouse under this subparagraph should be familiar with nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship and with physical and online security measures to identify and prevent safety and security risks.

(2) CLEARINGHOUSE CONTENTS.—

(A) EVIDENCE-BASED TIERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and the head of any other agency the Secretary determines appropriate, shall develop tiers for determining evidence-based best practices and recommendations that demonstrate a significant effect on improving safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The tiers required to be developed under clause (i) shall—

(I) prioritize—

(aa) strong evidence from not fewer than 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study; and

(bb) moderate evidence from not fewer than 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; and

(II) consider promising evidence that demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluations that the activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve and promote safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(B) CRITERIA FOR BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The best practices and recommendations referred to in paragraph (1)(B)(i) of the Clearinghouse shall, at a minimum—

(i) identify areas of concern for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, including event planning recommendations, checklists, facility hardening, tabletop exercise resources, and other resilience measures;

(ii) involve comprehensive safety and security measures, including threat prevention, preparedness, protection, mitigation, incident response, and recovery to improve the safety and security posture of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship upon implementation;

(iii) involve comprehensive safety and security measures, including preparedness, protection, mitigation, incident response, and recovery to improve the resiliency of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship from threats and incidents, including natural disasters, manmade disasters, or terrorist attacks or other threats;

(iv) include any evidence or research rationale supporting the determination of the Clearinghouse that the comprehensive safety and security measures under clauses (ii) and (iii) have been shown to have a significant effect on improving the safety and security of individuals who, at the time of any such threat or incident, are physically located in the place or building of a nonprofit organization, including a faith-based organization, or a house of worship, including—

(I) findings and data from previous Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, private sector, and nongovernmental organization research centers relating to the safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, including from targeted violence; and

(II) other supportive evidence or findings relied upon by the Clearinghouse in determining best practices and recommendations to improve the safety and security posture of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship upon implementation; and

(v) include an overview of the available resources the Clearinghouse can provide to nonprofit organizations and houses of worship.

(C) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Clearinghouse shall maintain and make available a comprehensive index of all Federal grant programs for which nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship are eligible, which shall include the performance metrics the recipient will be required to provide for each grant.

(D) PAST RECOMMENDATIONS.—To the greatest extent practicable, the Clearinghouse shall identify and present, as appropriate, best practices and recommendations issued by Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations relevant to the safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(E) EXISTING PLATFORM.—The Secretary may establish and maintain the Clearinghouse on an online platform or a website that is in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—The Secretary may produce and publish materials on the Clearinghouse to assist and train nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship regarding the implementation of the best practices and recommendations under this subsection.

(4) CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(i) collect for the purpose of continuous improvement of the Clearinghouse—

(I) Clearinghouse data analytics;

(II) user feedback on the implementation of resources, best practices, and recommendations identified by the Clearinghouse; and

(III) any evaluations conducted regarding implementation of such best practices and recommendations;

(ii) in coordination with the Faith-Based Security Advisory Council of the Department, the Department of Justice, the Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and any other agency the Secretary determines appropriate—

(I) assess and identify Clearinghouse best practices and recommendations for which there are no resources available through Federal Government programs for implementation;

(II) provide feedback on the implementation of such best practices and recommendations; and

(III) propose additional best practices and recommendations for inclusion in the Clearinghouse; and

(iii) not less frequently than annually, examine and update the Clearinghouse in accordance with—

(I) the information collected under clause (i); and

(II) the best practices and recommendations proposed under clause (ii)(III).

(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter during the period in which the Clearinghouse is in existence, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the updates under subparagraph (A)(iii) made to the Clearinghouse during the preceding 3-year period, which shall include a description of any changes made pursuant thereto to the Clearinghouse.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF THE CLEARINGHOUSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to the individuals, Federal agencies, and committees specified in paragraph (2) written notification of the establishment of the Clearinghouse, including updates pertaining to grant programs identified under subsection (b)(2)(C).

(2) INDIVIDUALS, FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The individuals, Federal entities, and committees specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Every State homeland security advisor.

(B) Every State department of homeland security.

(C) Other Federal agencies with grant programs or initiatives that aid in the safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(D) Every Cyber Security Advisor.

(E) Every Protective Security Advisor.

(F) Every Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force.

(G) Every Homeland Security Fusion Center.

(H) Every State or territorial Governor or other chief executive.

(I) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(J) The Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(d) FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary, when carrying out subsection (b)(2)(C), shall include a grants program overview on the website of the Clearinghouse that shall—

(A) be a location for all information regarding Federal grant programs that are open to nonprofit organizations, including

faith-based organizations, and houses of worship for the purposes of safety and security;

(B) directly link to each grant application and any applicable user guides;

(C) identify all safety and security homeland security assistance programs managed by the Department that may be used to implement best practices and recommendations of the Clearinghouse;

(D) concurrent with the application period for any grant identified under subsection (b)(2)(C), provide information related to the required elements of grant applications to aid nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship in meeting the eligibility criteria for Federal grants; and

(E) provide answers to frequently asked questions regarding the implementation of best practices and recommendations of the Clearinghouse and best practices for applying for a grant identified under subsection (b)(2)(C).

(2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—Each Federal agency notified under subsection (c) shall provide to the Secretary or other appropriate point of contact for the Clearinghouse for inclusion in the Clearinghouse necessary information regarding any Federal grant programs or resources of the Federal agency that are available for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(3) STATE GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any State notified under subsection (c) may provide to the Secretary or other appropriate point of contact for the Clearinghouse for inclusion in the Clearinghouse necessary information regarding any grant programs or resources of the State available for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship for the purposes of safety and security.

(B) IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCES.—The Clearinghouse shall, to the extent practicable, identify for each State the following:

(i) Each State agency responsible for safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship in the State, or any State that does not have such an agency designated.

(ii) Any grant program that may be used for the purposes of implementing best practices and recommendations of the Clearinghouse.

(iii) Any resources or programs, including community prevention or intervention efforts, that may be used to assist in targeted violence and terrorism prevention.

(e) OTHER RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall, on the website of the Clearinghouse, include a separate section for other resources that shall provide a centralized list of all available points of contact from which a nonprofit organization, including a faith-based organization, or a house of worship may seek assistance in grant applications and in carrying out the best practices and recommendations of the Clearinghouse, including the following:

(1) A list of contact information to reach Department personnel to assist with grant-related questions.

(2) The applicable Agency contact information to connect houses of worship with Protective Security Advisors.

(3) Contact information for all Department Fusion Centers, listed by State.

(4) Information on the ''If you See Something Say Something Campaign'' of the Department.

(5) Any other appropriate contacts.

(f) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the state of Federal grants devoted to safety and security for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, and an evaluation of the relevant programs and resources devoted to the safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship as of the date of the report.

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to create, satisfy, or waive any requirement under Federal civil rights laws, including—

(1) title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.); or

(2) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

(h) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4063. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III of division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Smithsonian, shall enter into an agreement with an independent third party for the completion of a report that details, with respect to each space vehicle described in section 20306(b)(2) of title 51, United States Code—

(1) the ownership of the space vehicle;

(2) the authority to acquire the space vehicle;

(3) the full projected costs, funding sources, and logistical considerations associated with the proposed transfer under section 20306(b) of title 51, United States Code, of the space vehicle to a new location; and

(4) an educational cost-benefit analysis associated with such proposed transfer that takes into consideration—

(A) public accessibility to the space vehicle at alternate locations;

(B) the cost to the public of visiting the space vehicle;

(C) any risk to the space vehicle before, during, or after such a transfer;

(D) the adequacy of display space for the space vehicle; and

(E) the preservation capabilities of the donor and receiver institutions.

(b) Not later than August 1, 2026, and before any action is taken with respect to the transfer of a space vehicle under section 20306(b) of title 51, United States Code, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives the report described in subsection (a).

SA 4064. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division D, insert the following:

SEC. ____. There is appropriated an additional $100,000,000 under the heading ''Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Buildings and Facilities'', for purposes of maintaining and improving security on the Roybal campus of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, and making repairs to buildings on such campus.

SA 4065. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. With respect to an individual on the Reemployment Priority List for the Department of Health and Human Services, any time during which a hiring freeze is in effect for such agency shall not be considered in calculating the registration period described in section 330.208(a) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), for such individual.

SA 4066. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV of division C, add the following:

PROHIBITION OF USE OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESCISSION OF THE CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE HEALTH RULE

SEC. 4_____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made available under any division of this Act may be used to finalize, issue, or implement the proposed rule of the Bureau of Land Management entitled ''Rescission of Conservation and Landscape Health Rule'' (90 Fed. Reg. 43990 (September 11, 2025)) or a substantially similar rule.

SA 4067. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division D, insert the following:

SEC. ____. There is appropriated an additional $100,000,000 under the heading ''Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Immunization and Respiratory Diseases'', for purposes of making grants under section 317 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b) for immunization programs.

SA 4068. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to

the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. BRIEFING ON FAA MANDATORY REDUCTION IN SERVICE DURING A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the mandatory reduction in service at high impact airports during the lapse in appropriations that began on October 1, 2025. Such briefing shall include the following information:

(1) The justification used for the flight reductions at each high impact airport that resulted from the mandatory reduction in service, including—

(A) NAS-wide and airport-specific air traffic control staffing levels during the 14 days preceding the date on which the mandatory reduction in service began, compared to the air traffic control staffing levels during the same time frame in each of the previous 2 years;

(B) NAS-wide and airport-specific delay and cancellation rates during the 14 days preceding the date on which the mandatory reduction in service began, compared to the delay and cancellation rates during the same time frame in each of the previous 2 years;

(C) NAS-wide and airport-specific near miss rates during the 14 days preceding the date on which the mandatory reduction in service began, compared to the near miss rates during the same time frame in each of the previous 2 years;

(D) any safety concerns reported by airline or airport employees at high impact airports, or their union representatives, that factored into the decision making of the Administrator;

(E) any safety data collected or concerns reported by air traffic controllers at high impact airports, or their union representatives, that factored into the decision making of the Administrator; and

(F) any other safety, efficiency, staffing, or other data or information used to inform the decision making of the Administrator.

(2) The total cost of the flight reductions that resulted from such mandatory reduction in service, including any lost salaries of airline and airport employees.

(b) SUBSEQUENT BRIEFINGS.—In the event that any Federal agency issues an order establishing operation limitations on the use of navigable airspace during a lapse in appropriations, not later than 3 days after such issuance, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on such order, including with respect to the information required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Members of Congress representing any State in which a high impact airport is located.

(3) HIGH IMPACT AIRPORT.—For purposes of this section, the term ''high impact airport'' means an airport described in appendix A of the order issued by the Federal Aviation Administration on November 7, 2025, titled ''Emergency Order Establishing Operating Limitations on the Use of Navigable Airspace''.

(4) NAS.—The term ''NAS'' means the national airspace system.

SA 4069. Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Executive Order 14251 (90 Fed. Reg. 14553; relating to exclusions from Federal labor-management relations programs) and Executive Order 14343 (90 Fed. Reg. 42683; relating to further exclusions from the Federal labor-management relations program) shall have no force or effect, and no Federal funds may be obligated or expended to carry out either such Executive order.

(b) Any collective bargaining agreement in effect as of March 26, 2025, between any agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government and any labor organization that is an exclusive representative of Federal employees shall have full force and effect through the stated term of the applicable agreement.

SA 4070. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2503, to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform Act'' or the ''ROTOR Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) ADS–B IN.—The term ''ADS–B In'' means onboard avionics equipment that receives and processes Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast transmissions that are broadcast in accordance with sections 91.225 and 91.227 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), and other aviation advisory information from ground stations, that provides the aircraft with awareness to the location of other aircraft and traffic advisories.

(3) ADS–B OUT.—The term ''ADS–B Out''—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 91.227 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) broadcasts information from the aircraft in accordance with sections 91.225 and 91.227 of such title 14 (or any successor regulations).

(4) AFFECTED AIRCRAFT.—The term ''affected aircraft'' means any aircraft that is required to operate in accordance with section 91.225 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(5) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(6) CABINET MEMBER.—The term ''Cabinet Member'' means an individual who is the head (including an acting head) of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of State, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, or the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other individual who occupies a position designated by the President as a Cabinet-level position.

(7) FAA.—The term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(8) NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION; NCR.—The terms ''National Capital Region'' and ''NCR'' mean the geographic area located within the boundaries of—

(A) the District of Columbia;

(B) Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties in the State of Maryland;

(C) Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

(D) all cities and other units of government within the geographic areas described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(9) POWERED-LIFT.—The term ''powered-lift''—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

(B) includes vertical-lift flight mode and wing-borne flight mode, as such terms are defined in section 194.103 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(10) ROTORCRAFT.—The term ''rotorcraft'' has the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(11) TRANSPORT AIRPLANE.—The term ''transport airplane'' has the meaning given such term in section 44741(i) of title 49, United States Code.

(12) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ''unmanned aircraft system'' has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 3. REVISION TO EXCEPTION FOR ADS–B OUT TRANSMISSION.

(a) ADS–B OUT REFORMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) SENSITIVE GOVERNMENT MISSION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this section, in applying section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the term ''sensitive government mission'' shall be narrowly construed and shall not include routine flights, non-classified flights, proficiency flights, or flights of Federal officials below the rank of Cabinet Member or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(B) NOTIFICATION.—For the purposes of interpreting section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the operating agency shall—

(i) when operating a sensitive government mission during which the aircraft will not be transmitting ADS–B Out, notify Air Traffic Control; and

(ii) notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on the Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on the

Armed Services of the House of Representatives on a monthly basis regarding each sensitive government mission within Class B airspace operated during such month.

(2) RULEMAKING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall—

(i) issue or revise regulations to update section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to comply with the requirements of this section; and

(ii) revise any memorandum of agreement between the FAA and any other Federal, State, local, or Tribal agency to conform with the revised regulations described in clause (i), including any agreement pursuant to section 1046 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).

(B) REPORT.—If the Administrator fails to issue or revise regulations pursuant to subparagraph (A) or revise any memorandum of agreement between the FAA and any other agency pursuant to such subparagraph, the Administrator shall, within 30 days, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of such regulations, including the reasons that the Administrator has failed to issue or revise such regulations within the period required under such subparagraph.

(b) GAO REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) review the utilization of exceptions under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), to determine—

(A) whether the Department of Defense and other relevant Federal agencies or other applicable operators have utilized such exceptions in accordance with relevant laws and regulations; and

(B) the extent of such utilization;

(2) compare the utilization of exceptions specified in such section 91.225(f) before and after the issuance of revised regulations under subsection (a); and

(3) submit to the Administrator and the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the review conducted under paragraph (1) and the comparison conducted under paragraph (2).

(c) FAA REVIEW OF NON-COMPLIANT OPERATORS.—Upon submission of the report under subsection (b)(3), the Administrator shall—

(1) determine whether any Federal agency or other applicable operator that has been found to have not utilized the exceptions under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), in accordance with relevant laws and regulations shall be permitted to continue to utilize such exceptions; and

(2) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the report under subsection (b)(3), brief the appropriate committees of Congress on such determination.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, each Federal, State, local, and Tribal agency that performs sensitive government missions as described in section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), shall submit to the Administrator a report that includes—

(A) an attestation that such operations are regularly transmitting ADS–B Out and are conducted with proper consideration to aviation safety;

(B) a list of operations delineated by flight in which the ADS–B Out equipment is not in transmit mode because the aircraft was performing a sensitive government mission, including the airport, airspace location, date, time, duration, and mission type of each such operation; and

(C) with respect to any classified operation, a classified annex.

(2) TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and biannually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the frequency and nature of the ADS–B Out exceptions granted to Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a). Such report—

(i) shall include—

(I) aggregated data on the operations in which ADS–B Out equipment is not in transmit mode by each agency described in paragraph (1); and

(II) a determination from the Administrator as to whether each operation described in paragraph (1)(B) jeopardizes aviation safety; and

(ii) may include a classified annex.

(B) SPECIAL NOTIFICATION.—If an agency described in paragraph (1) operates a flight using an exception granted under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), 5 or more times in a calendar month, or fails to provide to the Administrator the attestation required under paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such use within 14 days of being notified of such use. For the purposes of this subparagraph, a flight shall be interpreted as the period beginning when an aircraft moves under its own power for the purpose of flight and ending when the aircraft lands.

(e) ANNUAL INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation (in this section referred to as the ''Inspector General'') shall conduct an annual audit of FAA oversight of all operations that utilize an exception under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), including Federal agency operations.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting an audit under paragraph (1), the Inspector General shall assess the efficacy of FAA oversight related to the following:

(A) Ensuring exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation) are strictly utilized by operators in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

(B) Ensuring exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation) are not routinely used by operators.

(C) Identifying and engaging with any operator not in compliance with relevant laws and regulations relating to exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation).

(D) Any other factor determined appropriate by the Inspector General.

(3) BRIEFINGS TO CONGRESS.—The Inspector General shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on an annual basis after the completion of each annual audit.

SEC. 4. ADS–B IN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ADS–B IN OPERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue a final rule in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to require any person operating an aircraft (other than an unmanned aircraft, as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) required to be equipped with ADS–B Out in accordance with section 91.225 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), to be equipped with and operating with ADS–B In equipment that provides the aircraft with awareness to the location of other aircraft and traffic advisories, unless otherwise authorized by air traffic control.

(2) COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) include an effective date of not later than 60 days after the date on which such final rule is published in the Federal Register; and

(B) require aircraft described in paragraph (1) to be equipped with ADS-B In not later than December 31, 2031.

(3) FINAL REGULATION REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, at a minimum, do the following:

(A) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Administrator shall establish appropriate performance requirements for ADS–B In equipment to provide integrated safety-enhancing capabilities for a pilot or other flight crew, including by increasing situational awareness to the location of other aircraft and providing traffic advisories with alerting sufficient to provide traffic advisory indications while airborne and on the airport surface, such as visual and aural advisories.

(B) ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY.—With respect to aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operating under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and qualifying military aircraft as specified by the Administrator in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator shall establish performance requirements for alternative equipment or technology that the Administrator determines acceptable in satisfying the ADS–B In requirement. The performance requirements shall, at a minimum—

(i) provide similar or improved situational awareness to the location of other airborne traffic, as well as traffic advisory information; and

(ii) leverage the use of portable ADS–B In receivers or equipment that allow display on an existing or future electronic flight bag or panel mounted display, provided that the installation or use of such equipment does not adversely affect other required avionics or the airworthiness of the aircraft.

(C) REQUIRED BRIEFING.—The Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, on at least a monthly basis, regarding the alternative equipment or technology for qualifying military aircraft prior to determining that such equipment or technology is acceptable to satisfy the ADS–B In requirement.

(D) GUIDANCE.—The Administrator shall issue relevant guidance for aircraft operators and other appropriate stakeholders regarding the types of equipment that satisfy the performance requirements described in this paragraph.

(4) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include—

(A) requirements for ADS–B In equipment and the use of such equipment;

(B) technical assistance to facilitating ADS–B In equipage across the entire fleet of

affected aircraft, including, as appropriate, guidance under part 26 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide support for affected transport airplane operators in complying with the requirements of this section;

(C) any other associated guidance necessary to assist operators and other stakeholders in identifying equipment that satisfies the ADS–B In performance standards described in paragraph (3) prior to the compliance deadline described in paragraph (2)(B);

(D) a determination of alternative equipment or technology described in subsection (e); and

(E) a presumption, absent clear and compelling evidence to the contrary, that ADS–B In equipment is cost beneficial and improves aviation safety.

(5) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and every 90 days thereafter, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress, as well as publish a publicly available report, on the status of—

(A) the ADS–B In rulemaking required under paragraph (1); and

(B) after the compliance deadline described in paragraph (2)(A), the implementation and oversight of such ADS–B In requirement.

(b) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.—

(1) COMMITTEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator may establish a negotiated rulemaking committee (in this section referred to as the ''committee'') pursuant to section 565 of title 5, United States Code, to negotiate proposed regulations to implement the requirements described in subsection (a).

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, the committee shall be composed of—

(i) representatives of—

(I) the FAA;

(II) air carriers;

(III) avionics manufacturers;

(IV) aircraft manufacturers; and

(V) general aviation organizations;

(ii) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots;

(iv) aviation safety experts outside of the FAA; and

(v) any other representatives determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(C) REQUIRED CONSULTATION.—In establishing a committee under this subsection, the Administrator—

(i) shall consult with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(ii) may consult with other Federal agencies as appropriate.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, the Administrator shall do the following:

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall direct the committee to make recommendations relating to—

(i) ADS–B In equipment and its use;

(ii) ADS–B In equipment performance standards pursuant to subsection (a)(3);

(iii) the consideration of effective approaches to facilitating ADS–B In equipage across the entire fleet of affected aircraft, including requirements under part 26 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide support for affected transport category airplane operators in complying with the requirements of this section; and

(iv) with respect to aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operating under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, a recommendation for low cost alternative equipment or technology in accordance with subsection (e).

(B) LACK OF COMMITTEE CONSENSUS.—In the event the committee does not reach a consensus regarding a recommendation for low cost alternative equipment or technology under subparagraph (A)(iv), the Administrator shall, after the submission of the committee under paragraph (3), consider prescribing a low cost alternative that includes the criteria described in subsection (e).

(3) SUBMISSION TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the committee shall submit to the Administrator—

(A) a consensus proposal of regulations to implement the requirement described in subsection (a)(1); or

(B) in the event the committee does not reach a consensus, a report identifying any points of agreement and disagreement with respect to such proposed regulations.

(4) PROPOSED RULE.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, not later than 180 days after receiving the submission of the committee under paragraph (3), the Administrator shall issue a proposed rule, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, that either—

(A) to the maximum extent possible consistent with the legal obligations of the FAA, uses the consensus proposal of the committee under paragraph (3)(A) as the basis for the proposed rule for notice and comment, including with respect to any standards or requirements described in subsection (a)(3); or

(B) in the event the committee does not reach a consensus, considers the points of agreement and disagreement submitted by the committee under paragraph (3)(B).

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED WITHOUT NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.—If the Administrator does not establish a committee under subsection (b), prior to issuing a final rule, the Administrator shall consult with appropriate stakeholders in conducting the rulemaking required under subsection (a)(1), including at a minimum the representatives described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

(d) PHASED-IN RETROFIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In issuing a final rule under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall—

(A) establish a process by which the operator of an affected aircraft, in service as of the date on which the final rule under subsection (a)(1) is published in the Federal Register in accordance with subsection (a)(2)(A), may apply to the Administrator to request additional time, not to exceed a period of 1 year after the deadline described in subsection (a)(2)(B), to finalize equipage of its fleet and make ADS–B In operational, provided that—

(i) an aircraft operator, owner, or their agent submits an application deemed acceptable to the Administrator for additional time for compliance, including a justification for such request and an attestation of actions to date demonstrating progress toward achieving compliance;

(ii) the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, determines additional time is required to mitigate a significant disruption to air transportation; and

(iii) the Administrator determines the aircraft operator or owner does not have any uncorrected violations of subchapters F and G of chapter I of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) notify the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 14 days after making a determination under clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (A).

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR AGENTS.—With the exception of an agent representing an owner or operator of transport airplanes, for the purposes of this subsection, an agent may represent more than 1 aircraft operator or owner of the same type, model, or manufacturer and may submit 1 or more applications under paragraph (1)(A)(i), each of which may contain multiple aircraft operators or owners.

(e) LOW COST ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF COMPLIANCE.—In issuing a final rule under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall determine low cost equipment or technologies that provide similar or improved situational awareness to the location of other airborne traffic, as well as traffic advisory information, that satisfy the ADS–B In equipage requirement for aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operated under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations. In making such a determination, the Administrator shall consider the use of—

(1) portable ADS–B In receivers; and

(2) equipment that allows display on an existing or future electronic flight bag or panel mounted display, provided the installation or use does not adversely affect other required avionics or the airworthiness of the aircraft.

(f) PROACTIVE EQUIPAGE.—With respect to any aircraft for which ADS–B In equipment is available and complies with the requirements of the final rule issued under subsection (a)(1), the operator of any such aircraft shall take all appropriate actions necessary to equip such aircraft with ADS–B In prior to the compliance deadline described in subsection (a)(2).

