



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

No. 214

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 18, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CAROL D. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Lord our God, in this time of year when many faith traditions celebrate the gift of divine light in a world of darkness, may we each come to acknowledge that You alone are the source of all light. At creation, when the world was without form and empty of life, when darkness had dominion over the deep, Your spirit hovered over the waters, and You allowed Your light to break through the darkness and give us life.

Try as we may to shed our own light on the issues that trouble us or to dispel the darkness of our disagreements, it is only Your truth that can illuminate our lives and enlighten the way ahead.

When we imagine it is our power that shapes the future, or our knowledge that grants us direction, remind us that it is only by Your blessing that anything we attempt will endure. Enter our lives this day and bring the light of Your salvation into our world in this season.

Grant us renewed awareness that You are the one true light who comes from

above and is above all. Humble us, that You would increase and we would decrease, so that Your light would shine unheeded, and we might receive Your hope and guidance this day and always. In Your eternal name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING UNION COUNTY WEST END FIRE COMPANY

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union County West End Fire Company for 75 years of dedicated service to the community.

Founded in 1950, the Union County West End Fire Company has been an-

swering the call to serve the community and protect their neighbors in times of need. Our volunteer firefighters provide fire, rescue, and EMS services, often balancing it with day jobs and family commitments.

These professionally trained volunteers are the backbone of fire protection and emergency response, especially in our rural communities. They are there in emergency situations like fires, car accidents, medical calls, and disaster response. Their commitment to service and teamwork is second to none.

The Union County West End Fire Company gives back throughout the year, whether it is delivering turkeys to families during the holidays, escorting local sports teams to the final round of playoff games, or celebrating championship wins. They truly are the heart of the community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Union County West End Fire Company on 75 years of outstanding service.

HONORING CARL ROSEN

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl Rosen, one of the legendary architects of working-class power in Chicago.

As president of the United Electrical Workers, Carl has always understood that power is never given. It is organized, disciplined, and won.

From the shop floor to the ballot box, he has been instrumental in building real power for working-class communities. A master tactician and negotiator, he knows when to apply pressure, when to build alliances, and when to move decisively.

From the Republic Windows fight to other moments that shaped Chicago's political order, Carl has been a steady

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

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



Printed on recycled paper.

H6027

presence, helping working people secure monumental victories.

I am proud to call Carl a friend and one of my closest and most trusted advisers. To some, he is a strategist, and to others, he is an organizer. I think he is a faithful interpreter of working-class power and a whisperer of the proletariat. To Carl, here is to our legacy years.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT WILLIAM HOWARD AND SERGEANT EDGAR TORRES-TOVAR

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

Mrs. HINSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a profound sense of loss.

Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard of Marshalltown and Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar of Des Moines were killed in action by ISIS terrorists while serving on a counterterrorism mission in Syria.

Yesterday, I had the solemn honor of attending the dignified transfer of these fallen heroes. No words can fully capture the weight of that moment or the depth of gratitude that we owe these heroes and their families.

Mothers and fathers should never have to bury their children. Our hearts are broken for these Gold Star families.

My husband, Matt, and I are mourning alongside you, and we join Americans across the country asking our Lord to hold close the families of the fallen. Watch over our troops, and bless our military families.

Sergeant Howard and Sergeant Torres-Tovar represent the very best of Iowa, and they will forever be remembered as heroes.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN "FOOTY" KROSS

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend and south Florida icon, the legendary John "Footy" Kross, who we lost on December 13, 2025.

Footy helped wake up south Florida for more than 30 years on the Y100 Morning Show, and his commitment to community was second to none.

Footy was a mainstay in the south Florida community, a passionate anti-drug crusader, and an incurable chicken wing junkie.

Originally, he created Footy's Wing Ding, a chicken wing eating competition, as a fundraiser to aid Here's Help, a not-for-profit organization that assists adults and children with substance abuse addictions.

Although the event began mainly as a competition to crown the maker of south Florida's best chicken wings, it

evolved over the years into a popular spot for pop music's hottest stars.

Each year, Footy's Wing Ding brought a host of celebrities to south Florida to raise thousands of dollars for charity, from Here's Help to the Sun Sentinel-WB Television Channel 39 Children's Fund, and many others.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor his life and service to our community. There was no one with better humor or good nature than Footy. I know I speak for countless south Floridians when I say I will miss his friendship, voice, and advocacy. May his memory be for a blessing.

□ 0910

CONGRATULATING RAINES HIGH SCHOOL VIKINGS

(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, throughout history, Vikings were known as fearless explorers and warriors who never backed down from a challenge. That same spirit lives on in Jacksonville, Florida, where Raines High School Vikings have written their own chapter of triumph by capturing Florida's Class 3A State football championship in dramatic fashion.

In a thrilling 23-22 comeback victory over Miami Northwestern, the Vikings showed resilience, sealing the win—get this, Madam Speaker—with a touchdown pass with just 10 seconds to spare.

This remarkable finish marks the fourth State title in the proud history of the Raines football program. This victory is a testament to the hard work and fighting spirit of these student athletes. Unlike the Vikings of old, they emerged triumphant through teamwork, preparation, and heart.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Raines High School. Jacksonville is very proud.

KEEPING HEALTHCARE AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to warn my colleagues of the pending healthcare crisis that Congress is allowing to happen. As Sergeant Friday used to say: "Just the facts, ma'am."

I am speaking on behalf of the facts that are impacting the people of the San Joaquin Valley in California, the bread basket that puts food on America's dinner table every night.

Yesterday, my colleagues on the other side passed a partisan bill that fails to renew the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits that help over 24 million American families afford coverage.

In my district, over 65,000 families risk losing Medicaid. Another 22,000

families face higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs. This also impacts the hospitals and healthcare clinics which provide that important care, especially in rural areas. By the way, that is also jobs.

Congress has a responsibility to prevent families from being priced out of the healthcare market. That is the bottom line. There is a bipartisan solution ready to go. Instead, we are going home for the holidays. We are not addressing the issue.

Madam Speaker, I will not be leaving town until we bring this measure to the floor. Every American deserves reliable and afford healthcare.

REMEMBERING WEST ORANGE-STARK COACH DAN HOOKS

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we remember Coach Dan Hooks, a legend in Texas high school football and a man who just meant so much more to his community than just wins and trophies.

For nearly 30 years at West Orange-Stark High School, Coach Hooks showed up every single day for his players. He pushed them. He believed in them. He held them to a higher standard.

Yes, there were championships and unforgettable Friday night lights. What really mattered happened beyond the scoreboard: the lessons about teamwork, discipline, and doing things the right way.

Coach Hooks wasn't just preparing young men for football games. He was preparing them for life. Long after the cheers faded and the stadium lights went dark, those lessons stayed with them and carried on for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, his influence reached far beyond the field. It is why this community will always carry his name with pride. Coach Dan Hooks built men, built a program, and built a legacy that will live on in West Orange for generations.

SPEEDING UP FLOW OF FEMA DOLLARS

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

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, this week I introduced the FEMA Administrative Reform Act to accelerate the delivery of Federal disaster recovery aid to western North Carolina.

All year, President Trump and his administration have continued to withhold aid and politicize disaster relief. In June, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem implemented a policy requiring her personal approval of any contract above \$100,000, including FEMA disaster aid reimbursements. This result

has been delay after delay and local communities waiting endlessly for the aid they desperately need.

Madam Speaker, my bill would reverse this disastrous policy and speed up the flow of Federal dollars to western North Carolina and communities across the country. It is clear that Congress needs to take action. Our people need the relief that Congress approved over a year ago.

RECOGNIZING SHARON MURPHY

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Murphy of Horseheads, New York, a truly special public servant from New York's southern tier. For more than 15 years, Sharon served the people of New York's 23rd Congressional District with professionalism, compassion, and a genuine heart for service.

She was a steady presence in our community, serving three consecutive Members of Congress, and always putting the people first. Known for her kindness and reliability, Sharon often worked behind the scenes to help families through their most difficult moments. She took great pride in managing our service academy nominations, helping young men and women take their first steps toward a career serving this Nation.

As Sharon Murphy enters her retirement, I will miss having her on my staff. I will miss her. My staff will miss her. My community will miss her.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Sharon Murphy for her outstanding service and in wishing her every happiness in this next chapter of her life.

COUNTING BLESSINGS AND CELEBRATING LIGHT OVER DARKNESS

(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, I try to slow down at this time of the year, a season of giving thanks, coming together, and counting blessings. It is a season, regardless of one's faith—maybe really because of all of our faith traditions—to celebrate light, light over darkness.

For 75 years, my community of Abington, Pennsylvania, has hosted an interfaith Thanksgiving service. This year, hundreds gathered at Temple Beth Am, warmly welcomed by Rabbi Robert Leib.

Pastors and priests, rabbis and imams, we were young and old, faith leaders and civic leaders, and what was clear from the readings and beautiful song is our different faiths have so much more in common. It is a common call to lift one another, welcome the

stranger, feed the hungry, mourn with those who mourn, to love one another, price peace over conflict, and recognize our common humanity. It is "Tikkun olam"; "repair the world."

This season, as we have come by a way we did not know to the end of another year, I am counting blessings and focusing on the light.

□ 0920

HONORING GLENN MILLER

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

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of the Grijalva team who has served this great institution since 2003.

Glenn Miller was a trusted source of wisdom, institutional knowledge, and a sounding board to my father, Congressman Raul Grijalva.

Throughout his more than two decades of public service in Washington, Glenn brought a mix that is hard to find: brutal honesty and unrelenting compassion.

His frank insight was instrumental for the House Natural Resources Committee, including flagship efforts such as the Donald McEachin Environmental Justice for All Act and the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

During complex negotiations, Glenn was the reason that every voice was heard. His leadership produced enduring reforms that will impact generations and continue to inspire Federal policies that promise a cleaner, fairer future where every community enjoys clean air, clean water, open space, and economic opportunity.

I thank Glenn for standing by my dad's side for 37 years and for all he has done for me and my entire family. We love Glenn.

STANDARDIZING PERMITTING AND EXPEDITING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4776.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 951 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4776.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0920

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the 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, with Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act.

The SPEED Act is a focused, bipartisan effort to restore common sense and accountability to Federal permitting by reforming the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

When Congress passed NEPA in 1969, it did so with the best of intentions. It directed Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of major Federal actions.

Unfortunately, what was meant to facilitate responsible development has been twisted into a bureaucratic bottleneck that delays investments in the infrastructure and technologies that make our country run.

The first Trump administration found that the average NEPA environmental impact statement between 2013 and 2018 totaled 575 pages and took 4.7 years to complete. A quarter of them took 6 years or more, a glacial pace that costs the economy more than \$100 billion a year.

Madam Chair, what reward do project sponsors get for persevering through this slog? Too often, a gauntlet of premeditated, predatory lawsuits. Nationally, NEPA is the most litigated environmental statute. According to the Breakthrough Institute, just 10 environmental organizations are responsible for 35 percent of all NEPA lawsuits. On average, it takes over 4 years to resolve NEPA-related litigation on environmental impact statements. I doubt there is a single Member of the House who has not heard of a NEPA horror story from a family construction company or a local official back home. Today, the word "NEPA" is more synonymous with red tape and waste than genuine environmental protection. The SPEED Act would restore

NEPA to its original aim of intentional, sustainable economic development.

The legislation fixes three major problems that, over the decades, have turned NEPA into a bureaucratic black hole.

First, it restricts NEPA lawsuits to parties who are actually impacted by a project, aligning judicial remedies with the procedural nature of NEPA, while establishing reasonable filing deadlines to prevent litigation from being used as an indefinite delay tactic.

Second, it clarifies what projects must go through NEPA, ensuring that only projects with significant Federal involvement trigger review.

Third, it codifies and strengthens key aspects of the Supreme Court's *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County* decision from this past May, clarifying the scope of environmental review under NEPA.

The SPEED Act is project neutral. Its reforms will ensure a fair, predictable process and a level playing field for Federal projects across all agencies and industries.

It is also timely. The United States' energy demand is projected to rise by 35 to 50 percent by 2040. Data centers alone could see their energy consumption triple in the next 5 years. The electricity that we will need to power AI computing for civilian and military use is a national imperative. Every day, NEPA red tape is becoming more and more of an obstacle to American security and prosperity.

By restoring NEPA to its original intent, the SPEED Act will expedite infrastructure projects, bring down prices, and help Americans realize the energy dominance and mineral abundance that our natural resources promise.

That is why a coalition of more than 300 industry associations, businesses, and trade groups from all 50 States and Puerto Rico support this legislation. They know the SPEED Act means jobs, fairness, growth, and a safer, more affordable future.

Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Maine (Mr. GOLDEN) for his partnership in this effort. I also thank the many Members from across the aisle who have engaged in a productive manner to develop and improve this legislation.

Madam Chair, the SPEED Act will deliver the energy and infrastructure that Americans need. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is our last day in session before Republicans close up shop and send everyone home for a couple of weeks.

The majority could be using this time to do something, such as provide actual solutions to the healthcare cliff that the country is about to go off of, address the affordable cost of all manner of goods and utilities that have been set in motion by their wrong-

headed policies, but no. Instead of doing anything to help Americans make ends meet, we are here on the floor giving more gifts to Big Oil, multibillion-dollar foreign mining corporations, and specialty interests like the NRA.

I guess merry Christmas to all of them and a big lump of coal for everyone else.

To no one's surprise, Republicans have been working all year on handouts to Big Oil that were written for and by the oil and gas industry. The first bill up on our Christmas list is for polluters. It has been at the top of their wish list for as long as I have been in this Congress. It is the SPEED Act, which is being sold to us as permitting reform, and a spoiler alert: It is not permitting reform.

The bill takes a sledgehammer to the National Environmental Policy Act, one of our foundational environmental laws.

NEPA was enacted in 1970 on a bipartisan basis to require Federal agencies to do something that seems very basic: to understand the consequences of their actions and to listen to the affected American communities before approving major proposed projects. It is often described as telling agencies that they need to look before they leap.

Madam Chair, I am not opposed to reforms to make NEPA and other laws work better and to make it more efficient, especially for the build-out of the stuff we need: clean energy and essential infrastructure. However, we can do that while maintaining appropriate environmental protections, respecting Tribal consultation, and protecting community input. The SPEED Act does great damage to all of those things.

Instead, it abandons transparency and accountability, while ignoring the single biggest permitting problem facing the energy sector right now: the Trump administration's all-out war against wind and solar, which includes a total refusal to permit these projects.

From the beginning, Democrats across Capitol Hill have expressed a willingness to negotiate on permitting reform, including changes to NEPA, but the first thing we needed to see was an end to the crazy, arbitrary war on clean energy that is needlessly driving up energy costs for millions of Americans.

I hope you will just take a look at the spaghetti mess behind me because this is what Republicans have done to the permitting process for wind and solar projects.

On July 15, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum signed a memo listing 69 individual actions that require his personal sign-off. Of course, this requirement only applies to wind and solar projects, not to fossil fuels.

However, I will name just a few of the things that now require Secretary Burgum to pause his global tour promoting fossil fuels all over the world

and give personal sign-off. If you need a temporary use permit for anything, if you need a national trail system impact evaluation, or if you need visual impact analysis, the Secretary of the Interior himself has to take a look at what you are proposing and sign off—69 times if you want to actually get a permit for a wind and solar project.

□ 0930

This is madness. Since the memo's enactment, there has been only one single solar project all year long that has been approved. It was just yesterday, and it happened only after heavy lobbying from the Republican Governor of Nevada, who told the Department of the Interior that it wasn't just that project, that there are actually 33 gigawatts of solar and storage projects that are in limbo right now because of this logjam that they have created, and that they are going to be key to supporting affordable, reliable energy to meet increased load growth.

To be clear, this is just one project that has made it through the gauntlet. It was fully approved, by the way, under the Biden administration, but then the Trump folks came along and put the brakes on that project.

That is where we are. That is the context for this conversation, where my friends across the aisle claim to care so much about an efficient permitting process.

I think most Republicans would agree, at least privately I think they would agree, that wind and solar are essential parts of the energy mix, despite the President's war against them.

That is why, at markup, Chair WESTERMAN did incorporate a few Democratic ideas that at least attempted to provide some permitting certainty for projects of all kinds. Now, those amendments didn't come anywhere close to actually providing certainty for wind and solar projects in the face of the administration's crazy war on clean energy. The amendment would not get clean energy permits moving again, and it did nothing to help projects that the administration had already pulled the plug on.

Even that largely cosmetic step was too much for the Freedom Caucus, and so they struck again. They demanded that the Committee on Rules attach language to further stall clean energy permitting and to make it even easier for the Trump administration to continue blocking wind and solar projects in order to bring the SPEED Act to the floor today. That was the condition for our being here, debating this bill on the floor right now.

A bad bill got worse, so bad that the American Clean Power Association pulled its support, joining the Solar Energy Industries Association in opposing the bill. For months, we heard from Chair WESTERMAN exhibit A for why Democrats should feel comfortable supporting this bill: The American Clean Power Association supports it. That support has now curdled into opposition.

Mr. Chair, do you know who still supports it? The American Petroleum Institute and the Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity, which put out a statement immediately after the Freedom Caucus made the bill worse to announce their great affection and support for this bill.

The bill has lost any claim for advancing tech-neutral energy policy, if it ever had one. Trust me when I say that even if the House passes this bill today, it is going nowhere in the Senate. What a missed opportunity to tackle a serious issue that Democrats were very interested in working on in good faith to find some solutions for.

Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I am glad my colleague across the aisle is so good at reading the mind of the Senate, but I know this legislation has bipartisan support in the House and the Senate. We have over 375 organizations from all industries in all 50 States that support this legislation.

Also, I think my friend made the case for why we need the SPEED Act. If we want to stop administrative ping-pong, then Congress has to act. The SPEED Act is the bill to give us permit certainty so that we can build all across our country in all different segments.

One area of the country that has been adversely affected by bad permitting is in northern Minnesota, the home of my friend, Mr. STAUBER, whose district has a lot of mining resources that can't be tapped because of permitting restraints and administrative ping-pong.

Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), who is the chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4776, which I am proud to cosponsor.

I want to begin by commending two of my good friends, Republican Chairman BRUCE WESTERMAN of the Committee on Natural Resources and Democratic Representative JARED GOLDEN, for their work in developing a sensible, bipartisan, and balanced permitting reform package that will allow us to build all kinds of important projects around this great country.

Our permitting system is broken and has been broken for a long while. It is almost as if our current permitting system is designed to block projects rather than build them. This is something that all of us on both sides of the aisle should be able to agree on.

The bill before us today is not designed to cut corners or weaken our permitting system. It doesn't weaken environmental standards like the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, or Endangered Species Act, which are the bases of our environmental protection here in the United States. This legislation is simply meant to address NEPA, which I would like to remind my colleagues is a process statute.

NEPA has been weaponized for over half a century, virtually from day one.

In fact, the first lawsuit utilized to block a project under NEPA was filed mere weeks after the statute was signed into law. Since then, NEPA has created a cottage industry for attorneys who have made a living suing to block good projects.

The bill before us today is meant to streamline the NEPA process and close the loopholes that are constantly used to block good projects—projects that we need to modernize our infrastructure, ensure we have clean water, generate the energy that drives our economy, access critical minerals we need to compete on the world stage, and so much more.

Thanks to NEPA and our broken permitting system, it takes 29 years, on average, to permit and build a new mine in the United States. That is not okay.

I don't think a day goes by that I don't hear from a constituent about their permitting woes, and I figure that is probably the case for most of my colleagues in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle.

In northern Minnesota, the issue of permitting is particularly acute. Not only is our broken permitting system used to block important critical mining projects like Twin Metals, NewRange, and Talon, but it is also used to block simple core infrastructure projects that we can all agree on, like water infrastructure or roads and bridges.

In northern Minnesota, our cold winters lead us to having a short construction window, much shorter than the rest of the country. When a water infrastructure project or a road or bridge project gets delayed, and they miss that construction window, it delays the project months and adds hundreds of thousands of dollars to the project.

Mr. Chair, do you know who pays those costs? The local taxpayer, not those who are weaponizing loopholes in our permitting system to block necessary projects.

Our constituents have had to deal with the shortfalls of our broken permitting system for far too long, and it is about time we address it.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to address this bill.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I need to provide some translation services for those who may not be fluent in Orwellian distortion.

When my colleague says that this legislation only deals with NEPA, that it doesn't touch the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, or Endangered Species Act, what that really means is that within the four corners of this particular bill, they are not gutting those other laws. Rest assured, they are working separately to gut those other laws.

In fact, just last week, Republicans attacked longstanding Clean Water Act protections, and just yesterday, the Committee on Natural Resources had a markup that advanced their legislation to gut the Endangered Species Act.

For those who want to see a complete annihilation of environmental protections across the board, rest assured, our Republican friends are doing that, just not all of it within the four corners of this bill.

There is another translation that I think is needed. We heard from my friend from Arkansas that they want to end the administrative ping-pong process. What they really mean by that, if we actually read this bill, is that they want the 69 individual steps that Secretary Burgum has imposed on all solar and wind projects to remain in place. I guess that is not administrative ping-pong, but I think it is an important part of the translation.

Then, finally, we heard that this legislation is about restoring NEPA's original intent, to just be a procedure bill. It is important to understand that NEPA does require procedure, but it requires meaningful procedure for a very important purpose: making sure that government actions consider the impacts of what they are doing and, with transparency and accountability, include communities so we can protect the environment, human health, and other values.

□ 0940

When you strip all of that out and leave NEPA as a box-checking exercise, which is what this bill is, that is not preserving the original intent of NEPA.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL).

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Chair, because of the Trump administration's policies, families in my district and districts across the country are struggling to afford their heating and electricity bills. Yes, we need more transmission and clean energy projects, and it is true that the permitting process is making that more difficult.

But how can anyone think that this administration, the Trump administration, is a good-faith partner in permitting reform? They have fired Federal workers and illegally canceled funding Congress already approved, including over \$1 billion for clean energy projects in Washington State that had strong community support: a long-anticipated hydrogen hub in the south sound, solar projects across the State and the country, and freight and drayage improvements in the trucking industry that would lower the cost of goods and decrease our environmental impact.

We could have been lowering costs, and we could have done it in partnership with environmental leaders, community leaders, and the leaders of Tribal nations. Tribes deserve to be meaningfully consulted on projects that affect their lands, water, and resources, no exceptions.

That is why I offered two amendments: one, to give Tribes sufficient time to engage in the permitting process, and then another to ensure the offshore oil and gas drilling projects, rubber-stamped by H.R. 1, July's big, ugly

law, still have to consider community feedback.

Republicans blocked my amendments, which is why I am voting “no” on the SPEED Act, a bill that doesn’t address the challenges my neighbors are experiencing.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ).

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Chair, the purpose of process is to create a predictable sequence of steps to achieve an outcome consistent with substantive law. When process is allowed to intrude, the purpose of the law itself is perverted.

As philosopher Franz Kafka described it, the process becomes punishment. You aren’t guilty or innocent yet. You are simply processed until you run out of money, time, or sanity.

Procedure exists to serve substantive rights, not to supplant them. As the Supreme Court stated in the Seven County case: NEPA is a purely procedural statute, not a mandate for a particular result.

This bill, H.R. 4776, is designed to create sideboards on process so that rote compliance is no longer the purpose of what we are about but instead we focus on progress for this Nation.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of this bill.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4776, the SPEED Act.

For more than 50 years, the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, as it is called, has been the bedrock of conservation law and preserved the environment, human health, and the people’s voice in policy decisions.

The SPEED Act would limit the public review process and, quite frankly, would undermine the original intent of NEPA. I do understand the need to complete permitting and the Federal decisionmaking process more quickly than is happening, but we cannot do so at the cost of public input and transparency.

I happen to know. I happen to have lived with the original author of NEPA. What he did when this was passed—and this is called the Magna Carta of environmental laws around the world—is make sure that when something is going into someone’s community, the public has a right to input.

Now, I said yesterday, I told my chair: This isn’t the Ten Commandments. We should work together and try to make it better, but not at the expense of the public.

One of the most significant causes of permitting delays is limited capacity at the agencies that handle NEPA reviews. The SPEED Act does nothing to address recent cuts to staffing and funding at these agencies, which is going to further slow down project permitting.

I remain open to working on a bipartisan permitting reform, but it must be

done to protect the original intent of NEPA.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote “no” on H.R. 4776.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the majority leader.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the SPEED Act and the work that Chairman WESTERMAN and a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress have done to bring a bill to the floor that actually focuses on letting us build things in America again, and, by the way, to lower the cost of those projects that we want to bring.

In the past, you would see years. Recently, it takes 10 years or longer to build things that used to take only 2 years. Why? Not because of trying to push things to the side.

This bill still requires, Mr. Chair, that we comply with all the State and local laws that are in place. We still would have to comply with Federal laws that are in place. But what it does is it finally brings common sense by cutting red tape, Mr. Chair, red tape that dramatically increases the costs and, in some cases, just makes it economically unfeasible to do projects, to build roads, to build bridges, to build pipelines to move energy, to lower costs for families, to build housing. This bill will allow us to bring more affordable housing to the marketplace in an environmentally protected way, by the way. Those laws are still in place, but they just can’t be abused as has been the case over decades.

When the law was created in the 1960s, the intent was never that NEPA would be used to stop projects. It would be that you would review these projects like you review any other laws, like the Endangered Species Act, which unfortunately has been heavily abused, too—we are going to reform that as well—and all of the other laws that are so abused to stop projects from being built in America.

Some people say why can some of these other countries build a road or a bridge in 16 months and it takes us 10 years to do it in America? It is because we have allowed these laws like NEPA to become so heavily abused, where people who have no relation to the project can file lawsuit after lawsuit that have nothing to do with the project. They just want to slow down and stop the project. How about we bring common sense back into permitting. That is what the SPEED Act does.

Again, do these people not trust the States that still have to permit at the local and State level, along with all of the other Federal permits that need to take place?

We used to build things in America at rapid speed. We can do it again, and we will do it again with the SPEED Act. Let’s allow America to do all the great innovative things it used to do.

Look at AI, what artificial intelligence is allowing us to bring. But we

need to upgrade our electricity system. We need to build more power plants, not just for families but for innovation. It is almost impossible to do if we don’t reform some of these outdated regulations that have been abused. Everybody knows they have been abused. Until we update our laws, we are not going to be able to build things again in America in a timely way.

Let’s get things done in 2 years, not 10 years or never. Many of these projects get shelved, just never get built. Really, they do get built. They get built in other countries because our laws haven’t been updated the way they need to be, to allow us to build things again in an economical way.

Lower the cost of building houses in America. Lower the cost of building roads and bridges in America. Lower the cost of building energy projects in America while still respecting environmental laws but just removing the red tape that is killing our ability to innovate.

This is a great bill that needs to happen. I am so glad Chairman WESTERMAN did the work to build a bipartisan coalition to get things done in America again. Let’s get the SPEED Act passed, Mr. Chair.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, for nearly 20 years, electricity demand in the U.S. has barely moved, but that era is over.

Today, we are facing a potential for electricity demand to grow up to fivefold. Meeting this energy demand will be a challenge. The environmental laws of the 1970s were built for defense, but the environmental imperative of today is to build, and that is why we need permitting reform.

□ 0950

However, that doesn’t just mean building pipelines and gas plants but also wind, utility-scale solar, and interregional high voltage electric transmission, all of the above. Like President Obama used to say, all of the above and like my Republican colleagues used to openly say at least before November of last year.

I was glad to see Chair WESTERMAN introduce and advance the SPEED Act. Reforming NEPA, the most litigated environmental law on the books, is necessary if we are going to make America competitive and if we are going to protect our environment.

There are many important reforms in this bill, and I want to note that. That is why earlier this month I led a letter with 30 of my Democratic colleagues, outnumbering the members of the Freedom Caucus we saw on the floor this week, but explaining our support for reform and exactly what we needed to get more Democrats to “yes” on SPEED.

At the top of that list is permitting certainty, which the ranking member has already mentioned. Mr. Chair, if

you apply for a permit for a project that complies with the law, then you should be able to get that permit, and you should be able to rely on it.

Thoughtful permitting reforms, many of which are in the SPEED Act, are meaningless if the executive branch is allowed to revoke issued permits for no good reason, or if the permitting process can be subjected to political gamesmanship.

The language added to the SPEED Act at markup would have restricted some of the political interference with issued permits, and that was a great start to solving the problem. It wasn't everything we needed, but it was a lot. I was confident that a bipartisan bill was well within reach.

I was really disappointed this week that some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, after seeing that good bipartisan progress, decided to force this bill in the other direction this week to satisfy grievances and score political points instead of doing what is best for the country. An all-of-the-above energy strategy is what we were after. That took a big hit this week.

Giving Donald Trump, or any President, the ability to decide what gets permitting reform, which would be the effect of the partisan amendment added to the SPEED Act behind closed doors, significantly reduces certainty for investment in America.

That provision codifies a broken permitting status quo, instead of setting a level playing for everyone. Energy producers, investors, and communities want to know that investment in America, regardless of the electrons powering that investment, is safe from the swing of the political pendulum, and, unfortunately, that goal has not yet been achieved.

We need to get permitting reform done in this Congress. I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle in the Senate to craft a bipartisan product that could become law. This is not the final draft. I think there is more we can do.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), who is on the Natural Resources Committee and is also the chair of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, as the Member who represents one-half of NEPA's original author's district, I rise in strong support of the SPEED Act. This bipartisan, commonsense legislation will streamline our permitting process, making it faster, more predictable, and more accountable.

Currently, our broken permitting process delays critical energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing projects for years. This not only hurts workers but raises costs for hardworking families and makes us more dependent on foreign countries, including our adversaries.