(g) SEPARATION STANDARDS; RELEVANT CONTROLLER TRAINING.—

(1) RULEMAKING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the effective date of the final rule described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish separation standards, as appropriate, that leverage ADS–B Out or ADS–B In equipment, and all other available technological capabilities in the air traffic control system, to achieve safety and efficiency benefits throughout the national airspace system, including on an airport surface and within Class E airspace (as defined in section 71.71 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation).

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the rulemaking under this subsection, the Administrator shall consult with appropriate stakeholders, including, at a minimum—

(i) representatives of—

(I) air carriers;

(II) original equipment manufacturers; and

(III) general aviation organizations;

(ii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots;

(iii) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code;

(iv) aviation safety experts from outside the FAA; and

(v) any other stakeholder deemed appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) REQUIRED UPDATES TO FAA ORDERS.—Not later than 18 months after the issuance of the notice of proposed rulemaking under paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall complete revisions, as appropriate, to FAA Order 7110.65 and other relevant FAA Orders, to increase safety and efficiency benefits in the national airspace system.

(3) RELEVANT CONTROLLER TRAINING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the compliance deadline described in subsection (a)(2), the Administrator shall revise initial and recurrent air traffic controller training, as appropriate, in accordance with FAA Orders 3000.22 and 3120.4 and revise associated orders and directives, as appropriate, to ensure such controllers are trained to apply any new separation standards and procedures.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In revising training under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

(i) consider human factors impacts, appropriate phraseology adjustments, and surface movement applications; and

(ii) consult with the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code.

(h) ACAS–X ACTION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an action plan for advancing the deployment of the Airborne Collision Avoidance System-X (in this section referred to as ''ACAS-X''), or any variant or successor technology, in the national airspace system. The Administrator shall publish the action plan in a publicly available format not later than 10 days after submitting such action plan to Congress.

(2) CONTENTS.—In developing the action plan under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include—

(A) a strategic roadmap for the deployment of ACAS-X technology, including steps required for widespread adoption among aircraft operators (including rotorcraft operators);

(B) actions and funding necessary to complete any applicable research, development, testing, evaluation, and standards development needed to support the certification of such technology;

(C) plans for engagement with appropriate stakeholders, including—

(i) aircraft operators, including those in the Department of Defense;

(ii) aviation safety experts outside the FAA;

(iii) avionics manufacturers;

(iv) aircraft manufacturers;

(v) general aviation organizations;

(vi) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code;

(vii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(viii) any other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator;

(D) engagement with foreign civil aviation authorities to harmonize international standards for certification of such technology;

(E) ACAS-X interoperability considerations for aircraft operators (including rotorcraft operators) equipped with ADS–B Out and ADS–B In equipment;

(F) an assessment of safety benefits for aircraft operators equipping with such technology, including civil and military operators; and

(G) any recommendations for administrative or legislative action, as determined appropriate by the Administrator, to advance such technology deployment.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator may take actions, as appropriate, to implement the action plan developed under paragraph (1).

(4) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator submits the action plan under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the contents of such action plan and any prospective actions to implement such plan.

(i) ARAC TASKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall task the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the ''ARAC'') with reviewing and assessing the need for aircraft operating in Class D airspace to be equipped with ADS–B Out and ADS–B In equipment.

(2) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after initiating the review and assessment under this section, the ARAC shall submit to the Administrator—

(A) a report on the findings of the review and assessment under paragraph (1); and

(B) any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action the ARAC determines appropriate.

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the ARAC submits the report under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on—

(A) the findings and recommendations included in such report; and

(B) any plan to implement such recommendations, including a justification for any recommendations the Administrator determines should not be implemented.

SEC. 5. REPEAL OF MANNED ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT SAFETY PROVISIONS.

Section 373(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 is repealed, and Chapter 157 of title 10, United States Code, shall be applied as if the amendments made by such section had not been enacted.

SEC. 6. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMY AUDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Army shall initiate an audit to evaluate the Army's coordination with the FAA, pilot training, and qualification standards, and the Army's use of ADS–B Out and whether it adheres to Army policy, regulation, and law.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—In conducting the audit required by subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Army shall assess practices and recommendations for the Army, including—

(1) whether Army policy and United States law was adhered to, and the Army's coordination with the FAA, during National Capital Region (''NCR'') operations of pilot training and qualifications standards in the NCR;

(2) the Army's policy on ADS–B Out equipage, usage, and activation;

(3) maintenance protocols for UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters operated by the 12th Army Aviation Brigade including, but not limited to, the calibration of any system that transmits altitude and position information outside the aircraft and the calibration of systems that send altitude and position information to the pilots inside the aircraft, and the frequency with which such maintenance protocols occur;

(4) compliance with the September 29, 2021, Letter of Agreement executed between the Pentagon Heliport Air Traffic Control Tower and the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Air Traffic Control Tower regarding flight operations in the NCR; and

(5) the Army's review of loss of separation incidents involving its rotorcraft in the NCR along with possible mitigations to prevent future mishaps.

(c) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 14 days after the audit required by subsection (a) is concluded, the Secretary of the Army shall—

(1) transmit a report on the results of the audit, without redactions, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) publicly release the report without redactions, except to the extent required for national security reasons.

(d) INTERIM REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after initiating the audit required by subsection (a), and every 180 days thereafter until such audit is concluded, the Inspector General of the Army shall brief the committees of Congress described in subsection (c)(1) regarding the progress of such audit.

SEC. 7. SAFETY REVIEWS OF AIRSPACE.

(a) FAA-DOD COORDINATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish or designate an office within the FAA as the ''Office of FAA-DOD Coordination'' (in this section referred to as the ''Office''), which shall—

(1) coordinate airspace usage of military aircraft and rotorcraft with relevant FAA lines of business, including the Air Traffic Organization;

(2) coordinate with the Office of Audit and Evaluation of the FAA to ensure employee complaints and whistleblower protections are considered;

(3) consider opportunities to improve management and consolidation of aviation safety information system databases to enhance civil and military aviation incident reporting; and

(4) carry out the safety review required by subsection (b).

(b) SAFETY REVIEWS.—

(1) REVIEW OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Office is established or designated, the Administrator shall initiate a safety review of all military, law enforcement, and civilian rotary wing, powered lift, fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft system flight operations and flight routes in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area Special Flight Rules Area, including but not limited to flight operations conducted by the Department of Defense, emergency response providers, and air medical transport operators, to evaluate any associated safety risk to commercial transport airplane operations at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting a safety review under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consult with—

(i) the Secretary of Defense;

(ii) Federal, State, and local agencies;

(iii) law enforcement agencies;

(iv) emergency response providers, including air medical transport operators;

(v) air carriers;

(vi) aviation labor organizations, including, at a minimum—

(I) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code; and

(II) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(vii) other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) OTHER AIRPORT REVIEWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct safety reviews of all military, law enforcement and civilian rotary wing, powered lift, fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft system flight operations and flight routes at other Class B airports (as listed in section 1 of Appendix D to part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) and within the lateral boundary of Class B airspace, at commercial service Class C airports (as listed in FAA Order JO 7400.11J (or any successor order)) and within the lateral boundary of Class C airspace in the national airspace system, and at Class D airports that provide passenger service under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, determined to meet the risk criteria set forth in subparagraph (C), including flight operations conducted by the Department of Defense, emergency response providers, and air medical transport operators, to evaluate any associated safety risk to commercial transport airplane operations.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting a safety review under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consult with—

(i) the Secretary of Defense;

(ii) Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies;

(iii) law enforcement agencies;

(iv) emergency response providers;

(v) air carriers;

(vi) aviation labor organizations, including, at a minimum—

(I) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code; and

(II) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(vii) other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(C) PRIORITIZATION AND RISK CRITERIA.—In prioritizing the safety reviews of Class B, Class C, and Class D airports described in subparagraph (A) and conducting the safety reviews pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall, at a minimum, consider the following risk criteria:

(i) The type of airspace the airport is located in and the type of tower at the airport.

(ii) Whether the airport has radar on the field.

(iii) The total number of air traffic operations at the airport per calendar year, as reported in the Operations Network (OPSNET) data of the FAA, and the rate of growth measured over a 20-year period prior to the initiation of a safety review under this section.

(iv) The Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) resolution advisory rates at the airport compared to the number of arrivals at the airport.

(v) The presence of parallel runways.

(vi) The presence of visual flights (in this subparagraph referred to as ''VFR'') corridors in proximity to the airport.

(vii) The presence of a helicopter corridor in proximity to the airport or nearby helicopter operations.

(viii) The presence of dense VFR operations at the airport.

(ix) The presence of complex VFR procedures at the airport or in the adjacent airspace.

(D) DEADLINE OF INITIATION OF REVIEWS.—The Administrator shall initiate the reviews under this paragraph by the following deadlines:

(i) CLASS B AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class B airports, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section.

(ii) CLASS C AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class C airports, not later than 90 days after the initiation date of the Class B airport reviews.

(iii) CLASS D AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class D airports, not later than 90 days after the initiation date of the Class C airport reviews.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the safety reviews required by paragraphs (1) and (2), the Office shall do the following:

(A) Analyze air traffic and airspace management.

(B) Evaluate the level of coordination the Administrator exercises with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of any other Federal agencies, and emergency response providers as appropriate, to inform the designation and approval of airspace use and flight routes for non-transport airplane operations.

(C) Assess any risks posed to transport airplanes from military aircraft and rotorcraft, civil rotorcraft, powered lift aircraft, and unmanned aircraft systems operating in Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace in proximity to Class B, Class C, or Class D airports.

(D) Review relevant incidents submitted to the Administrator through Air Traffic Mandatory Occurrence reports (as documented via FAA Form 7210-13), Aviation Safety Reporting System reports, and Aviation Safety Action Program reports, and relevant reports submitted to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration through the Aviation Safety Reporting System, to identify any safety trends regarding the operation of military aircraft and rotorcraft, civil rotorcraft, powered lift aircraft, and unmanned aircraft systems in Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace near Class B, Class C, or Class D airports.

(4) DEADLINES FOR COMPLETION OF SAFETY REVIEWS.—

(A) RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—The Administrator shall complete the safety review required by paragraph (1) not later than 120 days after the date on which such review is initiated.

(B) OTHER AIRPORTS.—The Administrator shall complete a safety review required by paragraph (2) not later than 180 days after such review is initiated.

(5) REPORTS.—

(A) REVIEW OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—Not later than 60 days after completing the safety review required by paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the analyses and results of such review, together with relevant findings and recommendations, including any corrective action plans to address any risks identified, and recommendations for legislative or administrative action determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(B) OTHER AIRPORT REVIEWS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, and every 6 months thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the analyses and results of the safety reviews completed pursuant to paragraph (2) since the preceding report under this subparagraph (or, in the case of the first such report, since such date of enactment), together with relevant findings and recommendations, including any corrective action plans to address any risks identified, and recommendations for legislative or administrative actions determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(6) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall designate a person within the Senior Executive Service of the FAA to be directly responsible for the completion of the requirements of this subsection.

(7) STAFFING.—The Administrator shall ensure adequate staffing to conduct the safety reviews within the deadlines specified in this section.

SEC. 8. FAA-DOD SAFETY INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) MOU WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of the Army to permit, as appropriate, the sharing of information from the Army's Safety Management Information System with the FAA, as well as the sharing of information from the FAA's Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing System, Operational Analysis Reporting System, Safety Trend Analytics Dashboard, Aviation Risk Identification and Assessment Program, Comprehensive Electronic Data Analysis and Reporting Tool, and Falcon tool with the Army, to facilitate communications and analysis of any applicable impacts to the safety and efficiency of civil aviation operations and to mitigate risk in the national airspace system.

(b) OTHER DOD MOUS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the following military departments to permit, as appropriate, the sharing of information from applicable aviation safety information systems to facilitate communications and analysis of any applicable impacts to the safety and efficiency of civil aviation operations and to mitigate risk in the national airspace system:

(1) The Department of the Navy.

(2) The Department of the Air Force.

(3) The Coast Guard.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 7 days after the date on which the Administrator enters into any Memorandum of Understanding under subsection (a) or (b), the Administrator shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 9. TREATMENT OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (b) of section 1046 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note), the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Department of Defense and the FAA entered into on May 10, 2024, is deemed to be notice jointly submitted to the appropriate congressional committees for purposes of such subsection and subsection (a) of such section shall cease to be effective as of such date.

(b) UPDATE AND EFFECT OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—

(1) UPDATE.—The Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Defense shall update the memorandum of understanding described in subsection (a) consistent with regulations issued by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration pursuant to section 3(a)(2).

(2) EFFECT OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—The memorandum of agreement described in subsection (a) shall remain in force subject to—

(A) any modifications made jointly by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Defense;

(B) termination by either such Secretary; or

(C) modification or termination by law.

SA 4071. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Transportation shall reinstate the following discretionary grants that were withdrawn, terminated, or canceled:

(1) $66,400,000 for the Colorado Department of Transportation for the modernization of the Front Range Rail Corridor, including Positive Train Control installation, siding installation, grade crossing safety, and operational improvement projects, under the consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements program under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code.

(2) $11,700,284 for the City of Fort Collins for stage 2 implementation grants for the SPARC-FLEET 2030 Smart Power and Resilient Charging for Fleet Electrification and Emissions Targets project under the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program established under section 25005 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C. 502 note; Public Law 117–58).

(3) $11,671,781 for Colorado State University Pueblo for the Safety Assessment, Testing and Workforce Development for Hydrogen/Natural Gas Motive Power under the consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements program under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code.

(4) $8,340,000 for the Colorado Department of Transportation for electric vehicle charging infrastructure under the program under paragraph (2) in the matter under the heading ''HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS'' under the heading ''FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION'' under the heading ''DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'' in title VIII of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 1421) (commonly known as the ''National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program'').

(5) $10,700,000 for the City of Fort Collins to build a transit station and roundabout at the intersection of West Elizabeth Street and South Overland Trail as part of a bus-rapid-transit initiative under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program under section 6702 of title 49, United States Code.

SA 4072. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In division D, strike section 314 and insert the following:

SEC. 314. Notwithstanding section 430 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1231), section 415 or section 419 of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3475, 3479), or section 1501 or 1535 of title 31, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other appropriations Act may be used by the Secretary of Education to enter into or implement any agreement with another Federal agency, or procure services from another Federal agency, to carry out significant responsibilities (including administering or operating programs, making grant awards, carrying out technical assistance, enforcing rights and requirements (including data collection and data sharing requirements), conducting core administrative and oversight functions, and monitoring grantees) related to any program, project, or activity for which funds are appropriated to the Department of Education: *Provided*, That the Department of Education shall support career staffing levels at the Department of Education necessary to fulfill its statutory responsibilities, including carrying out programs, projects, and activities funded in this title of this Act in a timely manner.

SA 4073. Ms. ALSOBROOKS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 874, line 22, strike ''program;'' and insert ''program: *Provided further*, That in accordance with section 429 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11386c), the Secretary shall renew all expiring contracts for leasing, rental assistance, or operating costs for permanent housing if the collaborative applicant for the geographic area certifies that there is a demonstrated need for the project, the project complies with the appropriate standards of housing quality and habitability, and the projects meets the criteria explicitly required under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) or its implementing regulations;''.

SA 4074. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____. From amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall reinstate each grant or other award of the National Science Foundation that was cancelled on or after January 20, 2025, except in the case of a grant or award that was cancelled due to financial mismanagement, research fraud, or malfeasance.

SA 4075. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 691, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 5____. The Commissioner of Social Security shall—

(1) conduct a review of the prevalence of benefit cliffs in the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs and identify—

(A) authorized administrative flexibilities to address such benefit cliffs, and

(B) any further authority needed from Congress to address such benefit cliffs, and

(2) identify strategies to provide earlier notification to beneficiaries at risk of subjection to such benefit cliffs.

SA 4076. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III of division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading ''SCIENCE'' under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'' may be—

(1) used for any purpose other than the programs, projects, and activities specified for such account in this Act, the accompanying explanatory statement, and the Senate report; or

(2) transferred, reprogrammed, deferred, or otherwise withheld from obligation, except pursuant to the reprogramming procedures required by the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget—

(1) shall obligate and expend funds appropriated under the heading ''SCIENCE'' under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'' in a manner consistent with the amounts and purposes specified in this Act; and

(2) shall not take, nor permit to be taken, any action that would impede the timely obligation of such funds without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations.

(c) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a certification that funds appropriated under the heading ''SCIENCE'' under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'' are being apportioned and made available in a manner consistent with congressional intent and without delay.

SA 4077. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 8____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enable any law enforcement official of the United States Marshals Service,

the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or the Federal Bureau of Prisons or any other employee of the Department of Justice designated pursuant to the January 22, 2025 Memorandum by Acting Attorney General Bejamine C. Huffman to perform the functions of an immigration officer granted to the Department of Homeland Security under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

SA 4078. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 8____. Beginning not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a monthly report that describes the ongoing reassignments of Department of Justice law enforcement officers to immigration enforcement activities, including—

(1) the number of such personnel who have either been permanently reassigned or placed on temporary duty assignment for purposes of immigration enforcement, disaggregated by bureau or agency;

(2) a description of the activities conducted by such personnel in such new assignments; and

(3) the costs associated with such activities, disaggregated by bureau or agency.

SA 4079. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division D, insert the following:

SEC. ____. In addition to amounts appropriated for primary health care under title II, out of unobligated amounts in the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (as established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136)), there is transferred to the Community Health Center Fund established under section 10503 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2), $340,000,000.

SA 4080. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 660, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

For payment to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (referred to in this Act as the ''CPB''), as authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), an amount which shall be available within limitations specified by that Act, $371,000,000, of which $18,550,000 shall be for the administrative expenses of the CPB, $22,260,000 shall be for purposes described in section 396(k)(3)(A)(i)(II) of such Act, $220,732,000 shall be for distribution among the licensees and permittees of public television stations through fiscal stabilization grants, to maintain programming and services and preserve small and rural stations threatened by declines in revenues pursuant to section 396(k)(6)(B) of such Act as if such funds were distributed pursuant to section 396(k)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of such Act, $69,458,000 shall be for distribution among the licensees and permittees of public radio stations through fiscal stabilization grants, to maintain programming and services and preserve small and rural stations threatened by declines in revenues pursuant to section 396(k)(6)(B) of such Act as if such funds were distributed pursuant to section 396(k)(3)(A)(iii)(I) of such Act, and $40,000,000 shall be for the costs associated with replacing and upgrading the public broadcasting interconnection system and other technologies and services that create infrastructure and efficiencies within the public media system: *Provided,* That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be available for national public television programming, for public radio programming, or for acquiring or producing programming that is to be distributed nationally and is designed to serve the needs of a national audience, as described in clauses (ii)(II), (iii)(II), and (iii)(III), respectively, of section 396(k)(3)(A) of such Act: *Provided further,* That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be used to pay for receptions, parties, or similar forms of entertainment for Government officials or employees: *Provided further,* That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be available or used to aid or support any program or activity from which any person is excluded, or is denied benefits, or is discriminated against, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex: *Provided further,* That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be used to apply any political test or qualification in selecting, appointing, promoting, or taking any other personnel action with respect to officers, agents, and employees of the CPB.

SA 4081. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 874, line 22, strike ''program;'' and insert ''program: *Provided further*, That in awarding funds to recipients, the Secretary shall limit the selection criteria to the criteria described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 427(b)(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11386a(b)(1));''.

SA 4082. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 241, line 18, insert before the period the following: '': *Provided,* That not less than $1,000,000 shall be for the collection, compilation, analysis, and publication of data and statistics on the costs to importers of a change in the duty owed for an item that occurs while such item is in transit to the United States''.

SA 4083. Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 689, strike lines 1 through 4.

SA 4084. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III of division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading ''SCIENCE'' under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'' may be—

(1) used for any purpose other than the programs, projects, and activities specified for such account in this Act and the report accompanying this Act; or

(2) transferred, reprogrammed, deferred, or otherwise withheld from obligation, except pursuant to the reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

(b) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—

(1) shall obligate and expend funds made available under the heading ''SCIENCE'' under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'' in a manner consistent with the amounts and purposes specified in this Act; and

(2) shall neither take, nor permit to be taken, any action that would impede the timely obligation of such funds without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations pursuant to section 505 of this Act.

(c) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a certification that funds appropriated under the heading ''SCIENCE'' under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'' have been received and were made available in a manner consistent with congressional intent and without delay.

SA 4085. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 178, line 25, strike ''Labor.'' and insert the following: ''Labor: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Prisons shall use amounts made available under this heading for the deployment in prison mail-receiving facilities of advanced, portable screening

technology, equipped with terahertz scanning capabilities to detect dangerous powders, liquids, drug-laced papers, and other contraband, including fentanyl, that pose a threat to the safety of facility personnel and inmates and shall ensure that such equipment is used in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of legal and attorney-client privileged mail.''

SA 4086. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division D, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) Notwithstanding section 430 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1231), section 415 or section 419 of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3475, 3479), section 1501 or 1535 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other appropriations Act may be used to transfer or delegate significant responsibilities, including administering programs, making grant awards, carrying out technical assistance, enforcing rights and requirements (including data collection and sharing requirements), and monitoring grantees, related to implementation of programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986 (20 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.), the Helen Keller National Center Act (29 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), the Act entitled ''An Act to promote the education of the blind'', approved March 3, 1879 (20 U.S.C. 101 et seq.), and the Act entitled ''An Act to authorize the operation of stands in Federal buildings by blind persons, to enlarge the economic opportunities of the blind, and for other purposes'', approved June 20, 1936 (commonly known as the ''Randolph-Sheppard Act'') (20 U.S.C. 107 et seq.) that are administered by the Department of Education as of the date of enactment of this Act, from the Department of Education to another department or agency.

(b) Notwithstanding the second proviso of section 314, the Department of Education shall support staffing levels at the Department of Education necessary to fulfill its statutory responsibilities including carrying out programs, projects, and activities funded under this Act in a timely and effective manner.

SA 4087. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including any provision of the Code of the District of Columbia), none of the funds made available under any division of this Act or any other Act may be used by the United States Park Police to carry out an activity or initiative that does not involve (in whole or in part), or does not have a clear nexus to, public land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

SA 4088. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. WILDFIRE FUNDING ADJUSTMENT.

(a) STATUTORY CAPS.—Section 251(b)(2)(F)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(F)(i)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''2027'' and inserting ''2037'';

(2) in subclause (VII), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in subclause (VIII), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(IX) for fiscal year 2028, $4,610,000,000;

''(X) for fiscal year 2029, $4,840,000,000;

''(XI) for fiscal year 2030, $5,080,000,000;

''(XII) for fiscal year 2031, $5,335,000,000;

''(XIII) for fiscal year 2032, $5,600,000,000;

''(XIV) for fiscal year 2033, $5,880,000,000;

''(XV) for fiscal year 2034, $6,180,000,000;

''(XVI) for fiscal year 2035, $6,485,000,000;

''(XVII) for fiscal year 2036, $6,810,000,000; and

''(XVIII) for fiscal year 2037, $7,150,000,000.''.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974.—Section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 645) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) ADJUSTMENTS FOR WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—

''(1) ADJUSTMENTS.—If the Committee on Appropriations of either House reports an appropriation measure for any of fiscal years 2028 through 2037 that provides an amount for wildfire suppression operations in the Wildland Fire Management accounts at the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, or if a conference committee submits a conference report thereon, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives or the Senate shall make the adjustments referred to in paragraph (2) to reflect the additional new budget authority provided for wildfire suppression operations for that fiscal year in that measure or conference report and the outlays resulting therefrom, consistent with paragraph (4).

''(2) TYPES OF ADJUSTMENTS.—The adjustments referred to in this paragraph consist of adjustments to—

''(A) the discretionary spending limits for that fiscal year as set forth in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget;

''(B) the allocations to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives for that fiscal year under section 302(a); and

''(C) the appropriate budget aggregates for that fiscal year in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget.

''(3) ENFORCEMENT.—The adjusted discretionary spending limits, allocations, and aggregates under this subsection shall be considered the appropriate limits, allocations, and aggregates for purposes of congressional enforcement of this Act and concurrent budget resolutions under this Act.

''(4) LIMITATION.—No adjustment may be made under this subsection in excess of—

''(A) for fiscal year 2028, $4,610,000,000;

''(B) for fiscal year 2029, $4,840,000,000;

''(C) for fiscal year 2030, $5,080,000,000;

''(D) for fiscal year 2031, $5,335,000,000;

''(E) for fiscal year 2032, $5,600,000,000;

''(F) for fiscal year 2033, $5,880,000,000;

''(G) for fiscal year 2034, $6,180,000,000;

''(H) for fiscal year 2035, $6,485,000,000;

''(I) for fiscal year 2036, $6,810,000,000; and

''(J) for fiscal year 2037, $7,150,000,000.

''(5) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subsection, the terms 'additional new budget authority' and 'wildfire suppression operations' have the meanings given such terms in section 251(b)(2)(F)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(F)(ii)).''.

SA 4089. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 151, line 6, insert before the period the following: '': *Provided further*, That $300,000 shall be made available to procure additional tsunami warning data''.

SA 4090. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall provide to the Senate an unclassified report and briefing to related to criminal investigations into individuals employed by Jeffrey Epstein that controlled the movement of funds in and out of the bank accounts of Epstein. The report and briefing shall contain the following information:

(1) A list of all criminal investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into any individual that was employed by Epstein, had signatory authority over the bank accounts of Epstein, or has been an executor or beneficiary of the estate of Epstein at any time. Each investigation identified shall include the subject or target of the investigation, the conduct that was investigated, and the result of the investigation.

(2) A copy of all declination memoranda prepared by the Department of Justice related to any individual that—

(A) was employed by Epstein;

(B) had signatory authority over the bank accounts of Epstein;

(C) had been an executor or beneficiary of the estate of Epstein at any time.

(3) A detailed analysis regarding whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation has ever questioned Darren Indyke, Richard Kahn, or Harry Beller in connection with any criminal investigation into Epstein or Ghislane Maxwell, and, if so, the date on which the individual was questioned.

(4) A list of all cash withdrawals and wire transfers made by Darren Indyke, Richard Kahn, or Harry Beller from the bank accounts of Epstein at JPMorgan Chase & Co., Deutsche Bank, BNY Mellon, or any other financial institution that have been identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as related to or in furtherance of the sex trafficking conspiracy of Epstein. Each withdrawal or wire transfer identified shall include the date, amount, and financial institution involved for each withdrawal or wire transfer.

SA 4091. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 8____. It is the sense of Congress that as a matter of law and policy, the United States Government may not engage in extrajudicial killings, murder, or war crimes.

SA 4092. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD VIOLATE THE POSSE COMITATUS ACT OR INFRINGE ON POWERS RESERVED TO THE STATES.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense for, or in support of, any activities that would violate the Posse Comitatus Act or infringe on powers reserved to the States under the Constitution of the United States.

SA 4093. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. POSSE COMITATUS LIMITATIONS ON NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENTS.

Section 502(f)(2)(A) of title 32, United States Code, is amended by inserting ‘‘, subject to the limitations of section 1385 of title 18, commonly referred to as the ‘Posse Comitatus Act’’’ after ‘‘Secretary of Defense’’.

SA 4094. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 8____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any prior Act may be made available for the use of a United States military base or other area under military control for the immigration enforcement purpose of detaining noncitizens who—

(1) are physically present in the United States; or

(2) have been transferred from the United States.

SA 4095. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 8____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any prior Act may be made available for the direct costs of—

(1) deporting or otherwise repatriating (whether on a voluntary or involuntary basis) any individual from the United States to another country; or

(2) transferring any individual from the United States to United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, for the purpose of detention, imprisonment, or removal from the United States.

SA 4096. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

COST-SHARE WAIVER FOR REMEDIATION OF WILDLAND FIRES

SEC. _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may waive any cost-share requirement for awards to Indian Tribes, States, units of local government, and individuals under Federal programs authorized for wildland fire recovery for the implementation of projects, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, in response to a wildland fire described in subsection (b) in an area affected by the wildland fire.

(b) A wildland fire referred to in subsection (a) is a wildland fire, including any direct or indirect damage resulting in watershed impairment, that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be a result of management activities conducted by the Secretary of Agriculture on National Forest System land.

SA 4097. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) Of the amounts made available by this Act for ‘‘Management and Administration—Program Offices’’ for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the ‘‘Secretary’’) shall ensure that each region has on-board Federal personnel assigned to carry out enforcement and compliance functions under the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), including intake, investigation, conciliation, compliance reviews, and enforcement support.

(b) The Secretary shall designate, for each region, an on-board Federal employee of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity who is responsible for coordinating regional fair housing enforcement activities and serving as the point of contact for complainants, grantees, and the public.

(c) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in a manner that results in any region having no on-board Federal personnel assigned to the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for fair housing enforcement and compliance activities.

(d) The Secretary shall ensure that the number of on-board Federal personnel assigned to carry out enforcement and compliance functions under the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) in each region is not fewer than the number of such personnel assigned to that region as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) In this section, the term ‘‘region’’ means each of the10 geographic regions of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and each corresponding regional office through which the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity carries out its functions.

SA 4098. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. PROHIBITION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RULE.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to finalize, issue, or implement the proposed rule of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled ‘‘Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards’’ (90 Fed. Reg. 36288 (August 1, 2025)).

SA 4099. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 294, line 23, strike ‘‘$168,246,000’’ and insert ‘‘$178,246,000’’.

On page 295, line 13, strike ‘‘and (3)’’ and insert ‘‘(3) $10,000,000 is for competitive grants for the restoration of historic properties of nation historic properties of national, State, and local significance listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; and (4)’’.

SA 4100. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 453(a) of division C, strike ‘‘$764,514,000’’ and all that follows through ‘‘$515,060,000 from the unobligated balances’’ and insert ‘‘$514,514,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58)’’.

SA 4101. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to

be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division D, insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to change the child and adolescent immunization schedule of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention without scientific evidence.

SA 4102. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division D, insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the final rule entitled ''Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Marketplace Integrity and Affordability'' (90 Fed. Reg. 27074 (June 25, 2025)).

SA 4103. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. AAMODT LITIGATION SETTLEMENT PROTECTION.

Section 623(g) of the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3153) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The dates'' and inserting the following:

''(1) CONDITIONS PRECEDENT; EXPIRATION DATE.—The dates''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) DETERMINATION OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION.—The dates in subsection (e) may be extended if the Pueblos, the United States (acting through the Secretary), the State, the City, and the County agree that an extension is reasonably necessary.''.

SA 4104. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by ths Act may be used for the construction of a new United States Space Command headquarters anywhere other than the current location in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

SA 4105. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by ths Act may be used for merging, moving, or disestablishing a United States military combatant command.

SA 4106. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) In addition to the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available elsewhere in this Act, $1,200,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Defense for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative.

(b) This section is designated as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SA 4107. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence or paramilitary activities, to furnish any type of materiel support to any group of individuals, including those who both are and are not part of Venezuela's armed forces, for the purpose of overthrowing the regime of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro or for purposes which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly, military, paramilitary, or intelligence operations in Venezuela by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual, that could result in the overthrow of Maduro's regime, without authorization from Congress.

(b) The prohibition under subsection (a) shall remain in effect until—

(1) Congress enacts a joint resolution repealing the prohibition; or

(2)(A) the President submits a report to the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that inter alia justifies the amount and type of proposed materiel support; and

(B) Congress subsequently enacts a joint resolution approving such materiel support for military, paramilitary, or intelligence operations in Venezuela.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the United States from—

(1) activities solely for the purposes of collecting, analyzing, and sharing intelligence information to facilitate the defense against an armed attack by the National Armed Forces of Venezuela on the United States or its personnel or facilities located outside the United States;

(2) activities solely for the purposes of collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence and counterintelligence information of interest to the United States, including with other nations or international organizations, related to threats emanating from Venezuela;

(3) collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence to support diplomatic activities aimed at securing the safe return of any United States citizens wrongfully detained by the Maduro regime;

(4) activities for the purposes of collecting, analyzing, and sharing intelligence solely for the purposes of interdicting and disrupting the production and distribution of illicit narcotics which United States intelligence confirms are emanating from or transiting Venezuela and are bound for the United States; and

(5) activities solely for the purposes of countering the activities of Russia, China, Iran, or North Korea in Venezuela or neighboring states.

(d) In this section, the term''materiel support'' includes—

(1) any actions that would inflict serious bodily harm on or result in the death of Venezuela's leadership;

(2) military equipment;

(3) military, paramilitary, and intelligence training;

(4) military advice;

(5) intelligence and counterintelligence advice and information;

(6) guidance for military, paramilitary, or intelligence activities in Venezuela;

(7) communications equipment, and training for the use of such communications equipment;

(8) the planning or execution of military, paramilitary, or intelligence operations; and

(9) the participation in logistics activities connected or related in any way to such operations, including general logistics advice.

SA 4108. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 178, line 25, strike ''Labor.'' and insert the following: ''Labor: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Prisons shall use amounts made available under this heading to reinstate retention incentives through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026, at levels not less than those in place on December 31, 2024.''

SA 4109. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. DISCLOSURES AND REPORTS REGARDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-RELATED JOB IMPACTS.

(a) COVERED ENTITY DISCLOSURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 30 days after the last day of each quarter, a covered entity shall, with respect to such quarter, disclose to the Secretary any artificial intelligence-related job impact experienced by the entity in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States), including—

(A) the number of individuals laid off by the covered entity in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States) during the quarter that are substantially due to the replacement or automation by artificial intelligence of the functions performed by such individuals;

(B) the number of individuals hired by the covered entity in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States) during the quarter that are substantially due to the incorporation of artificial intelligence;

(C) the number of positions of the covered entity in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States) that were occupied at any point during the prior quarter for which the covered entity has decided not to fill based on a reason that is substantially due to the replacement or automation by artificial intelligence of the functions of such positions;

(D) the number of individuals in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States) whom the covered entity is retraining, or assisting in retraining, based on a reason that is substantially due to artificial intelligence; and

(E) any other information related to artificial intelligence-related job impacts, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) NAICS CODES.—With respect to each artificial intelligence-related job impact disclosure under paragraph (1), the covered entity shall provide in such disclosure the corresponding North American Industry Classification System codes.

(3) SURVEYS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As determined appropriate by the Secretary, the Secretary may—

(i)(I) revise an existing survey conducted by the Secretary as of the date of enactment of this Act to incorporate the disclosures required under this subsection into such a survey; or

(II) collaborate with the Bureau of the Census to revise an existing survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census as of the date of enactment of this Act, or an existing survey conducted as of such date of enactment by the Secretary in partnership with the Bureau of the Census, to incorporate the disclosures required under this subsection into such a survey; and

(ii) allow covered entities to comply with the requirements of this subsection by making such disclosures through such survey.

(B) BUREAU OF THE CENSUS SURVEYS.—In the case the disclosures required under this subsection are incorporated pursuant to subparagraph (A) into a survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census that is not a survey conducted in partnership with the Secretary, the Bureau of the Census shall, for each quarter, share the data from such disclosures with the Secretary in order for the Secretary to prepare the reports required under subsection (b).

(b) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REPORTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Director of the Office of Professional Management, shall—

(1) for each quarter, prepare a report—

(A) summarizing the data from disclosures submitted under subsection (a) during the quarter; and

(B) for the quarter ending on December 31, summarizing such data for the calendar year;

(2) for every other quarter, prepare a report analyzing the net impact of the data contained in the report under paragraph (1) for such quarter and for the preceding quarter, and any other relevant data available to the Secretary with respect to artificial intelligence-related job impacts; and

(3) not more than 60 days after the last day of each quarter—

(A) publish each report prepared for the quarter under paragraph (1) and, as applicable, paragraph (2), and the data underlying such reports on the website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

(B) submit each such report to Congress.

(c) APPLICATION TO NON-PUBLICLY-TRADED COMPANIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue regulations to determine the extent to which non-publicly-traded companies shall be included as subject to the reporting requirements under subsection (a).

(2) SCOPE OF RULEMAKING.—The regulations issued under this subsection shall—

(A) identify for such inclusion categories of non-publicly-traded companies that have a significant workforce, estimated enterprise value, or employment impact on a regional or national basis;

(B) consider for such inclusion thresholds with respect to non-publicly-traded companies, such as—

(i) the number of employees employed by such companies;

(ii) the annual revenue of such companies; or

(iii) the industry classification under the North American Industry Classification System for such companies;

(C) ensure that any reporting requirements under subsection (a) applicable to a non-publicly-traded company are proportionate to the size and capacity of such company; and

(D) establish procedures for the confidential submission and publication of data of non-publicly-traded companies in order to protect the proprietary or personally identifiable information of such companies.

(3) PUBLIC COMMENT.—In issuing the regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide for notice and comment in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term ''artificial intelligence'' has the meaning given the term in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means—

(A) an entity that is—

(i) a publicly-traded company; or

(ii) an agency, as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) an entity that—

(i) is a non-publicly-traded company; and

(ii) is identified by the Secretary through regulations issued under subsection (c) for inclusion as subject to the requirements under subsection (a).

(3) NON-PUBLICLY-TRADED COMPANY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''non-publicly-traded company'' means a business entity engaged in interstate commerce that—

(i) is not an issuer, the securities of which are listed on a national securities exchange; and

(ii) is not otherwise required to file reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m; 78o(d)).

(B) SECURITIES DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

(i) the terms ''exchange'', ''issuer'', and ''security'' have the meanings given those terms in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)); and

(ii) the term ''national securities exchange'' means an exchange registered pursuant to section 6 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78f).

(4) PUBLICLY-TRADED COMPANY.—The term ''publicly-traded company'' has the meaning given the term in section 5003(a) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c(a)).

(5) QUARTER.—The term ''quarter'' has the meaning given the term ''calendar quarter'' in section 5061(d)(4)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

SA 4110. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

For payment to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (referred to in this Act as the ''CPB''), as authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), an amount which shall be available within limitations specified by that Act, for fiscal year 2026, $535,000,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be used to pay for receptions, parties, or similar forms of entertainment for Government officials or employees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be available or used to aid or support any program or activity from which any person is excluded, or is denied benefits, or is discriminated against, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be used to apply any political test or qualification in selecting, appointing, promoting, or taking any other personnel action with respect to officers, agents, and employees of the CPB.

In addition, for the costs associated with replacing and upgrading the public broadcasting interconnection system and other technologies and services that create infrastructure and efficiencies within the public media system, $60,000,000.

SA 4111. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 221, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 225. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title—

(1) the amount made available under this title for ''Justice Operations, Management, and Accountability—Salaries and Expenses'' shall be $137,000,000; and

(2) the amount made available under this title for ''Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'' shall be $1,883,146,000, of which $5,000,000 shall be for emergency Federal law enforcement assistance for events occurring during or after fiscal year 2026, as authorized by section 609M of the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 50101), to support any of the purposes specified in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10152).

SA 4112. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the matter preceding division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. TRUE SHUTDOWN FAIRNESS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''agency''—

(A) means each authority of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States; and

(B) includes each element of the District of Columbia public employer, as defined in section 1341(c) of title 31, United States Code;

(2) the term ''contract employee'' means an employee of a contractor for whom a lapse in regular appropriations could suspend, delay, or interrupt (or, if there is an ongoing lapse in regular appropriations on the date of enactment of this Act, for whom the lapse in regular appropriations suspended, delayed, or interrupted) all or part of the work of the applicable contract, or could stop (or stopped) all or part of the work called for in that contract, including—

(A) a service employee, as defined in section 6701(3) of title 41, United States Code, except that an individual covered under this subparagraph includes an individual described in subparagraph (C) of such section 6701(3);

(B) a laborer or mechanic with respect to whom section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, applies; and

(C) an employee of a business concern that holds a contract, subcontract, or other agreement with an agency that provides for services or supplies, including a service contract under chapter 67 of title 41, United States Code;

(3) the term ''covered employee''—

(A) means each employee of an agency, without regard to whether, for any portion of the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026—

(i) the head of that agency determined that the individual was an excepted employee or an employee performing emergency work; or

(ii) the individual was subject to furlough;

(B) includes—

(i) a member of the Armed Forces on active duty; and

(ii) a member of a reserve component who, during a lapse in regular appropriations with respect to the applicable agency, performs active service or inactive duty training; and

(C) only includes an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B) who was an employee or member on, or had accepted an offer of employment with the agency or had enlisted in or accepted an appointment to the Armed Forces (including a reserve component) on or before, the day before the date on which the applicable lapse in regular appropriations began;

(4) the term ''lapse in regular appropriations'', with respect to an agency, means any period during which interim or full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2026 are not in effect for the agency; and

(5) the term ''standard employee compensation'' means, with respect to a covered employee or a contract employee, the standard rate of basic pay, allowances, pay differentials, benefits, and other payments otherwise payable on a regular basis to the covered employee or contract employee.

(b) APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2026, for any lapse in regular appropriations with respect to an agency, there are appropriated to the head of the agency, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary to provide, with respect to the period of the lapse in regular appropriations—

(A) standard employee compensation to covered employees of the agency; and

(B) payments to contractors of the agency to provide standard employee compensation to contract employees with respect to the agency, which shall only be used by those contractors to provide standard employee compensation to those contract employees.

(2) AGENCY REQUIREMENT.—The head of each agency to whom amounts are made available under paragraph (1) shall provide standard employee compensation to covered employees of the agency—

(A) if there is a lapse in regular appropriations ongoing on the date of enactment of this Act, as soon as is practicable, but not later than 7 days after the date of enactment of this Act, without regard to—

(i) scheduled pay dates; or

(ii) whether the covered employee was subject to furlough during such lapse in regular appropriations; and

(B) with respect to any period of a lapse in regular appropriations beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act, on the regularly scheduled pay dates of the covered employees.

(c) PRICE ADJUSTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency shall adjust the price of any contract described in paragraph (2) to compensate the applicable contractor for reasonable costs incurred, as described in paragraph (3), regardless of whether the contract provides for, or otherwise prohibits, the contractor to incur those reasonable costs or receive such an adjustment for incurring those reasonable costs.

(2) CONTRACT DESCRIBED.—A contract is described in this paragraph if the contract is a contract of an agency for which, as a result of a lapse in regular appropriations occurring before the date of enactment of this Act, the contractor—

(A) suspended, delayed, or interrupted all or part of the work under that contract;

(B) stopped all or any part of the work called for in the contract; or

(C) with respect to a lapse in regular appropriations beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, could take an action described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(3) REASONABLE COSTS DESCRIBED.—Reasonable costs described in this paragraph are costs actually incurred by the applicable contractor—

(A) to provide standard employee compensation for the period of the applicable lapse in regular appropriations, at the standard rate of compensation, to any contract employee employed by the contractor who, as a result of that lapse in regular appropriations—

(i) was furloughed or laid off;

(ii) was otherwise not working;

(iii) experienced a reduction of hours; or

(iv) experienced a reduction in compensation; or

(B) to restore paid leave taken by any contract employee described in subparagraph (A) during the applicable lapse in regular appropriations, if the contractor required or permitted employees of the contractor to use paid leave as a result of that lapse in regular appropriations.

(4) EVIDENCE.—A contractor seeking an adjustment under paragraph (1) shall provide the head of the applicable agency any evidence of the reasonable costs incurred by the contractor described in paragraph (3) as the head of the agency, in consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, considers appropriate.

(d) TERMINATION.—Appropriations and funds made available and authority granted under subsection (b) shall be available to the head of an agency until whichever of the following first occurs:

(1) The enactment into law of appropriations for the agency until the end of fiscal year 2026 (including a continuing appropriation) that provide amounts for the purposes for which amounts are made available under subsection (b).

(2) The enactment into law of appropriations for the agency until the end of fiscal year 2026 (including a continuing appropriation) without any appropriation for such purposes.

(e) LIMITATION TO INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY A SHUTDOWN.—Amounts provided under subsection (b) may not be used for a purpose described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (b)(1) for any portion of a lapse in regular appropriations for which a covered employee is provided with standard employee compensation or a contractor is provided payment to provide a contract employee with standard employee compensation, respectively, using amounts other than amounts provided under subsection (b).

(f) INTERIM CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.—Appropriations made available under subsection (b) may not be obligated by the head of an agency during any period during which continuing appropriations for the purposes for which amounts are made available under subsection (b) are in effect for the agency.

(g) CHARGING TO FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.—Expenditures made pursuant to subsection (b) shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever an Act in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is included is enacted into law.

(h) LIMITATION ON TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including any appropriation Act), the amounts provided under subsection (b)—

(1) shall be available solely for a purpose described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (b)(1); and

(2) may not be transferred, reprogrammed, obligated, or expended for any other purpose.

(i) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—For fiscal year 2026, standard employee compensation provided to covered employees, and payments to contractors to provide standard employee compensation to contract employees, provided by an agency using amounts provided under subsection (b) shall be subject to—

(1) the requirements, authorities, conditions, and limitations applicable with respect to the provision of standard employee compensation, or payment to contractors, respectively, by the agency under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119–37); or

(2) if an Act is enacted after the date of enactment of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119–37)

that provides continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for the agency to provide standard employee compensation, or payment to contractors, respectively, the requirements, authorities, conditions, and limitations applicable with respect to the provision of standard employee compensation, or payment to covered contractors, respectively, by the agency under that subsequently enacted Act.

(j) AUTHORIZATION TO OBLIGATE AND EXPEND FUNDS.—Funds appropriated by this section may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680) and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

(k) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) STANDARD EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION.—This section shall be construed to provide each covered employee and contract employee with standard employee compensation for the period of the lapse in regular appropriations as if the covered employee or contract employee was performing the duties of the covered employee or contract employee during the lapse in regular appropriations.

(2) NO CHANGE IN AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—Nothing in this section may be construed to require an agency to take any action that the agency is not required to take under the terms of a contract during any period during which there is not a lapse in regular appropriations.

(l) AGENCY ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Covered employees and contract employees shall perform their typical duties to the maximum extent practicable during a lapse in regular appropriations.

(2) OTHER OBLIGATIONS OR EXPENDITURES.—This section does not authorize or necessarily imply that an agency or employee may incur any obligations or expenditures that are not explicitly authorized by this section.

SEC. _____. LIMITATION ON REDUCTIONS IN FORCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''agency''—

(A) means each authority of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States; and

(B) includes each element of the District of Columbia public employer, as defined in section 1341(c) of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) the term ''lapse in regular appropriations'', with respect to an agency, means any period during which interim or full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2026 are not in effect for the agency.

(b) PROHIBITION.—During a lapse in regular appropriations, none of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to—

(1) propose or implement a reduction in force, or any similar effort, to permanently reduce the number of employees employed by an agency; or

(2) place any employee of an agency in administrative leave for more than 10 work days in any calendar year.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect a voluntary separation payment offered to an employee under section 3523 of title 5, United States Code.

SA 4113. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2465, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter under the heading ''MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS'' under the heading ''FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'' in title I, strike ''program.'' at the end of paragraph (5) of the second proviso and insert the following: ''program: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated amounts provided for Motor Carrier Safety Grants in the FAST Act (Public Law 114–94) or in section 23001 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) prior to fiscal year 2026, $5,000,000 in additional obligation limitation, shall be transferred and made available for the commercial motor vehicle enforcement training and support grant program: *Provided further*, That $5,000,000 for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the preceding proviso shall be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), to be available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That amounts made available in the preceding two provisos, shall be available to complete the fiscal year 2024 commercial motor vehicle enforcement training and support grant program notice of funding opportunity and shall be available to all applicants otherwise eligible under such notice of funding opportunity.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 10 a.m.

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 17, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

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 17, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Cristina Sandstedt, a Coast Guard fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges until December 19, 2025.