In Michigan, we need access to reliable energy to meet our growing demands, increase affordability, and help us compete. However, these essential projects can't move forward if our permitting process is holding us back.

The SPEED Act addresses these issues by streamlining reviews, setting clear timelines, and improving coordination across agencies.

Mr. Chair, this legislation helps us build again in this country, from energy projects to manufacturing facilities. America is entering a golden age of energy dominance thanks to President Trump's policies and the Working Families Tax Cuts that Republicans passed earlier this year.

The SPEED Act builds on this progress by cutting bureaucratic red tape, bringing back good-paying jobs and revitalizing our infrastructure and energy sectors.

We must restore common sense to our permitting process so we can unleash American energy and lower costs for hardworking Michiganders.

For all those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes." Michigan will thank you.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I am a strong proponent of elimination of unnecessary regulations and of permitting reform, but this bill doesn't streamline permitting. It blindfolds the agencies meant to protect us and our natural resources.

Under this legislation, the agencies could not consider new science, even from the project applicant; conduct new environmental reviews; or assess indirect, let alone cumulative, impacts.

This anti-fact, anti-science administration would rather live in denial than understand the full impact that these projects could have on our health.

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court ruled on a case in my home State of Colorado. A 100-mile crude oil train route along the Colorado River was approved despite local objections and Federal estimates that spills would occur once every 5 years. The court said that agencies did not need to consider these downstream impacts.

This ruling alone is alarming, but the bill goes farther by outright preventing agencies from considering those factors.

This law says that ignorance is bliss. That is why I offered an amendment to widen the scope of review to ensure that agencies weigh all relevant facts and subsequent consequences. If we have information, then we should use it. Republicans refused to accept that amendment in the Rules Committee.

Rather than supporting agencies with the funding and staffing they need to process applications faster, Republicans just want them to look the other way.

Most Americans believe any job worth doing is worth doing right, even

if it takes a little more time. However, cutting corners today means that we are going to have to clean up disasters tomorrow, and those costs won't fall on us, Mr. Chairman. They will fall on the communities we are supposed to protect.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. STUTZMAN). The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTZ) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 66. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 1071.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1071) "An Act 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."

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

S. 2393. An act 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.

S. 2503. An act to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance—Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

S. 3436. An act 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.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), as amended by Public Law 118-159, the Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy:

The Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), as amended by Public Law 118-159, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy:

The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) (Appropriations).

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

STANDARDIZING PERMITTING AND EXPEDITING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY).

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4776, the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act, known as the SPEED Act, introduced by my colleague from Arkansas, Chairman WESTERMAN.

Federal permitting under NEPA has strangled economic development and delayed critical projects. What should take months takes years, and what should be straightforward becomes bureaucratic maze.

The core purpose of this bill is to restore NEPA to its original purpose as a procedural statute intended to ensure agencies look at alternatives and focus on real proximate environmental effects rather than speculative, politically motivated hypotheticals.

The key reforms that will help bring that about are that it prevents completed environmental reports from being undone without a court order. It creates litigation timelines and requires substantive public comment in order to establish standing for litigation.

The way NEPA is being implemented now and has been implemented for the last several years wastes taxpayer time and money. What was intended to make sure Federal agencies are being thoughtful and looking at multiple alternatives before they make important decisions on behalf of the American people has turned into a bureaucratic boondoggle that isn't serving the American people.

These reforms are especially critical for rural States with a large Federal footprint like Utah. It rebalances the scales in favor of local voices, working families, and economic opportunities.

These changes help all Americans. All Americans are going to be benefited by upgraded infrastructure, increased energy production, and less wasted time and money.

This isn't about lowering environmental standards, but it is about eliminating redundancy and bureaucratic paralysis. It represents reforms Americans have been demanding: practical solutions that cut red tape while maintaining environmental protections that we all appreciate.

It is time for some predictability, consistency, and efficiency in government decisions. I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for meeting the need of our time which is a need for speed.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. The time for action is now, and we must give the American people the effective government that we all deserve.

□ 1000

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I support the SPEED Act because it fixes something that people back home understand instinctively: It

takes too long to build anything in this country—water infrastructure, roads, power lines, housing, or energy projects. When it takes just a decade to get a permit, families pay more, and America falls behind.

NEPA was meant to ensure that agencies look before they act, not to function as a litigation strategy to stop reasonable projects. Today, it too often stalls projects and advantages competitors like China.

The SPEED Act restores common sense. It focuses on real impacts, ends endless delays, and brings predictability back to permitting. Just as important for me as chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, it respects Tribal reviews and was developed with Tribal consultation to ensure that NEPA does not block Tribal economic development.

This isn't about weakening environmental protections. It is about ending unreasonable delays so America can build again and so we can lower energy costs, build reliable infrastructure, and compete globally.

The SPEED Act is balanced reform, and it is long overdue. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard over and over again in this debate that this bill is not about lowering environmental standards. This is another one of those rather remarkable inversions, when you actually look at what the bill does.

Entire classes of projects are simply eliminated from environmental review. Entire classes of impacts no longer count in an environmental review under this proposed legislation. Certain types of comments that allow people to take part in the public review process and potentially challenge a project are no longer qualifying for them to be part of the public review and legal challenge process. If that is not lowering environmental standards, I don't know what is.

Another aspect of this bill should be considered specifically: allowing broad exemptions for grants, loans, and other financial assistance, which this bill does. It means that large, federally backed projects could avoid triggering a NEPA review, even when those impacts could be very significant.

This includes projects like many Federal highways, which were one of the original reasons that NEPA was passed, because they often ran right through disadvantaged communities. Those communities didn't even know about the proposed projects, let alone have the ability to require consideration of environmental impacts.

If you just take a look at this image here, this is what happens to transportation projects without NEPA. When we hear that this is not about lowering environmental standards, I think it is important to bring it back to the reality of what this bill would do. This is

what this bill would do: no environmental review process at all for many of these projects.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of modernizing our permitting system through the SPEED Act.

While other nations are rushing to win the AI race, build out energy generation, and modernize infrastructure, America is stuck in the 20th century.

Our Nation's permitting process has been corrupted, morphing from what NEPA was crafted to do into a levathan designed to do what activists and courts want it to do, transforming from a procedural statute into a hammer to block development and innovation.

The resulting lawlessness in the permitting system finally culminated in the Seven County Supreme Court decision, which provided much-needed relief. Simply stated, and as the Court found, there is no reason a rail project should fail because project opponents don't like the commodity that will be shipped on that rail line.

An examination of other lawsuits filed under NEPA confirms the frivolous nature of many of them. In the last decade, circuit courts witnessed a 56 percent increase in NEPA appeals. NGOs instigated over 70 percent of these challenges, with just 10 organizations filing many of those cases. In these cases, agencies won roughly 80 percent of the challenges to both environmental assessments and environmental impact statements.

In other words, agencies are seldom faulted for inadequate environmental review, yet NGOs capitalize on the 6-year statute of limitations to file a lawsuit, slow projects down, increase costs, and finance their organizations through EAJA funds.

In recognition of this reality, and in line with the Seven County decision, this bill clarifies the role of the court over this purely procedural statute, and places shot clocks on when lawsuits must be filed and decided.

The SPEED Act is project agnostic, which I believe is well reflected in its bipartisan nature, and I am proud to be one of its cosponsors.

Permitting impacts every aspect of our economy. When the system is broken, it is broken for everyone. The SPEED Act will provide the certainty that the system currently lacks and which American industries need.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for his strong leadership on this crucial piece of legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we hear it over and over again from the other side: NEPA should just be a purely procedural law.

Well, a lot of really important things are procedural—MRIs, X-rays, any number of things. Those are procedures, but you don't turn the power off and reduce that very important procedure to a meaningless exercise. That is what this legislation would do.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, in Nevada, the Sun shines more than 300 days a year, and solar is among the cheapest and most abundant sources of energy, not only in my State but across the country. That is why I am leading 30 of my colleagues in championing the most supported amendment to the SPEED Act by far to save solar and wind from this administration's war on clean energy.

On July 15, President Trump's Interior Department actively chose to wrap the biggest piece of permitting red tape around the neck of the renewable energy sector that we have ever seen, directing the Interior Secretary to personally sign off on every permit to solar and wind energy.

In just one example from my State, what would have been the largest solar facility in North America, the administration is making that project jump through 69 hoops seven times. That is the opposite of efficient.

Even my State's Republican Governor has said that these actions have "not only stopped solar development on Federal lands in Nevada, but also on private land where Federal approvals . . . are required."

More broadly, this administration's attacks on America's solar and storage industry are threatening over 500 projects that could be powering 16 million homes. Together, these projects represent half of all new planned capacity in the United States.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to the committee.

If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with my important amendment to this bill.

Quite simply, my amendment to the SPEED Act would put an end to this nonsensical political tit for tat and ensure equal treatment for all energy sources as part of the DOI permitting process moving forward.

If we are going to bring down energy bills for everyone, the path forward is obvious. Solar and wind are the clear cheapest choice.

Republicans in Congress are more interested in getting retribution for their corporate donors than bringing down the costs for American families. Let's be clear: They know this isn't right. Even my colleagues who represent States like Texas and Arizona, where energy projects are being held up, are refusing to speak up. They would rather let this reckless administration put its finger on the scale and jack up prices for their constituents than stand up to this President.

Already, families across the country are seeing their electric bills increase

by an average of 13 percent. In States like Florida, that is an average annual increase of about \$400.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. STUTZMAN). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Nevada.

□ 1010

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, every day, more Americans are concerned about huge data centers causing their electric prices to spiral even further out of control. It doesn't have to be this way.

We need to provide real permitting certainty and permitting fairness and let investors, not Washington, pick winners and losers. Under this approach, Americans paying their electric bills each month are the ones who are really losing.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment.

Ms. Lee of Nevada moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4776 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 5. PARITY.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR PARITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that no category or specific type of energy project on Federal land or which requires Federal review is subject to more arbitrarily restrictive or burdensome procedural requirements than other types of energy projects regarding the processing and denial of applications, authorizations, or related approvals, including—

(1) requirements for elevated or discretionary review by the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, other political appointees, or career employees;

(2) additional documentation or review for a category or specific type of energy project not required for all other types of energy projects;

(3) withholding, delaying, or reversing decisions by local, State, or regional entities for a category or specific type of energy project for reasons not applied to all other types of energy projects; and

(4) denial or delay of routine administrative authorizations, such as testing permits, cost recovery agreements, or notices to proceed once all criteria have been met for approval, based on underlying technology.

(b) POLICY REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) review all applicable regulations, guidance documents, policy manuals, departmental directives, Secretarial orders, and other procedures regarding energy projects; and

(2) identify any provision of such regulations, documents, manuals, directives, orders, and procedures not otherwise required in statute that do not comply with the requirements in subsection (a).

(c) RESCISSION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, and without delay, the Secretary of the Interior shall rescind and amend as necessary any provision identified under subsection (b)(2).

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK).

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the SPEED Act.

America's permitting system is broken. Today, an estimated \$1.5 trillion in economic value is tied up in projects waiting for approval, costing our economy roughly \$140 billion every year in lost growth.

Instead of encouraging responsible development, our system too often rewards bad actors driven by ideology rather than legitimate concerns.

Endless litigation has become the single biggest obstacle to building energy, infrastructure, and critical projects in this country. At the same time, energy demand is projected to grow by 50 percent by 2050.

The question is simple: Will we rise to meet that demand? We won't, not with our current permitting process.

The SPEED Act brings commonsense reform. It limits judicial review under NEPA to 150 days. It directs stakeholders to engage during the public comment process and tightens the scope of review, so agencies take a hard look at expected impacts.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. CRANK. The bill allows America to build again, produce energy again, and stop being held hostage by litigious groups content to see jobs and investment move overseas. Permitting reform unleashes American energy and the American economy.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the SPEED Act.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I am glad to hear the gentleman's concern for projects that are awaiting approval, but for the past year, we have seen huge projects that were already approved that were under construction.

In one case, the Revolution Wind project in Rhode Island was 80 percent complete, with thousands of jobs and some of the cheapest electricity that New England would see to bring down these soaring utility bills, and President Trump stepped in and stopped it. They had to get a court to release the hostage, to allow this already approved project to simply move forward. I am always grateful to hear concern for projects awaiting approval.

What this bill does, though, unfortunately, is nothing at all to end the crazy war on clean energy that is killing off projects that have already been approved. Our colleagues really should care about that, too.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, if we want to talk about projects that have been killed by an administration, let's go back to the Biden administration and the Obama administration. Let's

look at projects like the Resolution Copper mine in Superior, Arizona, where they got a permit. They spent \$2 billion, and they have yet to mine an ounce of copper because of NEPA hold-ups.

Let's look at the Twin Metals project in northern Minnesota, where we have one of the largest deposits of copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum, and palladium, all things we need. That has been going back and forth from one administration to the next.

Let's look at the Keystone XL pipeline that was stopped after billions of dollars were spent, and not one drop of oil went through it.

My colleagues are making the case for permitting reform. It just happens to be that we are in a Republican administration now, when they turned a blind eye to what was happening during a Democratic administration.

This is why we need permitting reform.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4776, the SPEED Act.

Mr. Chair, regardless of which sector of our economy you are talking about, whether it be healthcare, technology, or energy, it is always the same when groups come into my office: Permitting and regulations are crushing us.

The SPEED Act is a critical step toward unleashing American energy dominance, bringing supply chains home, and much more. The National Environmental Policy Act is a well-intentioned piece of legislation, but it has created a costly, cumbersome process that has crippled our permitting system.

The SPEED Act will modernize NEPA, and it will help permitting in the U.S. return to what it was originally intended to be. The SPEED Act will establish permitting timelines, and it will cut down on frivolous litigation that is simply meant to delay projects.

Under SPEED, American development will no longer be held hostage by activists and environmental groups simply seeking to profit off of lawsuits.

America needs to update its infrastructure, create new sources of energy, and deploy more broadband and transmission lines. The SPEED Act will help power a new generation of growth in our Nation.

Mr. Chair, I urge the passage of this legislation.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, we just heard a list of projects that were allegedly halted by frivolous litigation, a case study for the SPEED Act.

In fact, many of these are really bad projects, and the examples are often examples of the environmental review process working to protect the environment and protect people.

The Dakota Access Pipeline decision was challenged by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, which won in court be-

cause the Army Corps of Engineers had failed to consider the impact of catastrophic oil spills on the Tribe's water supply and culturally sacred sites.

The Resolution Copper mine was delayed because the proposed mine would, in fact, destroy Oak Flat, the most sacred site for the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Micron chose to build its semiconductor manufacturing facility near federally regulated wetlands and endangered habitat.

I think what we are hearing, unfortunately, is that permitting reform to my friends across the aisle means a green light even for bad and destructive projects. That is not something the American people want to see.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, how about the last runway that was built at the Atlanta airport? It only took 11 years to build it. Actually, it only took 18 months. It took 9.5 years to go through the NEPA permitting process.

These are the kinds of projects we are talking about all across the country that are being adversely affected by a cumbersome permitting process. It is not doing anything extra to help the environment or protect our resources. It is simply a way to stop progress and stop projects from happening.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Chair, I am proud to support the bipartisan SPEED Act today, of which I am a co-sponsor, because, in part, my home State of Colorado is the sixth most heavily regulated State in the country. From affordable housing to affordable energy, it has become virtually impossible to build anything.

The overburdensome Federal permitting process, layered with State regulations, passes on extraordinary costs to Coloradans by adding years of unnecessary delays and millions of dollars to new projects that communities need. In fact, many of the projects require more money to navigate the bureaucratic permitting process than they do for actual construction.

Today, the House will change that and take a significant step toward comprehensive permitting reform by passing this bill. Americans who are worried about the high cost of living should pay attention.

If my colleagues are serious about lowering costs for their constituents, they should support the SPEED Act.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, what about the \$12 billion we put in the reconciliation bill to upgrade our air traffic control system? We are not talking about just permitting energy. We are talking about permitting safety.

Look at how long it takes to build interstate highways and bridges, and the safety effects that happen because those projects are dragged out for so long. It costs so much more money,

and it creates congestion. It creates all kinds of problems.

If we could just move the permitting process more quickly, we could benefit not only from the cost of energy, the cost of transmission, and the cost of raw materials that we can be mining, but we could also improve the safety of our country.

□ 1020

Mr. Chair, we allocated \$12 billion to upgrade the air traffic control system. The Department of Transportation tells me the problem is they can't get a NEPA permit to put fiber-optic cables in air traffic control towers. That is insane when something like an outdated air traffic control system that has funding can't be implemented because we can't get through the NEPA process to run a fiber-optic cable.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Arkansas has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, a lot of numbers have been thrown around on how NEPA takes so very, very long.

Much of this is looking deep into the past and extrapolating from that. I want to correct the RECORD because, as of January 2025, \$1 billion in the Inflation Reduction Act for permitting was actually doing its job quite well. It had helped reduce the median time it takes to complete an Environmental Impact Statement, the most complex environmental review, by 28 percent. That is compared to times under the first Trump administration.

The time was down a little over 2 years in 2024 compared to over 3½ in 2019. That is 1½ years of improvement. Unfortunately, these steps forward have been taken away by our friends across the aisle. We are going in the wrong direction.

Mr. Chair, in closing, the majority had a great opportunity here. Democrats were ready to work with them on meaningful and bipartisan permitting reform. They chose to reject our efforts to engage in good faith. Instead, what we have here is another Christmas giveaway to the wealthiest, most powerful people and companies in the country.

I guess this is the golden age. These are wonderful times. A person can throw Great Gatsby parties if they are a billionaire, if they are one of these very, very rich interest groups.

We should be thinking about everyday Americans right now. Many overburdened communities are saddled with significant pollution. We should think about helping them instead of making it harder for them to challenge projects that threaten the health and environmental damage visited upon their community.

We should also think about rising utility bills, something we hear more and more about in this affordability crisis driven by Republican policies. Yet, our friends across the aisle look the other way as President Trump's crazy war on clean energy drives utility bills higher and higher.

We should work toward a level playing field for clean energy instead of another handout for Big Oil. The American Clean Power Association has pulled its support for this legislation. The bill is opposed by the Solar Energy Industries Association and, of course, countless environmental justice organizations who know this bill will take a wrecking ball to government transparency, to community engagement, and to health and environmental protections.

It didn't have to be this way. This was a terrible missed opportunity, but a bad bill has actually gotten worse through the process and not better.

I strongly oppose the SPEED Act. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, regardless of whether they may have supported this in the past—the bill has gotten worse—to vote “no.”

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, permitting reform in the SPEED Act will help every American by lowering costs and increasing affordability. That is a word that is talked about a lot today, but I think we sometimes forget the question: Why are things not affordable?

When we have to import all of our products, when we can't build new energy plants, and when we can't build public infrastructure projects on budget and on time, things become unaffordable. Now is the time for Congress not just to talk about how we need permitting reform but to actually walk the walk when it comes to helping the families in their districts keep the lights on.

An analysis by Common Good shows that a 6-year delay in construction on public projects like building roads, something I think we all can agree on, costs the U.S. economy \$3.7 trillion.

The SPEED Act is supported by over 375 industry leaders ranging from utility companies and energy producers to homebuilders and domestic manufacturers. These are the industries that will lower everyday costs if we simply allow them to build here in America again. A vote for the SPEED Act is a vote for affordability.

As I close, I want to return to the core principle at the heart of this debate and this legislation. The Federal permitting process should serve our national interests and not obstruct them. Let me say this again. Permitting should serve our national interests and not obstruct our national interests.

NEPA no longer passes the test. It is currently a source of waste, abuse, and predatory litigation. Its unpredict-

ability is fundamentally unfair to the local communities, to working families, and to taxpayers who depend on the infrastructure projects that NEPA obstructs. This has never been more true than today when demand for energy is dramatically spiking.

America is blessed with resources we need for a future of energy dominance and critical mineral abundance. God has blessed America with minerals and with energy, we are just refusing to use them.

Mr. Chair, we are dependent on China for 90 percent of our rare earth and critical minerals. That is not just economic insecurity. That is a national defense issue. They mine 70 percent of those around the world and process and control 90 percent of them.

We have all of them here in America. We refuse to do the permitting, not just to build mines but to build refineries that will create jobs for Americans.

When we mine the materials out of the ground and we process them and put them into manufactured goods, there is a multiplier effect by 28. That is what the USGS and Department of Commerce says. We multiply that value by 28. Think of the good-paying jobs Americans could have if we not only mined here in America but if we refined and manufactured products from those things that we mined.

The SPEED Act is a targeted, bipartisan solution that will restore balance and accountability to the Federal permitting process. It will streamline administrative review and curtail open-ended and dilatory litigation. These are practical, commonsense reforms that, again, I will say have garnered the support of more than 375 business, labor, and nonprofit groups from across the country, from all 50 States and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Chair, we are at a critical point in our country. America has always been a place where we have a can-do attitude. We have always been able to succeed. I like to say we are “Americans.” We are not “Ameri-can’ts.”

The current permitting laws are telling Americans they can't. We can't be innovative. We can't develop. We can't build here. We have to be dependent on somebody else, somewhere else. We can't have the jobs to earn good wages. We can't grow our rural communities because we can't get through the bureaucratic red tape and permitting. The SPEED Act is the first step in doing that.

Mr. Chair, we have to pass this bill. We have to get it to the Senate. We have to work with our Senate colleagues because this is an important time in our country, and this is an important piece of legislation. It is an important issue that affects every American, and today is the day to pass the SPEED Act. I urge my colleagues to support the SPEED Act to get ourselves building again.

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

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources, and the further amendment specified in section 5 of House Resolution 953, printed in the bill, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment and shall be considered as read.

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

H.R. 4776

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 “Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act” or the “SPEED Act”.

SEC. 2. NEPA REFORM.

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 2 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) is amended—

(1) by striking “The purposes” and inserting “(a) The purposes”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) This Act is a purely procedural statute intended to ensure Federal agencies consider the environmental impacts of their actions during the decisionmaking process. This Act does not mandate particular results, and only prescribes a process. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to mandate any specific environmental outcome or result, nor shall this Act be interpreted to confer substantive rights or impose substantive duties beyond procedural requirements.”

(b) PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINATION OF LEVEL OF REVIEW.—Section 106 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “; SCOPE OF REVIEW” after “LEVEL OF REVIEW”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “or”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “action.” and inserting “action.”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) the agency determines the proposed agency action is an action for which such agency's compliance with another statute's requirements serves the function of agency compliance with this Act with respect to such action; or

“(6) the proposed agency action relates to a project or action that has already been reviewed pursuant to a State environmental review statute or a Tribal environmental review statute, ordinance, resolution, regulation, or formally adopted policy and the lead agency determines such review serves the function of agency compliance with this Act.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “does not” and inserting “is not likely to”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) is not required to—

“(i) undertake new scientific or technical research unless the new scientific or technical research is essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives, and the overall costs and time frame of obtaining it are not unreasonable; or

“(ii) undertake new scientific or technical research after the receipt of an application, as applicable, with respect to a proposed agency action.”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—In preparing an environmental document for a proposed agency action, a Federal agency—

“(1) may consider only those effects that share a reasonably close causal relationship to, and are proximately caused by, the immediate project or action under consideration; and

“(2) may not consider effects that are speculative, attenuated from the project or action, separate in time or place from the project or action, or in relation to separate existing or potential future projects or actions.

“(d) CERTAINTY.—

“(1) ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—A Federal agency may not rescind, withdraw, amend, alter, or otherwise render ineffective any environmental document completed under this Act for a project or action where there is an applicant unless the Federal agency has been so ordered by a court or the applicant has agreed in writing to such rescission, withdrawal, amendment, or alteration.

“(2) AUTHORIZATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this subsection or existing law, a Federal agency may not revoke, rescind, withdraw, terminate, suspend, amend, alter, or take any other action to interfere with an authorization unless—

“(i) the Federal agency is required to take such action by order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

“(ii) the holder of the authorization has materially breached the terms of the authorization, or otherwise violated applicable law;

“(iii) the authorization was obtained through fraud, intentional concealment, or material misrepresentation;

“(iv) such action is necessary to prevent specific, immediate, substantial, and proximate harm or damage to life, property, national security, or defense that was not considered in the underlying environmental review process or final agency action for the authorization; or

“(v) the Federal agency has received a request from the holder of the authorization or project sponsor to take such action.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The actions described in subparagraph (A) shall be, as appropriate and where feasible, supported by clear and convincing evidence and reasonably limited in duration and scope by the agency to address the specific issue such action is intended to address.

“(C) NOTICE.—Before an agency takes an action described in subparagraph (A), the agency shall notify the holder of the authorization and the project sponsor in writing of such action, including by providing a detailed explanation of the action, identifying the statutory authority relied upon for the action, and providing the evidence supporting the action.

“(D) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An action described in subparagraph (A) shall be subject to judicial review under chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code.

“(ii) VENUE.—A person seeking judicial review of an action described in subparagraph (A) may only obtain review of such action in the United States court of appeals for any circuit wherein the project for which the authorization was issued is located.

“(iii) PETITIONS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—No Federal agency may petition a court for vacatur or voluntary remand of an authorization unless the holder of the authorization or the project sponsor consents in writing to such a petition.

“(E) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to provide any Federal agency new, enhanced, or expanded authority, or to limit any existing authority, concerning any authorization.

“(e) PRESUMPTION OF NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF TAKING NO ACTION RELATING TO TRIBAL TRUST RESOURCES.—For any proposed agency action carried out on, or directly affecting, tribal trust resources (including lands and minerals) that is initiated by the federally recognized Indian Tribe for which the United States holds the affected resources in trust, and for which an environmental document was prepared that included consideration of a no action alternative, there shall be a presumption that the effects of taking

no action will be negative for the federally recognized Indian Tribe.

“(f) EFFECT OF THRESHOLD DETERMINATIONS ON OTHER AGENCIES.—If a lead agency determines an environmental document is not required to be prepared with respect to a proposed agency action under subsection (a), another agency may not prepare an environmental document with respect to such proposed agency action.”.

(c) TIMELY AND UNIFIED FEDERAL REVIEWS.—

(1) LEAD AGENCY.—Section 107(a) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336a(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “at the earliest practicable time” and inserting “in accordance with subsection (g)(2)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “carry out the proposed agency action” and inserting “carry out the proposed agency action in compliance with the deadlines outlined in subsection (g)”;

(iii) in subparagraph (E)—

(I) by striking “a review” and inserting “an environmental review”;

(II) by striking “such review” and inserting “such environmental review”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “(including counties, boroughs, parishes, and other political subdivisions of a State)” after “local agency”;

(ii) by adding at the end “Such comments from Federal cooperating agencies shall be limited to matters relating to the proposed agency action with respect to which such Federal cooperating agency has jurisdiction by law.”.

(2) ONE DOCUMENT.—Section 107(b) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336a(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “To the extent practicable,” and inserting the following:

“(1) DOCUMENT.—To the extent practicable,”;

and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CONSIDERATION TIMING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In preparing an environmental document for a proposed agency action, no Federal agency shall be required to consider any scientific or technical research that becomes publicly available after the earlier of, as applicable—

“(i) the date of receipt of an application with respect to such proposed agency action; and

“(ii) the date of publication of a notice of intent or decision to prepare such environmental document for such proposed agency action.

“(B) APPLICABILITY TO OTHER LAW.—This paragraph does not affect any review of information required under subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to comments received during the public comment period as applicable.

“(C) DELAY.—A Federal agency may not delay the issuance of an environmental document or a final agency action, including any decision or determination, on the basis of awaiting new scientific or technical research or information that was not available as of the earlier of the dates described in subparagraph (A).”.

(3) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND NEED.—Section 107(d) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336a(d)) is amended by striking “action,” and inserting “action. Where applicable, the statement of purpose and need shall meet the goals of the applicant.”.

(4) DEADLINES.—Section 107(g) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336a(g)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (3), (5), and (6), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(1) APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORIZATIONS.—

“(A) NOTIFICATION OF COMPLETE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATION.—Unless a shorter deadline is specified by law, in connection with a proposed agency action for which an applicant

submitted an application for an authorization to an agency, not later than 60 days after the date on which the applicant submits the application to the agency, the agency shall document the receipt of the application and—

“(i) notify the applicant that the application is complete; or

“(ii) notify the applicant that the application is incomplete and request in writing any additional information that the agency needs to determine that the application is complete and begin preparation of an environmental document.

“(B) AGENCY DETERMINATION.—

“(i) COMPLETE DETERMINATION.—If an agency determines an application is complete under subparagraph (A)(i), the agency shall, not later than 60 days after the date on which the agency makes such determination—

“(I) notify the applicant that the agency has determined that the proposed agency action is excluded pursuant to one of the agency’s categorical exclusions, is not a major Federal action, or that no further agency action is required;

“(II) issue a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for such proposed agency action; or

“(III) notify the applicant that the agency has determined that preparation of an environmental assessment is necessary.

“(ii) INCOMPLETE DETERMINATION.—If the agency requests additional information under subparagraph (A)(ii), the deadline described in clause (i) shall be based on the date on which the agency receives the additional information instead of the date on which the determination is made.

“(2) COOPERATING AGENCIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 21 days after a lead agency issues a notice of intent under paragraph (1)(B)(i)(II) or notifies an applicant under paragraph (1)(B)(i)(III) with respect to a proposed agency action, the lead agency shall—

“(i) identify all agencies that are likely to have environmental review, authorization, or other responsibilities with respect to the proposed agency action; and

“(ii) invite each such agency to become a cooperating agency.

“(B) DEADLINE TO ACCEPT INVITATION.—Not later than 21 days after an agency receives an invitation to become a cooperating agency under subparagraph (A)(ii), such agency shall accept or deny the invitation.