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

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Katie Britt:					
Croatia	US Dollar	415.66			415.66
Italy	US Dollar	2,204.03			2,204.03

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Delegation Expenses:*					
Croatia	Kuna			2,857.99	2,857.99
Italy	Euro			5,839.36	5,839.36
Dylan Byrd:					
South Korea	Won	1,403.00			1,403.00
United States	US Dollar		1,517.69		1,517.69
Brigid Kolish:					
South Korea	Won	1,052.00			1,052.00
United States	US Dollar		1,645.69		1,645.69
Delegation Expenses:*					
South Korea	Won			810.00	810.00
Senator Christopher Coons:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Senator Gary Peters:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Benjamin Donovan:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Robert Leonard:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Chelsea Moser:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Delegation Expenses:*					
Australia	Australian Dollar			7,902.00	7,902.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar			3,278.33	3,278.33
Papua New Guinea	Kina			2,487.56	2,487.56
Rachel Da Pieve:					
South Korea	US Dollar	1,052.00			1,052.00
United States	US Dollar		1,610.69		1,610.69
Megan Handal:					
South Korea	US Dollar	1,052.00			1,052.00
United States	US Dollar		1,607.39		1,607.39
Delegation Expenses:*					
South Korea	Won			810.00	810.00
Paul Denaro:					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,391.52	367.02		1,758.54
Mexico	US Dollar	752.00			752.00
United States	US Dollar		3,149.91		3,149.91
Delegation Expenses:*					
Colombia	Colombian Peso			730.00	730.00
Mexico	Mexican Peso			2,747.23	2,747.23
Kali Farahmand:					
Mexico	Mexican Peso	752.00			752.00
United States	US Dollar		1,857.30		1,857.30
Delegation Expenses:*					
Mexico	Mexican Peso			730.00	730.00
Paul Grove:					
Congo—Brazzaville	US Dollar	392.00			392.00
Congo—Kinshasa	US Dollar	1,506.00			1,506.00
Rwanda	US Dollar	282.00			282.00
United States	US Dollar		4,912.06		4,912.06
Delegation Expenses:*					
Congo—Brazzaville	CFA Franc BEAC			2,956.00	2,956.00
Rwanda	Rwanda Franc			355.60	355.60
Alexa Lorick:					
Germany	US Dollar	1,130.11			1,130.11
Norway	US Dollar	1,334.00			1,334.00
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,573.72			1,573.72
United States	US Dollar		5,596.21		5,596.21
Kimberly Segura:					
Germany	US Dollar	1,130.11			1,130.11
Norway	US Dollar	1,334.00			1,334.00
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,573.72			1,573.72
United States	US Dollar		5,576.21		5,576.21
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			3,156.03	3,156.03
Norway	Norwegian Krone			1,528.00	1,528.00
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			502.26	502.26
Senator Lisa Murkowski:					
Finland	US Dollar	1,226.83			1,226.83
Greenland	US Dollar	792.00			792.00
United States	US Dollar		12,028.51		12,028.51
Dana Herndon:					
Finland	US Dollar	1,471.86			1,471.86
Greenland	US Dollar	792.00			792.00
United States	US Dollar		12,089.01		12,089.01
Delegation Expenses:*					
Denmark	Danish Krone			4,078.00	4,078.00
Finland	Euro			4,368.31	4,368.31
Greenland	Danish Krone			5,854.00	5,854.00
Gabriella Armonda:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,226.00			1,226.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	742.00			742.00
United States	US Dollar		5,221.61		5,221.61
Ryan Pettit:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,226.00			1,226.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	742.00			742.00
United States	US Dollar		5,488.21		5,488.21
Delegation Expenses:*					
Australia	Australian Dollar			5,954.00	5,954.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar			5,040.00	5,040.00
Andrew Platt:					
Ivory Coast	CFA Franc BCEAO	340.67			340.67
Senegal	CFA Franc BCEAO	672.90			672.90
United States	US Dollar		11,049.86		11,049.86
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha	1,089.98			1,089.98

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Delegation Expenses: *					
Ivory Coast	CFA Franc BCEAO			2,864.23	2,864.23
Senegal	CFA Franc BCEAO			513.81	513.81
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha			184.90	184.90
Rishi Sahgal:					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	3,781.42			3,781.42
United States	US Dollar		1,676.21		1,676.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			106.17	106.17
Senator Jeff Merkley:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	1,017.00			1,017.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,670.00			1,670.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	612.05			612.05
United States	US Dollar		17,315.29		17,315.29
Senator Chris Van Hollen:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	1,017.00			1,017.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,670.00			1,670.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	612.05			612.05
United States	US Dollar		17,385.29		17,385.29
Francesca Amodeo:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	1,017.00			1,017.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,600.00			1,600.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	612.05			612.05
United States	US Dollar		17,585.29		17,585.29
Margaret Sunstrum:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	1,017.00			1,017.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,620.00			1,620.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	612.05			612.05
United States	US Dollar		17,585.29		17,585.29
Delegation Expenses: *					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound			17,491.22	17,491.22
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			928.99	928.99
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			4,258.50	4,258.50
Total		62,638.43	145,264.74	88,332.49	296,235.66

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Blumenthal:					
Italy	US Dollar	116.36			116.36
United States	US Dollar		9,065.71		9,065.71
Maria McElwain:					
Italy	US Dollar	984.36			984.36
United States	US Dollar		8,586.81		8,586.81
Delegation Expenses: *					
Italy	Euro			1,384.74	1,384.74
Senator Richard Blumenthal:					
Italy	US Dollar	848.00			848.00
United States	US Dollar		4,093.01		4,093.01
Nate Guajardo:					
Italy	US Dollar	848.00			848.00
United States	US Dollar		6,716.90		6,716.90
Delegation Expenses: *					
Italy	Euro			8,373.63	8,373.63
Senator Tammy Duckworth:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,584.67			2,584.67
South Korea	US Dollar	731.26			731.26
United States	US Dollar		9,677.51		9,677.51
Brooke Meadowcroft:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,170.96			2,170.96
South Korea	US Dollar	952.17			952.17
United States	US Dollar		9,642.51		9,642.51
Kathryn Sudhoff:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,168.54			2,168.54
South Korea	US Dollar	857.55			857.55
United States	US Dollar		9,677.51		9,677.51
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			5,170.12	5,170.12
South Korea	Won			3,919.29	3,919.29
Senator Joni Ernst:					
Iraq	Iraqi Dinar	115.00			115.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	690.00			690.00
Qatar	Qatari Rial	380.00			380.00
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	228.00			228.00
United States	US Dollar		7,382.41		7,382.41
Kendall Dehnel:					
Iraq	US Dollar	115.00			115.00
Israel	US Dollar	690.00			690.00
Qatar	US Dollar	380.00			380.00
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	228.00			228.00
United States	US Dollar		7,382.41		7,382.41
Eric Trager:					
Iraq	US Dollar	68.00			68.00
Israel	US Dollar	1,306.00			1,306.00
Qatar	US Dollar	580.00			580.00
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	403.10			403.10
United States	US Dollar		11,536.84		11,536.84
Caden Waterstradt:					
Iraq	US Dollar	115.00			115.00
Israel	US Dollar	690.00			690.00
Qatar	US Dollar	380.00			380.00

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Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	228.00			228.00
United States	US Dollar		11,536.84		11,536.84
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			4,749.00	4,749.00
Qatar	Qatari Rial			564.68	564.68
Senator Mark Kelly:					
Romania	US Dollar	1,040.90			1,040.90
United States	US Dollar		15,912.00		15,912.00
Jooeun Kim:					
Romania	US Dollar	1,040.90			1,040.90
United States	US Dollar		15,912.00		15,912.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			1,326.12	1,326.12
Romania	Romanian Leu			1,992.26	1,992.26
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			1,798.00	1,798.00
Senator Joni Ernst:					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	304.00			304.00
United States	US Dollar		5,173.46		5,173.46
Senator Markwayne Mullin:					
Jordan	US Dollar	375.24			375.24
Lebanon	US Dollar	52.76			52.76
United States	US Dollar		15,227.02		15,227.02
Joseph Defer:					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	477.99			477.99
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	54.01			54.01
United States	US Dollar		4,826.27		4,826.27
Kendall Dehnel:					
Jordan	US Dollar	304.00			304.00
Lebanon	US Dollar	44.97			44.97
United States	US Dollar		4,826.27		4,826.27
Delegation Expenses:*					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			945.14	945.14
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			5,176.86	5,176.86
Turkey	Turkish Lira			687.65	687.65
Senator Jack Reed:					
Liberia	US Dollar	845.00			845.00
United States	US Dollar		8,099.71		8,099.71
Maggie Cooper:					
Liberia	US Dollar	845.00			845.00
United States	US Dollar		8,099.71		8,099.71
Elizabeth King:					
Liberia	US Dollar	915.00			915.00
United States	US Dollar		8,099.71		8,099.71
Delegation Expenses:*					
Ghana	Ghana Cedi			2,022.97	2,022.97
Liberia	Liberian Dollar			1,421.85	1,421.85
Senator Rick Scott:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,443.90			1,443.90
Philippines	US Dollar	772.94			772.94
United States	US Dollar		9,333.51		9,333.51
Paul Bonicelli:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,462.68			1,462.68
Philippines	US Dollar	764.52			764.52
United States	US Dollar		8,245.29		8,245.29
Matthew Harmon:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,469.92			1,469.92
Philippines	US Dollar	764.52			764.52
United States	US Dollar		9,613.51		9,613.51
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen			3,484.89	3,484.89
Philippines	Philippine Peso			1,622.38	1,622.38
Senator Deb Fischer:					
Palau	US Dollar	390.00			390.00
Philippines	US Dollar	290.00			290.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	164.00			164.00
Senator Roger Wicker:					
Palau	US Dollar	880.00			880.00
Philippines	US Dollar	702.00			702.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	360.19			360.19
Cody Emerson:					
Palau	US Dollar	323.62			323.62
Philippines	US Dollar	351.23			351.23
Taiwan	US Dollar	230.77			230.77
Brendan Gavin:					
Palau	US Dollar	402.33			402.33
Philippines	US Dollar	416.99			416.99
Taiwan	US Dollar	230.77			230.77
Emily Leviner:					
Palau	US Dollar	390.00			390.00
Philippines	US Dollar	290.00			290.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	164.00			164.00
Sarah Steinberg:					
Palau	US Dollar	880.00			880.00
Philippines	US Dollar	702.00			702.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	360.19			360.19
Michael Urena:					
Palau	US Dollar	390.00			390.00
Philippines	US Dollar	290.00			290.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	164.00			164.00
David Vasquez:					
Palau	US Dollar	415.64			415.64
Philippines	US Dollar	442.81			442.81
Taiwan	US Dollar	230.77			230.77
Delegation Expenses:*					
Palau	US Dollar			13,954.89	13,954.89
Philippines	Philippine Peso			1,763.60	1,763.60
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar			11,083.07	11,083.07
Senator Roger Wicker:					
Iceland	US Dollar	402.00			402.00
Italy	US Dollar	2,510.90			2,510.90
Portugal	US Dollar	2,645.97			2,645.97
Slovenia	US Dollar	1,038.99			1,038.99
Sarah Drake:					
Iceland	US Dollar	402.00			402.00
Italy	US Dollar	2,510.90			2,510.90

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Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Portugal	US Dollar	2,022.57			2,022.57
Slovenia	US Dollar	461.77			461.77
Adam Barker:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,242.62			1,242.62
Thailand	US Dollar	1,165.32			1,165.32
United States	US Dollar		15,064.91		15,064.91
Michael Noblet:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,102.00			1,102.00
Thailand	US Dollar	943.00			943.00
United States	US Dollar		15,158.00		15,158.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			1,487.00	1,487.00
Thailand	Baht			459.70	459.70
Kristina Belcourt:					
Cambodia	US Dollar	197.25			197.25
Philippines	US Dollar	548.00			548.00
Thailand	US Dollar	406.38			406.38
United States	US Dollar		8,212.50		8,212.50
Jonathan Epstein:					
Cambodia	US Dollar	162.13			162.13
Philippines	US Dollar	540.10			540.10
Thailand	US Dollar	174.11			174.11
United States	US Dollar		8,212.50		8,212.50
Delegation Expenses:*					
Cambodia	Riel			170.33	170.33
Philippines	Philippine Peso			1,134.78	1,134.78
Thailand	Baht			879.14	879.14
Kristina Belcourt:					
Italy	US Dollar	1,567.07	131.22		1,698.29
United States	US Dollar		11,656.01		11,656.01
Jonathan Epstein:					
Belgium	US Dollar	136.03			136.03
Italy	US Dollar	108.25			108.25
United States	US Dollar		15,582.21		15,582.21
Michael Tokar:					
Italy	US Dollar	1,612.07			1,612.07
United States	US Dollar		11,787.23		11,787.23
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			1,955.15	1,955.15
Italy	Euro			5,683.54	5,683.54
Kevin Gates:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,623.95			1,623.95
Thailand	Baht	766.22			766.22
United States	US Dollar		4,454.10		4,454.10
Chad Johnson:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,623.95			1,623.95
Thailand	Baht	766.22			766.22
United States	US Dollar		4,454.10		4,454.10
Katelyn Magnus:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,623.95			1,623.95
Thailand	Baht	766.22			766.22
United States	US Dollar		4,454.10		4,454.10
Delegation Expenses:*					
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			3,574.00	3,574.00
Katelyn Magnus:					
Turkey	US Dollar	1,390.83			1,390.83
United States	US Dollar		13,465.21		13,465.21
Andy Scott:					
Turkey	US Dollar	758.83			758.83
United States	US Dollar		13,730.21		13,730.21
Delegation Expenses:*					
Turkey	Turkish Lira			1,052.91	1,052.91
Levi Brunt:					
Germany	US Dollar	773.62			773.62
United States	US Dollar		9,001.11		9,001.11
Katelyn Magnus:					
Germany	US Dollar	796.23			796.23
United States	US Dollar		9,001.11		9,001.11
Andrew Scott:					
Germany	US Dollar	796.23			796.23
United States	US Dollar		9,001.11		9,001.11
Sean O'Keefe:					
Germany	US Dollar	803.00			803.00
United States	US Dollar		9,000.11		9,000.11
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			4,360.95	4,360.95
Jenny Davis:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,215.08			1,215.08
United States	US Dollar		9,752.85		9,752.85
Cody Emerson:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,215.08			1,215.08
United States	US Dollar		9,752.85		9,752.85
Noah Sisk:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,083.63			2,083.63
United States	US Dollar		9,752.85		9,752.85
Mike Tokar:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,083.63			2,083.63
United States	US Dollar		9,752.85		9,752.85
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen			1,248.12	1,248.12
Jonathan Epstein:					
Japan	US Dollar	431.55			431.55
United States	US Dollar		6,773.01		6,773.01
Katie Karam:					
Japan	US Dollar	598.87			598.87
United States	US Dollar		6,411.51		6,411.51
Adam Trull:					
Japan	US Dollar	439.25			439.25
United States	US Dollar		6,721.61		6,721.61
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen			813.50	813.50
Meredith Werner:					
Canada	US Dollar	348.00			348.00
Guyana	US Dollar	347.00			347.00
Mexico	US Dollar	528.00			528.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Peru	US Dollar	298.00			298.00
United States	US Dollar		7,455.69		7,455.69
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			3,586.25	3,586.25
Guyana	Guyana Dollar			60.08	60.08
Mexico	Mexican Peso			782.67	782.67
Peru	Sol			470.08	470.08
Total		85,274.30	437,405.88	99,159.34	621,839.52

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, 2025 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Andy Kim					
Japan	US Dollar	2,063.84			2,063.84
South Korea	US Dollar	1,202.00			1,202.00
Laura Rosenberger					
Japan	US Dollar	2,063.56			2,063.56
South Korea	US Dollar	1,202.00			1,202.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen			3,446.75	3,446.75
Delegation Expenses:*					
South Korea	Won			2,612.86	2,612.86
Senator Ruben Gallego					
Finland	US Dollar	1,018.99			1,018.99
United States	US Dollar		6,858.00		6,858.00
Jaques Petit					
Finland	US Dollar	1,617.30			1,617.30
United States	US Dollar		17,123.91		17,123.91
Eliza Ramirez					
Finland	US Dollar	1,617.30			1,617.30
United States	US Dollar		6,613.31		6,613.31
Delegation Expenses:*					
Finland	Euro			2,592.62	2,592.62
Senator Ruben Gallego					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,432.30			1,432.30
United States	US Dollar		3,701.01		3,701.01
Raphael Chavez-Fernandez					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,347.66			1,347.66
United States	US Dollar		3,701.01		3,701.01
Delegation Expenses:*					
Colombia	Columbian Peso			3,661.18	3,661.18
Total		13,564.95	37,997.24	12,313.41	63,875.60

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TIM SCOTT,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs, Dec. 4, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Italy	Euro	1,156.56			1,156.56
United States	US Dollar		9,088.91		9,088.91
Ryan Geary:					
Italy	Euro	1,176.53			1,176.53
United States	US Dollar		9,135.71		9,135.71
Taylor Reidy:					
Italy	Euro	1,161.54			1,161.54
United States	US Dollar		9,135.71		9,135.71
Delegation Expenses:*					
Italy	Euro			2,045.95	2,045.95
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,205.00			1,205.00
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	256.00			256.00
United States	US Dollar		9,319.44		9,319.44
Ryan Geary:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,205.00			1,205.00
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	546.00			546.00
United States	US Dollar		10,492.56		10,492.56
Delegation Expenses*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			7,793.14	7,793.14
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			6,143.93	6,143.93
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Croatia	Kuna	615.63			615.63
Italy	Euro	2,265.18			2,265.18
Taylor Stephens:					
Croatia	Kuna	612.14			612.14
Italy	Euro	2,177.40			2,177.40
Aaron Strickland:					
Croatia	Kuna	634.66			634.66

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Italy	Euro	2,285.03			2,285.03
Delegation Expenses *					
Croatia	Kuna			9,820.94	9,820.94
Italy	Euro			21,897.60	21,897.60
Total		15,296.67	47,172.33	47,701.56	110,170.56

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Todd Young:					
Philippines	US Dollar	1,864.77			1,864.77
United States	US Dollar		20,549.12		20,549.12
Douglas Gates:					
Philippines	US Dollar	1,864.76			1,864.76
United States	US Dollar		8,041.11		8,041.11
Delegation Expenses: *					
Philippines	Philippine Peso			256.36	256.36
Omri Ceren:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	751.00			751.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		3,210.00		3,210.00
Matthew Murray:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	752.00			752.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		2,579.89		2,579.89
Megan Noriega:					
Panama	US Dollar	544.00			544.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
El Salvador	El Salvador Colon, US Dollar			620.61	620.61
Delegation Expenses: *					
Mexico	Mexican Peso			74.20	74.20
Delegation Expenses: *					
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar			404.33	404.33
Macarena Martinez:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	752.00			752.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		3,210.00		3,210.00
Senator Ted Cruz:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	751.00			751.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		2,579.89		2,579.89
Senator John Fetterman:					
Croatia	US Dollar	415.66			415.66
Italy	US Dollar	648.00			648.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Croatia	Kuna			3,273.64	3,273.64
Italy	Euro			5,839.36	5,839.36
Total		10,991.19	40,170.01	10,468.50	61,629.70

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TED CRUZ,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation, Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), U.S. COMMISSION ON SECURTIY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	165.00			165.00
Portugal	Euro				
Kyle Parker:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	206.30			206.30
Slovenia	Euro				
Portugal	Euro				
Italy	Euro				
Iceland	Icelandic Krona				
Patrick Hanish:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	35.00			35.00
Slovenia	Euro				
Portugal	Euro				
Italy	Euro				
Iceland	Icelandic Krona				
Jordan Warlick:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	50.00			50.00
Slovenia	Euro				
Portugal	Euro				
Italy	Euro				

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), U.S. COMMISSION ON SECURTIY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Iceland	Icelandic Krona				
Everett Price:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		7,647.51		7,647.51
Slovenia	Euro				
Portugal	Euro	3,637.73			3,637.73
Italy	Euro				
Iceland	Icelandic Krona				
Alanna Margulies:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		8,826.21		8,826.21
Portugal	Euro	2,372.69			2,372.69
Italy	Euro	446.00			446.00
Shannon Simrell:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		9,437.91		9,437.91
Portugal	Euro	3,637.73			3,637.73
Bakhti Nishanov:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		8,844.01		8,844.01
Portugal	Euro	4,012.73			4,012.73
Rachel Bauman:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		8,578.61		8,578.61
Portugal	Euro	3,840.28			3,840.28
Shannon Simrell:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		9,745.41		9,745.41
Finland	Euro	1,259.43			1,259.43
Janice Helwig:					
Finland	Euro	1,259.43	1,404.80		2,664.23
Jennifer McCuiston:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		5,657.11		5,657.11
Finland	Euro	1,259.43			1,259.43
Shannon Simrell:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		10,128.11		10,128.11
Czech Republic	Czech Koruna	1,201.80			1,201.80
Everett Price:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		6,193.61		6,193.61
Poland	Polish Zloty	183.56			183.56
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia	630.00			630.00
Fleur Cowan:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		9,012.21		9,012.21
Poland	Polish Zloty	183.56			183.56
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia	630.00			630.00
Alanna Novetsky:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		6,193.61		6,193.61
Poland	Polish Zloty	183.56			183.56
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia	630.00			630.00
Jordan Warlick:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		9,041.81		9,041.81
Slovakia	Euro	713.81			713.81
Rachel Bauman:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		14,389.51		14,389.51
Moldova	Moldovan Leu	1,139.53			1,139.53
Fleur Cowan:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	1	14,389.5		14,389.51
Moldova	Moldovan Leu	1,139.52			1,139.52
Janice Helwig:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		6,881.51		6,881.51
Austria	Euro	34,070.00			34,070.00
Delegation Expenses:					
Slovenia	Euro			2,926.36	2,926.36
Portugal	Euro			41,548.51	41,548.51
Italy	Euro			19,638.39	19,638.39
Iceland	Icelandic Krona			2,504.00	2,504.00
Finland	Euro			881.03	881.03
Czech Republic	Czech Koruna			77.92	77.92
Poland	Polish Zloty			40.36	40.36
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia				
Slovakia	Euro			80.92	80.92
Moldova	Moldovan Leu				
Austria	Euro				
Total:		62,430.79	136,827.75	67,697.49	266,956.03

*Majority of CODEL Wicker to Slovenia, Portugal, Italy, and Iceland was cancelled.
*Cancellation fees go towards delegation expenses.
*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,
Chairman, U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Dec. 5, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
John Kennedy:					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	2,809.48			2,809.48
United States	US Dollar		2,327.11		2,327.11
Mary-Eileen Manning:					
Switzerland	US Dollar	2,484.48			2,484.48
United States	US Dollar		2,327.01		2,327.01
Mariah Pfleger:					
Switzerland	US Dollar	2,302.73			2,302.73
United States	US Dollar		3,714.41		3,714.41
Delegation Expenses:*					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			212.33	212.33
Total		7,596.69	8,368.53	212.33	16,177.55

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
Chairman, Committee on Environment & Public Works, Dec. 2, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Ben Ray Luján:					
Spain	Euro	1,762.02			1,762.02
United States	US Dollar		6,443.70		6,443.70
Rebekah Kirkwood:					
Spain	Euro	2,304.36			2,304.36
United States	US Dollar		7,800.50		7,800.50
Carlos Sanchez:					
Spain	Euro	2,344.36			2,344.36
United States	US Dollar		7,800.50		7,800.50
Brooke Stuedell:					
Spain	Euro	1,759.02			1,759.02
United States	US Dollar		7,044.01		7,044.01
Delegation Expenses:*					
Spain	Euro			12,909.72	12,909.72
Senator Ron Wyden:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	308.00			308.00
United States	US Dollar		3,244.95		3,244.95
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	188.00			188.00
United States	US Dollar		3,486.83		3,486.83
Senator Maggie Hassan:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	308.00			308.00
United States	US Dollar		1,095.97		1,095.97
Rachel Lang:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	189.00			189.00
United States	US Dollar		1,682.96		1,682.96
Virginia Lenahan:					
Canada	US Dollar	190.81			190.81
United States	US Dollar		1,682.96		1,682.96
Joshua Sheinkman:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	236.67			236.67
United States	US Dollar		1,682.96		1,682.96
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			3,628.00	3,628.00
Senator Peter Welch:					
Croatia	Kuna	559.66			559.66
Italy	Euro	2,060.03			2,060.03
Delegation Expenses:*					
Croatia	Kuna			2,857.98	2,857.98
Delegation Expenses:*					
Italy	Euro			4,083.55	4,083.55
Senator Steve Daines:					
Israel	US Dollar	912.62			912.62
United States	US Dollar		11,763.09		11,763.09
Darin Thacker:					
Israel	US Dollar	965.61			965.61
United States	US Dollar		12,663.09		12,663.09
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			5,046.60	5,046.60
Rachel Lang:					
Ireland	Euro	3,167.42			3,167.42
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling	2,217.57			2,217.57
United States	US Dollar		13,082.31		13,082.31
Virginia Lenahan:					
Ireland	US Dollar	3,007.42			3,007.42
United Kingdom	US Dollar	2,217.57			2,217.57
United States	US Dollar		13,082.31		13,082.31
Delegation Expenses:*					
Ireland	Euro			6,464.50	6,464.50
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			6,814.74	6,814.74
Gavin Laffoon:					
Philippines	US Dollar	1,592.76			1,592.76
United States	US Dollar		14,172.82		14,172.82
Delegation Expenses:*					
Philippines	Philippine Peso			256.36	256.36
Keith Jarrett:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	886.48		886.48	
Guyana	Guyana Dollar	1,096.99			1,096.99
Mexico	Mexican Peso	1,029.51			1,029.51
Peru	Sol	944.98			944.98
United States	US Dollar		7,209.31		7,209.31
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			3,586.25	3,586.25
Guyana	Guyana Dollar			60.07	60.07
Mexico	Mexican Peso			587.00	587.00
Peru	Sol			273.12	273.12
Joseph Johnson:					
France	Euro	1,401.00			1,401.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1,847.43			1,847.43
United States	US Dollar		16,360.40		16,360.40
Rachel Lang:					
France	Euro	1,390.00			1,390.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1,845.43			1,845.43
United States	US Dollar		9,675.40		9,675.40
Molly Newell:					
France	Euro	1,403.00			1,403.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1,845.43			1,845.43
United States	US Dollar		13,713.00		13,713.00
Brian Bombassaro:					
France	Euro	1,421.00			1,421.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1,857.43			1,857.43
United States	US Dollar		16,360.40		16,360.40
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			1,596.00	1,596.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			2,151.82	2,151.82
Total		43,259.58	170,047.47	50,315.71	263,622.76

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MICHAEL CRAPO,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Dec. 2, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Roy Awabdeh:					
Jordan	US Dollar	327.21			327.21
Lebanon	US Dollar	156.00			156.00
Turkey	US Dollar	3,081.95			3,081.95
United States	US Dollar		3,585.28		3,585.28
Delegation Expenses: *					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			151.77	151.77
Turkey	Turkish Lira			398.75	398.75
Kathryn Chaudoin:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,503.33			1,503.33
Malaysia	US Dollar	455.17			455.17
Singapore	US Dollar	1,435.00			1,435.00
South Korea	US Dollar	1,127.00			1,127.00
United States	US Dollar		8,360.41		8,360.41
Matthew Sullivan:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,503.33			1,503.33
Malaysia	US Dollar	455.17			455.17
Singapore	US Dollar	1,435.00			1,435.00
South Korea	US Dollar	1,127.00			1,127.00
United States	US Dollar		8,360.41		8,360.41
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			1,637.33	1,637.33
Malaysia	Malaysian Ringgit			10.98	10.98
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			331.00	331.00
South Korea	Won			2,254.00	2,254.00
Joan Condon:					
Malawi	US Dollar	481.75			481.75
United States	US Dollar		11,240.81		11,240.81
Zambia	US Dollar	556.75			556.75
Elizabeth Lewis:					
Malawi	US Dollar	481.75			481.75
United States	US Dollar		11,240.81		11,240.81
Zambia	US Dollar	558.60			558.60
Delegation Expenses: *					
Malawi	Malawi Kwacha			863.95	863.95
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha			1,494.28	1,494.28
Vidya Neelakantan:					
Australia	US Dollar	1,002.00			1,002.00
Fiji	US Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	US Dollar	962.74			962.74
Delegation Expenses: *					
Australia	Australian Dollar			2,737.33	2,737.33
Fiji	Fiji Dollar			655.66	655.66
Papua New Guinea	Kina			414.56	414.56
Brandon Gindt:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	752.00			752.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		3,470.16		3,470.16
Delegation Expenses: *					
El Salvador	El Salvador Colon, US Dollar			620.61	620.61
Mexico	Mexican Peso			74.20	74.20
Panama	Balboa,US Dollar			663.20	663.20
William Shih:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,149.69			2,149.69
South Korea	US Dollar	472.43			472.43
United States	US Dollar		9,383.01		9,383.01
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			1,723.37	1,723.37
South Korea	Won			1,306.42	1,306.42
Amy English:					
Argentina	US Dollar	686.40			686.40
Brazil	Brazilian Real	1,440.00			1,440.00
United States	US Dollar		8,093.29		8,093.29
Andrew Pantino:					
Argentina	US Dollar	686.40			686.40
Brazil	US Dollar	1,440.00			1,440.00
United States	US Dollar		6,150.09		6,150.09
Delegation Expenses: *					
Argentina	Argentine Peso			1,173.96	1,173.96
Brazil	Brazilian Real			1,031.00	1,031.00
Daniel Gottfried:					
Armenia	US Dollar	289.47			289.47
Azerbaijan	US Dollar	283.65			283.65
Moldova	US Dollar	770.85			770.85
United States	US Dollar		11,360.61		11,360.61
Delegation Expenses: *					
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan Manat			298.55	298.55
Molly Barlow:					
Ethiopia	US Dollar	895.82			895.82
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	834.00			834.00
South Sudan	US Dollar	58.00			58.00
United States	US Dollar		4,257.23		4,257.23
Jodi Herman:					
Ethiopia	US Dollar	871.00			871.00
Kenya	US Dollar	834.00			834.00
South Sudan	US Dollar	53.00			53.00
United States	US Dollar		4,548.33		4,548.33
Delegation Expenses: *					
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Birr			445.30	445.30
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling			710.92	710.92
Senator Tim Kaine:					
Canada	US Dollar	913.00			913.00
United States	US Dollar		3,255.86		3,255.86
Paul Lapointe:					
Canada	US Dollar	590.02			590.02
United States	US Dollar		3,255.86		3,255.86
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			1,558.00	1,558.00
Kelsey Kelleher:					
Switzerland	US Dollar	2,302.73			2,302.73
United States	US Dollar		3,749.41		3,749.41
Delegation Expenses: *					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			106.16	106.16
Elodie Offord:					
Switzerland	US Dollar	2,809.48			2,809.48

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	US Dollar		3,749.81		3,749.81
Delegation Expenses: *					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			106.16	106.16
Elizabeth Chen:					
Australia	US Dollar	2,044.00			2,044.00
United States	US Dollar		7,135.77		7,135.77
Troy Dougall:					
Australia	US Dollar	2,465.00			2,465.00
United States	US Dollar		7,197.71		7,197.71
Scott Lacy:					
Australia	US Dollar	2,080.00			2,080.00
United States	US Dollar		9,513.71		9,513.71
Delegation Expenses: *					
Australia	Australian Dollar			3,698.00	3,698.00
Elizabeth Leibowitz:					
Lebanon	US Dollar	516.00			516.00
Turkey	US Dollar	744.99			744.99
United States	US Dollar		6,537.88		6,537.88
Delegation Expenses: *					
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			2,265.66	2,265.66
Turkey	Turkish Lira			226.27	226.27
Senator Dave McCormick:					
Italy	US Dollar	762.00			762.00
United States	US Dollar		6,232.21		6,232.21
James Cunningham:					
Italy	US Dollar	2,354.72			2,354.72
United States	US Dollar		8,209.21		8,209.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Italy	Euro			8,152.68	8,152.68
Guy Mentel:					
Canada	US Dollar	728.51			728.51
Guyana	US Dollar	818.99			818.99
Mexico	US Dollar	802.00			802.00
Peru	US Dollar	743.00			743.00
United States	US Dollar		7,853.89		7,853.89
Charles Orta:					
Canada	US Dollar	639.00			639.00
Guyana	US Dollar	820.02			820.02
Peru	US Dollar	619.00			619.00
United States	US Dollar		6,972.25		6,972.25
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			1,127.00	1,127.00
Guyana	Guyana Dollar			179.83	179.83
Peru	Sol			317.76	317.76
Victor Cervino:					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,718.39			1,718.39
Mexico	US Dollar	708.23			708.23
United States	US Dollar		3,335.91		3,335.91
Delegation Expenses: *					
Colombia	Colombian Peso			5,958.66	5,958.66
Mexico	Mexican Peso			118.33	118.33
Philip Oke-Thomas:					
Ethiopia	US Dollar	636.00			636.00
Tanzania	US Dollar	2,212.67			2,212.67
United States	US Dollar		4,491.43		4,491.43
Delegation Expenses: *					
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Birr			478.85	478.85
Tanzania	Tanzanian Shilling			3,698.95	3,698.95
Elise Bouchard:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,469.92			1,469.92
Philippines	US Dollar	760.45			760.45
United States	US Dollar		9,721.11		9,721.11
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			871.22	871.22
Philippines	Philippine Peso			405.59	405.59
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:					
Jordan	US Dollar	462.56			462.56
Lebanon	US Dollar	118.56			118.56
United States	US Dollar		10,785.98		10,785.98
Roy Awabdeh:					
Jordan	US Dollar	661.70			661.70
Lebanon	US Dollar	454.65			454.65
United States	US Dollar		10,944.98		10,944.98
Naz Durakoglu:					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	462.00			462.00
Lebanon	US Dollar	669.00			669.00
United States	US Dollar		5,852.75		5,852.75
Delegation Expenses: *					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			2,933.76	2,933.76
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			44,843.71	44,843.71
Scott Lacy:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,373.53			1,373.53
South Korea	US Dollar	1,127.00			1,127.00
United States	US Dollar		15,406.11		15,406.11
Christopher Socha:					
Japan	Yen	1,273.53			1,273.53
South Korea	Won	1,127.00			1,127.00
United States	US Dollar		13,542.61		13,542.61
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			2,698.48	2,698.48
South Korea	Won			1,173.00	1,173.00
John Tomaszewski:					
Benin	US Dollar	921.00			921.00
Mali	US Dollar	583.00			583.00
Mauritania	US Dollar	502.99			502.99
United States	US Dollar		10,357.01		10,357.01
Delegation Expenses: *					
Benin	CFA Franc BCEAO			1,202.09	1,202.09
Mali	CFA Franc BCEAO			762.13	762.13
Mauritania	Ouguiya			1,160.74	1,160.74
Ausan Al-Eryani:					
Egypt	US Dollar	786.78			786.78
Germany	US Dollar	804.63			804.63
Israel	US Dollar	1,002.12			1,002.12
Jordan	US Dollar	612.05			612.05

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	US Dollar	311.67	20,281.59		20,593.26
Shervin Ghaffari:					
Egypt	US Dollar	1,017.00			1,017.00
Israel	US Dollar	1,445.92			1,445.92
Jordan	US Dollar	612.05			612.05
United States	US Dollar		9,570.00		9,570.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound			8,745.61	8,745.61
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			2,129.25	2,129.25
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			464.49	464.49
Paul Burdette:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,165.84			1,165.84
South Korea	US Dollar	1,118.33			1,118.33
United States	US Dollar		9,182.11		9,182.11
Thomas West:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,261.09			1,261.09
Qatar	US Dollar	1,074.11			1,074.11
South Korea	US Dollar	1,503.00			1,503.00
United States	US Dollar		13,227.00		13,227.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen			1,633.54	1,633.54
Qatar	Qatari Rial			478.00	478.00
South Korea	Won			1,147.00	1,147.00
Total		83,562.69	300,412.60	117,638.06	501,613.35

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Nov. 13, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Anthony Deangelo:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,624.45			1,624.45
South Korea	US Dollar	680.00			680.00
United States	US Dollar		8,276.41		8,276.41
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen			1,723.37	1,723.37
South Korea	Won			1,306.43	1,306.43
Senator Bernie Moreno:					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,843.77			1,843.77
Mexico	US Dollar	835.50			835.50
Panama	US Dollar	346.00			346.00
United States	US Dollar		2,302.19		2,302.19
Philip Letsou:					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,843.76			1,843.76
Mexico	US Dollar	835.50			835.50
Panama	US Dollar	346.00			346.00
United States	US Dollar		8,476.20		8,476.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
Colombia	Colombian Peso			11,917.32	11,917.32
Mexico	Mexican Peso			236.67	236.67
Christina Salazar:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	2,187.53			2,187.53
Germany	US Dollar	225.56			225.56
United States	US Dollar		12,111.61		12,111.61
Delegation Expenses:*					
Bahrain	Bahraini Dinar			293.19	293.19
Laura Lynch:					
Canada	US Dollar	882.64			882.64
Guyana	US Dollar	1,016.34			1,016.34
Mexico	US Dollar	1,277.26			1,277.26
Peru	US Dollar	793.00			793.00
United States	US Dollar		5,861.16		5,861.16
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			3,586.25	3,586.25
Guyana	Guyana Dollar			60.08	60.08
Mexico	Mexican Peso			782.67	782.67
Peru	Sol			470.08	470.08
Total		14,737.31	37,027.57	20,376.06	72,140.94

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RAND PAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs,
Oct. 7, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 2		659.00			659.00
Country 3			11,020.10		11,020.10
Shannon Richter:					
Country 1		846.00			846.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Country 2		754.00			754.00
Country 3			13,807.31		13,807.31
Steve Smith:					
Country 1		846.00			846.00
Country 2		576.10			576.10
Country 3			13,807.31		13,807.31
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				188.57	188.57
Country 2				669.42	669.42
Elnigar Iltebir:					
Country 3		699.34			699.34
Country 4			5,703.50		5,703.50
Eric Losick:					
Country 1		232.75			232.75
Country 2		702.00			702.00
Country 3		699.34			699.34
Country 4			10,455.91		10,455.91
Maria Mahler-Haug:					
Country 1		510.33			510.33
Country 2		702.00			702.00
Country 3		699.34			699.34
Country 4			10,455.91		10,455.91
Caroline Wadhams:					
Country 1		647.75			647.75
Country 2		502.00			502.00
Country 3		499.34			499.34
Country 4			10,455.91		10,455.91
Russell Willig:					
Country 1		747.75			747.75
Country 2		702.00			702.00
Country 3		699.34			699.34
Country 4			10,455.91		10,455.91
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				221.21	221.21
Country 2				660.82	660.82
Country 3				6,453.51	6,453.51
Heather Melancon:					
Country 1		3,192.42			3,192.42
Country 2		2,378.51			2,378.51
Country 3			13,191.21		13,191.21
Senator Ron Wyden:					
Country 1		3,192.42			3,192.42
Country 2		2,517.62			2,517.62
Country 3			19,293.51		19,293.51
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				6,464.50	6,464.50
Country 2				6,814.75	6,814.75
Elnigar Ilttebir:					
Country 1		445.56			445.56
Country 2		775.00			775.00
Country 4			9,620.41		9,620.41
Country 3		806.10			806.10
Sarah Istel:					
Country 1		131.00			131.00
Country 2		775.00			775.00
Country 4			11,590.81		11,590.81
Adam Martina:					
Country 1		445.55			445.55
Country 2		960.00			960.00
Country 4			9,826.21		9,826.21
Country 3		806.10			806.10
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 1		445.55			445.55
Country 4			8,339.81		8,339.81
Country 3		579.05			579.05
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				27.09	27.09
Country 3				208.03	208.03
John Pinegar:					
Country 1		545.36			545.36
Country 2			12,341.21		12,341.21
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				256.36	256.36
Sarah Istel:					
Country 1		1,245.26			1,245.26
Country 2			20,537.40		20,537.40
John Pinegar:					
Country 1		1,245.26			1,245.26
Country 2			20,537.40		20,537.40
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				87.00	87.00
Sarah Istel:					
Country 2		664.00			664.00
Country 3			9,169.31		9,169.31
Heather Melancon:					
Country 1		1,011.00			1,011.00
Country 2		664.00			664.00
Country 3			10,963.08		10,963.08
John Pinegar:					
Country 1		1,075.00			1,075.00
Country 2		892.00			892.00
Country 3			4,107.71		4,107.71
Caldwell Willig:					
Country 1		1,011.00			1,011.00
Country 2		664.00			664.00
Country 3			10,965.38		10,965.38
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 2				936.00	936.00
Jennifer Barrett:					
Country 1		3,080.38			3,080.38
Country 2			10,976.81		10,976.81
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 1		3,080.38			3,080.38
Country 2			10,976.81		10,976.81
Shannon Richter:					
Country 1		2,910.38			2,910.38

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Country 2			13,354.41		13,354.41
Allen Souza:					
Country 1		3,080.38			3,080.38
Country 2			10,976.81		10,976.81
Dan Tomanelli:					
Country 1		3,080.38			3,080.38
Country 2			14,518.21		14,518.21
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				17,255.96	17,255.96
Mike Gancio:					
Country 1		1,635.30			1,635.30
Country 2		1,700.00			1,700.00
Country 3			6,707.26		6,707.26
Nathan Heiman:					
Country 1		1,635.30			1,635.30
Country 2		1,700.00			1,700.00
Country 3			5,920.56		5,920.56
Valli Sanmugalingam:					
Country 2		1,700.00			1,700.00
Country 3			5,090.06		5,090.06
Steve Smith:					
Country 1		1,635.30			1,635.30
Country 2		1,444.40			1,444.40
Country 3			5,920.56		5,920.56
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 2				111.89	111.89
Tri Minh Nguyen:					
Country 1		176.00			176.00
Country 2		748.72			748.72
Country 3			14,071.61		14,071.61
Caldwell Willig:					
Country 1		176.00			176.00
Country 2		748.72			748.72
Country 3			14,121.61		14,121.61
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 2				724.06	724.06
Total		66,722.78	359,280.02	41,079.17	467,081.97

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TOM COTTON,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Dec. 2, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ellen Reinhard:					
France	US Dollar	1,395.00			1,395.00
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,226.52			1,226.52
United States	US Dollar		3,933.01		3,933.01
Samantha Scoca:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,225.52			1,225.52
United States	US Dollar		6,152.71		6,152.71
Meredith West:					
France	US Dollar	1,395.00			1,395.00
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,226.52			1,226.52
United States	US Dollar		3,931.11		3,931.11
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			597.00	597.00
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			367.37	367.37
Total		6,468.56	14,016.83	964.37	21,449.76

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JONI ERNST,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384–22 U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Brian Monahan:					
Spain	Euro	1,800.41			1,800.41
Shir Attias:					
Ivory Coast	CFA Franc BCEAO	523.83			523.83
Senegal	CFA Franc BCEAO	622.90			622.90
United States	US Dollar		15,781.16		15,781.16
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha	579.23			579.23
Delegation Expenses:*					
Ivory Coast	CFA Franc BCEAO			2,863.93	2,863.93
Senegal	CFA Franc BCEAO			514.07	514.07
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha			198.40	198.40

Total		3,526.37	15,781.16	3,576.40	22,883.93

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader, Nov. 18, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Jim Banks:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,589.65			1,589.65
Senator John Curtis:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,646.37			1,646.37
Senator Jon Husted:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,733.47			1,733.47
Senator Dave McCormick:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,646.37			1,646.37
Senator Bernie Moreno:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,733.47			1,733.47
Senator John Thune					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,238.00			1,238.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,483.32			1,483.32
Jonathan Abdnor:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
David Adkins:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Geoffrey Antell:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Ryan Kaldahl:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Jessica McBride:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Stefanie Muchow:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,355.99			1,355.99
Daffnei Riedel:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Delegation Expenses:*					
Denmark	Danish Krone			20,975.75	20,975.75
Estonia	Euro			6,061.37	6,061.37
Finland	Euro			6,226.96	6,226.96
Norway	Norwegian Krone			8,519.33	8,519.33
Brian Monahan:					
Palau	US Dollar	643.00			643.00
Philippines	Philippine Peso	702.00			702.00
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar	361.04			361.04
Total		45,663.96		41,783.41	87,447.37

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,
Majority Leader, Dec. 9, 2025.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), as amended by Public Law 118–159, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: The Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN of Oklahoma (Appropriations), The Honorable KEVIN CRAMER of North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), as amended by Public Law 118–159, appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: The Honorable TED BUDD of North Carolina.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 278, S. 2393.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2393) to authorize a major medical facility project for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

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

The bill (S. 2393) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2393

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 ''Fiscal Year 2025 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a major medical facility project in fiscal year 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri, that consists of the construction of a new bed tower, clinical building expansion, consolidated administrative building and warehouse, utility plant, and parking garages, in an amount not to exceed $1,762,668,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects account, $1,762,668,000 for the project authorized in subsection (a).

CARING FOR VETERANS AND STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3436 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3436) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of certain services to veterans in the Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 3436) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3436

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 ''Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act''.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES TO VETERANS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) TELEHEALTH AND MAIL ORDER PHARMACY BENEFITS.—Section 1724(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act, the Secretary shall furnish to veterans described in subparagraph (A), subject to agreements described in such subparagraph, telehealth benefits and mail order pharmacy benefits.''.

(b) BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.—Section 111(h)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''the Secretary may make payments'' and inserting ''beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act, the Secretary shall make payments''.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of implementation of the amendments made by this section and the cost of such implementation.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''January 31, 2033'' and inserting ''March 31, 2033''.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY CARE AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration and the Senate immediately proceed to S. Res. 492.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 492) recognizing community care as an essential tool for meeting the health care needs of the veterans of the United States.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 492), was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 10, 2025, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RECOGNIZING THAT CARE PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS ESSENTIAL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 566, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 566) recognizing that care provided by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs is essential for meeting the health care needs of veterans of the United States.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 566) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 1071

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 66, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 66) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 1071.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 66) was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 581, Calendar Nos. 602 through 607, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk, with the exception of PN89; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

NOMINATIONS

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. George H. Sebren, Jr.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Brad J. Collins

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John L. Rafferty, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Dale R. White

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Brad W. Pierson

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Clinton Mead

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while serving as the Chief Defense Counsel for Military Commissions under article II, section 2, clause 2 of the United States Constitution and section 1037 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jonathan H. Vaughn

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN659 AIR FORCE nomination of Jeremy P. Garlick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN660 AIR FORCE nomination of Robert D. Huhn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN661 AIR FORCE nomination of Dawn R. Hardwick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

IN THE ARMY

PN674 ARMY nomination of George A. Mesias, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2025.

PN678 ARMY nomination of Peter S. Salfeety, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2025.

PN679 ARMY nominations (5) beginning Sean M. Dixon, and ending Patrick D. McGrail, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2025.

PN692 ARMY nominations (27) beginning Kathleen A. Agbayani, and ending Mikel J. Wier, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 10, 2025.

PN693 ARMY nomination of Myles T. Coleman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2025.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN662 MARINE CORPS nomination Sarah B. Pezzat, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN663 MARINE CORPS nomination of Robert J. Hillery, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

IN THE NAVY

PN664 NAVY nomination of Sarah D. Rushnov, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN665 NAVY nomination of William F. Murphy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN666 NAVY nomination of Kevin A. Witte-Hunt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN667 NAVY nomination of Michael J. Beer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN668 NAVY nomination of Michael K. Mosi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN669 NAVY nomination of Jeffrey T. Vanak, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN694 NAVY nominations (3) beginning Brian W. Mendenhall, and ending Ashish C. Sinha, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 10, 2025.