“(C) CONVENING OF COOPERATING AGENCIES.—Not later than 7 days after the deadline described in subparagraph (B) has passed for each agency that received an invitation to become a cooperating agency under subparagraph (A)(ii), the lead agency that sent each such invitation shall convene each agency that accepts such an invitation to coordinate on developing the schedule under subsection (a)(2)(D) for the applicable proposed agency action.

“(D) UNIDENTIFIED AGENCIES.—In the event that an agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed agency action is not identified under subparagraph (A)(i), the lead agency with respect to the proposed agency action shall—

“(i) invite such unidentified agency to become a cooperating agency by not later than 7 days after becoming aware that the agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise; and

“(ii) if such agency accepts the invitation, incorporate such agency into the schedule developed under subsection (a)(2)(D) and update such schedule accordingly by not later than 14 days after the date on which such agency accepts the invitation.”.

(C) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “REVIEW TIMELINE”;

(ii) by striking “(2)” and inserting “(5)”;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(4) DEADLINE FOR FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—For any proposed agency action for which an applicant submitted an application for an authorization to an agency, not later than 30 days after completing an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment for the proposed agency action, the lead agency, and any cooperating agency, shall issue a final agency action. The agency issuing such final agency action shall include in the final agency action a performance schedule for the completion of any other outstanding authorizations.”;

(E) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “the deadline described in paragraph (1)” and inserting “a deadline described in this subsection”;

(ii) by striking “, in consultation with the applicant, to” and inserting “if the applicant approves such extension. If the applicant approves such extension, the lead agency shall”;

(F) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “A project sponsor may” and inserting “Except as provided in subparagraph (C), a project sponsor may”;

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) EXCEPTION.—A project sponsor that approved an extension of a deadline under paragraph (5) may not obtain judicial review of a failure to act in accordance with such deadline under subparagraph (A) unless the lead agency fails to meet the new deadline or is delaying for reasons other than those necessary to complete its review.”;

(G) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) CONCURRENT REVIEW.—In carrying out an environmental review, the lead agency and each cooperating agency shall carry out the obligations of that agency under other applicable laws concurrently, and in conjunction, with other required reviews for the proposed agency action, pursuant to the requirements of applicable law, including, if applicable, under this Act.”;

(d) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—Section 108 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336b) is amended—

(1) by striking “When an agency prepares” and inserting the following:

“(a) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—When an agency prepares”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “5” and inserting “10”;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “5” and inserting “10”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) RELIANCE ON PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—

“(1) ACTIONS THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME.—A lead agency may satisfy the requirements of this Act with respect to a major Federal action by relying on an environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, or a categorical exclusion determination that the lead agency, another Federal agency, or a project sponsor under the supervision of a Federal agency completed for another major Federal action if the lead agency determines that—

“(A) the new major Federal action is substantially the same as the other major Federal action or, if applicable, an alternative analyzed in such environmental assessment or environmental impact statement; and

“(B) if applicable, the effects of the new major Federal action are substantially the same as the effects analyzed in such environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

“(2) ACTIONS THAT ARE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME.—If a new major Federal action is not substantially the same as another major Federal action or an alternative analyzed in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement completed by the lead agency, another Federal agency, or a project sponsor under the supervision of a Federal agency, the lead agency may modify or augment any such previously completed environmental assessment or environmental impact statement as necessary

to satisfy the requirements of this Act with respect to the new major Federal action. The lead agency shall make such modified environmental assessment or environmental impact statement publicly available as a new environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.”;

(e) ADOPTION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Section 109 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336c) is amended in the text preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, or that was legislatively enacted by Congress,” after “procedures”;

(f) DEFINITIONS.—Section 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (13) as paragraphs (2) through (14), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The term ‘authorization’ means any lease, right-of-way, easement, license, permit, approval, finding, determination, or other administrative decision issued by an agency or any interagency consultation that is required or authorized under Federal law in order to construct, modify, or operate a project.”;

(3) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated), by inserting “, or Congress deems by statute,” after “Federal agency has determined”;

(4) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (iii)—

(I) by inserting “grants (including capitalization grants), cost share awards,” after “loan guarantees”;

(II) by striking “sufficient” and inserting “complete”;

(III) by striking “subsequent use of such financial assistance or the”;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iv) through (vii) as clauses (vi) through (ix), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) farm ownership loans and operating loan guarantees by the Farm Service Agency pursuant to sections 305 and 311 through 319 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act;

“(v) the issuance of an authorization by an agency where the effects of the action or project being permitted or authorized were previously evaluated by another agency in compliance with this Act”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ADDITIONAL EXCLUSIONS.—An agency action may not be determined to be a major Federal action solely on the basis of the provision of Federal funds, including a grant, loan, loan guarantee, and funding assistance.”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) REASONABLY FORESEEABLE.—The term ‘reasonably foreseeable’, with respect to environmental effects of a proposed agency action—

“(A) means effects that share a reasonably close causal relationship to, and are proximately caused by, the immediate project or action under consideration; and

“(B) does not include effects that are—

“(i) speculative;

“(ii) attenuated from the proposed agency action;

“(iii) separate in time or place from the proposed agency action; or

“(iv) in relation to separate existing or potential future projects.”;

(g) DUTIES.—Section 204 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4344) is amended in paragraph (4) by inserting “energy,” after “health.”;

SEC. 3. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Title I of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 112 as section 110A and moving such section so as to appear after section 110; and

(2) by inserting before section 111 the following:

“SEC. 110B. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

“(a) ROLE OF THE COURT.—In reviewing a claim of whether a final agency action complies with the requirements of this Act, a court—

“(1) shall afford substantial deference to the agency; and

“(2) may not substitute its judgment for that of the agency regarding the environmental effects included in the final agency action or included in the environmental document.

“(b) REMAND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a court holds, under section 706(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, that a final agency action does not comply with the requirements of this Act, the only remedy the court may order, notwithstanding chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, is to remand, without vacatur or injunction, the final agency action to the agency with—

“(A) specific instruction to correct the errors or deficiencies found by the court; and

“(B) a reasonable schedule and deadline to correct such errors or deficiencies, which such deadline may not exceed—

“(i) with regard to an order entered on or after the date of enactment of this section, the date that is 180 days after the date on which the order was entered; and

“(ii) with regard to an order entered before the date of enactment of this section, the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this section.

“(2) CONTINUED EFFECT OF FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—A final agency action remanded under paragraph (1) shall remain in effect while the Federal agency corrects any errors or deficiencies found by the court.

“(c) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (except as provided in subparagraph (A) with respect to a shorter deadline), a claim described in subsection (a) shall be barred unless—

“(A) such claim is filed not later than 150 days after the final agency action is made public, unless a shorter deadline is specified under law;

“(B) in the case of a final agency action for which there was a public comment period on an environmental document, such claim—

“(i) is filed by a party that submitted a substantive and unique comment during such public comment period by the noticed comment deadline for the environmental document and such comment was sufficiently detailed to put the applicable Federal agency on notice of the issue upon which the party seeks review; and

“(ii) concerns the same subject matter raised in the comment submitted during the public comment period;

“(C) such claim is filed by a party that has suffered or imminently will suffer direct harm from the final agency action; and

“(D) such claim does not challenge the establishment of a categorical exclusion.

“(2) SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—If an agency issues a supplemental environmental document in response to a court order remanding a final agency action, the deadline described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be the date on which the agency makes public the agency action for which the supplemental environmental document is prepared. A claim for review of such final agency action shall be limited to information contained in the final supplemental environmental document that was not contained in a previous environmental document for the final agency action.

“(3) ACTIONS FOR USE OF TRIBAL TRUST RESOURCES.—For any final agency action that authorizes or affects the use of lands, minerals, or other resources already held in trust at the time of the final agency action by the United States for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian Tribe—

“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), there shall be no administrative or judicial review of such final agency action based on a

claim of failure to comply with the requirements of this Act; and

“(B) subparagraph (A) shall not apply to actions for administrative or judicial review—

“(i) brought by the federally recognized Indian Tribe for which the United States holds the lands, minerals, or other resources in trust; or

“(ii) that involve reasonably foreseeable effects of the final agency action that occur outside the lands, minerals, or other resources held in trust by the United States for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

“(d) DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A court shall issue a final judgment on a claim described in subsection (a)—

“(A) as expeditiously as practicable; and

“(B) unless a shorter deadline is specified under Federal law, not later than the date that is 180 days after the date on which the agency record for the review is filed with the reviewing court, which shall not be more than 60 days after the filing of the claim.

“(2) ACCELERATED DEADLINES.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent a court from further expediting review of a claim described in subsection (a).

“(3) APPEALS.—

“(A) FILING.—A notice of appeal of a final judgment described in this subsection shall be filed not later than 60 days after such final judgment is issued. In the case of a final agency action remanded under subsection (b), the agency and, if applicable, the applicant, shall have the right to appeal during the pendency of the remand.

“(B) DEADLINE FOR REVIEW.—A court shall issue a final decision on an appeal filed under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) as expeditiously as practicable; and

“(ii) not later than the date that is 180 days after the date on which the appeal is filed.

“(e) NO EFFECT ON REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER DEADLINES.—This section shall not affect the right to obtain review under section 107(g)(3).”

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 Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in House Report 119-410. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

□ 1030

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CLYDE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 119-410.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 26, line 8, insert “, which shall not include aesthetic, recreational, or emotional interests unaccompanied by material physical or property harm” after “final agency action”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 951, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 4776, the SPEED Act, which will improve the bill’s judicial standing provision to limit frivolous lawsuits and ensure that projects are not delayed by radical activist groups without actual material harm to themselves.

This amendment makes a simple but important clarification. It ensures that only material physical or property harm, not purely aesthetic, recreational, or emotional interests, qualifies someone to challenge a Federal agency action under NEPA.

As established by the bill we are considering today, NEPA is a procedural statute. Its purpose is to require Federal agencies to disclose and consider environmental effects before taking major actions, not to confer substantive environmental rights, or to serve as a tool for endless litigation.

The amendment aligns NEPA’s judicial review provisions with that core purpose by anchoring standing in concrete, legally cognizable harms, rather than subjective or generalized interests.

By focusing standing on tangible harms, this amendment helps prevent NEPA from being used as a delay tactic in every dispute over administrative decisions, a tactic that too often slows necessary infrastructure and energy projects without materially improving environmental protection.

It ensures that courts remain a venue for adjudicating real disputes, where plaintiffs have demonstrable stakes, while preserving agency and judicial resources for the most serious and legally grounded claims.

At the same time, this amendment does not eliminate judicial review or impede legitimate challenges where there are real impacts. Stakeholders with substantive claims under existing environmental and land management statutes will continue to have full recourse to the courts under those laws.

What this amendment does is reinforce NEPA’s role as a procedural check that it was intended to be.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to bring greater clarity and balance to NEPA’s standing and to promote a more efficient and predictable permitting process, consistent with both environmental disclosure and responsible development.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. EVANS of Colorado). The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, this is a perfect example of how, even when team extreme puts together the most dramatic rollback of America’s most important bedrock environmental law, it is not enough for some factions within the Republican Conference.

Mr. Chair, I do oppose this amendment because, at its core, it is built on a tired trope—the trope that NEPA litigation is some huge driver of frivolous litigation and an argument that we hear all too often to justify more and more limits on judicial review to make it harder and harder for the public to participate in the review process and to help oil and gas and other polluting projects.

However, the facts do not back up the story that we keep hearing. One recent study from the University of Utah found that only 1 out of every 450 actions subject to NEPA are ever even litigated. That amounts to 0.23 percent. According to a recent Congressional Research Service report: “Historically, fewer than 1 percent of Federal actions subject to NEPA have been litigated.” That is important context.

Mr. Chair, the idea behind this amendment, that we need to keep layering on more and more restrictions to shut out the public, to eliminate legal challenges, and to stop frivolous litigation is overblown, especially in the context of an underlying bill which already imposes dramatic new barriers that make it almost impossible to bring a case to court.

Among other hurdles, the underlying bill says that you have to have commented during a comment period, even as the Trump administration is restricting the opportunity to comment.

It also requires that your comment has to be “unique.” This is a new term of art. It doesn’t exist in current law. We don’t even know what it really means, but, presumably, if anyone else has submitted the same comment or has flagged the same problem with a Federal action, you are out because your comment is no longer unique.

To add a cherry on top of all of that, even if you get into court, the SPEED Act would bind judges, forcing them to allow even dangerous and illegal projects to proceed, making the judicial review process extremely hollow.

Mr. Chairman, judicial review is a cornerstone of democracy. When the government makes a bad decision or an illegal decision, I would hope we could all agree that there are times, since the government doesn’t get everything just right, that citizens need to be able to challenge that action and hold the government accountable to make sure the law is followed.

Access to the courts is a backstop for communities, who are left out of the

NEPA process, to make their concerns heard and to ensure that Federal Government actions properly consider environmental impacts.

Though we have heard a lot of fear-mongering about frivolous lawsuits, there are already effective safeguards in place. All plaintiffs have to demonstrate that they have actually been harmed by a project to have standing, and NEPA will be meaningless unless there is a way to enforce it when the government does something harmful or illegal.

That is what this is all about.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a “no” on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chairman, any frivolous lawsuit is one frivolous lawsuit too many. It is just not appropriate when we have legitimate actions to improve our economy and to make sure that America moves forward.

Chairman WESTERMAN mentioned the 11 years that it took to build the Atlanta airport in my home State. Really, it took 18 months to actually break ground and build the airfield, but 9½ years for permitting. That is just not acceptable.

The Pentagon was built in just a little over a year. That could never happen today simply because of the permitting process.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I think we have found some common ground. I hear that any frivolous lawsuit is one too many, so I just want to remind the gentleman that maybe one of the most prolific frivolous litigators in history is in the White House right now.

I remind the gentleman about the raft of frivolous lawsuits challenging the 2020 election results, resulting, in many cases, not just in losses in court but in the disbarment of some of the Republican luminary lawyers like Rudy Giuliani.

If we pretend to care about frivolous lawsuits, I know consistency is out of fashion these days, but we should really mean it.

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chairman, I think the Keystone XL Pipeline is another example of frivolous lawsuits and the years it took. Yet that pipeline still is not functional in its entirety.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close, and I simply want to read what my amendment says:

“Page 26, line 8, insert ‘, which shall not include aesthetic, recreational, or emotional interests unaccompanied by material physical or property harm’ after ‘final agency action.’”

Mr. Chairman, that is concrete, and, therefore, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, we should be against all truly frivolous things—not just frivolous lawsuits but

frivolous legislation masquerading as permitting reform, frivolous amendments, frivolous distractions at the end of probably the most unproductive Congress in American history this year at a time when the American people are struggling. That is what is truly frivolous.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. I urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

□ 1040

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment Nos. 2, 3, and 4 printed in the House Report 119-410 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 119-410.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of Mr. PERRY, and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, strike lines 15 through 18, and insert the following:

“(1) may consider only those effects over which the lead agency or cooperating Federal agencies have jurisdiction by law and share a reasonably close causal relationship to, and are proximately caused by, the immediate project or action under consideration; and”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 951, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, this amendment revises the scope of review clause within the bill and strengthens the codification of the Supreme Court's Seven County decision issued earlier this year.

Now, my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) is the author of this amendment, and I am offering it for him because he is in committee business. He was offering this amendment to further improve the bill and limit agencies from taking into consideration factors which are not within their authority to regulate. This is the core issue at the heart of what was going on in the Seven County decision.

Congress should continue to build upon that unanimous decision. Let me be very clear that the Seven County decision was unanimous and further improved NEPA. This bill that the

chairman has brought here to the floor takes significant strides in improving NEPA, and improves upon it by limiting what agencies can regulate to what they already can by law. By ensuring that the scope of review is conducted within the sole legal purview of each Federal agency, we can drastically improve the current landscape of drawn-out, ineffective permitting.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, the majority has suggested that the underlying bill's changes to NEPA on the scope of review simply codify the Supreme Court's Seven County decision, but the SPEED Act actually goes much further than that Court decision. The Court left broad discretion for agencies to determine what impacts are relevant and how far the environmental analysis should go.

The Seven County decision allows agencies to analyze environmental impacts when those impacts are reasonably foreseeable, although the Court did limit what agencies are required to review. The underlying bill and this amendment do something entirely different. They strip agencies of their discretion to consider a broad range of environmental impacts.

This could have far-reaching consequences for communities, the environment, and public health, even when the science is clear and the consequences are very real.

The bill would prevent agencies from examining the harms that communities across the country are living with right now. A perfect example is Louisiana's Cancer Alley, where predominantly Black neighborhoods face some of the highest pollution-related cancer risks in the Nation, and those risks come from cumulative emissions from many facilities that have been built over decades and impacts that are well documented and directly tied to Federal permitting decisions.

Under this bill, agencies would largely be prohibited from considering any cumulative effects, anything that worsens that preexisting problem. That is not streamlining. That is telling Federal agencies to look the other way in the face of obvious, foreseeable harm.

NEPA's strength has always been its requirement that agencies take a hard look at the real-world consequences of their actions. That is how agencies avoid unintended harm. It is how the public stays informed, and it is how Federal decisions remain accountable and transparent.

The language in this bill dismantles that approach, and this amendment takes it even further by continuing to strip away what courts have left in terms of discretion for agencies to consider. This will result in more harm to

many American communities, including some of our most vulnerable communities that are already overburdened with pollution.

Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, this amendment would insert that Federal agencies "may consider only those effects over which the lead agency or cooperating Federal agencies have jurisdiction by law and share a reasonably close causal relationship to, and are proximately caused by, the immediate project or action under consideration."

There shouldn't be anything objectionable in that commonsense application, that commonsense phrasing. It is a commonsense change that strengthens the bill by narrowing the scope of NEPA to impacts that Federal agencies have the legal authority to regulate.

It is pretty simple. It avoids time-consuming reviews of impacts from paleontology to traffic patterns that agencies cannot even control.

By ensuring that the scope of review is conducted within the sole legal purview of each Federal agency, we can drastically improve the current landscape of drawn-out and ineffective permitting.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I think common sense is that if an agency is proposing or is considering a project that would be the tipping point for a community that is already overburdened by pollution, and that would dramatically increase a problem like Cancer Alley in Louisiana, they ought to be able to consider those cumulative impacts. I would call that common sense.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, the goal of this amendment is in keeping with the unanimous Supreme Court decision in which the Court jumped in and reversed the D.C. Circuit. The D.C. Circuit had said, well, we are not going to allow this to proceed, despite you having this 3,600-page report, this environmental impact statement, gone through public comments, et cetera.

Everything had been approved, and then the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated that approval, finding that the environmental review overlooked a number of various impacts. The Supreme Court came in and said, No, let's reverse that. You have gone through the process, and what we are trying to do is codify that which would enable us to avoid the kinds of delays that have been hampering our ability to have energy projects.

There is a reason everybody's utility bills are up and energy costs are high. It is because we have constrained the ability of our States, communities, and businesses to be able to create and provide the ability for us to have power without getting hamstrung into decades-long disputes and fights going through all the back channels of a

maze of bureaucracy. This is a simple, commonsense amendment to try to streamline that.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, if this amendment is simply about codifying the Supreme Court's decision, why doesn't it say what the Supreme Court said?

The Supreme Court said that agencies would be able to have discretion to consider cumulative impacts, traffic patterns, and other things in circumstances where those were very compelling factors. This amendment says, No, you can't consider any of that.

Let's not kid ourselves. This is not codifying the Supreme Court's decision. This is taking it much, much further.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, of course, they maintain discretion. Agencies will have full discretion if we adopt this language, the discretion to consider the effects over which that agency or the cooperating Federal agencies have jurisdiction. That is it.

What we are saying is that we shouldn't have courts making stuff up, and we shouldn't have agencies making stuff up. That is all we are trying to say. Let's get everybody in their lanes. Let's get the agencies in their lanes, and then, let's allow the American people to do what they do best.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I urge opposition to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

□ 1050

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in of House Report 119-410.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 23, after line 13, insert the following:
(h) DEFINITION OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS.—Section 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e), as amend-

ed by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(16) SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE QUALITY OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.—The term ‘significant effect on the quality of the human environment’ means a proximate and concrete harm that is directly caused by the proposed agency action and that materially impairs human health or property.”.

(i) IMPLEMENTATION OF DEFINITION OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS.—Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) is amended by striking “significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, a detailed statement” and inserting “with at least one significant effect on the quality of the human environment, an environmental impact statement”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 951, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, my amendment shores up and strengthens the definition of what triggers an environmental impact statement.

I offer this amendment to further improve the bill and prevent agencies from keeping projects in permitting limbo.

Again, the driving force here is to try to free up the American people and free up free enterprise to be able to produce adequate and abundant energy for the American people, to be able to produce and create and develop projects that create and provide jobs and to be able to make sure the American people can prosper without being hamstrung by the bureaucracy of a Federal Government that has been limiting our ability to keep up and produce.

While the base text of the bill makes a great effort to reduce the length of NEPA review by placing caps on all parts of the process, further defining what constitutes a significant effect that triggers an environmental impact statement will make the bill stronger.

Performing an environmental impact statement is the lengthiest and most expensive part of the permitting process. The Government Accountability Office estimates the lengthy EIS process costs between \$250,000 and \$2 million every time there is a project.

My amendment inserts commonsense language that requires at least one significant effect be triggered before an agency subjects a project to the lengthy EIS process.

Specifically, my amendment defines a significant effect as: having a proximate and concrete harm that is directly caused by the proposed agency action and that materially impairs human health or property.

By adopting this amendment, House Republicans can actually demonstrate their promise to get Washington's bureaucracies out of the way of progress and fulfill, I think, the great intent of this legislation that the chairman has put together and my colleagues on the committee have brought to the floor.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose this amendment. It is one more attempt to restrict what the government can consider in an environmental review and turn NEPA into nothing more than a box-checking exercise. You get all of the bureaucracy but none of the benefits under this approach.

The amendment would add a narrow definition of significant effects on the human environment in order to limit which projects get a closer look under NEPA.

It is important to recognize that we already have a high standard for which projects get that closer look. Only proposed actions that are anticipated to have a significant effect on the environment undergo an environmental impact statement, or EIS, which is the most thorough form of NEPA review.

Agencies don't do environmental impact statements willy-nilly. Only about 1 percent of all projects go through this process. These are the types of large-scale, complex projects that can have serious, long-lasting impacts on the environment, things like mines that remove entire mountaintops, things like the construction of a new nuclear power plant, exactly the types of things that should get close scrutiny and that the public deserves to have a chance to weigh in on.

This amendment redefines significant effect on the environment to mean only concrete harms that are directly caused by the proposed agency action and materially impair human health or property. That is a drastic narrowing of how we think about the impacts of Federal actions.

To use a public lands example, I will just quote from the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. It says: The policy of the United States is to manage public lands in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historic, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values.

Now the courts have backed up this spectrum of values for decades. The Supreme Court has held that NEPA should analyze a broad range of harms, including recreational and esthetic enjoyment of the environment.

Who here really thinks that there is no significant effect on the environment of a proposed refinery that would only light up a protected dark sky all night, every night next to a neighborhood? Or is there really no significant effect on the environment if a pipeline would disrupt big game migrations that hunters depend on to feed their families?

Of course, this definition means no amount of climate-changing emissions that could be considered to have had a

significant effect on the environment would ever be considered.

The American people deserve the full picture of a proposed action and its significant effects on the environment. This amendment puts the blinders on even more than the underlying bill, which already goes too far in that direction.

Mr. Chair, I urge a "no" on the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, the reason we are here, the reason that we have this legislation on the floor, is that NEPA is egregiously broken. The SPEED Act, which has been brought to the floor by the chairman, places commonsense caps on how long an EIS can take, and this amendment goes further to restrict what triggers this lengthy, onerous process.

Under the current runaway practice, NEPA reviews delay reliable energy projects by 3.9 years. Think about that. Want to know why we have difficulty getting affordable energy? All of these reviews, all of this cumbersome process, has delayed the ability for people to come together and produce energy for themselves, the energy that allows us to be in a heated facility and lit and living and having the benefits of modern life and having hospitals powered and having cars that function and homes that are heated and cooled.

You add this 4-year lengthy addition with an EIS, environmental impact statement, and you make it more difficult.

America must be able to get energy projects up and running and on the grid if we are going to compete on the global stage and continue to be able to live the benefits of modern life. This amendment addresses the most onerous part of the currently bloated NEPA process.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, we have a major disagreement on what "common sense" means in this Congress.

To me, and I think really to most Americans, it is just common sense that if you have a project that would destroy hunting access to some vital part of our public lands that generations have depended on, if you have a project that would cause a sacred Tribal site to no longer be enjoyed by folks who have depended on it for millennia, that that should undergo an environmental review. That seems like common sense to most people. But in this strange Congress, I guess common sense just means just do those projects anyway and don't even consider alternatives and don't even consider the impacts. That is why I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I will remind my colleagues that what this amendment does is defines a significant effect as having "a proximate and concrete harm that is directly caused by the proposed agency action and that mate-

rially impairs human health or property," fairly common sense.

Mr. Chair, in closing, I am going to take 30 seconds, a point of personal privilege here, to respond to something that the gentleman alluded to earlier in another exchange with another Member talking about so-called frivolous litigation by our current President.

I find it absolutely extraordinary that in the same week that we found out that the FBI literally told higher-ups at the Department of Justice and the White House that there was not probable cause to engage in a raid at Mar-a-Lago on the former President of the United States, that we are somehow going to enter that fray and not acknowledge the extent to which the abuse of power and the abuse of authority by the Biden administration and by his Department of Justice was extraordinary, historic, corrupt, and worthy of note.

□ 1100

If my colleagues want to venture into a debate about lawfare, then we will be happy to talk about the Manhattan DA. We will be able to talk about Fani Willis. We will be happy to talk about Jack Smith. We will be happy to talk about Arctic Frost, not because we are happy that they occurred, but because the American people are offended about the assault on President Trump, on the Members of this body, and on the people of the United States.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thought we were debating a bill that proposes a permitting reform. Of course, we have lots of disagreements about how it impacts our bedrock environmental laws, but I guess we never want to miss an opportunity to go into the fever swamp of conspiracism that is the Kash Patel FBI these days.

I will bring it back to the subject at hand.

This is a bad amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STAUBER) having assumed the chair, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on

the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration 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, had come to no resolution thereon.

MINING REGULATORY CLARITY ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 951, I call up the bill (H.R. 1366) to provide for the location of multiple hardrock mining mill sites, to establish the Abandoned Hardrock Mine Fund, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 951, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. 1366

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 "Mining Regulatory Clarity Act".

SEC. 2. HARDROCK MINING MILL SITES.

(a) **MULTIPLE MILL SITES.**—Section 2337 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (30 U.S.C. 42) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) **ADDITIONAL MILL SITES.**—

"(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

"(A) **MILL SITE.**—The term 'mill site' means a location of public land that is reasonably necessary for waste rock or tailings disposal or other operations reasonably incident to mineral development on, or production from land included in a plan of operations.

"(B) **OPERATIONS; OPERATOR.**—The terms 'operations' and 'operator' have the meanings given those terms in section 3809.5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection).

"(C) **PLAN OF OPERATIONS.**—The term 'plan of operations' means a plan of operations that an operator must submit and the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, must approve before an operator may begin operations, in accordance with, as applicable—

"(i) subpart 3809 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations establishing application and approval requirements); and

"(ii) part 228 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations establishing application and approval requirements).

"(D) **PUBLIC LAND.**—The term 'public land' means land owned by the United States that is open to location under sections 2319 through 2344 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.), including—

"(i) land that is mineral-in-character (as defined in section 3830.5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection));

"(ii) nonmineral land (as defined in section 3830.5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection)); and

"(iii) land where the mineral character has not been determined.

"(2) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), where public land is needed by the proprietor of a lode or placer claim for operations in connection with any lode or placer claim within the proposed plan of operations, the proprietor may—

"(A) locate and include within the plan of operations as many mill site claims under this subsection as are reasonably necessary for its operations; and

"(B) use or occupy public land in accordance with an approved plan of operations.

"(3) **MILL SITES CONVEY NO MINERAL RIGHTS.**—A mill site under this subsection does not convey mineral rights to the locator.

"(4) **SIZE OF MILL SITES.**—A location of a single mill site under this subsection shall not exceed 5 acres.

"(5) **MILL SITE AND LODE OR PLACER CLAIMS ON SAME TRACTS OF PUBLIC LAND.**—A mill site may be located under this subsection on a tract of public land on which the claimant or operator maintains a previously located lode or placer claim.

"(6) **EFFECT ON MINING CLAIMS.**—The location of a mill site under this subsection shall not affect the validity of any lode or placer claim, or any rights associated with such a claim.

"(7) **PATENTING.**—A mill site under this section shall not be eligible for patenting.

"(8) **SAVINGS PROVISIONS.**—Nothing in this subsection—

"(A) diminishes any right (including a right of entry, use, or occupancy) of a claimant;

"(B) creates or increases any right (including a right of exploration, entry, use, or occupancy) of a claimant on land that is not open to location under the general mining laws;

"(C) modifies any provision of law or any prior administrative action withdrawing land from location or entry;

"(D) limits the right of the Federal Government to regulate mining and mining-related activities (including requiring claim validity examinations to establish the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit) in areas withdrawn from mining, including under—

"(i) the general mining laws;

"(ii) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

"(iii) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

"(iv) sections 100731 through 100737 of title 54, United States Code;

"(v) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

"(vi) division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the 'National Historic Preservation Act'); or

"(vii) section 4 of the Act of July 23, 1955 (commonly known as the 'Surface Resources Act of 1955') (69 Stat. 368, chapter 375; 30 U.S.C. 612);

"(E) restores any right (including a right of entry, use, or occupancy, or right to conduct operations) of a claimant that—

"(i) existed prior to the date on which the land was closed to, or withdrawn from, location under the general mining laws; and

"(ii) that has been extinguished by such closure or withdrawal; or

"(F) modifies section 404 of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42)."