PN695 NAVY nominations (3) beginning Thomas S. Giugliano, and ending Sehba Husain-Krautter, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the the Congressional Record of December 10, 2025.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN670 SPACE FORCE nomination of Marc B. Green, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN671 SPACE FORCE nominations (3) beginning JACOB A. DAHLKE, and ending JASMINE C. TOYE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, morning business be closed, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the en bloc nominations provided for under the provisions of Executive Calendar No. 4, S. Res. 532, postcloture, and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture; further, that at 12 noon, the Senate resume legislative session to execute the order of December 10 in relation to S.J. Res. 82, and the Senate vote on passage, and upon disposition of S.J. Res. 82, the Senate resume executive session; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:05 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 17, 2025:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. GEORGE H. SEBREN, JR.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

JARED ISAACMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOUGLAS WEAVER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2026.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) BRAD J. COLLINS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN L. RAFFERTY, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. DALE R. WHITE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRAD W. PIERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. CLINTON MEAD

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE SERVING AS THE CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR MILITARY COMMISSIONS UNDER ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, CLAUSE 2 OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND SECTION 1037 OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:

To be brigadier general

COL. JONATHAN H. VAUGHN

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JEREMY P. GARLICK, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ROBERT D. HUHN, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DAWN R. HARDWICK, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF GEORGE A. MESIAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PETER S. SALFEETY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SEAN M. DIXON AND ENDING WITH PATRICK D. MCGRAIL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 2, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHLEEN A. AGBAYANI AND ENDING WITH MIKEL J. WIER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 10, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MYLES T. COLEMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF SARAH B. PEZZAT, TO BE COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. HILLERY, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF SARAH D. RUSHNOV, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM F. MURPHY, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF KEVIN A. WITTE–HUNT, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. BEER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL K. MOSI, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY T. VANAK, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN W. MENDENHALL AND ENDING WITH ASHISH C. SINHA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 10, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS S. GIUGLIANO AND ENDING WITH SEHBA HUSAIN–KRAUTTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 10, 2025.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF MARC B. GREEN, TO BE MAJOR.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JACOB A. DAHLKE AND ENDING WITH JASMINE C. TOYE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2025.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HANFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hanford Christian School on their 80-year anniversary and to thank them for their significant contributions to the Kings County community.

Since its founding in 1944, Hanford Christian School has provided students with the tools they need to succeed in their personal and professional lives. Hanford Christian School pushes students in and out of the classroom to reach their academic potential, through a challenging curriculum, Christ-centered teaching, and hands-on learning experiences.

The students, faculty, and families at Hanford Christian are dedicated to serving their community. Every year, they contribute to food drives and volunteer with the Salvation Army and Gleanings for the Hungry. Their community service impacts the community all year long, including during the holiday season when families donate blankets to the homeless and sing at retirement homes. These experiences at Hanford Christian and within the community empower students to become thoughtful leaders inside and outside the classroom.

The dedication of the teachers and staff at Hanford Christian School plays a vital role in helping students across the Central Valley thrive. I want to thank the entire faculty for fostering a learning environment that helps our youth become the best they can be.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Hanford Christian School on their 80-year anniversary. Their work to enrich the lives of students in the Central Valley will be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF TOM CROWLEY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Crowley of Royse City, Texas. Tom Crowley has been a resident of Royse City since 2006 and has dedicated much of his life to public service, community engagement, and leadership. He was first elected to the Royse City Council in May 2010, building on earlier experience serving on the Royse City Zoning Board of Adjustment, as well as similar service in other communities. In 2013, he served on the Royse City ISD Strategic Planning Committee and on the Board of Directors of the Royse City Chamber of Commerce. He also chaired the Military Affairs Committee for the San Angelo Texas Chamber of Commerce.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Tom served 22 years, including 18 years in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) collections and analysis platforms. His service took him to eight ground and airborne units across Europe, Asia, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East, as well as two units within the continental United States. He later became a platform instructor, training airmen entering the airborne reconnaissance career field. During his distinguished military career, Tom was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, eight Air Medals, two Meritorious Achievement Medals, the Combat Readiness Medal, and numerous other decorations. Later in his Air Force career, he cross-trained in journalism, working in public relations and advertising and coordinating with local officials for USAF Thunderbirds aerial demonstration performances.

Tom's commitment to community extends beyond elected office. He is a former member of the Rockwall County Appraisal Review Board, past president of his homeowner's association, and a member of the Royse City chapter of Rotary International. In addition to his civic involvement, Tom spent 26 years in the real estate business, serving on six local Texas Realtor association committees and three statewide committees before retiring from active participation. During a hiatus from real estate, he also served as a law firm area manager for eleven years, overseeing operations across three West Texas counties. Throughout his life, Tom has demonstrated a consistent dedication to improving the communities he serves.

It is my honor to recognize Tom Crowley for his decades of dedicated service to his community, his country, and his family, and for his lasting commitment to strengthening Royse City and Rockwall County.

HONORING COLONEL VŨ VĂN LỘC'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Colonel Vũ Văn Lộc, a South Vietnamese Army veteran and beloved community leader in San José and the greater Silicon Valley of California, for his unwavering dedication to Vietnamese refugees and cultural perservation—a true model of resilience and service.

From the rice fields of Nam Đinh to the heart of Silicon Valley, Colonel Lộc's journey was extraordinary. Born in 1933 in northern Vietnam, he graduated from the Đá Lat Military Academy and rose through the ranks to serve as a Colonel in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. When Saigon fell on April 30, 1975, Colonel Lộc and his family were forced to flee their homeland, ultimately finding refuge in San José, California. Rather than succumb to the tragedy of exile, he transformed it into a new mission of hope.

In 1976, soon after arriving in San José, Colonel Lộc founded the Immigrant Resettlement & Cultural Center (IRCC) to aid fellow refugees in rebuilding their lives. Over the next four decades, the IRCC became a lifeline for thousands of Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian families. Colonel Lộc and his team provided English classes, job training, housing assistance, and citizenship guidance to more than 20,000 refugees in Northern California. Under his leadership, the center also fostered cultural and civic events like the annual Tết Lunar New Year festivals, helping new immigrant preserve their cherished traditions as they integrated into American life.

In addition to addressing immediate resettlement needs, Colonel Lộc then started preserving the historical heritage of his people. He began collecting donated mementos that reflected the diverse experiences of Vietnamese refugees, from veterans who had fought alongside him, to boat people who survived harrowing ocean escapes, to those who endured brutal "re-education" camps after the war. Over three decades, Colonel Lộc assembled these artifacts and stories, determined to create an enduring home for the history of the Vietnamese diaspora. That vision culminated in the establishment of the Museum of the Boat People and the Republic of Vietnam, better known simply as the Việt Museum, which opened in San José's History Park in 2007. Housed in a restored historic building, the museum contains hundreds of precious artifacts, photographs, and works of art that tell the story of American journey. The museum would not have come together without immense personal sacrifice from Colonel Lộc who even mortgaged his family home to sustain the museum during difficult times. Thanks to his dedication, the Việt Museum stands today as a treasure of San José, educating future generations about the courage, sacrifice, and contributions of Vietnamese refugees.

Colonel Vũ Văn Lộc passed away peacefully on November 29, 2025, at the age of 92, surrounded by his loved ones and honored by a grateful community. For all of his military rank and community titles, he most cherished his role as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. While Colonel Lộc's journey began in war and exile, it became our community great fortune that he made his second home in San José, and that we could come to know Colonel Vũ Văn Lộc as a friend, mentor, and leader. Today, we honor his memory, and his legacy, which lives on in the hearts of more than 20,000 immigrant Americans who he supported in their brutally difficult journey, and whose journey itself has become an inspiration for our Nation.

HONORING DELIA G. GARCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Delia G. Garcia Elementary School of Roma Independent School District on being named a Governor's Lone Star Ribbon School, an honor that recognizes extraordinary academic excellence and outstanding achievement in public education across Texas.

This distinction is reserved for campuses that exemplify rigorous instructional standards, exceptional student outcomes, and a schoolwide commitment to creating an environment where every child can succeed. Earning this recognition reflects years of hard work, innovation, and an unwavering dedication to student success.

It speaks not only to the resilience and determination of the students, but also to the leadership of the administration, the skill and passion of the teachers, and the steadfast support of parents and the entire Roma ISD community.

At Delia G. Garcia Elementary, educators have shown that excellence in education is achieved through collaboration, high expectations, and a shared belief in the potential of every student.

Their efforts shape the foundation of learning for our youth, strengthen our community and inspire future generations to pursue opportunities with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, the achievement of Delia G. Garcia stands as a testament to what is possible when a school community commits itself fully to academic excellence and student growth.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I commend the students, teachers, staff, and families of this exemplary school for earning this well-deserved honor.

WELCOMING THE EXPANSION OF HOFFMAN & HOFFMAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful that Hoffman & Hoffman is expanding within the 2nd District of South Carolina. Established in 1947, Hoffman & Hoffman serves as a leader in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning solutions (HVAC).

The new facility is expected to open in the second quarter of 2026 and will allow Hoffman & Hoffman to consolidate their existing Lexington County offices and grow its operations in the state.

The $8.5 million investment will create 60 new jobs, strengthen the local economy, and enhance career opportunities across the state.

With a presence across the Southeast, Hoffman & Hoffman continues to demonstrate a commitment to innovation and growth. I appreciate the dedication and leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Jim Bingham.

I extend my best wishes to Hoffman & Hoffman for success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING CHIEF ERIC VOLLMER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Hayward Fire Department Interim Chief Eric Vollmer on the occasion of his upcoming retirement on December 30, 2025, after nearly three decades of exemplary service to the City of Hayward and to communities throughout California.

Eric grew up in Fremont, California, where he first developed a strong appreciation for community and public service. That commitment would later define a distinguished career in the fire service spanning nearly 30 years, including service with CAL FIRE, the Manteca Fire Department, and the City of Hayward.

Eric earned an Associate of Science in Fire Technology from Columbia Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from California State University, Hayward.

Eric began his service with the City of Hayward in 1999, where he rose through the ranks, serving as Firefighter, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief of Special Operations, prior to his current assignment as Interim Fire Chief. His leadership, professionalism, and dedication have left a lasting impact on the department and the residents it serves.

Before being promoted to management, Eric dedicated ten years as a member of the Local 1909 Executive Board, including four years as President, where he advocated for firefighters and worked collaboratively to strengthen labor-management relations.

Among his proudest accomplishments is his time in the Training Division, where he managed three recruit academies and helped shape the next generation of firefighters. Eric also worked to introduce local youth to the fire service through a partnership with the Eden Area ROP First Responder Program, expanding access and opportunity for students interested in public safety careers.

Eric played a critical role in renewing the department's Critical Incident Stress Management program, ensuring firefighters had the support they needed during challenging moments. During the COVID–19 pandemic, he also managed the Hayward Emergency Operations Center, providing steady leadership during an unprecedented public health crisis.

As Eric prepares for retirement, he looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Mallory, and their daughter, Sloane.

We extend our deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Vollmer as he embarks on this new chapter of his life, with utmost respect for his service and with the best wishes for his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on December 15, 2025, a family commitment caused me to miss Roll Call votes No. 335 and No. 336. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIJUANA IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PARITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Marijuana in Federally Assisted Housing Parity Act. This bill would permit the use of marijuana in federally assisted housing, including public housing and Section 8 housing, in compliance with the marijuana laws of the state (including the District of Columbia) where the property is located. Senator CORY BOOKER is introducing the companion bill.

Individuals living in federally assisted housing should not be denied admission, or fear eviction, for using a product that is legal in the state where they reside. Adult-use marijuana, medical marijuana or both are currently legal in 40 states, the District of Columbia and three territories, and approximately 90 percent of Americans support legalized medical marijuana. Under federal law, users of drugs that are illegal under federal law, including marijuana, are prohibited from being admitted into federally assisted housing. Moreover, federal law allows landlords to evict residents of federally assisted housing for using illegal drugs.

The federal government has begun to change its approach to marijuana. For example, for the last several years, Congress has prohibited the Department of Justice (DOJ) from using federal funds to prevent jurisdictions from implementing their medical marijuana laws. This bill would similarly allow individuals to use marijuana in federally assisted housing in compliance with a state's marijuana laws. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), like DOJ, should not be allowed to interfere with jurisdictions implementing their marijuana laws.

Under this bill, HUD must develop regulations that restrict smoking marijuana in federally assisted housing in the same manner and in the same locations as HUD restricts smoking tobacco in federally assisted housing.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2025, I missed votes due to personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 337; NAY on Roll Call No. 338; YEA on Roll Call No. 339; NAY on Roll Call No. 340; YEA on Roll Call No. 341; and NAY on Roll Call No. 342.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT DAVID FRIETS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Master Sergeant (MSgt) David Friets on his retirement from the United States Marine Corps (USMC) after 20 years of dedicated service. I thank MSgt. Friets for his steadfast dedication towards keeping his fellow Servicemembers, the communities throughout Northern Michigan, and our Nation safe.

Born and raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the values of determination, integrity, and service to his country were instilled in him by his parents and community. It was these core values that would guide him through a distinguished and proud career with the USMC, shaping his dedication to his mission and fellow Marines.

On December 6, 2005, shortly after graduating from Escanaba High School, MSgt. Friets enlisted in the USMC where he would go on to serve as a Signals Intelligence/Electronic Warfare (SIGNT/EW) Chief. In this role, he directed complex SIGINT collection, analysis, and dissemination efforts while also supervising the implementation of electronic warfare tactics for operational support. Within a variety of high-pressure environments, he ensured the security, integrity, and effectiveness of communications and intelligence systems.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating MSgt. David Friets on his retirement from the United States Marine Corps after 20 years of service. I wish him great happiness in retirement and thank him once more for keeping Michigan's 1st Congressional District and our Nation safe.

CELEBRATING LOWNDES COUNTY'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lowndes County in Georgia's 8th Congressional District. Lowndes County was established by the Georgia State Assembly on December 23, 1825. Since then, the county has grown to be home to more than 118,000 people and spans 511 square miles. What was once a railroad town dominated by cotton sales has grown to serve as home to Valdosta State University, the Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area, Moody Air Force Base, and many charming Georgia towns. Lowndes County has served our airmen at Moody Air Force Base for many years and sets the example for how we can best support our soldiers and their families. I am honored to represent this community and look forward to seeing Lowndes County continue to grow for years to come.

HONORING CAPTAIN J.J. PLUNKETT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished leader in the maritime industry, retired United States Coast Guard Captain J.J. Plunkett, who is retiring after more than three decades of dedicated service to maritime safety, port operations, and national security.

A 1987 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, Captain Plunkett served in the Coast Guard for over twenty-two years, progressing from field inspector to senior executive leadership. His career in the Coast Guard had many stops serving as a Marine Inspector in Portland, Oregon; Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Executive Assistant and Project Chemical Engineer at Coast Guard Headquarters; Chief of the Operations Department at Marine Safety Office Mobile, Alabama; Deputy Sector Commander of Sector Long Island Sound; and Captain of the Port of Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas.

Following his service in the Coast Guard, Captain Plunkett has served for over fourteen years as the Chief Operating Officer and Port Agent for the Houston Pilot Association. In this role, J.J. provided strategic leadership over pilot operations, enhancing efficiency, safety protocols, and organizational excellence while serving as a trusted industry voice. The Houston Ship Channel is home to the largest petrochemical complex in the United States and the largest container port in the Gulf of Mexico. It contributes nearly one trillion dollars to our Nation's economy annually. Houston ranks first in U.S. exports and first in U.S. foreign tonnage.

J.J. Plunkett's leadership and expertise help the Houston Pilots safely guide more than 8,200 vessels through the channel annually. On December 17, 2025, Captain Plunkett will retire after a distinguished maritime career with the United States Coast Guard and the Houston Pilots.

Mr. Speaker, I wish my friend Captain J.J. Plunkett, his wife, Lori, their children and grandchildren. Fair Winds and Following Seas in the next chapter of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASHLEY HINSON

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, due to the tragic death of Iowa National Guardsmen Sgt. William Nathaniel Howard and Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar and my attendance at their dignified transfer, I missed votes on the morning of December 17, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 343, and YEA on Roll Call No. 344.

RECOGNIZING THE HANFORD CIVIC AUDITORIUM

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hanford Civic Auditorium on their 100th anniversary. For the past century, this iconic building has stood as a symbol of Hanford, California's rich history, architectural heritage, and cultural identity.

Since opening its doors in 1925, the Hanford Civic Auditorium has served as the cornerstone of community life—a vibrant hub for artistic performances, civic engagement, and social events. From city council meetings and public forums to receptions, family reunions, and community celebrations, it has hosted countless gatherings that reflect the heart and spirit of Hanford. More than just a venue, the auditorium plays a vital role in fostering civic pride, cultural expression, and a shared appreciation for the city's rich local history—ensuring its legacy will endure. The original vision for the Hanford Civic Auditorium was not only to meet the needs of a growing community, but also to honor the brave members of our military who answered the call to arms during WWI—and to memorialize those who never returned. Today, the City of Hanford proudly designates the auditorium as a local historical and cultural landmark. This recognition is made possible by the dedicated staff and team members who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the auditorium's continued success.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to preserving and promoting the Hanford Civic Auditorium. Their commitment ensures it will continue to serve the people of Kings County and stand as a living testament to the community's values and history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Hanford Civic Auditorium on their 100th anniversary. Its contributions to the cultural and civic life of Hanford will continue to resonate for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY FEENSTRA

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for these votes. Had I been present, I would have voted on YEA on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. VINCENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to an important constituent engagement, I was not present to vote for Roll Call No. 335 and Roll Call No. 336.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335. I support the bipartisan Congressional Award Program which encourages our youth to develop valuable life skills, foster citizenship, and build self-confidence.

Also, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 336. I support the transfer of a vacant parcel of property to Perry County for public use, particularly for youth programs, agricultural education, and conservation efforts.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DR. SAMMUEL McKINNEY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Rev. Dr. Sammuel McKinney for what would be his 100th birthday on December 28, 2025 for the contributions he made to our Nation as a civil rights leader who fought tirelessly for social justice and racial equality in Seattle and who served devotedly as the beloved pastor of the Central Area's Mount Zion Baptist Church.

The son of a Baptist minister and grandson of a Georgia sharecropper, the Reverend Dr. McKinney was devoted to serving his community throughout his life. McKinney bravely served during World War II in a segregated unit of the U.S. Army Air Corps. He graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta after returning home from war, and then he went on to earn a divinity degree from Colgate in 1952. He settled down in Seattle, where he came to lead the congregation of one of Seattle's oldest and largest African American churches for forty-three years as pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church. He was not only a spiritual guide, but a community builder who tripled the size of his congregation during his time as pastor at Mount Zion. McKinney was a founding member of Seattle's First Human Rights Commission, which successfully fought for the Seattle's first Fair Housing Act, establishing protection for tenants of protected classes and marginalized communities. A lifelong champion for racial justice, McKinney founded Liberty Bank, Seattle's first black-owned financial institution which countered racially biased restrictions on loans to African Americans and expanded opportunities for homeownership in Seattle.

McKinney was a friend to many, including the noted fellow pastor and civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The pair had known each other from childhood but grew closer friends at Morehouse College. Dr. King visited Seattle only once, after his old friend requested that he come to give a speech in 1961. During his visit, Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of McKinney's influence in the civil rights movement and his commitment to racial equality.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Rev. Dr. Sammuel McKinney for a lifetime of service to the United States of America and to the city of Seattle. I am deeply grateful for his important efforts towards protecting our country, advancing social justice, and fostering economic development. His legacy will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight travel delay, I could not be present for votes on December 15, 2025. My flight was originally scheduled to arrive at 3:32 pm ET, but it was delayed. My flight arrived at 5:45 pm ET and I could not make it to the Capitol in time for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

RECOGNIZING MOLLY BRIMMER LOLLI

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Molly Brimmer Lolli for her service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

A graduate of the University of Maryland for both a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Juris Doctorate degree, Molly began her career on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant for Rep. ANDY HARRIS (MD–01) in 2019, before becoming Senior Advisor on Health Policy and later Legislative Director for Rep. RICHARD HUDSON (NC–09) in 2021. In January 2023, Molly became Counsel for the Subcommittee on Health for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce under Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers while I was serving as Subcommittee Chair. When I became Chairman in January of this year, I knew I wanted to keep her on my team as an expert on health issues.

After serving two Chairmen and three Subcommittee Chairmen, Molly has departed the U.S. House of Representatives to accept another opportunity to continue to serve as a health expert. I wish her the best, congratulate her on her new role, and thank Molly Brimmer Lolli for her service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the United States Congress. I also congratulate her on the birth of her and her husband Tim's new 6 pound, 2 ounces baby girl Carmela Gray Lolli who was born on October 26, 2025, and wish this young family all the best. I know Molly, Tim, and Carmela's big sister Breslin are very proud to welcome her to the family.

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE REACHED 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member JOSEPH D. MORELLE and I wish to recognize a special group of dedicated and exceptional employees of the Office of the Clerk, Office of the Sergeant at Arms, Office of Inspector General, and the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service.

The House's most important asset is its remarkable and steadfast employees, whose work is essential to keeping its operations running efficiently and effectively. The employees we acknowledge today are distinguished by their hard work, dedication, and professionalism in support of House Members, their staff, and constituents, as well as for their daily contributions to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is often performed behind the scenes, have a diverse range of responsibilities and skills. They support the legislative process, ensure the security of this great institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to a more efficient and productive House. The outstanding contributions and accomplishments of these devoted employees during their years of service, have benefited the U.S. House of Representatives, its Members, staff, and the American public.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed below represent 675 years of service and include their names in the RECORD:

Office of the Clerk: Carla Benson, Ora Branch, Philisha Lane, Bennetta McDuffie, Jenelle Pulis Kenneth Rosen

Office of the Sergeant at Arms: Wendy Benson, Christopher Brown, LaKeisha Commodore, Christopher Fischer, Lynn Hershey, John Looney, Robin Pegues, Diana Rodriguez

Office of Inspector General: Julie Poole

Office of the CAO: Marcus Suydam, Shawn Sessoms, Steve Hunter, Brandon Braxton, Andreal Little, Myrtle Norma, Carol Swan, Richardo Underwood, Lisa Butler, George Vallandingham, Alfonzo Wallace, Jamie Harvey

On behalf of the entire House community, I want to once again congratulate, acknowledge, and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and to the Clerk, the Sergeant at Arms, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Inspector General. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication set an example for their colleagues and raise the bar for those who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great Nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

HONORING RONALD ''RON'' A. SEGE'S LIFETIME OF IMPACT

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Ronald ''Ron'' A. Sege, a beloved member of our Silicon Valley community who passed away on November 30, 2025. Ron Sege was a respected technology executive, a philanthropist, and a dear friend to many. He leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of leadership, and service.

Born in New York and raised in California, Ron earned his B.A. in Economics from Pomona College and an M.B.A. from Harvard

Business School. He embarked on a remarkable 40-year career in the tech industry, helping to shape the internet and networking revolution of the post-dot-com era. He was perhaps best known for serving as President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of Echelon Corporation. Prior to Echelon, Ron served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the 3Com Corporation, a networking industry leader, and he led innovation startups such as Tropos Networks and Ellacoya Networks that advanced wireless broadband and internet technologies. Throughout these roles, he drove cutting-edge advancements across telecom, networking, wireless, and industrial internet sectors, earning widespread respect for his vision and business acumen.

Beyond his professional achievements, Ron was deeply committed to his community. He generously lent his time and expertise to several nonprofit organizations in Silicon Valley, including serving on the executive boards of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and the Montalvo Arts Center, to improve education, public policy, and the arts in our region.

Ron will be remembered not only for his substantial contributions to technology and the community, but also for his personal qualities that endeared him to all who knew him. Colleagues and friends alike recall him as a wise and thoughtful leader whose steady guidance, sharp instincts, and unwavering integrity earned him deep respect across the industry. I long admired Ron's personal kindness, always making others feel as though they were important enough to have the full attention and concern of a respected tech CEO. Ron lived life fully and fearlessly, he was an avid motorcyclist, a music and photography enthusiast, and an adventurous traveler.

Above all, Ron was devoted to his family. He is survived by his loving wife, Mahasti, and his four children Chris, Jon, Georgia, and Alexi. Ron's legacy of leadership, friendship, and humanity will continue to guide and inspire us in years to come. He will be greatly missed, but his influence endures in the countless lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF JANET NICHOL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Janet Nichol, of Royse City, Texas.

For almost three decades, Ms. Nichol has been a devoted and highly visible leader in the Rockwall County and Royse City community. A lifelong resident of Rockwall County, she has dedicated her life to public service, community development, and civic engagement. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a deep commitment to her hometown, earning the trust and respect of residents across the county.