(b) **ABANDONED HARDROCK MINE FUND.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a separate account, to be known as the "Abandoned Hardrock Mine Fund" (referred to in this subsection as the "Fund").

(2) **SOURCE OF DEPOSITS.**—Any amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the claim maintenance fee under section 10101(a)(1) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (30 U.S.C. 28f(a)(1)) on mill sites located under subsection (c) of section 2337

of the Revised Statutes of the United States (30 U.S.C. 42) shall be deposited into the Fund.

(3) **USE.**—The Secretary of the Interior may make expenditures from amounts available in the Fund, without further appropriations, only to carry out section 40704 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (30 U.S.C. 1245).

(4) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**—Amounts made available under paragraph (3)—

(A) shall be allocated in accordance with section 40704(e)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (30 U.S.C. 1245(e)(1)); and

(B) may be transferred in accordance with section 40704(e)(2) of that Act (30 U.S.C. 1245(e)(2)).

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—Section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (30 U.S.C. 28f) is amended—

(1) by striking "the Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 28-28e)" each place it appears and inserting "sections 2319 through 2344 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.)";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking "Such claim maintenance fee" and inserting the following:

"(B) **FEE.**—The claim maintenance fee under subparagraph (A)"; and

(ii) in the first sentence, by striking "The holder of" and inserting the following:

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The holder of"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking "Such claim maintenance fee" and inserting the following:

"(B) **FEE.**—The claim maintenance fee under subparagraph (A)"; and

(ii) in the first sentence, by striking "The holder of" and inserting the following:

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The holder of"; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking "The location fee" and inserting the following:

"(2) **FEE.**—The location fee"; and

(B) in the first sentence, by striking "The claim maintenance fee" and inserting the following:

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The claim maintenance fee".

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 Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1366.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1366, to restore clarity and stability to mining operations and support reclamation of abandoned hardrock mine land.

First, I thank my colleague from Nevada, Representative AMODEI, for his work on this bipartisan legislation.

In 2022, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals revoked an approved mine plan of operations for the Rosemont Copper Mine in Arizona. The ruling, known as the Rosemont decision, limited the Forest Service's ability to approve support activities necessary for conducting mining operations on Federal land. This decision upended over 40 years of regulatory and legal precedent.

Before developing a mine on Federal lands, an operator must obtain a mine plan of operations from the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. This plan must detail the intended uses of the surface of the mining claim, including waste rock placement, mills, offices, and roads.

Under the Rosemont decision, however, operators must prove the existence of a commercially developable deposit on a claim before a plan of operations can be approved. This obvious problem is that the economic viability of a site cannot be determined until after the mine plan of operations is approved by the Federal Government.

The ramifications of the Ninth Circuit's decision are substantial. Although the Rosemont decision involved Forest Service lands, it has prompted multiple lawsuits targeting projects on BLM lands based on similar regulations.

If allowed to stand, the Rosemont decision will thwart hardrock mining projects across Federal lands, further jeopardizing domestic mineral supply chains, energy security, and national security.

Mr. AMODEI's bill provides needed regulatory clarity by creating a new category of mill sites for activities ancillary to mining that operators can include within the boundaries of an approved plan of operations.

The legislation also creates an abandoned hardrock mine fund to support the reclamation program by using claim maintenance fees to inventory, assess, and remediate abandoned hardrock mines.

Simply put, our reliance on foreign critical minerals is one of the greatest strategic vulnerabilities facing our Nation today. America has been truly blessed with vast natural resources. This bill would create the regulatory clarity and stability that companies need to attract investment and responsibly develop these resources.

With mineral demand expected to grow exponentially in the coming decades, Congress must safeguard and defend the country's ability to access its own resources.

Again, I applaud my colleague Mr. AMODEI for this commonsense but urgently needed bill.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I remind everyone that we are at the end of this year. We are running out of time to fix the

healthcare crisis that Republicans have created. Christmas break is right around the corner, and hardworking Americans are struggling. They are being crushed under the weight of rising costs.

What do our Republican friends have us voting on?

The next bill that we have up today, H.R. 1366, the so-called Mining Regulatory Clarity Act, is just a gift for folks who really ought to be on the naughty list this time of year: foreign mining companies.

I strongly oppose this bill.

According to its sponsors, it is a legislative fix to the Rosemont court decision, a court case that determined that a mining company was not allowed to dump its toxic mine waste on public lands based on an invalid mining claim.

You see, Mr. Speaker, for years, mining companies were allowed to dump their waste wherever they wanted without paying fair market value for that land, without public land managers having any real option to say no regardless of which precious public lands might be destroyed forever.

However, in the Rosemont decision, the court held that under current law, a mining claim is only valid when it actually contains valuable minerals. That makes sense. That is common sense, if we want some common sense.

However, the mining industry didn't like that. They were not happy that they could no longer dump their toxic waste on phony, invalid claims anymore.

So here we are today passing a so-called fix for the industry.

□ 1110

Now, let's remember that enormous benefit is stacked on another one: Mining companies don't pay back the American people a cent in royalties for the minerals that belong to the people of the United States. The antiquated Mining Act of 1872 essentially gives away America's valuable mineral resources for free, often to foreign-owned mining companies, even companies controlled by our adversaries.

Even so, the industry calls the Rosemont decision an existential threat. Give me a break.

You know what happened to the Rosemont mine after that court decision came down? The next day, the company paid for private lands for its waste disposal. The mine wasn't stopped. It is just the industry would prefer to use the public lands, your lands, and to be able to dump for free.

Industry argues that this bill would provide certainty and clarity for mining and exploration. In practice, this fix would just allow mining companies to use a different type of claim called a mill site for unlimited mine-waste dumping. They could use it for pipelines and processing whatever else they would like, again at cut-rate prices.

For the record, I have found no evidence that any mines are currently

being held up because of the Rosemont decision anywhere in America. This is a solution in search of a problem.

Time and time again, Democrats have raised legitimate concerns with this legislation, and we have offered good-faith amendments to address those concerns.

I offered an amendment to strike the broad definition of operations in the bill, which effectively means that mining operations don't need a mining claim at all.

Representative LEE from Nevada offered an amendment to clarify that mining companies should only use the public lands that are actually necessary for their operations, and to make clear that nothing in the bill limits the rights to regulate mining and related activities on Federal lands.

Representative LEGER FERNANDEZ offered an amendment to exempt companies that are owned and controlled by our adversaries from these incredible benefits under this bill.

All of these amendments were very straightforward. None of the issues raised should be a surprise to the majority. They have had time to work with us, but they chose not to. They rejected all of these amendments. I guess they would rather let foreign mining companies controlled by our adversaries pillage our public lands for cheap or even for free. Noted.

Again, I strongly oppose this legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) the subcommittee chair on Energy and Mineral Resources of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1366, the bipartisan, bicameral Mining Regulatory Clarity Act, offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), my good friend.

The bill before us is simple. It restores longstanding interpretation of agency regulations governing hardrock mining policy on Federal lands that were upended by the courts in May of 2022 in what is known as the Rosemont decision.

At the time, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a decision that upended decades of settled law when it affirmed a lower court decision revoking an approved mine plan for the Rosemont Copper mining project. The decision limited the ability of the Forest Service to approve necessary mining support facilities and activity, known as ancillary uses, which are necessary to conduct mining operations. This decision from the Ninth Circuit puts virtually every new domestic mining project on Federal lands in jeopardy.

This decision from the Ninth Circuit puts us at odds with what we need to succeed in a 21st century economy.

Based on anticipated increases in demand for metals and minerals for everything from energy and infrastructure to manufacturing and national security needs, we require new domestic mining operations to provide essential mineral supply chains.

During the previous administration, the Department of the Interior issued an opinion that provided a temporary fix known as the Rosemont fix. This provides a path forward for mining projects, but it can be reversed with the stroke of a pen.

Domestic mining projects are multi-decade investments. Mining companies that invest hundreds of millions of dollars in a project require regulatory certainty and clarity.

Mr. Speaker, considering this, why would a mining company invest here in the United States without this certainty that they will actually be able to develop a project? That is why the bicameral, bipartisan Mining Regulatory Clarity Act is necessary. The only way to fix the 2022 court decision is to codify the fix in law.

This legislation, contrary to what some of my colleagues will argue, doesn't create new domestic mining policy. It simply builds regulatory certainty and reinstates the longstanding interpretation of the mining law and the agency regulations that were law of the land before being misinterpreted by the courts.

Mr. Speaker, if we can't mine these minerals domestically thanks in part to the Rosemont decision blocking new domestic mines, where do the opponents of this bipartisan bill expect needed minerals to come from? The only answer I can think of is from China.

Continued lack of clarity resulting from the court's decision is not a benefit to the American people, but a benefit to the Chinese Communist Party. The answer is clear: You can either support domestic mining with the strictest environmental and labor standards here in the United States of America or you can continue to export your environmental guilt and support importing minerals from countries that have zero environmental standards and utilize child and forced slave labor to mine these minerals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill. When we talk about domestic mining, we are richly blessed. The good Lord has blessed this country with the natural resources that we need for our everyday lives. I want American industry, American workers, and American communities to be able to mine these minerals that we are richly blessed with.

I do not want another Biden administration supporting memorandums of understanding with Third World countries to get these minerals and then import them to the United States so we can put them in our technology, our vehicles, our phones, our cell phones, our computers, our medical instruments that we manufacture.

I would much rather mine these critical minerals here under our environmental and our labor standards. We can lead the world. By the way, Mr. Speaker, we also need to process these here in the United States. That is why our permitting reform is so important. This could be a win-win.

As long as we don't mine here, as long as we put up every single roadblock, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are happy. They will sit in this House of Representatives and say, "We support mining" so long as it never happens, so long as the bureaucratic nightmare, the "blue tape" continues where we can't mine here.

Enough is enough. The American people have seen enough, and we are going to mine not only in Minnesota, but we are going to mine in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, California, Arizona, and Washington. We are going to mine in Pennsylvania. We are going to mine in Texas. We have to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I support this amendment.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Minnesota for listing all of those States and places because it is important for the American people to know that if this becomes law, a free toxic dump site on your public lands is on its way in all of those places. That is what this is about.

One of the cynical euphemisms we keep hearing is "regulatory certainty," so let's talk about what that really means.

Mining permitting has continued after the Rosemont decision. The Rosemont mine itself proceeded. It wasn't impacted. There is no legislative fix needed to this fake problem. This bill would codify only the most industry-friendly interpretations of the mining law and introduce additional uncertainty around the government's ability to enact basic commonsense regulations on mining on public lands.

To expand on that, the bill's current definition says that mining operations include: "All functions, work, facilities, and activities in connection with the prospecting, development, extraction, and processing of mineral deposits and all uses reasonably incident thereto, including the construction and maintenance of means of access, whether the operations take place on or off the claim."

This is sweeping. Effectively, this means that mining operations don't need a mining claim at all to conduct operations on your public lands. While this definition is currently in regulation, the Interior Department, and the leading public land law treatise have found that offsite mining activities do not currently get the same rights and priority use as mining claims. That is what is at stake in this legislation.

□ 1120

Permanently codifying this into law would further put mining over other uses of our public lands, doing an end run around the multiple-use balancing requirements that are foundational to public land management.

While our land managers have limited discretion right now to deny a mine on public lands, they do at least have some authority over their roads, pipelines, and toxic waste dumping. That would all be taken away by this legislation.

This is not regulatory clarity. It is regulatory charity to an industry that has already gotten 150 years of giveaways.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter of opposition from 189 organizations, Tribes, companies, and local elected officials.

DECEMBER 17, 2025.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: THE 189 UNDERSIGNED ORGANIZATIONS, TRIBES, COMPANIES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE WRITING ON BEHALF OF OUR MILLIONS OF MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS TO EXPRESS OUR STRONG OPPOSITION TO H.R. 1366, THE MINING REGULATORY CLARITY ACT (MRCA). THE LEGISLATION INCLUDES SWEEPING PROVISIONS THAT WOULD WEAKEN THE ALREADY OUTDATED 1872 MINING LAW AND GIVE EVEN MORE CONTROL OVER OUR PUBLIC LANDS TO THE MINING INDUSTRY. WE ASK YOU TO OPPOSE THE MINING REGULATORY CLARITY ACT.

Most mining in the United States is governed under a 150-year-old, extremely permissive law enacted when Ulysses S. Grant was president. The law disempowers frontline communities, has no environmental guardrails, and doesn't require mining companies to pay a royalty on the billions of dollars of publicly owned minerals they extract. This law governs mining on public lands that are currently being dismantled by the administration and their Congressional allies with active threats to sell off millions of acres of our lands, roll back protections such as National Monuments and mineral withdrawals in secret, and firing thousands of workers whose jobs are essential for the future existence of our public lands. Additionally, recent executive orders were signed invoking emergency powers to increase domestic mining and processing of minerals, including those by foreign owned mining companies. They cover not just critical minerals, but others like gold. The executive order explicitly calls for agencies to prioritize mining above all other uses of public lands, and aims to provide funding and loans for mining projects, as well as accelerate permitting processes under the guise of the Defense Production Act. If you combine the antiquated mining law, the recent EO's, and the administration's efforts to dismantle our public lands, along with the now unpredictable compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (due to President Trump's executive actions) communities are now more at risk from mining harms than they were even 10 years ago.

History already paints a clear picture of the risks posed by irresponsible, deregulated mining for critical resources across the country. The EPA estimates that 40% of headwaters and 50% of lakes have been contaminated by hardrock mines, decimating

watersheds and the communities that depend on them for freshwater, including drinking water. Recent research reveals that the vast majority of critical mineral resources in the United States are located within 35 miles of Native American reservations. As demand for hardrock minerals grows domestically and globally, it is critical that we ensure mining laws and standards protect communities and the environment while strengthening and securing our supply chains. Unfortunately, the MRCA would take us backward, not forward, and create more conflict over mines, not less.

First, the MRCA would allow mining companies to claim indefinite numbers of millsites on public land, without meaningful limitations, where multinational mining companies can permanently dump toxic waste and construct infrastructure like pipelines and roads. These millsites could block public lands from being used for more suitable purposes, such as renewable energy projects, watershed protection, cultural resource access, and recreation. This provision would remove any effective limits on millsites and eliminate the requirement that such claims be located only on non-mineral land, a key feature that prevents lands with valuable minerals from being buried under waste or made inaccessible.

Second, several additional provisions contained within MRCA would weaken, if not negate, over a century of precedent that has limited the amount of damage to public land caused by our permissive mining law. According to current law, operators must first prove that there are in fact valuable minerals on a mining claim before they gain the right to conduct large-scale operations on those claims. Additionally, operators cannot conduct operations outside of their claims without obtaining further permits. MRCA could render these requirements meaningless by codifying a regulation that defines all activities related to mining under the term “operations,” even if they are not directly on a mining claim. This could allow mining companies to build pipelines, roads, and powerlines and conduct other activities across public lands without ever having to get a permit for them.

The MRCA does not contain any meaningful limits to prevent abuses of the millsite provision. It states that mining companies may use public lands in accordance with an approved plan of operations. But that is of little assistance given the bill grants mining companies an unlimited, statutory right to use those lands—a right that cannot be denied in a mining plan of operations. The offered protections are thus no protections against the giveaway of public lands.

Finally, MRCA includes a savings clause that states mining companies still have to prove that there are valuable mineral deposits on claims within lands that have been withdrawn from mining. However, the exclusion of similar language for claims on unwithdrawn lands could be read by a court to imply that Congress intended to eliminate the requirement for such checks on unwithdrawn lands, which make up the vast majority of public lands. Altogether, these sections essentially give mining companies a nearly unlimited right to dump waste across an indefinite number of acres of public lands under the proposed millsites provision.

This bill’s provisions will have a devastating impact on frontline communities, cultural resources, and sensitive ecosystems. Instead of passing this legislation, Congress should enact true reforms to our mining laws such as those identified by the 2023 Interagency Working Group on Mining Laws, Regulations, and Permitting, especially those that would close loopholes for foreign companies, improve environmental standards,

and create competitive leasing to balance the nation’s clean energy mineral needs with other public land uses. We urge you to oppose the passage of S. 544 & H.R. 1366, whether as a standalone bill or as a part of a larger legislative package.

Sincerely,

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations, 350 Bay Area Action, 350 Hawaii, A2 (Anthropocene Alliance), Access to Thrive, Alaska Clean Water Advocacy, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association, Alaska Wilderness League, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Amigos Bravos New Mexico, Appalachian Citizens’ Law Center, Arizona Faith Network, Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, Arizona Trail Association, Arizonans for Community Choice, Basin and Range Watch, Becky Daggett, Mayor of Flagstaff, AZ (as an individual, Biofuelwatch, Bitterrooters for Planning.

Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, Black Hills Preservation Project, Bold Visions Conservation, Borderlands Restoration Network, Cabinet Resource Group, California Environmental Voters, Californians for Western Wilderness, CalWild, Cascade Forest Conservancy, Cascadia Wildlands, CDT Preservation Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Chilkat Indian Village, Circle Z ranch, Citizens for a Safe & Clean Lake Superior, Citizens to Protect Smith Valley (NV), Climate and Community Institute, Climate Justice Alliance, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Colorado Citizens Against ToxicWaste Inc, Concerned Citizens Retired Miners Coalition.

Conservation Northwest, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Corona de Tucson Preservation Alliance, Day One, Deer Tail Scientific, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice Action, Earthworks, EcoFlight, Emily Mine Information Group, Environmental Protection Information Center—EPIC, Esker Cycles, Friends of Santa Cruz River, Friends of Sonoita Creek, Friends of the Amargosa Basin, Friends of the Bitterroot, Friends of the Clearwater, Friends of the Inyo, Friends of the Kalmiopsis.

Friends of Santa Cruz River, Friends of the Sonoran Desert, Gallatin Wildlife Association, Gila Resources Information Project, Global Witness, Grand Canyon Trust, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners, Great Basin Resource Watch, Great Basin Water Network, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, GreenLatinos, High Country Conservation Advocates, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Rivers United, Imperial Valley Equity and Justice, Inclusive Development International, Indigenous Environmental Network, Information Network for Responsible Mining, Investor Advocates for Social Justice.

Izaak Walton League Rapid City SD Chapter, Jeff and Karen Ives, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Kalmiopsis Guides Association, Kettle Range Conservation Group, Klamath Forest Alliance, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, League of Conservation Voters, Living Desert Alliance, Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper, LNE Engineering and Policy, Local Environmental Action Demanded (LEAD) Agency, Inc., Los Padres ForestWatch, Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance, Lynn Canal Conservation, Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center, Malach Consulting, Maricopa Audubon Society, Menonite Central Committee U.S., Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin.

MiningWatch Canada, Montana Chapter Sierra Club, Montana Environmental Information Center, Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment, Native American Land Conservancy, Native Village of Fort Yukon,

Natural Resources Defense Council, Nature For All, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Nevada Conservation League, New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light, New Mexico Environmental Law Center, Next 100 Coalition, Nicole Palese PLLC, Noowuh Knowledge Center, North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Norton Bay Watershed Council.

Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Wild, Our Roots Multi-Cultural Center, Partnership for Policy Integrity, Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, Patagonia, Inc., Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast, Prairie Hills Audubon Society (of Western SD), Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, Protect Thacker Pass, Protect the Kobuk, Public Citizen, Rachel Carson Council, Responsible Jewelry Transformative, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Rivers Without Borders, Rock Creek Alliance, Rural Arizona Engagement, San Juan Citizens Alliance, San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council.

San Pedro 100, San Xavier District of the Tohono O’odham Nation, Save Lake Superior Association, Save Our Cabinets, Save Our Sky Blue Waters, Save Our St. Vrain Valley, Inc., Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, Save the South Fork Salmon, Sheep Mountain Alliance, Sierra Club, Sierra Protection Action Network, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team, Sky Island Alliance, Smith River Alliance, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC), SPAN.

Sustainable Ocean Alliance, Sustainable Tucson, The Becoming Project INC, The Calabasas Alliance, The Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah, The Native Village of Dot Lake, The Ocean Project, The Wilderness Society, Tri-Valley CAREs, Tucson Bird Alliance (formerly Tucson Audubon), Turtle Island Restoration Network, Universidad Popular, Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, Uranium Watch, Washington Wild, Water Legacy, Weber Sustainability Consulting, West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs, Western Shoshone Defense Project, Western Shoshone Nation.

Western Watersheds Project, Wild Arizona, Wild Connections, Wild Hope, Wild Horse Education, WildEarth Guardians, Wildlands Defense, Wildlife for All, Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, the signers of this letter express their strong opposition to this bill. Specifically, they argue that it would weaken the already outdated 1872 mining law and give the mining industry even more control over our public lands.

They note that mining in the United States is already governed under a law that is 150 years old, enacted under President Ulysses S. Grant.

These organizations, Tribes, and leaders remind us that the 1872 law has no environmental guardrails, that the mining industry is already the only industry that doesn’t have to pay any royalty when it extracts our minerals on public lands, and that 40 percent of headwaters and 50 percent of lakes have been polluted by mining activity.

They also raise specific concerns within the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act.

First, the bill would allow multinational companies to claim an indefinite number of mill sites to permanently dump toxic waste on our public lands for free.

Second, it could block renewable energy development, recreation, and other uses of our public lands by allowing mining companies to build roads, pipelines, and other infrastructure by right and without any permits, as long as they are connected to a plan of operation.

Finally, the bill could be read to eliminate the requirement that mining companies prove that there are even some valuable minerals to validate their claims on the vast majority of our public lands.

The letter urges us to enact real reforms to the 1872 mining law that would improve environmental safeguards for communities and ecosystems impacted by mining, give Federal land managers a say in deciding where mining is and is not appropriate, and close loopholes that allow foreign companies to exploit our public lands.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), who has shown great leadership on this seemingly commonsense need to put some guardrails in place to make sure that foreign-owned mining companies, including those owned and controlled by our adversaries, don't have the benefit of all these lavish giveaways.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, mining corporations, including foreign-owned, pay nothing in royalties when they take our publicly owned minerals on our Federal lands.

The American people get nada, zero, for our copper, gold, or critical minerals.

H.R. 1366, the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act, is yet another giveaway to big mining companies by making it easier for them to dump their waste on more of our public lands.

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 amendment to prevent mining projects from qualifying for the expanded public lands access if the project is owned or operated by a foreign entity of concern like China or one of its subsidiaries.

Why should we let the Chinese Communist Party take advantage of the copper, gold, and critical minerals on our Federal lands? Chairman MOOLENAAR of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party offered a similar amendment to the Rules Committee last Congress on the same bill. Republicans refused to make it in order.

I don't know why Republicans are afraid to limit China's access to America's critical minerals.

If we are not going to make international mining companies pay for our precious minerals that they take from us, the least we could do is stop foreign adversaries, like China, from dumping mine waste on our public land. We

should not treat our public land like a big trash pile available to international mining corporations.

Republicans should focus on making life more affordable for Americans, not giving away more land, and not making those big international companies even richer. They should focus on bringing down costs for Americans, not giving a big giveaway to the big corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into 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 New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit and stop letting China and its adversaries use our public lands like their big trash dump.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill is another unnecessary giveaway to the mining industry. It lets literally anyone, including foreign mining companies controlled by our adversaries, claim as much of our Nation's public land as they want for next to nothing, extract our publicly owned minerals without paying a cent in royalties back to the American people, and then permanently bury our public lands in toxic mining waste.

Our mining laws need reform. They don't need this.

With bipartisan interest in securing our critical mineral supply chain, we actually have an opportunity to create modern mineral policies that would empower American innovators to recover the minerals we need while honoring indigenous sovereignty, protecting the environment, and making sure American workers and communities share in the benefits, as well as the American taxpayers. Instead, the majority is doubling down on the extraction above all land grab from the gold rush back when we codified this 1872 mining law.

They refuse to engage with Democrats to include even commonsense safeguards against letting foreign adversaries take our public minerals for free. They refuse to limit the industry's waste dump mill sites to only the public lands necessary for their operations. Ominously, they refuse to clarify that this bill does not affect the Federal Government's ability to regulate mining on public lands, which the unnecessary Savings Clause in this bill calls into question.

It bears repeating that the mining industry already has a sweetheart deal on our public lands. We are the only industrialized Nation that lets anyone claim whatever they want on public lands and extract public minerals for free.

This bill is no minor technical fix to overturn a court decision. It is a massive giveaway of public lands to an industry afraid that one of those many

giveaways that they have had for all of this time was about to be challenged.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let's talk about some of the issues that were just brought up.

First, the foreign entity of concern restrictions, I agree, and I think everybody would agree, that we should scrutinize foreign direct investment to ensure that it does not pose a threat to the United States.

We have programs to do that, programs that possibly should be strengthened. However, imposing arbitrary standards could prevent publicly traded, non-Chinese companies from mining domestically. Doing what? Forcing a continued reliance on China.

We all know that China is already doing whatever it can to prevent us from building out secure domestic supplies of critical minerals. The CCP has repeatedly used its dominant market position to strategically flood markets and make U.S. projects uneconomic.

□ 1130

Mr. Speaker, when they see a project announced in the United States, they dump product on the global market, lowering the prices and making our mining operations uneconomical to investors.

If we create an arbitrary standard, they will continue to play even more dirty. The CCP will simply buy shares of publicly traded companies to disqualify the companies from mining on Federal lands. We are being naive if we think that China won't use any tool and loophole at their disposal to stop mining in the U.S. In any event, this bill is about regulatory certainty so that we can start mining again in America.

I have already mentioned this, but we are blessed with resources here in America. A lot of those resources are on Federal lands. This issue has come up about royalties. It continually comes up. People say this bill would allow mining companies to extract valuable public assets without paying any royalties to Americans.

I want to remind everybody of something. U.S. mining companies already pay between 40 and 50 percent of earnings in Federal, State, and local taxes, as well as other fees. These taxes are vital to funding school systems, roads, and other infrastructure projects, especially in rural communities.

Now, thanks to the Rosemont decision, on top of paying those taxes, companies must pay millions more in litigation. The developers would be required to pay fees for any mill sites established under this bill. These fees would go toward remediating abandoned hardrock mine lands, something my Democrat colleagues have repeatedly pushed for.

If we want to encourage investment in safe, responsible, and cutting-edge mining practices that provide billions to the public's coffers and essential materials to the American people, we need to support H.R. 1366.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to call attention to a letter we received, signed by 28 organizations from A to Z. It is literally from A to Z. Starting with A, the Alaska Miners Association, American Exploration and Mining Association, Bipartisan Policy Center Action, Battery Materials and Technology Coalition, Colorado Mining Association, National Mining Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Women's Mining Coalition, Wyoming Mining Association, and I will round it out with Z, the Zero Emission Transportation Association.

These organizations stress the importance of Congress enacting this bipartisan legislation. They stated: This legislation will ensure the U.S. can utilize its vast domestic resources to build essential mineral supply chains. Your efforts to enhance mineral supply chain security, while upholding our leading safety and environmental standards, are crucial. The passage of H.R. 1366 will support the trajectory of innovation in the U.S. and maintain the Nation's economic leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is common sense, supporting American industries that are working to bolster our domestic mineral supplies.

I also want to draw attention to a letter we received from Nevada democratic Governor Joe Lombardo in support of the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act. His letter states: Advancement of this bipartisan, bicameral legislation is indispensable to the long-term economic resilience of our rural communities and Nevada's ability to help achieve domestic mineral security.

Again, this bill is common sense. It is bipartisan, and it bicameral. It supports a key industry for States like Nevada. It should be strongly bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the abundant minerals that we are blessed with across the United States, I think of the claim that our colleague from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) also says. He talked about the Ambler Road district. Of 50 things listed on the U.S. List of Critical Minerals, he says in the Ambler Mining District, 49 of those exist in abundant capacity to develop, process, and mine. Yet, we are yet to be able to get a road into this area to process these materials.

When I look at my home State of Arkansas, we have the largest deposit of lithium possibly in the world. At least 15 percent of the world's lithium is in brine water on public land in the great State of Arkansas.

We have all these minerals available all across the country. According to the "2025 Mineral Commodity Summary" from the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. is 100 percent dependent on imports for 14 critical minerals, many from China and Russia.

Mr. Speaker, I have met with the Navaho Nation. They have abundant deposits of uranium they could recover from former mining operations. We are so dependent on uranium imports. The last number I saw, we produced only one-half of 1 percent of the uranium we use for fuel in U.S. reactors. Do my colleagues know where most of that comes from? It comes from Russia and Kazakhstan. These are the kinds of minerals we are dependent on foreign actors for.

If my colleagues support growing our domestic supplies of critical minerals, this bill provides the regulatory certainty necessary to strengthen domestic mineral supply chains. If my colleagues support weakening China's global control over minerals, join us in voting for the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act.

Let's talk a little bit more about China. We need not only more mining here in America, but we need to do more processing and refining in the U.S. to meet our energy infrastructure and national security and defense needs. The Mining Regulatory Clarity Act will help strengthen domestic mineral supply chains.

I have a chart here that shows where we are at with China on rare earth and their monopoly. They control 70 percent of the mining in the world. It is not in China. It is all over the world.

My colleague mentioned child slave labor being used to extract cobalt in Africa. It is atrocious where they go and mine these materials and the lack of standards that they have. The environmental, human health, human safety, and human rights that are violated in the mining is also appalling.

They take that back to China, and they process 90 percent of it in China. This is all of the world's critical minerals. Then they manufacture 93 percent of the things that are manufactured with critical minerals.

If my colleagues want to help China maintain their stranglehold over our critical mineral supply chains, we should oppose this bill. Look no further than the chart behind me. We will see we can't continue to allow China to have the monopoly and the stranglehold on our economy and on our defense that they currently have through the critical mineral supply chain.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill. I appreciate my colleague from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, 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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. 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. Leger Fernandez moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1366 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The material previously referred to by Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ is as follows:

Ms. Leger Fernandez moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1366 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EXCEPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act do not apply with respect to a project that is owned or operated by—

(1) a foreign entity of concern; or
(2) an entity that is a subsidiary of a foreign entity of concern.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED NATION.—The term "covered nation" has the meaning given the term in section 4872(f) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "foreign entity of concern" has the meaning given the term in section 40207(a)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18741(a)(5)).

(B) CLARIFICATION.—For purposes of this section, a foreign entity of concern is subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a foreign country that is a covered nation within the meaning of section 40207(a)(5)(C) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18741(a)(5)(C)) if the foreign entity of concern is more than 10 percent owned, directed, controlled, or financed, directly or indirectly, individually or in aggregate, by any individual that is the citizen, national, or permanent resident, or is an entity subject to the jurisdiction, of the government of a covered nation.

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 yeas appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1140

PET AND LIVESTOCK PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 951, I call up the bill (H.R. 845) to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 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 Natural Resources, 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. 845

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 “Pet and Livestock Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. REMOVING THE GRAY WOLF FROM THE LIST OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall reissue the final rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife” and published on November 3, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 69778).

SEC. 3. NO JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Reissuance of the final rule under section 2 shall not be subject to judicial review.

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 Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 845.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as we are getting close to breaking for the Christmas holiday, I am glad that this last bill that the Natural Resources Committee will offer is one that we will have a debate on that will resolve an issue that has united the Bush, Obama, Biden, and Trump administrations alike.

I am not sure there is another issue like that out there, but this is one of them because each of those administrations has agreed that the gray wolf is a recovered species and should be removed from the Endangered Species Act, or ESA, protection.

H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act, sponsored by Representatives BOEBERT and TIFFANY, instructs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to re-issue its 2020 final rule that delisted the gray wolf from the list of threatened and endangered species in the entire lower 48 States.

Recovery of the gray wolf is a true ESA success story, and there aren't a lot of them. In the 1970s, the species was at risk in the lower 48 States. Today, the gray wolf numbers in the thousands across the Great Lakes and

Rocky Mountains, with each of these populations being connected to tens of thousands of wolves in Canada.

The first Trump administration recognized this successful recovery and issued a delisting rule for gray wolves in the lower 48 States. Unfortunately, this rule was vacated by a Federal judge in California in a blatant instance of judicial activism.

Mr. Speaker, don't just take my word for it. The Biden administration appealed the California judge's vacatur of the 2020 Trump rule, arguing: “The district court misunderstood the ESA's clear mandate and compounded that error by imposing its own review of the science.”

By every sensible definition, the gray wolf is a recovered species, and that recovery should be celebrated as a success of the ESA. Gray wolf populations are healthy and thriving in every region in which they are found.

The Great Lakes region has the largest concentration of gray wolves in the lower 48 States, with approximately 4,200 wolves inhabiting Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Moreover, this population is connected to at least 12,000 to 14,000 wolves in central Canada. The Western United States is also home to roughly 2,500 wolves, including already delisted populations in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Wyoming. This population is connected to over 15,000 wolves in western Canada.

The Biden administration's own science determined that wolves in the Western United States had a healthy abundance, retained genetic diversity, could respond to high-mortality events, and maintained adaptive capacity. Most of these wolves reside in States where they have already been delisted.

The science is clear. Gray wolves have recovered in the lower 48 States, and it is time to return their management to the States, which have managed and will continue to manage wolf populations responsibly.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are here in D.C. during the final week before the holidays. Families back home are struggling with the increasing costs of groceries, housing affordability, natural disaster recovery, and healthcare. That is what we should be working on.

Instead, what has Republican leadership scheduled this week: a bill that is routinely used in Congress to kill time on the floor and that will go nowhere in the Senate.

H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act, would strip Federal Endangered Species Act protection from gray wolves and block courts from reviewing that decision. This bill would force the Department of the Interior to re-issue a 2020 Trump rule to delist the

gray wolves that was struck down by a Federal court in 2022.

Why was it struck down? A Republican-appointed judge found that it failed to use the best available science, didn't consider threats to wolves outside core populations, and ignored the needs across their entire range—findings all in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Instead of accepting that decision, this bill doubles down on bad science and even prevents courts from weighing in.

If you are sure wolves have recovered, then there is no need to block judicial review. However, that is not the case here. Instead, my colleagues want to remove Endangered Species Act protections because of politics instead of science. That is not how the Endangered Species Act works.

Wolves are an Endangered Species Act success story. Their population has increased from fewer than 1,000 animals to over 6,000 today, but recovery remains fragile and incomplete. Wildlife management should be based on science and collaboration. Our natural heritage and the health of our ecosystems are worth protecting for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this bill, and I am looking forward to hearing further discussions from my colleagues.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT), the lead sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for helping to lead on this issue. I thank my colleague, Representative TOM TIFFANY, who has also been instrumental in this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Colorado is at the center of our Nation for wolf battles. That is why Congressman TOM TIFFANY and I introduced H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act.

My bill delists the gray wolf from the Federal Endangered Species List and returns the issue of wolf management to the States and Tribal wildlife agencies.

This doesn't mean that wolves will not be managed. It just means that the Federal Government will step aside, and we will have proper State management. I think we believe in federalism here and the Tenth Amendment and trust our States to do the right thing.

Leftists want to eliminate hunting, lock up our lands, further restrict gun rights, and pander to the interests of extreme environmentalists who don't understand our rural way of life.

In 2020, in Colorado, Denver and Boulder voted to reintroduce gray wolves west of the Continental Divide. This ballot-box biology has led Colorado to rush through the importation of Canadian gray wolves and has set them loose in our State, despite numerous protests and questions about the legality of this dysfunctional and

chaotic approach, putting predators over people.

These predators do not obey arbitrary boundaries. Sure, Colorado may say that they will be introduced west of the Continental Divide, but that doesn't keep them west, and that doesn't necessarily keep them in Colorado, either, as we have seen.

Importing foreign predators into our State has received pushback from our Tribes, energy operators, and our farmers and ranchers. ESA restrictions prohibit ranchers and pet owners from protecting their livestock and pets, as ranchers who shoot at, injure, or kill protected wolves that are stalking sheep or cattle face potential prosecution.

Unfortunately, wolves, again, don't see State lines. They don't know the difference between State, Federal, Tribal, or private land. It is in their nature to travel great distances in pursuit of prey, whether that is deer, elk, sheep, cattle, or even our pets. It has been well documented that wolves don't only hunt to satisfy their hunger. They also hunt for sport.

In March of this year, one of the Canadian wolves attacked and killed a working cattle dog in Jackson County, Colorado, neighboring one of the counties I represent in my district. Last year, a gray wolf from the Great Lakes region was found over 1,000 miles away in Elbert County, east of the Continental Divide, in Colorado's Fourth District, which I represent.

Colorado's agricultural producers have lost \$580,000 in just one year from wolves already introduced. We should listen to our farmers and ranchers and finally delist the gray wolf.

□ 1150

Gray wolves were first listed under the ESA in 1967. That was 58 years ago. Since then, delisting the gray wolves has been supported by the Obama, Trump, and even Biden administrations.

In November 2020, scientists and non-partisan career employees at the Department of the Interior once again found gray wolves were fully recovered and once again issued a rule that returned management of the gray wolf populations to State and Tribal wildlife agencies, as it should be.

Unfortunately, frivolous litigation was filed by environmental extremists, and an activist California judge pandered to them by vacating the 2020 rule and unilaterally relisting the gray wolf by judicial fiat.

Mr. Speaker, the science is crystal clear on this issue: Gray wolves should no longer be on the Endangered Species List. We can no longer put farmers, ranchers, and even our pets in harm's way by using taxpayer dollars to protect a species that has been fully recovered. It is time for the Federal Government to get out of the way and allow the State and Tribal wildlife agencies to manage this species.

Again, just as my colleague on the other side of the aisle agrees, this is an Endangered Species Act success story.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of my bill.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when my colleagues say an activist judge overturned this, it was a Republican-appointed judge who found, again, that it failed to use the best available science.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service just canceled the first-ever nationwide gray wolf recovery plan, which was due this month. This comprehensive, science-based plan would have finally provided a holistic approach to wolf recovery with all stakeholders at the table. This is the type of solution that the courts have been seeking after invalidating five of the six previous attempts to delist wolves.

Unfortunately, H.R. 845 is part of a pattern. Instead of investing time and money into supporting proven paths of success, we are voting on far-reaching and unscientific proposals that don't actually solve the problem and won't make it into law. H.R. 845 would also fragment and make wolf management harder.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, we are witnessing an unprecedented extinction crisis with 1 million species at risk of disappearing forever in coming decades.

As the co-chair of the Endangered Species Act Caucus, protecting our Nation's wildlife is one of my top priorities. I am deeply concerned that the provisions included in this bill will cause our country to backtrack on the progress we have made. That is why I have to be opposed today to the bill on the floor, the so-called Pet and Livestock Protection Act.

There has been a lot of discussion about the gray wolf. Let's talk about the listing of the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act. While progress has been made in certain regions, the reality is clear: Gray wolves have not yet achieved full recovery, and removing Federal protections would be premature and dangerous.

Today, wolves occupy only a fraction of their historic range. Large areas of suitable habitat remain unoccupied, and many existing populations are small, isolated, and genetically vulnerable.

True recovery under the Endangered Species Act requires not just survival in a few regions, but long-term security across a significant portion of the species' range.

We also know from experience what happens when protections are lifted too soon. After previous delisting efforts, several States moved quickly to authorize aggressive hunting and trapping seasons. In some cases, wolf populations declined sharply within 1 single year. These setbacks erase decades of conservation progress and create instability, rather than sound wildlife management.

Gray wolves play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. As apex predators, they help regulate prey populations, reduce overgrazing, and promote the recovery of forests and watersheds. These ecological benefits support biodiversity and contribute to healthier landscapes that benefit hunters, farmers, outdoor recreation, and rural communities alike.

Some argue that delisting is necessary to address conflicts with livestock in local communities, but science tells a different story. Broad lethal control does not reliably reduce livestock losses and can actually increase conflicts by disrupting pack structure. Nonlethal tools, such as range riders, fladry, improved husbandry practices, and fair compensation programs have proven to be far more effective and deserve continued investment.

The Endangered Species Act is one of the most successful conservation laws in our Nation's history. It sets clear science-based standards for recovery and requires that threats be adequately addressed before protections are removed.

Delisting gray wolves without enforceable, science-based State management plans undermines both the intent of the law and public trust.

This decision is about more than one species. It is about whether we let politics override science or whether we uphold our responsibility to protect wildlife for future generations.

Until gray wolves are truly recovered, connected across the range, and protected by durable management plans, Federal protections must remain in place. That is why attempts to delist the gray wolves through congressional action are opposed by scientists, conservation groups, and the majority of Americans across the political spectrum.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose delisting and to stand with science, conservation, and the rule of law.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to state again: The gray wolf is an ESA recovery success story. We should be celebrating this.

While gray wolves might not currently occupy all of their historic range, they do not meet the criteria for listing under the ESA. This was confirmed by the Biden administration, as with previous administrations before.

Most species are not found throughout their historic range. Elk and black bears, for example, are still absent from much of their historic range, but they are not listed under the ESA.

According to my colleague's argument, the wolf can't be totally recovered until it is back in its entire historic range. Mr. Speaker, the Northeast United States is part of the historic range of the gray wolf. If what I

am hearing is correct, are we promoting restoring the wolf to the Northeastern United States, within metropolitan and suburban areas, where packs of wolves can range 100 miles a day? Is that what we want to make the criteria before we say gray wolves are recovered?

The scientists at the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Biden administration, along with those in the Trump administration, the Obama administration, and the Bush administration, have said that the gray wolf is recovered.

This is just another push to continue a top-down Federal approach to wildlife management that does little to actually help wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY).

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the gentlewoman from Michigan, if she wants to do a ride-along with me and deliver wolves to Madison, Wisconsin, part of their previous range, I would be happy to do that if she would join in that process.

□ 1200

I just want to address one thing in regards to the gentlewoman from Oregon. We have got really good news, what she talked about in regards to inflation. I urge her to watch CNN this morning with the inflation numbers that have come out that are the lowest since 2021. That is good news, as we end 2025, and it is really good news as we go into 2026 that the Pet and Livestock Protection Act is going to pass out of the House of Representatives today.

Federal protections were established a couple decades ago, and there are hundreds of wolves in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. Now, there are over 4,000 wolves. Talk about inflation. It has hit the wolf population. Also, if you go back to 2015, 26 of the most eminent wildlife biologists in the upper Midwest urged these judges to delist the wolf, take them off the Endangered Species Act, because the wolf is recovered as the data has shown.

Populations have been bouncing back and forth between being listed and delisted, and this bill provides a permanent solution, returning the population management back to the States.

As everyone in Wisconsin knows, this is something we have seen far too often, most recently when the judge in Oakland, California, vacated the 2020 delisting rule and unilaterally put it back on the ESA list by judicial fiat.

Wisconsinites know best when it comes to managing Wisconsin's wolf population, and it is long past time that we empowered Wisconsinites to be able to manage the gray wolf population once again.

The chairman handled it in a very positive manner. This is a recovery success under the Endangered Species Act.

This is the graphic representation of what is happening, the carnage that is

happening across our States, in rural areas, where pets and livestock are being slaughtered because the wolf is not being managed.

If you talk to any sportsman, they will tell you the wolf belongs on the landscape, but when you do not manage a wildlife population, this is what happens, the slaughter continues of people's pets and livestock.

Gray wolf delisting has been supported by four Presidents. Even the Biden administration's Fish and Wildlife Service asked the Federal appeals court last fall to reinstate the rule.

The gray wolf has been the latest recovery success, with significant populations in the Rocky Mountains and western Great Lakes.

There is something else we should all remember. When a species is removed from the ESA list, it is something we should celebrate.

From farmers to pet owners to sportsmen and -women, delisting the gray wolf is of paramount importance to rural America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAN of Florida). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, in order to maintain our rural way of life, the wolf needs to be delisted. It is past time to return management to the States. This is a legislative fix we can do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes." I urge the United States Senate to pass this bill when it comes over to them.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the words of my good friend from Wisconsin. I invite him to come to my district where the manufacturers in my district are paying more for goods that they have to import to build things in the U.S. and my farmers and wine producers and exporters are losing their markets and have less money to pay for things where the prices have risen for their Thanksgiving, Christmas dinner, and presents. But you are welcome to come.

Also, the issue with H.R. 845, after the 2020 delisting, in Wisconsin 30 percent of its wolf population was killed in just 4 days. Idaho passed a law allowing the killing of up to 90 percent of wolves, including the pups. Montana removed wolf protections around Yellowstone raising bag limits and expanded trapping, killing many of the beloved wolves that tourists travel from around the world to see.

The ecological consequences matter. Wolves are a keystone species critical to healthy ecosystems. When reintroduced to Yellowstone in 1995, they provided benefits throughout the entire ecosystem.

Wolves changed elk behavior, allowing willows and aspens to recover. They brought back beaver, whose dams

create habitats for fish, amphibians, and birds. One study found a 1,500 percent increase in the willow growth, surpassing 82 percent of trophic cascades in global analysis. Recently, we have seen evidence that wolves are helping to protect deer and elk populations from the spread of chronic wasting disease, a horrifying neurological disease rampaging through the States and causing real problems for hunters.

The State of Oregon has worked to lead the way in wolf recovery, but there is only so much we can do if neighboring wolf populations are wiped out.

We want to see recovery, get the environmental benefits, and also make sure that our ranchers are compensated for any losses that occur.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER), my good friend.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Endangered Species Caucus, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 845.

This bill, formerly called the Trust in Science Act, has gone under a rebrand since the best available science contradicts this politically motivated bill.

I am here to remind the American people of some key facts underlying this bill. First, a small reminder, people are predators, too. In fact, we are the most successful apex predator of all time.

This bill has the deeply unpopular Project 2025's name all over this. Look at page 534, part 3, section 16, where delisting the gray wolf is listed as the second highest priority for the Department of the Interior, just behind delisting the grizzly bear.

Despite the Trump administration's incompetence and chaos, we have not forgotten about the direction coming from Project 2025 and the damage already done to our country.

Second, this bill fails to recognize the status of gray wolves today, taking us back to an outdated rulemaking that didn't hold up in court.

It is important to recognize State-by-State differences in wolf recovery but also in State-sanctioned predation. What does the best available recovery science say today? That is what we should be supporting.

Gray wolf recovery goals are outdated, and they need to be updated. That is what we should be working on instead of this extinction effort. That is what this is: permission to once again reduce the wolf population in the lower 48 to zero.

We know that premature delisting hinders the ability of gray wolves to be delisted legitimately.

Today, wolves continue to face ongoing serious threats to their survival, including poaching, habitat loss, and the patchwork of inconsistent State mismanagement.

The protections of the ESA have allowed gray wolf populations across the country to stabilize and regain

strength. If delisted nationally, gray wolves will once again be hunted and trapped to the point of extinction.

If we actually wanted to trust the science, we see that the gray wolf has made progress in their recovery but also that wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains are being killed in dramatic numbers, even the celebrated Yellowstone National Park's gray wolves.

The Biden administration recognized this and put forth a National Wolf Recovery Plan that was supposed to be released last week on December 12. This highly anticipated plan would have developed a comprehensive nationwide recovery plan that would have engaged the public to help develop a unified recovery approach based on scientific evidence. Unfortunately, the Trump administration hastily announced its cancellation last November.

By the way, the only reason Canadian wolves were necessary is because we had killed every last lower 48 wolf.

Finally, I have to address the spurious argument that protecting pets and livestock somehow is ample justification for delisting the wolves.

In Montana, Mr. Speaker, fewer than 60 livestock out of almost 3 million are killed every year by wolves. That is one loss for every 50,000 cows or sheep. That is a very tiny loss ratio compared to deaths by accident, lightning, freezing temperatures, and all of the other natural hazards that come from living outside 365 days a year, not to mention that most of these animals are being raised to be slaughtered. The numbers don't look much different in Wyoming or Idaho. Ranchers are compensated very generously for losses related to wolves, always more than market value, sometimes three times the value of the animal lost.

Mr. Speaker, State Farm reported that 93,000 dogs—not 5 or 10—93,000 were hit by cars in 2022, yet no one has suggested banishing automobiles.

I love dogs. Most of us do. We know how smart and complicated and ferociously loyal they are. They are just wolves we have tamed. There is abundant evidence that wolf families are more like human families than any other species. Wolves and men have evolved together over the millennia, one reason wolves show up in all our most important stories, poems, and songs.

When we kill all the wolves, we kill something in our own humanity. We deny our connection to nature and what is beautiful and glorious.

How can we proclaim the wonder of existence, the generosity of a loving God, and then hate the charismatic creatures he has also given to this world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to kill this bill.

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

The whole State of Virginia was at one time gray wolf habitat. Washington, D.C. had gray wolves. When are

we going to turn them loose here on the Mall or Old Town or whatever part of Virginia?

□ 1210

This is a problem that seems to get exported to rural areas, and people turn a blind eye to what happens in the rural areas.

Also, there is a difference between desiring fewer wolves and desiring no wolves. States where wolves have already been delisted have a proven track record of success which has been confirmed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This bill does not prohibit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from listing the wolf in the future if it determines a listing is warranted.

However, as the service has confirmed multiple times, the gray wolf currently does not meet that criteria.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the newly formed follow the science caucus, I rise today in strong support of a bill I am proud to cosponsor, H.R. 845, the Pets and Livestock Protection Act.

It has been proven time and time again that the gray wolf is not endangered and, in fact, has fully recovered.

When the gray wolf was listed as threatened in Minnesota under the Endangered Species Act in 1978, a recovery goal of 1,250 to 1,400 wolves was set.

Today, according to data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, we have over 2,700 wolves in Minnesota. However, as my constituents will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that is a severe undercount. It is more like 5,000 to 7,000 in Minnesota.

Over one-half of the gray wolves across the lower 48 are in Minnesota, and most of them can be found in my district.

The gray wolf might be one of the greatest success stories of the ESA, and it is one that should be celebrated. Now that the species has recovered, it is time to delist. That is not just my opinion. It is a bipartisan view that has been held by several Presidential administrations on both sides of the aisle.

In 2009, the Bush administration delisted the gray wolves. Activist groups sued to relist.

In 2013, the Obama administration delisted the gray wolves. Activist groups sued to delist.

In 2020, the Trump administration delisted gray wolves. Activist groups sued to relist.

Just last year, the Biden administration even agreed, when they chose to defend the Trump administration's 2020 delisting rule.

Presidents Bush, Obama, Trump, and even Biden, trusted the science and sought to do the right thing. It is activist groups, with the help of activist judges, who continue to choose to disregard the science and fight to keep these unnecessary protections in place.

As a result, my constituents have to face growing wolf populations in their backyards each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, look at this photo right here to my right. Just last month in Ely, Minnesota, a wolf was seen in the school parking lot in the middle of the day. It was just feet from the schoolhouse door. Mr. Speaker, because of the gray wolf's listing status, nothing could be done to protect the lives of the students there. The broken ESA is putting my constituents' lives at risk.

Simply said, it is beyond time that the gray wolf is delisted under the ESA. Unfortunately, as long as activists are willing to abuse our Federal Court system to weaponize the ESA, I am afraid an administrative delisting will never be possible. There is only one alternative, Mr. Speaker. Congress needs to act and finally vote in legislation to delist the gray wolves.

As a hunter in northern Minnesota, last year I held several townhalls on the gray wolf and the concerns of the delisting. Hunters for Hunters, Hunter Nation, and other pro-hunting groups supported this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at trail cams, for example, you will see a nice, beautiful, in this case, 8-point buck. Ten minutes later, on the same trail, same trail cam, comes the wolf.

Who knows what happened to that big, beautiful buck.

The fact of the matter is that we should celebrate the ESA's accomplishment. The gray wolf has recovered. Let the States manage it. They can be more nimble than the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important piece of legislation.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that wolf-livestock conflicts do happen and that ranchers deserve support when there is a wolf problem. We already have tools that work to address these conflicts, but this bill does nothing to improve them or to help our ranchers.

H.R. 845 has no funding for conflict mitigation, no support for nonlethal deterrents, and no additional compensation for losses. If we want to delist wolves responsibly, then we need to give Fish and Wildlife Service the resources and direction it needs to work collaboratively, respond to science, and invest in conflict prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), who is the ranking member.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Oregon for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is right. If we want to talk about the occasional conflicts that exist between livestock and pets and any predators, that is a legitimate conversation. However, what we are hearing from across the aisle is really jumping the shark, if you will forgive another predator metaphor, Mr. Speaker.

We are being led to believe that packs of wolves are about to descend on urban areas in New England and Madison, Wisconsin, and that they are looming outside of schools.

I think my colleagues across the aisle need to understand: The American people are a little smarter than that. They are kind of going to see through this Little Red Riding Hood meets chupacabra narrative the gentleman was trying to spin to scare people about wolves.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you the way it actually works. The Endangered Species Act does not prevent wildlife managers from intervening any time a wolf or any other predator threatens property or human beings. In fact, just a few weeks ago in Northern California, I believe it was the Sierra Valley, a pack of wolves from one of our packs there had begun preying on cattle in an area where they are concentrated because of the way they move through the State, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife came in and took some. I think they took five or six of them, killed them. There was no ESA lawsuit, and there was no violation of the law.

A little reality check on what we just heard from my colleague from Minnesota, that there was nothing anyone could do about this scary chupacabra wolf in the school parking lot. That is nonsense. That is not the way the ESA works.

Now, let's be clear. This bill is not about protecting pets or livestock. It is about politics overriding science, and the consequences of doing that are disastrous. The precedent set by this bill would be very troubling. It would tell wildlife scientists that their expertise doesn't matter. It tells Tribal nations that their voices can be ignored, and it tells the American people they no longer have the right to challenge unlawful government actions.

The ESA is simple and effective. It ensures decisions are grounded in science. That is the heart of it, and this bill throws that principle out the window. It mandates a nationwide delisting of gray wolves, and it explicitly blocks judicial review. It would prevent courts from doing their job to determine whether a government action even complies with the law.

Now, we don't have to speculate about what happens when protections for gray wolves are lifted because we have seen it play out.

In the State of Wisconsin where hunters like the group, Hunter Nation, which is led by Ted Nugent and Don Jr. on the board, swept in as soon as the wolf hunting season was open. Quickly they did that, despite objections from Tribes in the region. The result was devastating. Mr. Speaker, 218 wolves, about 20 percent of the State's population, were wiped out. By the end of the season, 30 percent were killed—nearly twice as many wolves as the State had authorized.

Over the course of about 60 hours, thousands of hunters, including some

unlicensed hunters, participated in coordinating hunting groups, engaged in a dangerous terrorizing campaign against the wolves using bait and wolf calls. They hunted at night. They used dogs. Mr. Speaker, 188 wolves were taken by dogs. They killed 130 wolf pups that were less than 2 years old. This is not thoughtful, science-based management of the State's wolf population. This is not celebrating the recovery of the wolf as we keep hearing in this debate.

This week we received a letter from the Wisconsin Tribes who had sued to try to stop that hunt. In the letter, they object to this bill today. They point out the inadequacy of existing State-level regulatory mechanisms that led to that disaster in Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from six Wisconsin Tribes.

DECEMBER 17, 2025.

DEAR CONGRESSPERSON: We, the federally recognized bands of Ojibwe in Wisconsin, oppose the legislation proposed by Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) to delist gray wolves and believe that the gray wolf should remain protected under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). We write to inform you of our continued opposition to proposed legislation that would direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules relating to delisting the gray wolf under the ESA, particularly where judicial review of the rule would be barred.

The Pet and Livestock Protection Act, H.R. 845, would impact our rights and treaty-protected resources. The treaty-protected resources of the Ojibwe bands include gray wolves in the territory ceded to the United States under the Treaties of 1837 and 1842 ("ceded territory"), which has become the northern third of the State of Wisconsin. We previously expressed this opposition to lawmakers, including Sen. Baldwin and Sen. Johnson when they proposed legislation to delist the gray wolf in 2022.

One of the requirements for a finding of recovery and delisting under the ESA is a determination that the species in question is no longer imperiled by "the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms." 16 U.S.C. §1533(a)(1)(D). However, Wisconsin's February 2021 wolf hunt resulted in the deaths of almost twice the number of wolves allowed to be killed by the state. This debacle clearly demonstrated that Wisconsin's existing regulatory mechanisms are not up to the task of enabling effective management of the state's wolf population. If the gray wolf is delisted, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("WDNR") implements another hunt as required under Wisconsin law, Wisconsin's problematic legal framework for regulation and oversight of state-licensed wolf hunters and trappers will again threaten the wolves and Ojibwe treaty rights.

This misguided legislation continues a long history of disproportionately targeting the gray wolf—the first endangered species ever to be legislatively delisted by Congress. This proposed legislation also disregards the fact that many Americans nationwide believe that wolves should remain protected. In 2013 for example, approximately one million Americans voiced opposition to the proposal to strip endangered species protections from gray wolves. In addition, widespread public opposition to the wolf hunt has been routinely disregarded by the WDNR Board, making federal protections even more important.

Our position still stands that legislation to delist the gray wolf is misguided and con-

tinues to disregard strong tribal opposition to delisting, as well as widespread opposition from the general public.

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin.

□ 1220

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, Tribes support continued protection for wolves. Seventy-eight percent of Americans support continued protection for wolves. They want to see living wolf pups in Yellowstone, not news stories about tortured wolves in bars or wolf hunts with dogs. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

I would also like to just move to some additional remarks that are part of our motion to recommit.

The entire debate so far has shown why Members of Congress have no business in listing and delisting decisions. We are not scientific experts. We are not objective scientists tasked with assessing population numbers, recovery goals, and continued threats to the species.

That is why the ESA properly leaves those questions to actual experts, not politicians. For that reason, we shouldn't be passing this bill at all, but if Republicans are going to go down this road, then there should at least be some guardrails in place that are based on actual science.

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 this motion with an important amendment to this bill. We were not allowed to do that.

My amendment is straightforward. The NRA gets to have this bill and its little hunting spree, but if Ted Nugent and Don Jr. and all the other folks who need to do this to prove their manhood actually go where scientists have warned us about and take the wolf population down below science-based recovery standards, then the Secretary of the Interior would have to issue an emergency regulation temporarily restoring Federal protection in that instance.

This would provide a necessary backstop if Congress legislatively delists the gray wolf and it careens right back toward extinction again, which we know it would.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit. I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit in a few moments and keeping amodicum of actual science in the Endangered Species Act.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a question: Which will it be? What is the good science?

As I have mentioned before, the Obama administration, the Bush administration, the first Trump administration, the Biden administration all said the wolf has been recovered. The experts, the scientists at U.S. Fish and Wildlife have said it has been recovered.

Yet my friends argue it has not been recovered because there are some places where its native range is that the wolf is not there. I remind everyone, we are in gray wolf territory, historical gray wolf territory.

Mr. Speaker, like many, like you probably and myself, I have walked around D.C. at night, and this is a rat-infested city. I think there would be at least a little bit of food for the wolves if we were to turn a pack loose on The Mall. However, what happens when they eat all the rats? What do they go after next?