Ms. Nichol's record of civic service is both extensive and distinguished. She began her public service on the Royse City Council, serving from 1995 to 2005 and again from 2009 to 2015. Her steady leadership and dedication to progress led the people of Royse City to elect her mayor—a position she proudly held from 2015 to 2021 and to which she was triumphantly returned in 2025. Between those terms, she served as Rockwall County Commissioner for Precinct 4 from 2021 to 2023, where she championed infrastructure improvements, responsible growth, and fiscal stewardship.

Her commitment extends far beyond elected office. Ms. Nichol has served on numerous boards and committees that shape the county's future, including 14 years on the Rockwall County Road Construction Board, 15 years on the Royse City Main Street Board, and 13 years on the Royse City Parks Board. She has also contributed to the Rockwall County Historical Commission, helping preserve the county's heritage for future generations. Her dedication to children and education is evident through her service on the Rockwall County Children's Advocacy Center Board, the Royse City ISD Education Foundation, and her active role on the RCISD Rebranding Plan Committee, as well as the Royse City Main Street and Parks Planning Boards.

Throughout her career, Ms. Nichol has exemplified servant leadership—marked by humility, dedication, and a deep love for her community. Her lifelong service has strengthened the fabric of Royse City and Rockwall County and continues to inspire others to serve with purpose and heart.

It is my honor to recognize Janet Nichol for her integrity, her decades of selfless service, and her enduring commitment to strengthening the Royse City and Rockwall County communities.

CONGRATULATING THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BULLDOGS

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate the Big Spring Marching Bulldogs from Big Spring High School in Newville, Pennsylvania, on earning the Cavalcade of Bands Liberty A Conference Championship.

This year's Band performed, "Catch Me If You Can," based off the movie, but featured Bon Jovi's "Wanted Dead or Alive," Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal," and Imogen Heap's "Hide and Seek." Their performance highlighted the Band's technical expertise and creativity, character, and joy. They began preparation for the season in June and competed throughout the fall in the Cavalcade of Bands—a regional circuit of nearly 75 bands throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The Marching Bulldogs were one of 16 bands in the Liberty A Conference, continually placing near the top throughout the season. On September 13, 2025, the Marching Bulldogs claimed First Place at Greencastle-Antrim High School, earning a score of 75.55. On October 25, they took Second Place at the Manheim Central Baron Invitational with a score of 88.45. At the Championship on November 1, 2025, the Marching Bulldogs took the field with heart, determination, and teamwork—and brought home First Place with a score of 94.063 in a field of 16 incredibly talented bands.

After their victory, the Bulldogs were celebrated upon their return to Newville. Two fire trucks escorted the Bulldogs' buses back to the high school, and well over 200 people were waiting to cheer them and recognize this monumental achievement.

This championship win is a story of perseverance and dedication that has spanned multiple years. The COVID pandemic had a devastating impact on Band membership, which hit a low in 2021 of only 31 members. In 2022, the Band earned a bronze medal in a much smaller division, which piqued more interest and sparked growth. The Band continued to grow and improve into 2024 after receiving a silver medal out of 12 bands in their division. After moving to a larger division featuring bands from 50 to 70 members in 2025, the Marching Bulldogs truly stepped up; this year's well-earned and hard-fought championship was their first in 14 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Big Spring Marching Bulldogs Cavalcade of Bands Liberty A Conference Championship truly showcases their exceptional determination, work ethic, and pride—not only as individuals, but in each other as a team. They stayed focused on their mission, never wavered, and performed at an extremely high level under immense pressure. On behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I'm honored and privileged to commend the Marching Bulldogs on their well-earned victory. Bulldog Pride.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, DR. WENDY WINTERSTEEN

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the remarkable leadership and service of Dr. Wendy Wintersteen, President of Iowa State University, who is retiring after years of distinguished service to the university, the State of Iowa, and the agricultural community nationwide.

Dr. Wintersteen's career stands as a testament to the power of education, innovation, and public service. A proud Iowa State University alumna, she earned both her bachelor's and doctoral degrees from the institution she would later lead, showing the next generation of students what it means to enact the Cyclone values of hard work, humility, and service to others.

Before becoming Iowa State's 16th and first female president in 2017, Dr. Wintersteen spent decades advancing Iowa's land-grant mission. Her work in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach program helped strengthen Iowa's leadership in agricultural research and community development. She built partnerships that lasted, connected classrooms to family farms, and ensured that students learned not just from textbooks but from the people who grow our food and fuel our economy. Through her efforts, she ensured that Iowa's innovation in agriculture continues to feed our Nation and fuel the world.

Under her leadership as president, Iowa State saw record-breaking research funding, significant campus improvements, and expanded opportunities for students from all

walks of life. She guided the university through challenges with resilience and vision, always putting students first and keeping Iowa at the heart of every decision she made. President Wintersteen represents the very best of what a Cyclone can and should be.

Mr. Speaker, President Wintersteen's dedication to education and public service has inspired thousands across our state. Her legacy will endure in the classrooms she strengthened, the students she championed, and the future leaders she helped shape.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing President Wendy Wintersteen for her extraordinary contributions to higher education, agriculture, and the people of Iowa.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a family illness, I missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335; YEA on Roll Call No. 336; YEA on Roll Call No. 337; YEA on Roll Call No. 338; NAY on Roll Call No. 339; YEA on Roll Call No. 340; NAY on Roll Call No. 341; and YEA on Roll Call No. 342.

HEALTHCARE IS REAL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the President and the Congressional Republicans have passed a bill, the Big Ugly Bill and signed into law on July 4, 2025 that would cut more than 1.5 trillion dollars toward investing in our families, children, and seniors' healthcare. In addition, purging 15 million Americans from insurance coverage, denying Medicaid and SNAP benefits for the poor and needy and diminishing funds to Medicare for the elderly, the disabled, and the disease individuals who desperately need support to live.

As Americans face a Republican-manufactured health care crisis, skyrocketing costs from Trump's tariffs and a weakening economy, Republicans have refused to extend the Affordable Care Act premium tax credits for working class families, which will expire December 31, 2025. I include in the RECORD a note from a constituent named Shemeka who captures how devastating the loss of the enhanced tax credits will be for her family.

''I am a single mother with a daughter who has just begun her freshman year of college.

Access to healthcare is absolutely essential to me and my family. I am a full-time employee in the inner city of Chicago where wages are modest, however employer-paid healthcare is not offered. Because of this, we rely on the Marketplace for affordable health coverage. Even with a budget focused solely on basic necessities, we are still struggling to maintain affordable healthcare. The current federal tax credits are what make it possible for us to have even the most basic health insurance, and additional credits are truly needed.

Without these federal tax credits, we would be placed in an extremely vulnerable position. Accessing affordable healthcare would become almost impossible, and the stability of our lives would be at serious risk. These tax credits are not just helpful they are essential. It is unimaginable to consider life without them.

Thank you again for your leadership and for allowing me the opportunity to lift my voice on this critical issue.''

SUPPORTING THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTIONS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, prior to the Trump Administration, the United States followed a policy of interdiction to combat drug trafficking in the Caribbean. Over the past decade, that approach led to a steady decline in Venezuela's role as a major drug transit route. It relied on stopping vessels, inspecting cargo, and arresting suspects where evidence existed. This Administration has shamefully abandoned that lawful and effective approach in favor of bombing boats and committing extrajudicial killings at sea. There is no operational reason for abandoning interdiction, which worked, respected the rule of law, and avoided the use of lethal force where arrest and prosecution were possible.

After decades of forever wars, the American people are sick and tired of being dragged into needless armed conflicts. Despite that, President Trump escalated his reckless campaign against Venezuela even further last night, pushing the Nation closer to a war the American people do not want.

For weeks, the Administration has carried out lethal strikes on small boats in Venezuelan waters, killing dozens of people without any authorization from Congress. These killings occurred without due process and without any explanation for why the vessels could not have been stopped, inspected, and the individuals on board arrested and prosecuted. Most disturbing of all, the Administration carried out a so-called ''double-tap'' strike, deliberately targeting wounded survivors after an initial attack. That conduct is indefensible and inconsistent with the rule of law and the values the United States claims to uphold.

The President is also asking the American people to accept a justification that does not withstand scrutiny. The Administration claims these killings are about stopping drugs, but there is no credible evidence that Venezuela is a significant source of fentanyl entering the United States. The fentanyl crisis is driven overwhelmingly by synthetic opioids manufactured elsewhere and smuggled through established land routes, not by small boats off the Venezuelan coast. And Trump's professed concern about drug trafficking rings hollow when he issued a pardon to the former president of Honduras after a U.S. jury convicted him of running a violent drug-trafficking conspiracy to move massive quantities of cocaine toward the United States. If Trump were serious about stopping drugs and not using counternarcotics as a pretext for military escalation and regime change, he would not be letting convicted traffickers walk free while eyeing Venezuela's vast oil resources.

To this day, the Administration has not provided Congress with a public legal justification for these killings, nor has it explained the legal authority it claims to rely on. Congress and the American people deserve to see the legal rationale for the use of lethal force carried out in their name.

History teaches that unlawful uses of force cannot be excused by secrecy or by claims of simply following orders. Responsibility does not vanish up and down the chain of command when the law is violated. As international tribunals have long made clear, including at Nuremberg, individuals are responsible for war crimes and unlawful killings even when acting under superior orders. That principle must apply here as well. A future Administration committed to the rule of law will have a responsibility to investigate these actions fully and hold accountable those responsible for unlawful killings carried out in the name of the United States.

The Constitution is clear: the power to authorize war belongs to Congress, and Congress alone. No President gets a blank check to wage war by decree. That is why today, I proudly voted for two War Powers resolutions to block further escalation and reassert Congress's constitutional authority. It is unfortunate that Democrats had to force these votes under the War Powers Resolution just to ensure Congress carries out its duties, despite Speaker Johnson's best efforts to keep them off the House floor and avoid accountability.

The American people do not want another needless war, and I refuse to let our service members be put in harm's way for an escalation that Congress never approved.

SUPPORTING OF H. CON. RES. 61 AND H. CON. RES. 64

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 61 and H. Con. Res. 64, War Powers resolutions that direct President Trump to remove the U.S. military from hostilities in the Caribbean and against Venezuela unless explicitly authorized by Congress.

Since September 2, 2025, the Trump administration has conducted 25 military strikes on vessels in the Western Hemisphere, which they state to be carrying narcotics. At least 95 people have been killed in these strikes. Not one of these strikes has been authorized by Congress and I have publicly called for them to cease because I believe them to be unlawful extrajudicial killings.

The footage of the strike on September 2, 2025, which I have viewed in a classified setting, is deeply alarming and calls into question the Trump administration's respect for the laws of armed conflict. I have called on Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Rubio to immediately release the strike video in its entirety, so that the American public understands what President Trump has ordered in the Caribbean without any authorization from Congress. Congress has a responsibility to fully investigate not only the September 2, 2025, strike but the Trump administration's entire operation in the Caribbean and should take testimony from Secretary Hegseth, U.S. Special Operations

Commander Admiral Frank Bradley, and retired U.S. Southern Commander Admiral Alvin Holsey.

Beyond these strikes, the Trump administration has spent months conducting a large-scale military buildup in the Caribbean but has completely failed to explain the rationale to Congress. A military posture that includes a carrier strike group is wildly disproportionate to the goal of prosecuting counter-narcotics missions. The financial costs of Operation Southern Spear are significant and will likely run into billions of dollars. Keeping a carrier strike group on station longer than planned will result in additional maintenance costs, as well as unforeseen accidents, as we just saw with the USS *Harry Truman*'s high operational tempo while deployed in the Middle East. It is unfortunate that the Department of Defense has failed to provide the Appropriations Committee with a full account of operational costs in SOUTHCOM and a projection of what future costs may be incurred. Military units supporting Operation Southern Spear are incurring a different type of cost, lost time training for missions that they would have undertaken had they not been diverted to the President's unauthorized activities in SOUTHCOM.

President Trump has also made several public comments about the potential for U.S. military forces to be used to remove Nicolas Maduro from power in Venezuela. President Trump has even directed the seizure of oil tankers in the region to apply pressure in Venezuela. As a Member of Congress who voted against authorizing the disastrous Iraq War, I believe that a war to enact regime change in Venezuela would be a catastrophic decision. That is why these two war powers resolutions are so critically important,

President Trump and his administration are out of control. The Constitution grants Congress the power to declare war and authorize military action. Because Congress has not done so in this case, the military activities directed by President Trump in SOUTHCOM are unlawful. Congress must prevent President Trump from dragging the United States into another disastrous regime change war that the American people do not support.

It is time for every Member of Congress to go on record and stand with the Constitution instead of President Trump's executive overreach. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of these two war power resolutions.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF DELANO, CALIFORNIA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Delano, California as it celebrates its 110th anniversary.

Incorporated in 1915, Delano was originally established as a railroad town, serving as a hub for hundreds of workers building the southern terminus of the Southern Pacific railroad. Over the years, Delano has been the site of several historically significant events, particularly during World War II. The Voice of America Delano even operated as a vital broadcasting facility, relaying news and information to VOA stations across the Pacific, including Hawaii, Okinawa, and the Philippines.

In more recent history, the Delano Municipal Airport gained distinction as the home of a squadron of Northrop P–61 Black Widow aircraft—twin-engine fighters that played a key role in defending the Pacific Coast during the war.

Today, Delano is best known for its thriving agricultural industry. The city is a major producer of grapes, oranges, almonds, pistachios, and cotton. Alongside its agricultural success, Delano has experienced steady commercial growth, attracting major businesses such as Wonderful Citrus, the company behind the widely popular Halos brand.

Delano is also a culturally rich and diverse community, shaped by generations of residents from around the world. Since the arrival of early settlers under the Homestead Act, Delano has welcomed people from Latin America, Asia, and Europe, each contributing to the city's distinct character and traditions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in celebrating Delano on its 110th anniversary, and to honor its rich history, diverse community, and the spirit of those who call it home.

RECOGNIZING BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR PAUL CALDERAIO'S SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Mr. Paul Calderaio for his extraordinary dedication to public service and his lasting contributions to Buckingham Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Paul's commitment to service began early in his life while living in Florida. That dedication only deepened after he and his family made Buckingham Township their home. For more than three decades, Paul Calderaio has exemplified the very best of local civic leadership, devoting his time, energy, and experience to strengthening his community.

A resident of Buckingham Township since 1955, Paul and his wife have raised their four children in Bucks County, firmly rooting their family in the community he has worked so diligently to serve. His public service to the Township spans nearly 25 years, first as Township Auditor and later as a Township supervisor, roles in which he demonstrated integrity, responsibility, and a steadfast commitment to transparency and good governance.

Throughout his tenure, Paul was a strong advocate for open space preservation and played a key role in campaigning for a Township bond dedicated to protecting land for future generations. His leadership helped ensure that Buckingham Township balanced growth with preservation, safeguarding its rural character and quality of life.

The results of his dedication are clear and admirable. Under the leadership of officials like Paul Calderaio, Buckingham Township has been ranked the safest township in Pennsylvania for its size, maintains some of the lowest township tax rates in Bucks County, and has achieved an exceptional AAA bond rating. This is an honor shared by only seven townships in the entire Commonwealth. Additionally, more than 6,500 acres of open space has been preserved, and the Township is consistently recognized as one of the best places to live in Pennsylvania,

Mr. Speaker, these accomplishments do not happen by chance. They are the product of years of thoughtful leadership, careful use of public resources, and an unwavering commitment to the people of Buckingham Township. Paul's legacy is one of service, accountability, and community pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Paul Calderaio for his many years of service and to thank him for the positive and lasting impact he has had on Buckingham Township, Bucks County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ERIC REYES

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sergeant First Class Eric Reyes's exemplary and distinguished record of service to our country during his twenty years on active duty. A native of the Bronx, New York, he enlisted in the Army as an infantryman after graduating from high school in January 2005.

During his 20-year career, Eric has served at every level of leadership within the Army, leading our Nation's greatest resource, our sons and daughters. He has led teams through the platoon level on multiple combat tours and spent most of his career at the tactical level, specializing in combined arms maneuver and large-scale combat operations. He has deployed twice in support of the Global War on Terror and distinguished himself within the infantry community, earning his Master Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Eric led at every step within a platoon and below and had an outsized impact on the training and readiness of future generations. He has been an observer-controller certifying and participating in 16 combat training center rotations, ensuring 16 platoons achieved the highest levels of readiness to deploy and win in combat. He was also a drill sergeant for nearly three years, training all recruits that came through Fort Jackson, South Carolina, during his time. Most recently, he has served as the Senior Military Science Instructor at the University of Utah ROTC program within my district. He has spent the last three years as the senior military instructor for all tactics, overseeing over 400 officers within the ROTC program at the University of Utah.

Eric Reyes has had a lasting impact on our Nation, deploying to fight in her wars, leading our fine men and women in uniform, and training the next generation of warriors in our great Army, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Sergeant First Class Eric Reyes for his selfless dedication, unwavering leadership, and steadfast commitment to our country. He is retiring this December after 20 years of stalwart service to our great Nation. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to him, his wife, Sarah, and their children, Xavier, Maliena, Olivia, and Sophia, for their sacrifices and contributions to the strength and security of our country.

COMMEMORATING ANNA ADAMIAN'S SERVICE TO MARYLAND'S 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Communications Director, Anna Adamian, on her new position working in the Trump Administration. Anna is a dedicated staff member who has worked tirelessly to promote my message fighting for the 1st Congressional District. The commitment Anna has demonstrated has been exceptional and praiseworthy.

Ms. Adamian has risen through the ranks of my office, beginning as Press Secretary to currently serving as my Communications Director. She has consistently excelled, working diligently with others to ensure my district stays informed of the resources available to them and how I am advocating for my constituents.

It is important that Representatives recognize outstanding staff such as Ms. Adamian. Often times, the work of these staffers goes unnoticed but is nonetheless critical in maintaining the functions of our government. Anna is a true patriot, and Maryland's 1st Congressional District undoubtedly owes her a great debt of gratitude. I wish Anna well in her future endeavors at the White House.

I thank Anna. She will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on December 16, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 342.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL GEORGE STOCKER

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Michael George Stocker, who passed away peacefully on December 11, 2025.

Michael was a captain in the U.S. Air Force, and a navigator on the B52 aircraft, serving in Vietnam. Michael was born on July 6, 1941, in Mount Vernon, Indiana, and lived his life with a passion for Jesus and a love for his family and Kentucky Basketball.

Michael went to high school at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology with the hopes of pursuing priesthood. Michael would then go on to serve in the U.S. Air Force as a Navigator-Bombardier on B52's, while getting a Doctorate in education. Michael was known for his service with the Pro-Life Airplanes navigation, and his favorite B52's.

Michael was preceded in death by his loving wife Marilyn, who passed away on November 27, 2025. Michael and Marilyn leave behind a legacy of love and dedication for their family and will be remembered by the hearts and hands of those they touched. Michael and Marilyn are survived by their daughters, granddaughters, and great-grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DENNIS EUGENE ''DENNY'' BUTCHER OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis Eugene "Denny" Butcher of Watertown, Minnesota, for his retirement after 53 years as the town's beloved Master Barber. Denny's impact reaches far beyond the barber chair through the many other ways he sewed Watertown's community.

Known for his generosity and compassion, he routinely traveled from his barbershop to provide haircuts for residents of Elim Home and Westwood Place, as well as those confined to their homes due to illness. Additionally, Denny served his community as a volunteer firefighter and as an Emergency Medical Technician at the Watertown Hospital until its closure in 1971.

He contributed to the cultural life of Watertown in many ways. For five years, Denny played with the Highliners Polka Band and later played with John Exklund and the Midwesterners, sharing joy and tradition with audiences across Minnesota and the region. And, for more than 25 years, Denny brought magic and delight to children, and families each holiday season playing the role of Santa Claus. Together with his wife, Mary, he has shown tremendous love for the community's elderly through their shared ministry of offering comfort, companionship, and care to those who need it most.

Denny has become known for his signature style and personality—the man who wears shorts all year long, the scooter man, a tender-hearted jokester, who is always ready to laugh, and someone who truly embodies his well-known motto, "I'm living the dream."

Denny's love for Watertown, his decades of service, and his heart of gold have made him a pillar of the community. As he completes his final day behind the barber chair on December 19, 2025, we honor his lifetime of contributions and celebrate the legacy he leaves behind.

On behalf of Minnesota's 6th District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Dennis Eugene Butcher for his 53 years of dedication to the people of Watertown, Minnesota. His kindness, service, and joy have left a mark that will be remembered for generations.

UNCOVERING WIDESPREAD FRAUD IN OBAMACARE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD a copy of the article, "Ghostbusting ACA Fraud: Millions Who Don't Use Their Health Insurance Expose Abuse in the Program" and a document from the Committee on Ways and Means entitled "Watchdog Report Uncovers Widespread Fraud in Obamacare."

[From Paragon Health Institute, Oct. 1, 2025]

GHOSTBUSTING ACA FRAUD: MILLIONS WHO DON'T USE THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE EXPOSE ABUSE IN THE PROGRAM

(By Niklas Kleinworth, Liam Sigaud, and John R. Graham)

Individual coverage exchange plans created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have a glaring problem: nearly 12 million enrollees, or 35 percent of all exchange enrollees in 2024, do not use their benefits at all. For these enrollees, known as zero-claim enrollees, health coverage did not translate to health care. Many zero-claim enrollees are known as ''phantoms''—people who are enrolled but not practically in the market because they are enrolled in other coverage or are unaware of their exchange plan coverage. Large insurers benefit greatly from phantom enrollment, as they collect billions of dollars in taxpayer funds to cover individuals who cost them nothing.

Our analysis shows that these enrollees are not just healthy enrollees with no need for care. They are part of a larger story about how Biden COVID credits are driving perverse incentives. Insurers and middlemen are responding to these incentives, and unscrupulous brokers are enrolling anyone they can. Evidence shows millions of Americans fell victim to enrollment in fully subsidized plans without their knowledge or consent. This fraud harms patients who lose their health coverage or face penalties at tax time. It also harms taxpayers who foot the bill for these schemes.

This policy brief presents a state-by-state analysis describing how zero-claim enrollment corroborates much of Paragon's previous work on improper enrollment and fraud in the ACA exchanges. We also debunk claims that young, healthy enrollees without claims are serving to diversify the risk pool and improve the market.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Rising numbers of zero-claim enrollees—people who did not file a single medical claim—bolster evidence of rampant fraud in ACA exchanges. Many of these enrollees are phantoms—people unaware of their coverage or enrolled in other plans.

Biden COVID credits drove fraud by creating zero-dollar plans that are fully subsidized by taxpayers and require no enrollee contributions. Unscrupulous brokers enrolled many people without their knowledge and many others after manipulating information on applications to maximize subsidies.

The sharp increase in zero-claim enrollment from 2021 to 2024 is not explained by meaningfully higher enrollment among young, healthy beneficiaries.

Zero-claim enrollment numbers dwarf potential coverage loss estimates of not extending the COVID credits. This anomaly suggests that when the COVID credits expire on schedule at the end of 2025, they will likely have little to no negative effect on access to health care services or health.

To curb fraudulent enrollment that harms both patients and taxpayers, Congress must allow the Biden COVID credits to expire on time.

[From the United States House Committee on Ways & Means]

WAYS AND MEANS: WATCHDOG REPORT UNCOVERS WIDESPREAD FRAUD IN OBAMACARE

Fraud prevention failures in Obamacare lead to insurance subsidies for fake enrollees.

Initiated by a Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Judiciary request in 2024, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) led a covert operation resulting in fictitious applicants receiving Obamacare subsidies.

100 percent of the fake applicants were approved for subsidies in 2024.

18 out of 20 (90 percent) fake identities remain enrolled and subsidized in 2025, proving the system cannot detect fraudulent identities.

Marketplaces approved coverage even when required documents were never submitted or when GAO submitted fake documentation.

This includes fake proof-of-citizenship, validating concerns that taxpayers have been subsidizing illegal immigrants.

Monthly subsidies paid to health insurers on behalf of GAO's fake identities exceeded $12,300 per month.