Now, this is a preposterous situation because I don't think anybody really wants a pack of wolves on The Mall. However, if you go down the logic trail that my colleagues are making, the wolf is not recovered until it is back in its historic range.

Why do we want to sit in a big city where wolves once were and say: We want wolves, just not in our backyard. We want them out in the Midwest or West where it is somebody else's problem, but we don't want those problems here because it makes no sense to put wolves back here in the big cities and across the Northeast.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), where they have a lot of wolves.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Arkansas for yielding.

It is amazing here. I represent the northeast corner of California where the wolves are being inflicted upon the people and the wildlife of that area. The stuff I hear coming from the other side of the aisle about recovering the wolves and even the mocking, yes, it is real.

There are wolves that are encroaching on elementary schools in Siskiyou County, the Little Shasta Elementary School. This isn't some "Little Red Riding Hood" story. This isn't some made-up deal. It is very real, and they are coming closer and closer to town all over the northeast part of California.

My colleague from the north coast, when he mocks us like that, I am wondering if this Proposition 50 in California kicks in, and he ends up representing my constituents up there that are fighting against this, and I am their only voice in the echo chamber of California against this: Are you going to have townhalls up there? Are you going to go into Modoc County, Siskiyou County, Sierra Valley, and tell them this is a "Red Riding Hood" story about the wolves devouring their livestock, eating up all their wildlife?

The mocking. Why is it they can't stand the people that produce the food, the lumber that comes from my part of the State, from the West, from the rural parts of America? Is it they want all of their beef—I guess if they don't eat beef, they might be able to have this conversation—if they want their beef to be imported from somewhere else, if they don't want it produced here, under our standards, why is it they hate my constituents who are just trying to provide the urban people with what they need?

We don't need a hell of a lot, just coming from the urban area, I tell you what. If the gentleman wants to cater only to Marin County and have this population continue to devastate our people up there and rein in just a little bit the misinterpretation of the Endangered Species Act over the 50 years—yeah, it was well-intentioned when it came out. It was a temporary tool. It never was meant to be a life sentence or even a death sentence for livestock and for people's livelihoods up here in this area here or all over the West. This is a clear example of how the ESA has drifted a long ways from that end.

It is high time that people have tools, especially my home State of California, where they have no tools until the fish and game finally decides to come in.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ).

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 845. The bill would address at least some of the injury and injustice being inflicted on my State and my constituents by the inappropriate and unfair enforcement of the Endangered Species Act as it has been applied in the reintroduction of the gray wolf.

This injustice is apparent in the Federal Government's inability to manage and control the killing, the maiming, and the terrorizing of thousands of head of livestock across my district and the rest of the United States and in the failure of the government to properly pay for the cost of its decision to reintroduce the wolf.

I will address the lack of management first.

Let me begin my discussion of failed management by showing several pictures which are graphic illustrations of the lurking reality that many of my ranching families must deal with every single day.

As you can see, there is nothing refined about how a wolf goes about feeding itself. You can only imagine the feelings of the rancher when he or she finds their livestock torn apart or dying. You can try to imagine the anger they feel, knowing that they are legally prevented from stopping that wolf before it causes this pain and horror for their cattle and calves and stopping these wolves from doing this over and over again and again.

I have held meeting after meeting across my district listening over and

over to stories about wolves attacking herds, scattering to the four winds terrified cattle and calves, and ignoring the sad hazing efforts that we heard about earlier from across the aisle that livestock owners are reduced to using under the law to try to protect their livelihoods.

The fury, the anger, the frustration, the fear that a wolf may at some point attack a child, which it came close to doing earlier last year while children in my district were waiting for a schoolbus, is totally understandable and why we are on this floor sharing the reality of the wolf in America today.

If we are to protect those who are trying their best to feed this country, to make a living, to keep their communities viable and safe, to put out range fires, to pay their taxes, and continue to be productive parts of this Nation, we must manage the wolf. This means we must delist the wolf and move management of these creatures back to the States. Remember, this is exactly what the Democratic Obama and Biden administrations and Republican Bush and Trump administrations have agreed needed to be done literally years ago. The wolf listed status continues only because of judicial fiat.

Let me turn to the actual cost of reintroduction of the wolf and the need for those who have created this cost to be responsible for paying for it.

University studies show that the annual cost of the wolf to the cattle business as of a few years ago was estimated to be \$128 million. That is each year. This number is far higher now that cattle prices are higher.

Many think the only cost of the wolf is the killing of the livestock, but the impact of the primal fear and terror cattle understandably feel when a wolf is near has dramatic and serious impacts on weight gain and on pregnancy rates. These losses in production are real, and they are serious. In a time when even the President is concerned about beef prices, these losses affect everyone by causing a reduction in the size of America's cattle herd and, of course, their productivity.

□ 1230

In recognition of this damage caused by the wolf, laws have been enacted, some in the big, beautiful bill and some at the State level, to try to bring at least some ESA reimbursement equity into play by providing some payment to the owners for the death of cattle caused by wolves, but these programs come nowhere close to offsetting the very real loss.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that the rancher would be absolutely happier if he or she could completely avoid these losses that lead to asking for justice under these programs.

If we are to properly, fairly, and logically manage the wolf, we must pass Congresswoman BOEBERT and Congressman TIFFANY's bill, H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act.

This bill would federally delist the wolf and allow States to actually manage wolf populations—not exterminate, manage. If we are to properly allocate responsibility for the monetary cost of the wolf—that is, the cost of the Endangered Species Act—America itself must pay for the consequences of this law. That means Congress must manage the problem and appropriate dollars to pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, let's begin by passing this bill.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK).

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Pet and Livestock Protection Act, which I am a cosponsor of, led by my friends, Representative BOEBERT and Representative TIFFANY.

The truth is, Congress should not have to step in to delist the gray wolf, but here we are. That is because the Endangered Species Act listing process no longer works as it was intended to do.

The gray wolf has exceeded recovery goals. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under both Republican and Democratic administrations, has repeatedly concluded that the species should be delisted. Yet, every time, radical, litigious groups step in to block that decision.

They ignore science. They ignore facts. They ignore the law. They don't want recovery. They want permanent Federal control.

Meanwhile, wolves are wreaking unchecked havoc on ranchers, farmers, wildlife, and rural communities, which are paying the price.

In the State of Wyoming, since they reintroduced the wolf, their moose population has decreased by 80 percent. Why are we choosing wolves over moose in the State of Wyoming?

I spend more time in wolf country than probably many of the Members on this House floor. The elk populations are being decimated. They are starved. I hear my colleagues on the other side talking about how in 4 days, they killed 30 wolves. Do you know what? That is called wildlife management. You can do that.

When you have a hunting season for deer and set a goal to kill 200 deer, there are 200 deer killed in a week. It is wildlife management. That is what we do. That is what the professionals do and do exceedingly well.

I find it interesting that it is the people in this Chamber who don't have wolves in their district who want wolves in other people's districts.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I will just clarify. I said that in 4 days, 30 percent of the wolf population was killed, 30 percent, not 30 wolves.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arkansas has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of the Pet and Livestock Protection Act because it delists the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act. This gives wildlife managers more control in States while protecting domestic animals from wolf attacks.

For years, Republican and Democratic administrations alike under Presidents Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden have all reached the same conclusion: The gray wolf population is healthy, has exceeded all recovery goals, can sustain life from a variety of threats, and should be delisted.

The Endangered Species Act was never meant to be a permanent listing statute. It was designed to recover species, and once recovery is achieved, to step back. That is not what is happening.

Environmental groups have repeatedly run to courts to block delisting, ignoring the science and overriding bipartisan agency findings. The cost is regulatory whiplash, uncertainty, and paralysis while ranchers, landowners, and rural communities pay the price.

Mr. Speaker, I will respond to something that was said at the beginning of this debate. One of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle criticized this Congress for discussing wolves and said we should be focused on affordability.

First of all, we have been and are voting on bills that improve life and make it more affordable for every American, but here is the thing: For the ranchers, outfitters, and rural Coloradans I represent, this is affordability. This is their livelihood. This is how food gets to tables across America, whether you live in a small town or in the largest city. This is a way of life that America depends on, and it deserves respect, not dismissal.

H.R. 845 is supported by science. It respects each State's circumstances. It delivers protection for rural America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 845 delists the gray wolf across the United States and blocks judicial review of the delisting. This is an antiscience bill that prioritizes politics ahead of species conservation.

This bill will result in hundreds of unnecessary and indiscriminate wolf kills while doing very little to address the legitimate conflicts between some wolves and livestock. I will work with anyone on addressing those legitimate conflicts.

We have tools and funding available to address those concerns—not enough, but we have those—without undermining the progress we have made to recover this iconic species.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on H.R. 845, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the facts and the science are clear. The gray wolf is a recovered species. It is time for America to celebrate that, and Congress needs to act to make that happen.

By passing this bill, Congress would be celebrating an ESA success story and endorsing the bipartisan policy of four successive Presidential administrations—namely, to trust the science and delist the gray wolf.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BOEBERT and Congressman TIFFANY for their strong leadership on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, 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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. HUFFMAN. 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:

Mr. Huffman of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 845 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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

Mr. Huffman moves to recommit the bill H.R. 845 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 4. EXCESSIVE WOLF LOSSES.

If, at any time, the Secretary of the Interior finds the unsustainable harvest of gray wolves or another factor has reduced the gray wolf population below recovery thresholds, the Secretary shall, not later than 7 days after the date on which the Secretary makes such finding, with respect to the gray wolf—

(1) issue an emergency regulation under section 4(b)(7) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(b)(7)) to temporarily restore Federal protections; and

(2) initiate a species status review.

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 yeas appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1240

DO NO HARM IN MEDICAID ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 953, I call up 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, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 498

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 “Do No Harm in Medicaid Act”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITING FEDERAL MEDICAID FUNDING FOR GENDER TRANSITION FOR MINORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1903(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (26), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (27), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (27) the following new paragraph: “(28) with respect to any amount expended for specified gender procedures under section 1905(kk) to an individual under 18 years of age enrolled in a State plan (or waiver of such plan), including any amounts expended for the administration of a State program that furnishes specified procedures and drugs to individuals under 18 years of age.”.

(4) in the flush left matter at the end, by striking “and (18),” and inserting “(18), and (28)”.

(b) PROHIBITING FEDERAL MEDICAID FUNDING FOR GENDER TRANSITIONS FOR MINORS.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(KK) PROHIBITING FEDERAL MEDICAID FUNDING FOR GENDER TRANSITIONS FOR MINORS.—

“(A) For purposes of section 1903(i)(28), except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term ‘specified gender transition procedures’ means, with respect to an individual, any of the following when performed for the purpose of intentionally changing the body of such individual (including by disrupting the body’s development, inhibiting its natural functions, or modifying its appearance) to no longer correspond to the individual’s sex:

“(i) Performing any surgery, including—

“(I) castration;

“(II) sterilization;

“(III) orchiectomy;

“(IV) scrotoplasty;

“(V) vasectomy;

“(VI) tubal ligation;

“(VII) hysterectomy;

“(VIII) oophorectomy;

“(IX) ovariectomy;

“(X) metoidioplasty;

“(XI) clitoroplasty;

“(XII) reconstruction of the fixed part of the urethra with or without a metoidioplasty or a phalloplasty;

“(XIII) penectomy;

“(XIV) phalloplasty;

“(XV) vaginoplasty;

“(XVI) vaginectomy;

“(XVII) vulvoplasty;

“(XVIII) reduction thyrochondroplasty;

“(XIX) chondrolaryngoplasty;

“(XX) mastectomy; and

“(XXI) any plastic, cosmetic, or aesthetic surgery that feminizes or masculinizes the facial or other physiological features of an individual.

“(ii) Any placement of chest implants to create feminine breasts or any placement of erection or testicular prostheses.

“(iii) Any placement of fat or artificial implants in the gluteal region.

“(iv) Administering, supplying, prescribing, dispensing, distributing, or otherwise conveying to an individual medications, including—

“(I) gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues or other puberty-blocking drugs to stop or delay normal puberty; and

“(II) testosterone, estrogen, progesterone or other androgens to an individual at doses that are supraphysiologic, greater or more potent than would normally be produced endogenously in a healthy individual of the same age and sex.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the following when furnished to an individual by a health care provider with the consent of such individual’s parent or legal guardian:

“(i) Puberty suppression or blocking prescription drugs for the purpose of normalizing puberty for an individual experiencing precocious puberty.

“(ii) Appropriate and medically necessary procedures or treatments to correct for—

“(I) a medically verifiable genetic disorder of sex development, including—

“(aa) 46,XX chromosomes with virilization;

“(bb) 46,XY chromosome with undervirilization; and

“(cc) both ovarian and testicular tissue;

“(II) sex chromosome structure, sexsteroid hormone production, or sex hormone action, if determined to be abnormal for a healthy individual of the same sex and age by a physician through genetic or biochemical testing;

“(III) infection, disease, injury, or disorder caused or exacerbated by a previous procedure described in subparagraph (A), or a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the individual in imminent danger of death or impairment of a major bodily function unless the procedure is performed, not including procedures performed for the alleviation of mental distress; or

“(IV) procedures to restore or reconstruct the body of the individual in order to correspond to the individual’s sex after one or more previous procedures described in subparagraph (A), which may include the removal of a pseudo phallus or breast augmentation.

“(C) SEX.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘sex’ means either male or female, as biologically determined and defined by clause (i) and clause (ii).

“(i) FEMALE.—The term ‘female’ means an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for a developmental or genetic anomaly or historical accident, the reproductive system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes eggs for fertilization.

“(ii) MALE.—The term ‘male’ means an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for a developmental or genetic anomaly or historical accident, the reproductive system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes sperm for fertilization.”.

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 Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 498.

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 in strong support of H.R. 498, the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act. This bill helps support our fellow hardworking Americans whose valuable and finite tax dollars should not continue to fund medically unnecessary care under the Medicaid program.

It is our duty as Members of Congress to focus hard-earned taxpayer dollars on care that is medically necessary to improve the health of Americans. H.R. 498, Do No Harm in Medicaid Act, does just that. It prohibits Federal dollars from going toward specified gender transition procedures for individuals under 18.

My fellow House Republicans, particularly my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, have worked diligently this Congress to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid program and the Working Families Tax Cut Act.

Our goal is to eliminate unnecessary and improper procedures and strengthen Medicaid for expectant mothers and children, low-income seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

The CBO estimates this bill would save taxpayers \$445 million over a decade. I want to make it abundantly clear that it in no way prevents minors from accessing medical care that they truly need. It just simply prohibits the use of Medicaid funding on specified procedures that are medically unnecessary.

This critical legislation builds upon our work in the Working Families Tax Cut Act to create a more sustainable Medicaid program. I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is shamelessly bold for Republicans to bring a bill to the floor called the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act. That is today’s Republican Party. They simply lack any shame.

They say that they are doing no harm to Medicaid when their big, ugly bill earlier this year cut nearly \$1 trillion from the Medicaid program. That is a huge cut that will leave millions of low-income families without any health coverage at all.

We already see the devastating effects of their big, ugly bill. States,

which are already facing budget shortfalls, stare down a reduction of as much as 20 percent of their Federal Medicaid funding. They are being left with an impossible challenge.

We are seeing across-the-board cuts that are crippling hospitals, maternity units, home care providers, and clinics. We are seeing healthcare providers close their doors and cut their services. We are seeing States scale back benefits, leaving those who are able to keep their Medicaid coverage with less of the healthcare that they need.

Now, even with all of that, Republicans have the audacity to bring a bill to the floor that they claim is about doing no harm in Medicaid. That is not what this is about.

H.R. 498 is an extreme attack on medically necessary healthcare for children. The bill bans Medicaid funding for gender-affirming care for minors and strips States of even more Medicaid funding if they choose to cover this medically necessary care with their own State dollars.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are once again reaching into the doctor's office and taking deeply personal and private medical questions out of the hands of doctors, parents, and patients. They are putting it into their own hands, as if anyone wants politicians making medical decisions for them and their children.

As Members of Congress, we ought to be focused on bringing down healthcare costs and ensuring people have access to the healthcare they need, not getting in the way of doctors and parents who know what is best for their patients and their children.

The reality is this floor debate is nothing more than political theater, aimed at distracting from the devastating healthcare crisis Republicans created and are making worse every day.

They are trying to distract from the fact that their healthcare cuts are going to strip healthcare away from 15 million Americans and close hospitals all across the Nation. They are trying to distract from the fact that they are letting the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits expire on January 1.

Republican inaction is driving up healthcare costs for more than 20 million Americans who are facing double, triple, or even quadruple premium increases.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans can't distract from this cruelty. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

I also call on Speaker JOHNSON to immediately bring up the Jeffries discharge petition that now has the support of a majority of House Members and that would extend the ACA premium tax credits for 3 years.

A majority of this House—Democrat and Republican—wants to act to extend these tax credits. It is time for Speaker JOHNSON to bring that bill to the floor.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 498, the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act.

Medicaid was designed as a safety net to be used only by U.S. citizens when they fall onto hard times and need medical support. It was never intended to bankroll irreversible, gender-mutilating surgeries on vulnerable children. Yet, today, this program is being exploited by the far left, preying on young children to advance their radical trans agenda.

Adolescence is a vulnerable time for boys and girls. They are growing into the young men and women that God intended them to be. What these children really need is love and wise counsel, not taxpayer-funded permanent chemical sterilization, mutilating surgeries, or activists profiting from their confusion.

The most egregious actor is none other than Planned Parenthood, the leading abortion provider in the Nation and now the leading provider of these dangerous procedures. The Do No Harm in Medicaid Act shields innocent children from predatory companies and stops Medicaid from being weaponized against our next generation.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has no business paying for the destruction of children's bodies, and the American people should never be complicit in it. I thank my colleagues for leading this bill, and I urge all to vote "yes."

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the chair of the Congressional Equality Caucus.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this hateful legislation. The so-called Do No Harm in Medicaid Act prohibits Medicaid from spending funds on medically necessary care like puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormone treatment for transgender individuals under 18.

This is Congress seeking to ban healthcare for the most vulnerable among us. Republicans are working to ban parents from providing their trans children on Medicaid with necessary healthcare. These types of decisions should be made between families and their physicians. Yet, here we are, letting politicians in Washington, D.C., tell parents across America that they know how to raise their trans youth.

Transgender people need consistent access to essential and medically necessary care like everyone else. This care makes it possible for transgender people to live safely and authentically as themselves.

I have spoken with countless families about the impact of this lifesaving care and what it has done for their children. I have also spoken with doctors that have provided this safe and effective care. The healthcare that trans youth receive is a decision that they should

be able to make in consultation with their parents, therapists, and doctors, not by politicians.

□ 1250

Medical care for transgender youth is safe and effective and is supported by every major medical association, representing more than 1.3 million U.S. doctors.

The hypocrisy of this legislation is staggering. The bill bans Medicaid from covering medical care for transgender youth but allows for the same exact care for nontransgender youth. The proof is here in black and white. Republicans are seeking specifically to target transgender youth, and trans people are less than 1 percent of the population.

Republicans are targeting the wrong 1 percent. This is not the 1 percent that is trying to take away the healthcare of all Americans. I call on the Speaker to bring the Affordable Care Act tax credits to the floor now, today, and save healthcare for 22 million Americans.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act, which will ensure that taxpayer dollars are not funding the evil practice of transgender child mutilation. I thank my colleagues from Texas and from Kentucky for sponsoring this important bill.

As a father of eight myself, I know that we all want our children to grow up healthy, supported, and empowered. Children should not be subjected to a medical system that pushes life-altering medical procedures and hormone treatments that are incredibly harmful.

As a family doctor for over 25 years, I took an oath to do no harm and provide my patients of all ages evidence-supported treatment plans. That is why, as a Utah State senator, I led the way in 2023 by passing Utah's landmark legislation that banned transgender treatments and procedures for minors.

As a result, I faced death threats, and my house was vandalized by woke activists, as demonstrated to my left. I am not deterred. That is why I am staunchly committed to getting this right and finding Federal solutions, as I did in Utah, that will protect America's children.

At the core of the practice of medicine is that we do not subject the patient to unnecessary and dangerous medical treatments. When it comes to gender-transition interventions, puberty blockers, hormones like testosterone and estrogen, and surgical procedures, the evidence shows that this is the wrong approach to getting these kids the help that they need.

The most comprehensive and authoritative review of these practices was conducted in the United Kingdom by Dr. Hilary Cass. Her 2024 "Cass Review" concluded that the scientific evidence supporting such interventions is

remarkably weak. There is no strong, long-term evidence showing that puberty blockers and transgender surgeries improve long-term mental or physical health outcomes for minors, nor is there robust data on their safety or impact on development.

In the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services released a peer-reviewed report last month titled: "Treatment for Pediatric Gender Dysphoria: Review of Evidence and Best Practices." This study concluded that harms from treatments, including these puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries are significant, long-term, and frequently underrecognized in clinical research. The evidence for these interventions in minors is weak and insufficiently checked, particularly for outcomes like fertility, psychological well-being, and quality of life.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to protect the children of Utah and commend the 25 other States that have stood up for their kids, as well. I urge all of my colleagues to follow the scientific evidence and stop funding these horrific procedures on kids.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), who is the ranking member of our Environment Subcommittee.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is the latest in a long line of cruel and calculated Republican actions to erase and endanger LGBTQ+ people, especially trans youth, by using fear as a political weapon.

Let's be clear. Kids trying to live authentically are not a threat. Families seeking care are not political pawns, and the providers committed to their oath to do no harm are no extremists.

Every major U.S. medical group agrees that healthcare for trans youth is safe, effective, and necessary.

This care can reduce anxiety, reduce depression and suicide risk, and help young people thrive. If any other treatment lowered suicidal ideation at the same rate, we would call it a miracle. The ability is that we have an opportunity here to help our kids live as their true and healthy selves, and that is a miracle.

Yet instead of us celebrating or expanding access to lifesaving care, we are debating the bill that would prevent families from getting their children the care that they need. It is, frankly, embarrassing. Politicians should not be telling parents how to raise their own children.

Mr. Speaker, I will fight bills like this with everything I have because equality and dignity and justice are not up for debate.

I stand with the trans community in New York—20 and beyond, and I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW), the sponsor of the legislation and member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to have sponsored this legislation and have fought this battle for many years.

I think we could actually get it done this time. I am not sure that my colleagues even believe what they are saying. I think they know that their constituents don't believe it.

Let's not forget that, in the 1930s, the medical community believed that lobotomies could cure psychosis. They also believed that electroshock therapy could do the same. They even gave the lobotomy inventor a Nobel Prize in 1949. Then the science caught up with the ideology, and medicine was changed for the better.

Today's great sin in medicine is perhaps one of the worst that we have seen in human history. It is a sick and twisted ideology paired with a social media-fueled social contagion that has actually normalized the ultimate lie, which is that biological gender does not matter and can even be changed. Here is the greatest sin: that this lie also applies to children.

There are some very simple, fundamental truths in life: Men are men, women are women, and children are innocent. They can't be told that they are in the wrong body.

Mutilating children is wrong. Irreversible treatments on children who need therapy is wrong. These truths are very obvious to the vast majority of Americans, and it takes an incredible amount of propaganda and institutional coercion to get an entire society to even question these truths. Yet that is exactly what has happened.

Mr. Speaker, polls indicate that more than 70 percent of Americans support a full ban on puberty blockers for minors. That is from places like The Washington Post.

Imagine if the question had been asked differently. That is just about puberty blockers. What if they had been asked about double mastectomies on 12-year-old girls. I think the number would be probably approximately 90 percent, maybe higher.

Mr. Speaker, I am not arguing with my colleagues. I am pleading with Members to understand this. Their constituents don't want children to undergo gender transformations. They don't.

Their constituents know that kids are too young to understand the consequences of permanent physiological changes. I think my colleagues know it, too.

Even if my colleagues are uncertain about that, I think they can be rest assured that they definitely don't want their tax dollars to pay for it, which is all this bill does.

This debate is so often buried under euphemisms. There is gender-affirming

care. There is a medical consensus. There is a standard of care.

Strip away the language. Here is the reality: Healthy children are being placed on drugs that halt normal development, sterilize them, permanently alter their bodies before they are even old enough to vote or drink or get a tattoo.

These are kids suffering from teenage angst, and I don't deny the existence of gender dysphoria. However, psychotherapy is the answer to that, not permanent hormonal changes or surgical mutilations. That is not compassion. That is not medicine. That is an abomination.

We are told that questioning this practice puts children at risk and that if we don't medicalize a child's distress, they will take their own life. That claim has been debunked. It is not supported by science. Studies from all over the world have proven it false, and those who continue to promulgate it should be ashamed.

The highest quality medical reviews have consistently found no clear evidence that puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, or surgeries reduce suicide risk in minors—none. Yet we are told to suspend our moral judgment, suspend scientific skepticism, and accept irreversible harm as the default response to childhood stress. That is not how responsible medicine works.

Puberty blockers are not approved by the FDA for treating gender dysphoria. They were never designed to interrupt normal puberty in otherwise healthy children. Cross-sex hormones can permanently compromise fertility. Surgeries irreversibly alter healthy organs. These are not neutral acts.

□ 1300

These are life-altering decisions imposed on minors whose brains, identities, and bodies are still developing.

We are told that treatments are reversible. That claim is very false. International health authorities have concluded that suppressing puberty often locks children into a pathway toward permanent medical transition. Nearly every child placed on puberty blockers proceeds with the cross-sex hormones. The so-called pause button that almost always leads to irreversible outcomes is not a pause. It is a trap.

While activists insist this is settled science, the rest of the world is pulling the emergency brake. The United Kingdom now limits puberty blockers. Sweden and Finland have sharply restricted their use. France's medical authorities warn of serious risks to bone development and fertility. Those lying, depraved activists reviewed the same evidence and said, No, we are good with it.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Children suffering from gender dysphoria deserve care,

dignity, and clinical compassion, but that compassion does not mean pushing them on a medical pathway that leads to irreversible physical harm.

The answer is in evidence-based psychotherapy care, therapy, family support, and clinical monitoring over time.

What does this bill even do? The Do No Harm in Medicaid Act draws a very clear moral line that the government will not participate in, endorse, or normalize irreversible gender surgeries and chemical interventions on minors.

It is codifying President Trump's agenda to protect our children and keep them healthy. It says he won't be complicit.

Medicaid won't fund this abomination, but contrary to what many of the claims are, it preserves narrow exceptions for genuine medical conditions, like early onset puberty, disorders of sex development, and treatment of complications.

This was a very carefully crafted bill that addresses all the concerns that have been raised. It is not about hate. It is not about politics. It is about protecting kids when adults fail them. It is an easy vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Do No Harm in Medicaid Act, please.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member PALLONE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the deceptively titled Do No Harm in Medicaid Act.

Healthcare costs are about to skyrocket for millions of Americans across the country, but instead of solving that crisis, we are here with a bill that has politicians interfering with personal healthcare decisions and outrageously putting into law provisions that will essentially ban the type of healthcare that Republicans have decided they don't like. Personal healthcare decisions should be made by patients and providers, not by politicians.

This bill attacks the rights of States by banning Medicaid from covering any medical care for transgender youth, and it would put discrimination into law because it would allow the same exact care for cisgender youth.

The history of gender diverse people goes back to ancient cultures, and why this House majority is so obsessed with a very small group of vulnerable people baffles me. Transgender people deserve the same protections as everyone else, including the ability to access medically necessary care. They certainly don't deserve this bill.

Research shows that health insurance coverage for transgender people is affordable and cost-effective.

This legislation is about discrimination, and we have seen this playbook time and time again. Republicans are fear-mongering about the trans community to divert attention from the fact that they have no real solutions to make healthcare more affordable.

Congress should be focused on fixing the expiring ACA subsidies, addressing the rising costs of healthcare, and addressing affordability issues, which is what I am hearing about at home. We should not be working on this bill that would interfere in personal healthcare decisions that are between patients and their own healthcare providers.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will cause, not prevent, harm, and I urge my colleagues to reject it.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington State (Ms. RANDALL).

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I have been sitting here listening to the remarks on the floor, and I have to admit that I find myself torn between heartbroken tears and the urge to throw something, which I will not do because I am a professional human being.

I have to wonder how many actual trans people and families of trans kids anyone on the other side of the aisles knows, how many conversations anyone has had with parents who are staying up late worried about whether that night is the night that their child is going to take their life because they feel so unsupported and so unloved and are taking in the hatred from the floor of the House of Representatives.

The kids and parents in my community live their lives in terror, and they have it the best, because Washington State is a place where we have fought to protect healthcare access for LGBTQ kids and trans kids. We have fought to ensure that every young person has the ability to make healthcare decisions that are right for them, in consultation with their parents and their doctors. It is true medically directed care in consultation with a doctor.

The American people have told us over and over that they don't want politicians in the doctor's office. They don't want politicians making decisions about what kind of medical care they can access, but that is what is happening right now.

They are trying to strip away life-saving care from children who are moving to my State at higher and higher rates. Almost every week, I hear of a family who has moved from Texas, Idaho, or Florida because the parents want their children to survive.

This effort not only to cut Medicaid coverage but to try to ban access for children—

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, this behavior is appalling. It is dangerous. It is evil. It is evil to seek to deny life-saving care for children who are more at risk than any others.

I spend a lot of time in LGBTQ clubs in high schools, talking to young people who are shocked when I come in

and tell them that, as a queer woman, I am a Member of Congress. They say: Do you know any trans people your age? They don't believe that they will make it to 40. They don't believe that they will make it to 50 or 60. They don't believe that they have a future because they are watching the floor and listening to the words that come out of our mouths, and they know that half of the people in this Chamber do not care if they survive.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very clear that I am not going to vote for this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me.

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I don't need much time.

The question was asked if we had ever bothered speaking to trans kids. The answer is absolutely yes. Maybe that is why I am so passionate about this. It turns out there are hundreds and hundreds, thousands perhaps, of trans kids who were coerced by radicalized doctors. Their parents were lied to.

Their parents were given studies that said there is a 1 percent remorse rate. These studies are based on nonsense. They are not even based on a pool of participants that are minors. They were told that these things are just a pause button, that it is reversible, that this is just a standard of care. Standard of care based on what? Based on junk science. We cannot base standards of care on junk science.

Now, the science has caught up: the Cass Review study, the systematic review, which is the gold standard of any kind of study because it looks at all the different studies methodically, and then the 300-page review that HHS just did.

I have had them on my podcast twice to talk about their experiences. Chloe Cole spoke at the Department of Health and Human Services just now, about an hour ago. Chloe Cole, at 12 years old, was going through what a lot of 12-year-olds are going through. She is a tomboy. She has older brothers. She likes sports. She is confused. Doctors tell her that she is a boy. They convinced her parents of the same. She is put on puberty blockers and soon on high levels of testosterone. By age 15, she has a double mastectomy. She is not sure if she can ever have kids, and she definitely can't feed her children normally.

Yes, we have talked to them. Maybe my colleagues on the other side should, too.

□ 1310

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 498, the so-called Do No Harm in Medicaid Act.

Yesterday, four Republicans stood with Democrats and signed a discharge

petition to force a vote on a clean extension of ACA premium tax credits, but Republican leadership is refusing to immediately bring that bill to the floor.

Now, 22 million Americans will see their premiums skyrocket, and our constituents will be forced to decide between healthcare and paying rent or affording groceries.

Instead of allowing a bipartisan vote to lower healthcare costs, Republicans have chosen to bring forward H.R. 498, which completely ignores the affordability crisis and needlessly targets transgender children.

That includes my nephew, Lee, who is currently transitioning. He is a child. He is loved, and like every other child in this country, the healthcare decisions should be made by his family and his doctors, not by politicians.

H.R. 498 would strip Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care for trans youth, care that is medically necessary, evidence-based, and supported by every major medical association in this country.

This bill will endanger lives, and it will do nothing to bring down skyrocketing healthcare costs or address any real issues facing working Americans. Instead, it denies medically necessary care simply because that care goes to a trans child.

As vice chair of the Equality Caucus, I will always fight to protect the dignity, safety, and humanity of the trans community.

Lee deserves better. Our children deserve better, and the entire trans community deserves better.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to my friend, I have asked, since we have been meeting this year, about the extension of the tax credits they keep bringing up. Remember, they are talking about the extension of the tax credits that they set to expire.

So the question I have asked, and nobody has been able to answer, Mr. Speaker, is: Why did you set them to expire? Remember, they were set to expire in the Inflation Reduction Act, or the Green New Deal.

Within the Inflation Reduction Act, tax cuts were made so-called permanent, although they were replaced in another bill, but they set these to expire. Nobody has ever explained to me why the Democrats made the decision to end the enhanced subsidies that they are talking about and shutting the government down for 43 days, when they chose to end them, and then coming in here today talking about we need to have a vote on it, when they chose to end them. They never explained why they chose to end them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I will not be long. I will just ask a simple question, because the statement was made that all the science suggests that these procedures are medically necessary.

Can they cite their sources? Show me the studies. I cited mine. Cite their sources.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation. Every parent wants to keep their child safe, wants their child to grow without pain, to sleep through the night without fear or suffering. But when our children are growing up, it is inevitable that they will need medical care, from a fall from a bike or a fall on the playground.

Parents rush to the doctor's office. They bandage scraped knees. They hold their child's hand and wipe away tears while their pediatrician lays out a plan. In these moments, that urgent question on that parent's mind is: What does my child need to be okay?

A broken bone, asthma, gender dysphoria, diabetes, whatever the presenting issue is, a treatment plan takes shape.

For some families, what their children need to be okay is access to gender-affirming care. They need care that is safe, evidence-based, and recognized as essential by every major medical association; care, that for some children, is the difference between despair and hope, between isolation and community, between surviving and thriving.

Yet today, we are debating a bill that would tell parents on Medicaid that their child's pain is unworthy of care, that their doctor's judgment does not matter, and that politicians know better than parents sitting in exam rooms.

Cole, a young person from Massachusetts, wrote to me and said: Transgender people deserve the same chance to thrive and live fulfilling lives as everyone else. Having the freedom to control our bodies and seek the healthcare we need, including gender-affirming care, is an essential right for all people.

I agree.

To Cole and every person who is trans or nonbinary, let me speak plainly: You belong. You are enough, and you deserve to show up in this world as your full, authentic self. You deserve to grow up. You deserve to grow old.

Healthcare is a human right, and parents doing everything they can to make sure their child is okay deserve support, not interference, and certainly not cruelty.

I don't know what God y'all pray to, but the one that I know is a loving God, and He does not discriminate. His love does not discriminate. He loves all the children, including the trans children.

Healthcare is a human right, and parents doing everything they can to make sure their child is okay deserve support.

Shame on this bill. Shame on an agenda that strips healthcare away from vulnerable children, and shame on anyone who votes to deny care to families trying to do right by their kids.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this incredibly cruel bill.

As prices skyrocket, as Republicans strip away healthcare from Americans across this country, strip away basic support for American families, what are we using floor time for today? A cruel attack against trans children that does nothing to lower anyone's costs and does everything to put a target on the backs of our vulnerable kids and families.

I understand that there is fear that has been promoted by the majority around trans kids and what happens and what this process is. I understand that we have to explain this to people.

But let me be very clear about something. The medical science is clear. The decisions that have been made by trans kids and their families are decisions that have taken months, years sometimes, to go through, consultation with parents, with medical providers, with therapists, before ever providing the medical care.

The most common form of gender-affirming care for young people is medications that simply pause puberty and have been used safely for decades.

Why do my colleagues across the aisle, so-called limited-government people, suddenly want government to get in the way of the decisions that parents and their kids make together? Why do they want to stop children from getting medical care that has been proven to be safe and effective and helps them to live happily, helps them to live, just live?

Why is the majority attacking vulnerable trans kids and raising the level of fear and hatred toward them?

We should be protecting every family's right to make the decisions that they need to make for their child's well-being.

Let me tell you something. What is happening on this floor and in this Congress around this issue is so incredibly dangerous. Trans kids are walking around with mace in their pockets because they are being attacked by people because the majority is insisting there is something to fear from them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah.) The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I will not stand for these kinds of attacks. The condescension that is coming from the other side—have you talked to your constituents? Do you really know? You don't really know what you are doing.

Excuse me. We are here to represent our districts, and I still believe I am the Member that gets the most votes of any Member of Congress anywhere in the country. Don't tell me I don't know how to represent my district.

What you are doing today, what this majority is doing today, is making life dangerous for kids. What the majority

is doing today is getting in the way of families and parents and kids making the decisions that they need to make so that they can live, so that they don't commit suicide.

What parent in this body or anywhere in this country wouldn't do anything for their children? What parent doesn't want their kids to live?

This is dangerous. You are putting our kids at risk, and I will not stand for it. The American people won't stand for it. Vote "no" on this horrific and cruel bill.

□ 1320

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman the Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, again, it has been stated that these so-called treatments are safe and effective and save lives. I ask the gentlewoman again: Cite your sources. Cite your sources.

You won't. That is because you know that I know all of the sources that you are going to cite. You know what I am going to say about them: about the problems with their methodology; about the pool of participants they use; about how short those studies were; and about how most of them didn't even apply to minors.

You know what I am going to say, and so you won't cite your sources.

Mr. Speaker, I will cite mine. We have systematic reviews that have been published and accepted throughout the scientific community. That is why the rest of the Western world is reversing their stance on this, and the United States needs to also.

That is because I couldn't tell if that speech about harming kids was about our bill or about the act of conducting irreversible physiological changes on children who are going through gender dysphoria.

Yes, we are trying to protect kids. We are trying to love our kids.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time remains on our side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I hadn't originally planned to talk about this, but today, December 18, is the anniversary of my grandfather's passing 51 years ago.

My grandfather Emil and his wife, Molly, had 18 grandchildren. What made them extraordinary is that they saw the grace of every one of their grandchildren and wanted each and every one of their grandchildren to reach their full potential. What made them truly special is that that love extended to everyone in our community and across the globe.

As a father of two, I want nothing more for my kids than for them to be happy and to reach their potential.

As a Representative in this body in the House of Representatives, we all should want nothing more for our kids than for every kid in America to reach their full potential and be comfortable in their personal identity.

That is why I rise so strongly in opposition to H.R. 498.

I ask my colleagues on the other side: What are you afraid of?

This harmful bill would prohibit State Medicaid programs from providing lifesaving gender-affirming care to individuals under the age of 18. It not only bars the use of Federal funds to States for this care but prohibits States from using their own money to provide it.

My Republican colleagues want to insert themselves into the practice of medicine and make a family's medical decision from the Halls of this Chamber. Shame on them.

My Republican colleagues want a veto in what health services are available to children and their families.

Mr. Speaker, even if you live in my State of Illinois where the State legislature signed into law protections for gender-affirming care, this body would still prevent that access.

This bill purposely targets kids, children, and only kids. These are decisions that should be made by the patient, their parents and guardians, and the medical providers providing the care to give these kids the chance to reach their potential and to be comfortable in who they are as Americans.

Without access to these services, my Republican colleagues are putting children's lives at risk, and it is despicable.

I oppose this bill, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. I urge my colleagues, as I have done, to talk to people and to talk to families to hear the stories of how this care has saved lives and to get their noses out of the business of individuals, their families, and their medical providers.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I am glad my friend from Illinois pointed out this only affects children because adults can make their decisions. We don't take any decisions away from adults. This affects children.

It is very specific. I think my friend from Texas is going to talk about it. I would like for my friend from Illinois, or anybody, to read through what is specifically identified as prohibited in this bill and say which of those saves someone's life. It is permanent surgery to change someone. It is very limited what is in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, this claim is made over and over, that allowing gender-affirming care, as they call it, is saving lives. The problem with that claim is that there is no evidence to suggest that.

All of the reviews, all of the studies, all of the systematic reviews—a systematic review means a systematic review of all of the studies—show that there can be no clear line drawn be-

tween suicide rates and doing this kind of care.

A paper published in the British Medical Journal examined the landscape. Mr. Speaker, 61 systematic studies concluded there is great uncertainty about the effects of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries in young people.

On suicide risk, there is no clear evidence that these medical interventions prevent suicide. A 2020 study analyzing trans-identifying patients of all ages over 40-plus years found that suicides occur at every stage of medical transition.

A 2021 systematic review concluded that based on available data, no conclusions can be drawn about whether hormones, puberty blockers, or surgeries reduced suicide risk.

Again, in 2024, another independent review found that Britain's post-2020 restriction of puberty blockers did not cause a rise in suicides despite many of the lies told on social media by activists.

They keep saying that every medical society supports this—and, so, okay, then, we have to listen to them. Well, that is true. It is because of ideological pressure rather than scientific evidence. We know that these studies that they are citing are based on low-quality evidence, small sample sizes, and very high risk of bias.

A Johns Hopkins systematic review found that the evidence supporting claims that hormonal treatments may improve quality of life, depression, and anxiety among transgender patients was "low." The study called for more research, particularly on adolescents.

The same review concluded that it was about impossible—this is Johns Hopkins—it was about impossible to draw conclusions about the effects of hormone therapy on suicide risk.

Even a review published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, which institutionally has supported gender transition, admits that "evidence regarding the psychosocial and cognitive impact of hormonal treatments for transgender adolescents is generally lacking."

I could keep going. The point here, Mr. Speaker, is you have got a problem, and it is a gender dysphoric problem. We know that a kid is going through something hard. And you want to take the most extreme possible medical intervention to deal with that while the science says we have no idea whether that is a good idea or not.

That is what the actual scientific consensus says.

Now, if the argument was: Hey, give them more fruit or something, then that is not really harmful. That would be fine. We wouldn't be arguing about it, but the minority is talking about double mastectomies. They are talking about puberty blockers and hormonal therapies that permanently change the physiology of a young person before they are old enough to even understand what they might want in 20 years.

That is the most irresponsible type of policymaking one can imagine. It is the most irresponsible type of medicine that one can imagine.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), who is a member of our committee.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition today to H.R. 498, the so-called Do No Harm in Medicaid Act, and I urge my colleagues to support my motion to recommit.

H.R. 498 is an unnecessary ban on Medicaid funding. Instead, we see what Republicans are doing: a \$1-trillion cut to Medicaid in the big, ugly law that is going to mean a 15 percent cut next year in Florida that they are going to have to work on and trying to insert themselves into deeply personal medical decisions.

Mr. Speaker, there was a Christmas miracle this week. We saw four Republicans join us in a discharge petition to get at what the American people really want to vote on. They want us to vote on extending the enhanced premium tax credits for the ACA to stop a huge healthcare hike for 20 million Americans. That is what people want us to be talking about here today, before their premiums double, triple, and even quadruple.

They don't want us to be delving into these culture war issues when we have real work to do to fund Medicaid and to extend the ACA tax credits.

□ 1330

Affordability is the biggest thing in the Nation right now. My district has the second most ObamaCare of any district. In my district, 275,000 people will see their healthcare double or triple, so this should be the priority right now.

Mr. Speaker, all America wants for Christmas is a 3-year ACA tax credit extension, and I am hoping we can get it together. I have given us an opportunity.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would include a clean 3-year extension of the enhanced premium tax credits, just in time for Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for 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 gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. SOTO. I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

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

Since that is the motion to recommit, maybe it would be a good opportunity for my friends on the other side

of the aisle to let the country know when they decided to let these tax credits expire in the same bill that they have permanent tax credits for the Green New Deal. I don't know, you would have to think maybe they want to take the money from the tax credits and spend it on the Green New Deal. Unless there is a better explanation than that, that is exactly what the bill did.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on my side of the aisle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 11 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I just heard my colleagues across the aisle give a lecture about irresponsible policymaking. I remind this body that we are 7 days from Christmas. We were scheduled to take votes tomorrow, but the Speaker and my Republican colleagues are in such a hurry to get out of town before the holidays that you have canceled votes tomorrow and are leaving town. In many cases, many of you are planning to leave in the next several hours, and this is the bill that you are running? This is the bill that you are running, not a bill to save the healthcare of millions of Americans? This is your bill 1 week before Christmas, to take healthcare away from LGBTQ kids in the United States?

I mean, it is hard to believe that this is what you are doing with your majority. This is one of the most powerful bodies in the world, and you have canceled votes, to take away healthcare from LGBTQ+ kids.

If passed, this bill would prohibit young people in communities all across the United States, in low-income families, from receiving lifesaving care. I am proud to come from a State, New Mexico, that has protected gender-affirming care and which stands with the LGBTQ+ and trans community and their families.

Let me tell you that, yes, this is necessary care, and it is care that keeps kids alive. It is about mental health. It is about self-harm. It is about reducing suicides. It is about making sure that human beings, young people, have access to care that is essential for them to live their lives.

In addition to this, this bill tramples on the so-called States' rights that you tell us every day you want to protect by penalizing States that would take their own resources to ensure that kids have access to care.

If you are actually concerned about the welfare of children, if you are actually concerned about healthcare in this country and its costs, and if you are actually sincere about your care for the American people, then bring a vote on the Affordable Care Act extension to this floor now.

The American people are tired of these games. You all are going to get on a plane and go home in a couple of hours while millions of Americans lose their healthcare, and this is the bill that you are running on the floor before you do that? Shame on you. It is disgraceful.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentlewoman that we did have a bill yesterday that passed. It hardly got any Democratic support. If you look at the enhanced tax credits that they set to expire to pay for the Green New Deal, so the moral cause that people are bringing up, they chose to put Green New Deal tax credits over extended premium tax credits. That is obvious. It is in the same bill. It wasn't like they voted for one bill and then another.

At the same time, yesterday, we estimated a good half of the people on—we know, from a GAO study, there is waste, fraud, and abuse in the ObamaCare marketplace that we wanted to fix. It went to the Senate, and it got taken out during the reconciliation bill.

We put in cost-share reductions that were estimated to lower premiums in the marketplace by 12.7 percent. When it went to the Senate, the Democrats challenged it in the Senate and took it out.

We also know there are another 163 million Americans who get their healthcare from their employers, which they offered nothing to assist and help, which we did yesterday. We know most of the people in the marketplace are small business men and women who have to buy in the individual marketplace because they work for themselves and don't have a big employer with a big employee pool. We allowed them, in yesterday's bill, to band together so they can buy across their associations. Instead of being a car dealer with 20 employees, you can be 100 car dealers, with 20 times 100 employees, so they have a bigger pool and can get cheaper rates for their employees.

We did have a bill that passed yesterday without a single Democratic vote that lowered premiums in the marketplace and premiums for every working American.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW), my friend.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I love debunking lies in real time. It is one of my favorite things to do.

The chairman just did a great job debunking a lie. We were just told that this is the only bill we are doing this week. No, it is not. It is an important bill, but everything he just listed was also pretty important to lower people's healthcare costs. I don't know why there was no Democratic support for it.

I want to debunk some more lies. Again, on this idea that puberty

blockers for children are safe and effective, let me read some more facts. The Center for Investigative Reporting found that the FDA received over 10,000 adverse event reports from women who took Lupron, which is a common puberty blocker, off-label as children, to help them grow taller. Reported side effects included brittle bones and fractures, tooth enamel loss and cracked teeth, spinal disk degeneration and chronic joint pain, seizures, migraines, suicidal thoughts—so it is actually the opposite, isn't it?—cognitive issues, and fertility problems.

The FDA ordered the manufacturer to add a warning label, noting that children taking Lupron may develop new or worsened psychiatric symptoms. Trans-identifying minors are already three times more likely than the general population to experience anxiety, depression, and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Why make it worse? Stop talking about compassion. They are the ones doing the opposite of compassion by tricking these kids into thinking that this might be their answer. It is not. Therapy is.

There was another claim made that this tramples on States' rights, so I guess we need to have a quick civics lesson. We are talking about Federal funding, Medicaid funding provided by the Federal Government. The Federal Government can put restrictions on what that money is used for. It is not a trampling of States' rights. It is not a trampling of doctors' rights.

Let me ask something. My daughter picks up my fake eyes, and she goes: "Eye, eye, eye." She is 2. She puts it on. Maybe when she is old enough to talk, she might identify as somebody with one eye. Should I take her to the doctor and say: Hey, will you enucleate her eyeball because, you know, she identifies as monocular just as I am, just like her daddy.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, you would say that is insane. You would call that absolutely insane, and it would be insane.

Here is the reality. The scary part about that analogy is that it is actually a lot less troubling to lose an eye than it is to completely change your gender. Completely changing your gender is a far more invasive procedure than losing an eye. Trust me, I know.

□ 1340

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Kentucky has 7 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, I just have to correct two comments that were made by my Republican colleagues.

First, the sponsor of the bill said that they are just talking about Federal funds. The fact of the matter is, they are not just talking about Federal funds because this bill prevents States like Washington State—we had two people speak about this—from using State funds for gender-affirming care for minors. It is not just a prohibition on Federal funds.

Also, my chairman from Kentucky kept saying that the healthcare bill that the Republicans put on the floor yesterday would lower costs and somehow address the healthcare crisis. It does not. It does not lower costs, and it certainly doesn't extend the tax credits that are necessary under the Affordable Care Act to lower costs. Those expire January 1.

Mr. Speaker, I know the sponsor from Texas also mentioned medical professional organizations that oppose this bill, and there are many, but I include in the RECORD a letter from four of those organizations: American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, and American Psychiatric Association.

DECEMBER 16, 2025.

DEAR 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 health care for transgender young people and as such represent a direct threat to patient welfare. We urge you to reject these extreme proposals.

Families must be able to make personal medical decisions regarding the care of their child in consultation with trained health professionals. H.R. 3492 threatens parents and physicians with imprisonment for obtaining medically necessary health care. Such a proposal harms the physical and mental health and well-being of families and interferes with parents' ability to make informed decisions in the best interests of their child. It also creates an irresolvable ethical conflict that makes it impossible to fulfill their duty to put the needs of the patient first.

Health care for transgender young people is individualized, age-appropriate, provided according to longstanding expert clinical guidelines, and supported by leading American medical organizations. Under existing guidelines, medical interventions are provided only after careful screening and joint decision-making including a patient, family, and their care team. H.R. 498 would insert the federal government between patients and physicians. It would also put this care out of reach for families nationwide by prohibiting the use of federal Medicaid funding for its provision and requiring physicians to provide different care to patients based on the health insurance they hold. Preventing anyone from obtaining medically necessary care threatens their physical and mental health and well-being and that of their families.

Our organizations are united in opposition to political interference in the practice of medicine. The confidential relationship between a patient, their caregiver, and a physician is the foundation of clinical care. Physicians and other health professionals should never be criminalized or penalized for providing care consistent with evidence-based guidelines and best clinical judgment, and the government should not interfere. Physicians, not the federal government, are best positioned to work with patients and their

families to address their unique medical and mental health care needs.

We urge lawmakers to oppose these harmful intrusions into the patient-physician relationship and the provision of medical care.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American Psychiatric Association.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am going to read certain sections of it. They say: "We, the undersigned medical professional organizations, write in strong opposition to H.R. 3492."

"Healthcare for transgender young people is individualized, age-appropriate, provided according to longstanding expert clinical guidelines, and supported by leading American medical organizations. . . . Our organizations are united in opposition to political interference in the practice of medicine. The confidential relationship between a patient, their caregiver, and a physician is the foundation of clinical care."

Physicians and other health professionals should never be stopped "from providing care consistent with evidence-based guidelines and best clinical judgment, and the government should not interfere. Physicians, not the Federal Government, are best positioned to work with patients and their families to address their unique medical and mental health care needs."

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN), a member of our committee.

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have been watching this debate, and I will say just one thing, which is, Mr. Speaker, I remember when the Republican Party was about small government, local control, and personal liberties. Those were the foundations of the party that I grew up with.

I wasn't a Republican, but I admired those things about the party. It seems as if they all have strayed, Mr. Speaker, from those core tenets of personal liberty, States' rights, local control, leaving people alone.

We are talking about children here, kids who get bullied, who have the highest suicide rates of any other group of kids. Now, politicians are bullying them and saying that they are going to pick on them, too. It is wrong.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 30 seconds remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will say that I totally oppose this bill. I think these decisions should be left with parents and physicians, but more than anything else, I will mention today that Republicans need to do the right thing and bring up the Jeffries discharge petition that would extend the tax credits under the ACA for 3 more years. They should not allow them to expire on January 1. It should be brought up now.

I oppose this bill, and I ask that the Speaker bring up the discharge petition now.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I invite anyone to read through the list of the specific things that are prohibited in this bill from being performed on minors and say which one they think is good for a minor to have. Instead of reading through the list, I wish they would go through the list and say which is good for a minor to have.

On Medicaid, we have this issue of States providing Medicaid to people who are here illegally. That is the Medicaid administration. It is the same dollars. It is commingled.

If you are going to operate something through Medicaid, unless you say that you are going to use Federal dollars for this procedure but State dollars for that procedure, it is the same administration doing them.

We tried to fix that in the big, beautiful bill. It was struck down by the Democrats in the Senate. We think that is wrong.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW), my friend.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let's just summarize what we have heard today.

We have heard that so-called gender-affirming care is necessary, effective, prevents suicides, and helps vulnerable children. No one can cite any sources for that claim. They can cite letters from certain associations that are ideologically driven.

I will again read the quote from the American Academy of Pediatrics when they did a review. On hormonal treatments for transgender adolescents, APA said: "Evidence regarding their psychosocial and cognitive impact is generally lacking." I get that their leadership is saying one thing, but the scientists are all saying something else.

As responsible policymakers, we might want to take a pause before we just go on and assume that permanent physiological changes to children are a good idea because they are going through something tough, whether that is gender dysphoria, teenage angst, depression, or anxiety.

If you talk about compassion, I am talking about compassion, too. Compassion is being a responsible adult in the room for that child who doesn't know all of these things.

Compassion is not a doctor lying to a child's parents about junk science in studies that say they won't have any remorse, that they will be fine, that puberty blockers are like a pause button. No, they are not. There was a study in Britain that showed 96 or 98

percent move on to hormonal therapies. It is not a pause button at all.

Again, ask the thousands of trans kids who now vehemently regret their decisions. They are in lawsuits with the doctors who did this to them. That alone should tell us to take a pause here.

Let's just take a pause on this ideology because there is no evidence that it works, and there is plenty of evidence to show that it is extreme in nature because it is permanent.

They wouldn't do this for any other body part. You can't just identify as one-armed and ask the doctor to cut off your arm. The doctor won't do it, just like the doctor won't take out someone's eye because they want to identify like me. They are not going to do it because that would be malpractice and insane.

Tell me how this is any different. I have asked my colleagues to cite their sources many times, but no one has. I have cited all of them.

This is about very simple common sense. The vast majority of Americans agree that these treatments shouldn't even be done on minors.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind everyone that this bill doesn't even go that far. It simply says that your tax dollars won't allow this to be done on minors, just your Medicaid tax dollars. That is all it does.

To not vote for this is to truly vote against their own constituents, truly vote against the American people's wishes, and vote against common sense.

The science is settled on this. There is no benefit to what they are claiming. I don't know why they keep fighting this battle. It is a losing battle. I hope many of them will change their minds and come across the aisle to vote for this bill.

This really doesn't have to be a partisan issue at all. It should be an issue of common sense, science, and true compassion for children.

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

□ 1350

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

Mr. SOTO. 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:

Mr. SOTO of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 498 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

Mr. SOTO of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 498 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 yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. SOTO. 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.

STANDARDIZING PERMITTING AND EXPEDITING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 951 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4776.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) kindly take the chair.

□ 1350

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further 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, with Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 119-410 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 119-410 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. CLYDE of Georgia.

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. ROY of Texas.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. ROY of Texas.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CLYDE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1, printed in House Report 119–410, offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 205, noes 220, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 352]

AYES—205

Aderholt	Finstad	Letlow
Alford	Fischbach	Loudermilk
Allen	Fitzgerald	Lucas
Amodei (NV)	Fleischmann	Luna
Arrington	Flood	Luttrell
Babin	Fong	Mace
Bacon	Foxx	Malliotakis
Baird	Franklin, Scott	Maloy
Balderson	Fry	Mann
Barr	Fulcher	Massie
Barrett	Gill (TX)	Mast
Baumgartner	Jimenez	McCaul
Bean (FL)	Goldman (TX)	McClain
Begich	Gonzales, Tony	McClintock
Bentz	Gonzalez, V.	McCormick
Bergman	Gooden	McDowell
Bice	Gosar	McGuire
Biggs (AZ)	Graves	Messmer
Biggs (SC)	Griffith	Meuser
Bilirakis	Grothman	Miller (IL)
Boebert	Guest	Miller (WV)
Bost	Guthrie	Miller-Meeks
Brecheen	Hageman	Mills
Buchanan	Hamadeh (AZ)	Moolenaar
Burchett	Haridopolos	Moore (AL)
Burlison	Harrigan	Moore (NC)
Calvert	Harris (MD)	Moore (UT)
Cammack	Harris (NC)	Moore (WV)
Carey	Harshbarger	Moran
Carter (TX)	Hern (OK)	Nehls
Ciscomani	Higgins (LA)	Newhouse
Cline	Hill (AR)	Norman
Cloud	Hinson	Nunn (IA)
Clyde	Houchin	Oberholte
Cole	Hudson	Ogles
Collins	Huizenga	Onder
Comer	Hurd (CO)	Owens
Crane	Issa	Palmer
Crank	Jack	Patronis
Crawford	Jackson (TX)	Perry
Crenshaw	James	Pfluger
Cuellar	Johnson (LA)	Radewagen
Davidson	Johnson (SD)	Reschenthaler
De La Cruz	Jordan	Rogers (AL)
DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)	Rogers (KY)
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)	Rose
Donalds	Kelly (PA)	Rouzer
Downing	Kennedy (UT)	Roy
Dunn (FL)	Kiggans (VA)	Rulli
Edwards	Kiley (CA)	Rutherford
Ellzey	Kim	Salazar
Emmer	Knott	Scalise
Estes	Kustoff	Schmidt
Ezell	LaHood	Schweikert
Fallon	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Fedorchak	Langworthy	Self
Feenstra	Latta	Sessions
Fine	Lee (FL)	Shreve

Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragan
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davis (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espallat
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Gosbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)

Carter (GA)
Casar
Courtney
Greene (GA)
Hunt

Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner

NOES—220

Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Hernández
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
King-Hinds
Krishnamoorthi
LaLota
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lawler
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Moylan
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse

NOT VOTING—14

Joyce (OH)
McBath
Miller (OH)
Murphy
Stefanik
Swalwell
Williams (GA)
Wilson (SC)
Womack

Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

Norcross
Norton
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sanchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozy
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
Wilson (FL)

□ 1421

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Ms. MALOY, and Mr. BACON changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. FINE). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 5, printed in House Report 119–410, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 208, noes 214, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 353]

AYES—208

Aderholt	Finstad	Latta
Alford	Fischbach	Lee (FL)
Allen	Fitzgerald	Letlow
Amodei (NV)	Fleischmann	Loudermilk
Arrington	Flood	Lucas
Babin	Fong	Luna
Bacon	Foxx	Luttrell
Baird	Franklin, Scott	Mace
Balderson	Fry	Mackenzie
Barr	Fulcher	Malliotakis
Barrett	Gill (TX)	Maloy
Baumgartner	Jimenez	Mann
Bean (FL)	Goldman (TX)	Massie
Begich	Gonzales, Tony	Mast
Bentz	Gonzalez, V.	McCaul
Bergman	Gooden	McClain
Bice	Gosar	McClintock
Biggs (AZ)	Graves	McCormick
Biggs (SC)	Griffith	McDowell
Bilirakis	Grothman	McGuire
Boebert	Guest	Messmer
Bost	Guthrie	Meuser
Brecheen	Hageman	Miller (IL)
Bresnahan	Hamadeh (AZ)	Miller (WV)
Buchanan	Haridopolos	Miller-Meeks
Burchett	Harrigan	Mills
Burlison	Harris (MD)	Moolenaar
Calvert	Harris (NC)	Moore (AL)
Cammack	Harshbarger	Moore (NC)
Carey	Hern (OK)	Moore (UT)
Carter (TX)	Higgins (LA)	Moore (WV)
Ciscomani	Hill (AR)	Moran
Cline	Hinson	Nehls
Cloud	Houchin	Newhouse
Clyde	Hudson	Norman
Cole	Huizenga	Nunn (IA)
Collins	Hurd (CO)	Oberholte
Comer	Issa	Ogles
Crane	Jack	Onder
Crank	Jackson (TX)	Owens
Crawford	James	Palmer
Crenshaw	Johnson (SD)	Patronis
Cuellar	Jordan	Perry
Davidson	Joyce (PA)	Pfluger
De La Cruz	Kean	Radewagen
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Reschenthaler
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (AL)
Donalds	Kennedy (UT)	Rogers (KY)
Downing	Kiggans (VA)	Rose
Dunn (FL)	Kiley (CA)	Rouzer
Edwards	Kim	Roy
Ellzey	King-Hinds	Rulli
Emmer	Knott	Rutherford
Estes	Kustoff	Salazar
Ezell	LaHood	Scalise
Fallon	LaMalfa	Schmidt
Fedorchak	LaLota	Schweikert
Feenstra	Langworthy	Scott, Austin
Fine		

Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Staubert
Steube
Strong

Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Epps
Van Orden

Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—214

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
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
Espallat
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Figures
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen

Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Hernández
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
Lawler
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
Moylan
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross

Norton
Ocasio-Cortez
Olzewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sanchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozi
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
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Carter (GA)
Casar
Courtney
Fields
Greene (GA)
Hunt

Joyce (OH)
McBath
Miller (OH)
Murphy
Stefanik
Steil

Swalwell
Williams (GA)
Wilson (SC)
Womack

□ 1427

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6, printed in House Report 119-410, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 204, noes 217, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 354]

AYES—204

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
Boeh
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Carmack
Carey
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
Elizy
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy

Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick

McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Radewagen
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Staubert
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner

Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)

Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)

NOES—217

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
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
Espallat
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Figures
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)

Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Hernández
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
King-Hinds
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lawler
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Mannion
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Moylan
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse

Norcross
Norton
Ocasio-Cortez
Olzewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sanchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozi
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
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—17

Carter (GA)
Casar
Courtney
Fields
Greene (GA)
Hunt

Joyce (OH)
Kiley (CA)
McBath
Miller (OH)
Murphy
Rutherford

Stefanik
Swalwell
Williams (GA)
Wilson (SC)
Womack

□ 1430

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) having assumed the chair,

Mr. FINE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration 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, and, pursuant to House Resolution 951, reported the bill, as amended by that resolution and by House Resolution 953, back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

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. LEE of Nevada. 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. Lee of Nevada moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4776 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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 yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 2-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 2-minute votes on:

Passage of the bill, if ordered;
The motion to recommit on H.R. 1366;
Passage of H.R. 1366, if ordered;
The motion to recommit on H.R. 845;
Passage of H.R. 845, if ordered;
The motion to recommit on H.R. 498;

and

Passage of H.R. 498, if ordered.