Data analysis shows widespread systemic fraud with taxpayers on the hook for costs.

In 2023, one SSN was used to enroll in more than 125 different insurance policies, accumulating over 26,000 days of subsidized coverage—the equivalent of 71 years.

66,000 SSNs in 2024 had more than a year's worth of subsidized coverage, meaning multiple SSNs were being reused across different policies.

$21 billion in subsidies were paid out with no evidence of tax reconciliation for 2023—meaning 32 percent of all subsidies paid to enrollees with SSNs had no confirmation of repayment, or verification signaling likely massive improper payments.

Insurers collect subsidies for deceased individuals through unauthorized plan switches.

58,000 SSNs receiving subsidies matched Social Security death records.

At least 7,000 were dead before coverage even began, insinuating identities were used by fraudsters.

$94 million in taxpayer-funded subsidies were sent to health insurers on behalf of deceased individuals.

Bad actors engaged in unauthorized enrollment activity to chase commissions, resulting in:

160,000 likely unauthorized changes by three or more brokers in 2024.

CMS itself received 275,000 complaints in just eight months (January to August 2024) from Americans who were enrolled in or switched into plans without their consent.

COMMEMORATING REPRESENTATIVE DONALD PAYNE, JR.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise, to commemorate the work of my friend and colleague Donald Payne, Jr. on what would have been his 67th birthday had he not passed away far too soon.

As we remember Donald Payne, we first and foremost recall that he was a kind man and compassionate lawmaker who cared deeply for the people of his district, our State, the country, those in need, and especially the sick.

Like his father before him—Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., who I served with—Donald, Jr. was a dedicated public servant.

As a diabetic, he fought to lower the cost of insulin. He wrote the House-passed Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act and the Amputation Reduction and the Compassion Act which would provide full coverage for peripheral artery screening tests for patients at risk of Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) to help reduce PAD-related amputations.

I was proud to work with him on his Payment Choice Act that would ensure retail stores accept cash—which is the only available payment option for millions of Americans.

His TEST for Lead Act was designed to protect children from lead-contaminated drinking water in schools, and he wrote the DHS Interoperable Communications Act that became law in July 2015.

As chairman and then ranking member of the House Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Donald helped lead the charge to improve America's transportation infrastructure, played a key role in securing the Gateway project for New Jersey and New York, and was a powerful ally of Amtrak.

Before coming to Congress Donald Payne served two terms on the Newark City Council, including as president, and beginning in 2005, three terms as an Essex County freeholder, which we now call county commissioner.

We are grateful for his public service, and offer our continued prayers for his soul and our continued support to his wife, Beatrice, and their children, Donald, III, Jack, and Yvonne.

Donald Payne, Jr. is deeply missed. May he rest in peace and may God's perpetual light shine upon him.

CONGRATULATING BEVERLY MOODY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise and congratulate Mrs. Beverly Moody, Occupational Health Nurse at the Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) in Aiken, South Carolina, on being recognized as Nurse of the Year by the South Carolina Association of Occupational Health Nurses (SCAOHN).

This prestigious award is given to a nurse who exemplifies excellence in Occupational Health Nursing and has made outstanding contributions to advancing health and wellbeing through organization, educational, community, or work-site programs and activities.

Mrs. Moody was selected for consistently going above and beyond to support employees at SRMC, while exemplifying compassion and dedication. She also happens to be the proud granddaughter of one of the original DuPont nurses in the 1950's.

Mrs. Moody will continue to advance her profession as an occupational health nurse as she becomes president of SCAOHN in 2026.

Mrs. Moody has many accomplishments to be proud of and has contributed greatly to the state.

I send my warmest congratulations and best wishes. I am appreciative for all she has done for the Savannah River Site and the Palmetto State.

HONORING R.T. BARRERA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate R.T. Barrera Elementary School of Roma Independent School District on being named a Governor's Lone Star Ribbon School, an honor that recognizes extraordinary academic excellence and in outstanding achievement in public education across Texas.

This distinction is reserved for campuses that exemplify rigorous instructional standards, exceptional student outcomes, and a schoolwide commitment to creating an environment where every child can succeed.

Earning this recognition reflects years of hard work, innovation, and an unwavering dedication to student success.

It speaks not only to the resilience and determination of the students, but also to the leadership of the administration, the skill and passion of the teachers, and the steadfast support of parents and the entire Roma ISD community.

At R.T. Barrera Elementary, educators have shown that excellence in education is achieved through collaboration, high expectations, and a shared belief in the potential of every student.

Their efforts shape the foundation of learning for our youth, strengthen our community and inspire future generations to pursue opportunities with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, the achievement of R.T. Barrera Elementary stands as a testament to what is possible when a school community commits itself fully to academic excellence and student growth.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I commend the students, teachers, staff, and families of this exemplary school for earning this well-deserved honor.

HONORING HAREGEWAINE MITIKU AYALEW'S LIFETIME OF IMPACT

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Haregewaine Mitiku Ayalew, a beloved Ethiopian American community member from San José, California, who passed away on November 30, 2025. Ms. Ayalew's life was defined by service, generosity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting the vulnerable. It is fitting that we recognize her remarkable contributions in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, for she exemplified the very best of our community's values through a lifetime of compassion and advocacy.

Ms. Ayalew dedicated her professional life to caring for those made vulnerable by illness, age, or circumstance. As a certified Home Care Aide and Home Health Aide, she provided essential care marked by dignity, patience, and kindness. Beyond her caregiving

work, she founded the Diamond Repoint Center and later established the San Pedro Gift Shop, which she operated for twelve years. Her entrepreneurial spirit was always rooted in creating opportunities that empowered others.

Born in Gondar, Ethiopia, Ms. Ayalew never forgot the hardships faced by families in her home country. Her compassion reached across continents. For many years she invested her personal resources and time to support disadvantaged communities through charitable and faith-based initiatives. She organized annual food support programs for families in Addis Ababa and Gondar, particularly during major religious holidays when no one should feel forgotten. She also funded and built a library and a ten-room dormitory at the historic Debre Birhan Selassie Church in Gondar to support theology students. These facilities remain active today as places of study, refuge, and prayer.

Ms. Ayalew further extended her humanitarian work to the ''Menna'' Center in Gondar, a facility caring for elders without family support and for individuals living with illness and disabilities. Through her efforts and the resources she gathered from her community in San José, she assisted thirty-five mothers and more than one hundred sixty vulnerable children, many of whom were orphans or living with disabilities. Her support empowered these families to rebuild their lives, whether by opening small shops, raising sheep and dairy cows, learning trades, or securing their basic needs. Her work created pathways to dignity, stability, and opportunity.

In San José, Ms. Ayalew was a pillar of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo community. She lived a life grounded in prayer, humility, and service. At her local parish, Mekane Rama Saint Gabriel Church, she was known for her big smile, her compassion, and her unwavering willingness to help anyone in need. Her church community regarded her with deep respect and affection, and many found comfort and encouragement in her presence.

Ms. Ayalew leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of faith, service, and compassion. Her life's work lives on through her two daughters Aden Kassaye and Rebekah Kassaye, her extended family, and the countless individuals whose lives she touched both here and abroad. In her honor, her family and community are establishing a foundation to continue her mission and to ensure that her dedication to uplifting the vulnerable endures for generations.

Though she is no longer with us, Ms. Haregewaine Mitiku Ayalew's example of kindness, devotion, and charity will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing her. I extend my deepest condolences to her family and to the Mekane Rama Saint Gabriel Church community she loved so dearly. May her memory be a blessing, and may she rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF JAMES BRANCH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Branch of Royse City, Texas.

For more than two decades, Mr. Branch has been a devoted and highly visible leader in the Rockwall County and Royse City communities. Since moving to Royse City in 2001, he has served as a committed public servant, volunteer, business owner, and devoted family man. He and his wife, Katie, have three sons, all of whom graduated from Royse City ISD. Throughout their time in the district, Mr. Branch has been a constant presence—calling football games on NFHS, helping set up the run-through for varsity football games, preparing pre-game meals, coaching youth football, and later volunteering as an announcer for youth games. Supporting young people and families has long been a defining part of his life and legacy.

Mr. Branch's record of civic service is both extensive and distinguished. He has made lasting contributions to the City of Royse City through his work on the Parks and Recreation Board and the Planning and Zoning Commission, where his leadership earned him positions as vice chairman and chairman. In 2009, he was elected to the Royse City Council, where he went on to serve as Deputy Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor Pro Tem. Today, he continues to serve as a steadfast and engaged councilman, working tirelessly to support and represent his community with dedication, integrity, and care.

His commitment extends beyond the city limits. He serves as secretary of the Rockwall County Emergency Services Corporation and represents Royse City and Precinct 4 on the Rockwall County Transportation Consortium Board, providing a strong and reliable voice for the people he has long served.

In his professional life, Mr. Branch has spent more than 25 years owning and operating multiple businesses that serve Royse City, Caddo Mills, and the greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Throughout his career, he has earned widespread respect for his openness, transparency, and steadfast dedication to doing what is right, regardless of popularity.

It is my honor to recognize James Branch for his integrity, his decades of service, and his enduring commitment to strengthening the Royse City and Rockwall County communities.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE NUCKOLS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Nuckols for being named the 2025 Cattlewoman of the Year by the Tulare County Cattlewoman's Association.

Michelle moved to Visalia, California in 1975 with her parents at the age of six. She discovered her love for agriculture in high school through Mt. Whitney High School's FFA program, where she quickly immersed herself. Her involvement in FFA inspired her to pursue a career in agricultural education, leading her to attend the College of the Sequoias and later Fresno State University. While at Fresno State, Michelle met her husband, Justin Nuckols, who came from a farming family in Porterville. The two married in 1995 and made their home near Justin's family farm. Following graduation, Michelle began teaching at Tipton Elementary, where she has now served for over 29 years. In addition to teaching English, she offers an agriculture elective that introduces students to FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. Her class includes hands-on lessons about dairy and beef cattle, visits to local farming operations, and a variety of experiences designed to connect students to agriculture. Michelle also has a deep passion for photography, which has inspired her to preserve the farming traditions of Justin's family farm through the lens of her camera. She captures branding events, assists in tagging calves, and most importantly, ensures that donuts and cold drinks are available for all who attend.

Since Justin's unexpected passing in 2022, Michelle has taken on a more active role in the family's cattle operation alongside her sons, Tanner and Carson. She also joined Tulare County Cattlewomen, continuing her lifelong support for agricultural education and honoring Justin's legacy through advocacy and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Michelle Nuckols on being awarded Tulare County's 2025 Cattlewoman of the Year.

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 18, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1071, National Defense Authorization Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8795–S8876

Measures Introduced: Forty-two bills and twenty-two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3516–3557, S.J. Res. 100, and S. Res. 547–567. **Pages S8831–34**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 526, withholding the pay of Senators if a Government shutdown occurs. **Page S8831**

Measures Passed:

ROTOR Act: Senate passed S. 2503, to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S8811–17**

Cruz/Cantwell Amendment No. 4070, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S8817**

Fiscal Year 2025 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act: Senate passed S. 2393, to authorize a major medical facility project for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri. **Pages S8873–74**

Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 3436, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of certain services to veterans in the Freely Associated States, and the bill was then passed. **Page S8874**

Recognizing VA Community Care: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 492, recognizing community care as an essential tool for meeting the health care needs of the veterans of the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S8874**

Essential Care Provided By the VA: Senate agreed to S. Res. 566, recognizing that care provided by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs is essential for meeting the health care needs of veterans of the United States. **Page S8874**

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 66, directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 1071. **Page S8874**

House Messages:

National Defense Authorization Act: By 77 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. 648), Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1071, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and after taking action on the following motion and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S8795–S8803**

Withdrawn:

Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Thune Amendment No. 3961 (to the House amendment to the bill), to change the enactment date. **Page S8803**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Thune Amendment No. 3962 (to Amendment No. 3961), to change the enactment date, fell when Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Thune Amendment No. 3961 (to the House amendment to the bill) was withdrawn. **Page S8803**

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), as amended by Public Law 118–159, appointed the following Senators to the

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: Senator Mullin (Appropriations), Senator Cramer.

Page S8873

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), as amended by Public Law 118–159, appointed the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: Senator Budd.

Page S8873

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 67 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 650), Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Pages S8803–04, S8817–18

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 67 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. 649), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S8803–04**

By 71 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. EX. 652), Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026. **Pages S8818–23**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 69 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 651), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S8818**

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

3 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S8823, S8874–76**

Messages from the House: **Page S8831**

Measures Referred: **Page S8831**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8834–36**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8836–43**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8830–31**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S8843–59**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S8859**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S8859**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—653) **Pages S8803–04, S8818, S8823**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:05 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8875.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NARCO-TRAFFICKERS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on the September 2, 2025, boat strike on narco-traffickers in the Caribbean from national security briefers.

FCC OVERSIGHT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission, after receiving testimony from Brendan Carr, Chairman, and Olivia Trusty, and Anna M. Gomez, both a Commissioner, all of the Federal Communications Commission.

ATC MODERNIZATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation concluded a hearing to examine FAA's plan for ATC modernization, focusing on evaluating progress, ensuring accountability and results, after receiving testimony from Bryan Bedford, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 858, 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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1363, to provide for greater cooperation and coordination between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico relating to historical or traditional uses of certain land grant-mercedes on Federal public land, with an amendment;

S. 1377, to ensure the maintenance of a herd of horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park;

S. 1470, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail;

S. 1787, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State;

S. 1860, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Brian Head Town, Utah, certain National

Forest System land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2015, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western and southeastern United States, to acknowledge and support the long-standing use of cultural burning by Indian Tribes and Indigenous practitioners, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2016, to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2033, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on existing programs, rules, and authorities that enable or inhibit wildfire mitigation across land ownership boundaries on Federal and non-Federal land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2262, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to clarify the nature of public investment for purposes of certain rulemaking, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2273, to amend the Act of July 10, 1890, to modify certain provisions relating to the disposal of public land in the State of Wyoming for educational purposes;

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.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 3383, to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to make improvements to that Act.

INDIAN TRIBE LAND

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 236, to amend the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the ''Long-Term Leasing Act''), to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land in the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation and land held in trust for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), S. 1508, to confer jurisdiction on the State of Utah with respect to civil causes of action arising on or within the Indian lands of the Shivwits Band of Paiutes, S. 1513, to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, S. 2735, to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, after receiving testimony from Trina Locke, Directorate of Environmental and Natural Resources, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Brian Weeden, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Mashpee, Massachusetts; Tina Gonzales, Shivwits Band of Paiutes, Ivins, Utah; Frances G. Charles, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Port Angeles, Washington; and Regina Cuellar, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Placerville, California.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Daniel E. Burrows, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Megan Blair Benton, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Brian Charles Lea, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, who was introduced by Senator Hagerty, and Justin R. Olson, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, who was introduced by Senators Young and Banks, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee received a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from members of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 62 public bills, H.R. 6771–6832; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 954–958 were introduced. **Pages H6020–23**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6025–26**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 953, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6703) to ensure access to affordable health

insurance; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 498) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for gender transition procedures for minors; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3492) to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration of minors; and relating to consideration of the bill (H.R. 4776) to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to clarify ambiguous provisions and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process (H. Rept. 119–411); and H.R. 5778, to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve outreach and education on employee ownership, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–412). **Page H6020**

Oath of Office—Chief Administrative Officer: The Speaker administered the oath to Anne Dressendorfer Binsted of Virginia, appointed November 25, 2025, to act as and to exercise the duties of Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives effective December 31, 2025. **Page H5945**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 954, electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H5956**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:33 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. **Page H6004**

Directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities with presidentially designated terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere: The House failed to agree to H. Con. Res. 61, directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities with presidentially designated terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere, by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 216 nays, Roll No. 345. **Pages H5978–84, H6004–05**

Directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress: The House failed to agree to H. Con. Res. 64, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress, by a yea-and-nay vote of 211 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 346. **Pages H5984–92, H6005–06**

Reliable Power Act: The House passed H.R. 3616, to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review regulations that may affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 347. **Pages H6000–04, H6006**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H6000**

H. Res. 951, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4776), (H.R. 1366), (H.R. 845), (H.R. 3616), (H.R. 3632), and (H.R. 4371) was agreed to yesterday, December 16th.

Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act: The House passed H.R. 6703, to ensure access to affordable health insurance, by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 349. **Pages H5956–77, H6006–08**

Rejected the Underwood motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 348. **Pages H5977, H6006–07**

H. Res. 953, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 6703), (H.R. 498), and (H.R. 3492) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 213 ayes to 209 noes, Roll No. 344, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 204 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 343. **Pages H5947–59**

Protect Children's Innocence Act: The House passed H.R. 3492, to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration of minors, by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 351. **Pages H5992–H6000, H6008–09**

Rejected the Balint motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 350. **Pages H5999–H6000, H6008**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Pages H5992–93**

H. Res. 953, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 6703), (H.R. 498), and (H.R. 3492) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 213 ayes to 209 noes, Roll No. 344, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 204 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 343. **Pages H5947–59**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, December 18th. **Page H6009**

Senate Referrals: S. 355 was held at the desk. S. 594 was held at the desk. S. 612 was held at the desk. S. 727 was held at the desk. S. 856 was held at the desk. S. 861 was held at the desk. S. 865 was held at the desk. S. 1049 was held at the desk. S. 3021 was held at the desk. S. 3490 was held at the desk. **Page H5956**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page H5956.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Eight yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5954–55, H5955–56, H6004–05, H6005–06, H6006, H6006–07, H6007, H6008, and H6008–09.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Committee Meetings

ENSURING UNION LEADERS REPRESENT MEMBERS, NOT AGENDAS

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled ''Ensuring Union Leaders Represent Members, Not Agendas''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING BIOSECURITY AT THE INTERSECTION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND BIOLOGY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Examining Biosecurity at the Intersection of AI and Biology''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6536, the ''Rural Depositories Revitalization Study Act''; H.R. 6547, the ''Least Cost Exception Act''; H.R. 6555, the ''Enhancing Bank Resolution Participation Act''; H.R. 6556, the ''Failing Bank Acquisition Fairness Act''; H.R. 6554, the ''Community Bank Representation Act''; H.R. 6550, the ''American FIRST Act of 2025''; H.R. 6570, the ''Merger Agreement Approvals Clarity and Predictability Act''; H.R. 6546, the ''Merger Process Review Act''; H.R. 6553, the ''TIER Act of 2025''; H.R. 1181, the ''Protecting Privacy in Purchases Act''; H.R. 6551, the ''New BANK Act of 2025''; H.R. 6544, the ''REVIEW Act of 2025''; H.R. 6552, the ''Bank-Fintech Partnership Enhancement Act''; H.R. 5577, the ''NFIP Extension Act of 2026''; H.R. 6644, the ''Housing for the 21st Century Act''; H.R. 1078, the ''Respect State Housing Laws Act''; H.R. 4646, the ''Whistleblower Protection Act of 2025''; H.R. 6541, the ''Regulation A+ Improvement Act of 2025''; H.R. 4130, the ''Small Business Relief Act''; and H.R. 3959, the ''Protecting Private Job Creators Act''. H.R. 6536, H.R. 6547, H.R. 6555, H.R. 6556, H.R. 6554, H.R. 6550, H.R. 6570, H.R. 6546, H.R. 6553, H.R. 1181, H.R. 6551, H.R. 6544, H.R. 6552, H.R. 5577, H.R. 6644, H.R. 1078, H.R. 4646, H.R. 6541, H.R. 4130, and H.R. 3959 were ordered reported, as amended.

MEXICO'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE REGION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Western Hemisphere Subcommittee held a hearing entitled ''Mexico's Relationships with the Region''. Testimony was heard from Katherine Dueholm, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State; and Chris Landberg, Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State.

THE QUANTUM, AI, AND CLOUD LANDSCAPE: EXAMINING OPPORTUNITIES, VULNERABILITIES, AND THE FUTURE OF CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection; and Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability held a joint hearing entitled ''The Quantum, AI, and Cloud Landscape: Examining Opportunities, Vulnerabilities, and the Future of Cybersecurity''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A SCOURGE AGAINST HUMANITY: ADDRESSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT MASS GATHERINGS

Committee on Homeland Security: Task Force on Enhancing Security for Special Events in the United States held a hearing entitled ''A Scourge Against Humanity: Addressing Human Trafficking at Mass Gatherings''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT WITH CONGRESS

Committee on House Administration: Subcommittee on Modernization and Innovation held a hearing entitled ''The Future of Constituent Engagement with Congress''. Testimony was heard from Beth Simone Noveck, Chief AI Strategist, New Jersey; Ken Ward, Director, House Digital Services, Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives; and public witnesses.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES: CONFRONTING ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled ''Protecting Consumers and Businesses: Confronting Organized Retail Crime''. Testimony was

heard from Summer Stephan, District Attorney, San Diego County; and public witnesses.

THE IMPACTS OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement held a hearing entitled ''The Impacts of Temporary Protected Status''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1897, the ''ESA Amendments Act of 2025''; H.R. 4284, the ''Small Cemetery Conveyance Act''; H.R. 5103, the ''Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act''; and H.R. 5910, to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes. H.R. 5103 and H.R. 1897 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 4284 and H.R. 5910 were ordered reported, without amendment.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Member Day''. Testimony was heard from Representatives McCormick, Taylor, Tlaib, and Foster.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2026: STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled ''Water Resources Development Act of 2026: Stakeholder Priorities''. Testimony was heard from Noel Hacegaba, Chief Operating Officer, Port of Long Beach, California; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

HEALTHCARE INCENTIVES

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine realigning healthcare incentives to improve outcomes and reduce costs, after receiving testimony from Brooks Tingle, John Hancock, Boston, Massachusetts; Ed Clarke, Banner Health Plans and Network, Phoenix, Arizona; Avik S. Roy, The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, Austin, Texas; and Matthew Fiedler, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled ''Examining the Impact of EPA's CERCLA Designation for Two PFAS Chemistries and Potential Policy Responses to Superfund Liability Concerns.'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6260, the ''Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act''; H.R. 5213, the ''Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act''; H.R. 5625, the ''Cashless Bail Reporting Act''; H.R. 3497, the ''Medal of Sacrifice Act''; H.R. 6719, the ''Combating Online Predators Act of 2025''; H.R. 6732, the ''Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act of 2025''; H.R. 6715, the ''Child Predators Accountability Act of 2025''; H.R. 6622, the ''Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2025''; and H.R. 2641, to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to require all Federal contractors to participate in the E-verify program, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, December 18, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled ''Research Security: Examining the Implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act and NSPM–33'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6422, the ''American Water Stewardship Act''; H.R. 6267, the ''Aviation Supply Chain Safety and Security Digitization Act of 2025''; H.R. 5663, the ''ACPAC Modernization Act''; H.R. 6427, the ''Airport Regulatory Relief Act of 2025''; H.R. 6460, the ''Recreational Drone Empowerment Act''; H.R. 6086, the ''Aviation Funding Solvency Act''; H.R. 3410, the ''Supersonic Aviation Modernization Act''; H.R. 5783, the ''State Actions for Employing Transportation Risk Assessments and Crossing Knowledge Strategies (SAFE TRACKS) Act''; H.R. 6480, to direct the Administrator of General Services to submit a report to Congress on the state of the real estate portfolio of the Public Building Service, and for other purposes; H.R. 6481, the ''Federal Building Threat Notification Act''; and General Service Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining the Intelligence Community's use of Commercial Information'', 10 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing is closed.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine Bosnia and Herzegovina at a crossroads, focusing on thirty years after Dayton, 11 a.m., SR–232A.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, December 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the en bloc nominations provided for under S. Res. 532, En Bloc Consideration of Certain Nominations, post-cloture. At 12:00 noon, Senate will vote on passage of S.J. Res. 82, Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act. Following disposition of S.J. Res. 82, Senate will continue consideration of the nominations en bloc.

Additional roll call votes are expected during Thursday's session of the Senate.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, December 18

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 4776—SPEED Act. Consideration of H.R. 1336—Mining Regulatory Clarity Act. Consideration of H.R. 845—Pet and Livestock Protection Act. Consideration of H.R. 498—Do No Harm in Medicaid Act.

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