Members are advised that all remaining votes are 2-minute votes.

This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 211, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 355]

YEAS—206

Adams	Bynum	Conaway
Aguilar	Carbajal	Correa
Amo	Carson	
Ansari	Carter (LA)	Craig
Auchincloss	Case	Crockett
Balint	Casten	Crow
Barragán	Castor (FL)	Cuellar
Beatty	Castro (TX)	Davids (KS)
Bell	Cherfilus-	Davis (IL)
Bera	McCormick	Davis (NC)
Beyer	Chu	Dean (PA)
Bishop	Cisneros	DeGette
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	DeLauro
Boyle (PA)	Clarke (NY)	DeBene
Brown	Cleaver	Deluzio
Brownley	Clyburn	DeSaulnier
Budzinski	Cohen	Dexter

Dingell	Lee (PA)	Rivas
Doggett	Leger Fernandez	Ross
Elfreth	Levin	Ruiz
Escobar	Liccardo	Ryan
Espaiilat	Lieu	Salinas
Evans (CA)	Lofgren	Sánchez
Figures	Lynch	Scanlon
Fletcher	Magaziner	Schakowsky
Foster	Mannion	Schneider
Foushee	Matsui	Scholten
Frankel, Lois	McBride	Schrier
Friedman	McClain Delaney	Scott (VA)
Frost	McClellan	Scott, David
Garamendi	McCollum	Sewell
Garcia (CA)	McDonald Rivet	Sherman
Garcia (IL)	McGarvey	Simon
Garcia (TX)	McGovern	Smith (WA)
Gillen	McIver	Sorensen
Goldman (NY)	Meeks	Soto
Gomez	Menendez	Stansbury
Gonzalez, V.	Meng	Stanton
Goodlander	Mfume	Stevens
Gottheimer	Min	Strickland
Gray	Moore (WI)	Subramanyam
Green, Al (TX)	Morelle	Suozzi
Grijalva	Morrison	Sykes
Harder (CA)	Moskowitz	Takano
Hayes	Moulton	Thanedar
Himes	Mrvan	Thompson (CA)
Horsford	Mullin	Thompson (MS)
Houlahan	Nadler	Titus
Hoyer	Neal	Tlaib
Hoyle (OR)	Neguse	Tokuda
Huffman	Norcross	Tonko
Ivey	Ocasio-Cortez	Torres (CA)
Jackson (IL)	Olzewski	Torres (NY)
Jacobs	Omar	Trahan
Jayapal	Pallone	Tran
Jeffries	Panetta	Underwood
Johnson (GA)	Pappas	Vargas
Johnson (TX)	Pelosi	Vasquez
Kamlager-Dove	Perez	Veasey
Kaptur	Peters	Velázquez
Keating	Pettersen	Vindman
Kelly (IL)	Pingree	Walkinshaw
Kennedy (NY)	Pocan	Wasserman
Khanna	Pou	Schultz
Krishnamoorthi	Pressley	Waters
Landsman	Quigley	Watson Coleman
Larsen (WA)	Ramirez	Whitesides
Larson (CT)	Randall	Wilson (FL)
Latimer	Raskin	
Lee (NV)	Riley (NY)	

NAYS—211

Aderholt	DesJarlais	Harris (NC)
Alford	Diaz-Balart	Harshbarger
Allen	Donalds	Hern (OK)
Amodei (NV)	Downing	Higgins (LA)
Arrington	Dunn (FL)	Hill (AR)
Babin	Edwards	Hinson
Bacon	Ellzey	Houchin
Baird	Emmer	Hudson
Balderson	Estes	Huizenga
Barr	Evans (CO)	Hurd (CO)
Barrett	Ezell	Issa
Baumgartner	Fallon	Jack
Bean (FL)	Fedorchak	Jackson (TX)
Begich	Feenstra	James
Bentz	Fine	Johnson (LA)
Bergman	Finstad	Johnson (SD)
Bice	Fischbach	Jordan
Biggs (AZ)	Fitzgerald	Joyce (OH)
Biggs (SC)	Fitzpatrick	Joyce (PA)
Billakis	Fleischmann	Kean
Boebert	Flood	Kelly (MS)
Bost	Fong	Kelly (PA)
Brecheen	Fox	Kennedy (UT)
Bresnahan	Franklin, Scott	Kiggans (VA)
Buchanan	Fry	Kiley (CA)
Burchett	Fulcher	Kim
Burlison	Garbarino	Knott
Calvert	Gill (TX)	Kustoff
Cammack	Gimenez	LaHood
Carson	Golden (ME)	LaLota
Carter (TX)	Goldman (TX)	LaMalfa
Craig	Gonzales, Tony	Langworthy
Crockett	Gooden	Latta
Ciscomani	Gosar	Lawler
Cline	Graves	Lee (FL)
Cloud	Griffith	Letlow
Clyde	Grothman	Loudermilk
Cole	Guest	Lucas
Collins	Guthrie	Luna
Comer	Hageman	Luttrell
Crank	Hamadeh (AZ)	Mace
Crawford	Haridopolos	MacKenzie
Crenshaw	Harrigan	Malliotakis
Davidson	Harris (MD)	Maloy

Mann	Owens	Staubert
Massie	Palmer	Steil
McCaull	Patronis	Steube
McClain	Perry	Strong
McClintock	Pfluger	Stutzman
McCormick	Reschenthaler	Taylor
McDowell	Rogers (AL)	Tenney
McGuire	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (PA)
Messmer	Rose	Tiffany
Meuser	Rouzer	Timmons
Miller (IL)	Roy	Turner (OH)
Miller (WV)	Rulli	Valadao
Miller-Meeks	Rutherford	Van Drew
Mills	Salazar	Van Dwyne
Moolenaar	Scalise	Van Epps
Moore (AL)	Schmidt	Van Orden
Moore (NC)	Schweikert	Wagner
Moore (UT)	Scott, Austin	Walberg
Moore (WV)	Self	Weber (TX)
Moran	Sessions	Webster (FL)
Nehls	Shreve	Westerman
Newhouse	Simpson	Williams (TX)
Norman	Smith (MO)	Wittman
Nunn (IA)	Smith (NE)	Yakym
Oberholte	Smith (NJ)	Zinke
Ogles	Smucker	
Onder	Spartz	

NOT VOTING—16

Carter (GA)	Mast	Wied
Casas	McBath	Williams (GA)
Courtney	Miller (OH)	Wilson (SC)
Fields	Murphy	Womack
Greene (GA)	Stefanik	
Hunt	Swalwell	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1436

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 yeas appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 196, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 356]

YEAS—221

Aderholt	Cammack	Evans (CO)
Alford	Carey	Ezell
Allen	Carter (TX)	Fallon
Amodei (NV)	Ciscomani	Fedorchak
Arrington	Cline	Feenstra
Babin	Cloud	Fine
Bacon	Clyde	Finstad
Baird	Cole	Fischbach
Balderson	Collins	Fitzgerald
Barr	Comer	Fleischmann
Barrett	Costa	Fletcher
Baumgartner	Crane	Flood
Bean	Crank	Fong
Beigich	Crawford	Fox
Bentz	Crenshaw	Franklin, Scott
Bergman	Cuellar	Fry
Bice	Davidson	Fulcher
Biggs (AZ)	Davis (NC)	Garbarino
Biggs (SC)	De La Cruz	Gill (TX)
Bilirakis	Deluzio	Gimenez
Boebert	DesJarlais	Golden (ME)
Bost	Diaz-Balart	Goldman (TX)
Brecheen	Donalds	Gonzales, Tony
Bresnahan	Downing	Gonzalez, V.
Buchanan	Dunn (FL)	Gooden
Burchett	Edwards	Gosar
Burlison	Ellzey	Graves
Calvert	Emmer	
	Estes	

Gray
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
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
Mannion
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
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
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenny
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—196

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar

Españillat
Evans (PA)
Figures
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
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
Lieu

Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Matsui
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
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
Suozi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)

Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Carter (GA)
Casar
Courtney
Fields
Greene (GA)
Hunt

Liccardo
McBath
Miller (OH)
Murphy
Rouzer
Stefanik

Swalwell
Williams (GA)
Wilson (SC)
Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1439

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:
Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 356.

Stated against:
Mr. LICCARDIO. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following vote out of mistake and inadvertence due to the heavy (11-item) vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 356.

MINING REGULATORY CLARITY 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. 1366) to provide for the location of multiple hardrock mining mill sites, to establish the Abandoned Hardrock Mine Fund, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), 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 2-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 205, nays 213, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 357]

YEAS—205

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum

Carbajal
Carter (LA)
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

Españillat
Evans (PA)
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
Suozi
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
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—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
Carson
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
Foss
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)

Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
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

Mann
 Massie
 Mast
 McCaul
 McClain
 McClintock
 McCormick
 McDowell
 McGuire
 Messmer
 Meuser
 Miller (IL)
 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
 Steil
 Steube
 Strong
 Stutzman
 Taylor
 Tenney
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany
 Timmons
 Turner (OH)
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Dyne
 Van Epps
 Van Orden
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Westerman
 Wied
 Williams (TX)
 Wittman
 Yakym
 Zinke

NOT VOTING—15

Carter (GA)
 Casar
 Courtney
 Fields
 Greene (GA)

Hunt
 McBath
 Miller (OH)
 Murphy
 Stefanik

Swalwell
 Waters
 Williams (GA)
 Wilson (SC)
 Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1442

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 357, I inadvertently voted NAY. My intent was to vote YEA on the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1366.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 198, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 358]

YEAS—219

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 (TX)
 Ciscomani
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyde
 Cole
 Collins
 Comer
 Costa
 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
 Fleischmann
 Flood
 Fong
 Foxx
 Franklin, Scott
 Fry
 Fulcher
 Garbarino
 Gill (TX)
 Gimenez
 Golden (ME)
 Goldman (TX)
 Gonzales, Tony
 Gonzalez, V.
 Gooden
 Gosar
 Graves

Gray
 Griffith
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hagaman
 Hamadeh (AZ)
 Haridopolos
 Harrigan
 Harris (MD)
 Harris (NC)
 Harshbarger
 Hern (OK)
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill (AR)
 Hinson
 Horsford
 Houchfin
 Hudson
 Huizenga
 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 (WV)
 Steube
 Mills
 Moolenaar
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (NC)
 Moore (UT)
 Moore (WV)
 Moran
 Nehls
 Newhouse
 Norman
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Ogles
 Onder
 Owens
 Palmer
 Patronis
 Perez
 Perry
 Peters
 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

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
 Schultz
 Watson Coleman
 Whitesides
 Wilson (FL)

NAYS—198

Adams
 Aguilar
 Amo
 Ansari
 Auchincloss
 Balint
 Barragán
 Beatty
 Bell
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop
 Bonamici
 Boyle (PA)
 Brown
 Brownley
 Budzinski
 Bynum
 Carbajal
 Carson
 Carter (LA)
 Case
 Casten
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Cherfilus-McCormick
 Chu
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Conaway
 Correa
 Craig
 Crockett
 Crow
 Davids (KS)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis (NC)
 Dean (PA)
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deluzio
 DeSaulnier
 Dexter
 Dingell
 Doggett

Elfreth
 Escobar
 Espaillet
 Evans (PA)
 Figures
 Fitzpatrick
 Fletcher
 Foster
 Foushee
 Frankel, Lois
 Friedman
 Frost
 Garamendi
 Garcia (CA)
 Garcia (IL)
 Garcia (TX)
 Gillen
 Goldman (NY)
 Gomez
 Goodlander
 Gottheimer
 Green, Al (TX)
 Grijalva
 Harder (CA)
 Hayes
 Himes
 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
 Olsewski
 Omar
 Pallone
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Pelosi
 Pettersen
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Pou
 Pressley
 Quigley
 Ramirez
 Randall
 Raskin
 Riley (NY)
 Rivas
 Ross

Carter (GA)
 Casar
 Courtney
 Fields
 Greene (GA)
 Grothman

Hunt
 McBath
 Miller (OH)
 Murphy
 Stefanik
 Swalwell

Waters
 Williams (GA)
 Wilson (SC)
 Womack

NOT VOTING—16

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1445

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was in an important meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

PET AND LIVESTOCK PROTECTION 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. 845) to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), 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 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 204, nays 213, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 359]

YEAS—204

Adams
 Aguilar
 Amo
 Ansari
 Auchincloss
 Balint
 Barragán
 Beatty
 Bell
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop
 Bonamici
 Boyle (PA)
 Brown
 Brownley
 Budzinski
 Bynum
 Carbajal
 Carson
 Carter (LA)
 Case
 Casten
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)

Cherfilus-McCormick
 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
 Espaillet
 Evans (PA)
 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) McGarvey
 Grijalva McGovern
 Harder (CA) McIver
 Hayes Meeks
 Himes Menendez
 Horsford Meng
 Houlihan Mfume
 Hoyer Min
 Hoyle (OR) Moore (WI)
 Huffman Morelle
 Ivey Morrison
 Jackson (IL) Moskowitz
 Jacobs Moulton
 Jayapal Mrvan
 Jeffries Mullin
 Johnson (GA) Nadler
 Johnson (TX) Neal
 Kamlager-Dove Neguse
 Kaptur Norcross
 Keating Ocasio-Cortez
 Kelly (IL) Olsewski
 Kennedy (NY) Omar
 Khanna Pallone
 Krishnamoorthi Panetta
 Landsman Pappas
 Larsen (WA) Pelosi
 Larson (CT) Perez
 Latimer Peters
 Lee (NV) Pettersen
 Lee (PA) Pingree
 Leger Fernandez Pocan
 Levin Pou
 Liccardo Pressley
 Lieu Quigley
 Lofgren Ramirez
 Lynch Randall
 Magaziner Raskin
 Mannion Riley (NY)
 Matsui Rivas
 McBride Ross
 McClain Delaney Ruiz
 McClellan Ryan
 McCollum Salinas
 McDonald Rivet Sánchez

NAYS—213

Aderholt Estes
 Alford Evans (CO)
 Allen Ezell
 Amodei (NV) Fallon
 Arrington Fedorchak
 Babin Feenstra
 Bacon Fine
 Baird Finstad
 Balderson Fischbach
 Barr Fitzgerald
 Barrett Fitzpatrick
 Baumgartner Fleischmann
 Bean (FL) Flood
 Begich Fong
 Bentz Foxx
 Bergman Franklin, Scott
 Bice Fry
 Biggs (AZ) Fulcher
 Biggs (SC) Garbarino
 Bilirakis Gill (TX)
 Boebert Gimenez
 Bost Goldman (TX)
 Brecheen Gonzales, Tony
 Bresnahan Gooden
 Buchanan Gosar
 Burchett Graves
 Burlison Griffith
 Calvert Grothman
 Cammack Guest
 Carey Guthrie
 Carter (TX) Hageman
 Chu Hamadeh (AZ)
 Ciscomani Haridopolos
 Cline Harrigan
 Cloud Harris (MD)
 Clyde Harris (NC)
 Cole Harshbarger
 Collins Hern (OK)
 Comer Higgins (LA)
 Crane Hill (AR)
 Crank Hinson
 Crawford Houchin
 Crenshaw Hudson
 Davidson Huizenga
 De La Cruz Hurd (CO)
 DesJarlais Issa
 Diaz-Balart Jack
 Donalds Jackson (TX)
 Downing James
 Dunn (FL) Johnson (LA)
 Edwards Johnson (SD)
 Ellzey Jordan
 Emmer 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 (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

Carter (GA)
 Casar
 Courtney
 Fields
 Greene (GA)
 Hunt

NOT VOTING—16

McBath
 Miller (OH)
 Murphy
 Simon
 Stefanik
 Swailwell

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1448

So the motion to recommit was re-jected.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 211, nays 204, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 360]

YEAS—211

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
 Burchett
 Burlison
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Carey
 Carter (TX)
 Ciscomani
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyde
 Cole
 Collins
 Comer
 Costa
 Crane
 Crank
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Davidson
 De La Cruz
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Donalds
 Downing
 Dunn (FL)
 Edwards
 Ellzey
 Emmer

Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Davidson
 De La Cruz
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Donalds
 Downing
 Dunn (FL)
 Edwards
 Ellzey
 Emmer
 Estes
 Evans (CO)
 Ezell
 Fallon
 Fedorchak
 Feenstra
 Finstad
 Fischbach
 Fitzgerald
 Fleischmann
 Flood
 Fong
 Foxx
 Franklin, Scott
 Fry
 Fulcher
 Garbarino
 Gill (TX)
 Kiggans (VA)
 Gimenez
 Goldman (TX)
 Gonzales, Tony
 Gonzalez, V.
 Gooden
 Gosar
 Graves
 Gray
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest

Letlow
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luna
 Luttrell
 Mackenzie
 Malliotakis
 Maloy
 Mann
 Massie
 Mast
 McCaul
 McClain
 McClintock
 McCormick
 McDowell
 McGuire
 Messmer
 Meuser
 Miller (IL)
 Miller (WV)
 Miller-Meeks
 Mills
 Moolenaar
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (NC)
 Moore (UT)
 Moore (WV)
 Moran
 Nehls

Adams
 Aguilar
 Amo
 Ansari
 Auchincloss
 Balint
 Barragán
 Beatty
 Bell
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop
 Bonamici
 Boyle (PA)
 Brown
 Brownley
 Buchanan
 Budzinski
 Bynum
 Carbajal
 Carson
 Carter (LA)
 Case
 Casten
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Cherfilus-
 McCormick
 Chu
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Conaway
 Correa
 Craig
 Crockett
 Crow
 Davids (KS)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis (NC)
 Dean (PA)
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deluzio
 DeSaulnier
 Dexter
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Elfeth
 Escobar
 Espallat
 Evans (PA)
 Figures
 Fine
 Fitzpatrick
 Fletcher
 Foster
 Foushee
 Frankel, Lois
 Friedman
 Frost
 Garamendi
 Garcia (CA)

NAYS—204

Garcia (IL)
 Garcia (TX)
 Gillen
 Golden (ME)
 Goldman (NY)
 Gomez
 Goodlander
 Gottheimer
 Green, Al (TX)
 Grijalva
 Harder (CA)
 Hayes
 Himes
 Horsford
 Houlihan
 Hoyer
 Hoyle (OR)
 Huffman
 Ivey
 Jackson (IL)
 Jacobs
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (TX)
 Kamlager-Dove
 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

Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Ogles
 Onder
 Owens
 Palmer
 Patronis
 Perez
 Perry
 Reschenthaler
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rulli
 Rutherford
 Salazar
 Scalise
 Schmidt
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Self
 Sessions
 Shreve
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)

Nadler
 Neal
 Neguse
 Norcross
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Olsewski
 Omar
 Pallone
 Panetta
 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
 Smith (WA)
 Sorenson
 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
 Van Drew
 Vargas
 Vasquez
 Veasey
 Velázquez

Vindman Wasserman Whitesides
Walkinshaw Schultz Wilson (FL)
Watson Coleman

NOT VOTING—18

Carter (GA) Mace Stefanik
Casar McBath Swallow
Courtney Miller (OH) Waters
Fields Murphy Williams (GA)
Greene (GA) Pfluger Wilson (SC)
Hunt Simon Womack

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1452

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

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 359 and NAY on Roll Call No. 360.

DO NO HARM IN MEDICAID 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. 498) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for gender transition procedures for minors, offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), 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 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 204, nays 212, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 361]

YEAS—204

Adams Crockett Grijalva
Aguilar Crow Harder (CA)
Amo Cuellar Hayes
Ansari Davids (KS) Himes
Auchincloss Davis (IL) Horsford
Balint Davis (NC) Houlihan
Barragán Dean (PA) Hoyer
Beatty DeGette Hoyle (OR)
Bell DeLauro Huffman
Bera DelBene Ivey
Beyer Deluzio Jackson (IL)
Bishop DeSaulnier Jacobs
Bonamici Dexter Jayapal
Boyle (PA) Dingell Jeffries
Brown Elfreh Johnson (GA)
Brownley Escobar Johnson (TX)
Budzinski Espallat Kamlager-Dove
Bynum Evans (PA) Kaptur
Carbajal Figures Keating
Carson Fletcher Kelly (IL)
Carter (LA) Foster Kennedy (NY)
Case Foushee Khanna
Casten Frankel, Lois Krishnamoorthi
Castor (FL) Friedman Landsman
Castro (TX) Frost Larsen (WA)
Cherfilus-Garcia (CA) Garamendi Larson (CT)
McCormick Garcia (CA) Latimer
Chu Garcia (IL) Lee (NV)
Cisneros Garcia (TX) Lee (PA)
Clark (MA) Gillen Leger Fernandez
Clarke (NY) Golden (ME) Levin
Cleaver Goldman (NY) Liocardo
Clyburn Gomez Lieu
Cohen Gonzalez, V. Lofgren
Conaway Goodlander Lynch
Correa Gottheimer Magaziner
Costa Gray Mannion
Craig Green, Al (TX) 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
Petterson
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)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Wilson (FL)

Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—17

Carter (GA) Hunt Torres (NY)
Casar McBath Waters
Courtney Miller (OH) Williams (GA)
Doggett Murphy Wilson (SC)
Fields Stefanik Womack
Greene (GA) Swallow

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1455

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 201, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 362]

YEAS—215

Aderholt Ellzey Johnson (LA)
Alford Emmer Johnson (SD)
Allen Estes Jordan
Amodei (NV) Evans (CO) Joyce (OH)
Arrington Ezell Joyce (PA)
Babin Fallon Kean
Bacon Fedorchak Kelly (MS)
Baird Feenstra Kelly (PA)
Balderson Fine Kennedy (UT)
Barr Finstad Kiggans (VA)
Barrett Fischbach Kiley (CA)
Baumgartner Fitzgerald Kim
Bean (FL) Fitzpatrick Knott
Begich Fleischmann Kustoff
Bentz Flood LaHood
Bergman Fong LaLota
Bice Foxx LaMalfa
Biggs (AZ) Franklin, Scott Langworthy
Biggs (SC) Fry Latta
Bilirakis Fulcher Lawler
Boebert Garbarino Lee (FL)
Bost Gill (TX) Letlow
Brecheen Gimenez Loudermilk
Bresnahan Goldman (TX) Lucas
Buchanan Gonzales, Tony Luna
Burchett Gonzalez, V. Luttrell
Burlison Gooden Mace
Calvert Gosar Mackenzie
Cammack Graves Malliotakis
Carey Griffith Maloy
Carter (TX) Grothman Mann
Ciscomani Guest Massie
Cline Guthrie Mast
Cloud Hageman McCaul
Clyde Hamadeh (AZ) McClain
Cole Haridopolos McClintock
Collins Harrigan McCormick
Comer Harris (MD) McDowell
Crane Harris (NC) McGuire
Crank Harshbarger Messmer
Crawford Hern (OK) Meuser
Crenshaw Higgins (LA) Miller (IL)
Cueellar Hill (AR) Miller (WV)
Davidson Hinson Miller-Meeks
Davis (NC) Houchin Mills
De La Cruz Hudson Moolenaar
DesJarlais Huizenga Moore (AL)
Diaz-Balart Hurd (CO) Moore (NC)
Donalds Issa Moore (UT)
Downing Kim Moore (WV)
Dunn (FL) Knott Moran
Edwards Kustoff Simpson
Elizy LaHood Smith (MO)
Emmer LaLota Smith (NE)
Estes LaMalfa Smith (NJ)
Evans (CO) Langworthy Smucker
Ezell Latta Spartz
Fallon Lawler Stauber
Fedorchak Lee (FL) Steil
Feenstra Letlow Steube
Fine Loudermilk Strong
Finstad Lucas Stutzman
Fischbach Luna Taylor
Fitzgerald Mace Tenney
Fitzpatrick Mackenzie Thompson (PA)
Fleischmann Malliotakis Tiffany
Flood Maloy Timmons
Fong Mann Turner (OH)
Valadao Edwards

NAYS—212

Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
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

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 (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elizy
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong

Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
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
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney

Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

□ 1459

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, before I was able to vote, the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 362, H.R. 498.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 352, AYE on Roll Call No. 353, AYE on Roll Call No. 354, NAY on Roll Call No. 355, YEA on Roll Call No. 356, NAY on Roll Call No. 357, YEA on Roll Call No. 358, NAY on Roll Call No. 359, YEA on Roll Call No. 360, NAY on Roll Call No. 361, and YEA on Roll Call No. 362.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the chamber today. Had I recorded my vote, I would have voted No on Roll Call No. 352, Clyde amendment No. 1 to H.R. 4776; No on Roll Call No. 353, Roy amendment No. 5 to H.R. 4776; No on Roll Call No. 354, Roy amendment No. 6 to H.R. 4776; Yea on Roll Call No. 355, motion to recommit on H.R. 4776; Nay on Roll Call No. 356, passage of H.R. 4776 the SPEED Act; Yea on Roll Call No. 357, motion to recommit on H.R. 1366; Nay on Roll Call No. 358, passage of H.R. 1366; Yea on Roll Call No. 359, motion to recommit on H.R. 845; Nay on Roll Call No. 360, passage of H.R. 845; Yea on Roll Call No. 361, motion to recommit on H.R. 498; and Nay on Roll Call No. 362, passage of H.R. 498.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 352, AYE on Roll Call No. 353, AYE on Roll Call No. 354, NAY on Roll Call No. 355, YEA on Roll Call No. 356, NAY on Roll Call No. 357, YEA on Roll Call No. 358, NAY on Roll Call No. 359, YEA on Roll Call No. 360, NAY on Roll Call No. 361, and YEA on Roll Call No. 362.

□ 1500

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1566

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 1566.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). The gentlewoman's request is granted.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 18, 2025.

I hereby designate the period from Thursday, December 18, 2025, through Monday,

January 5, 2006, as a "district work period" under clause 13 of Rule I.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 18, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On December 18, 2025, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session, with a quorum being present, to consider three resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 18, 2025.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

RENOVATION—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the repair and alteration of the Ronald Reagan Federal Office Building located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, DC to serve as a new consolidated Headquarters for the U.S. Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to replace the existing headquarters for the FBI at the J. Edgar Hoover Building located at 935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, DC and allowing for the consolidation of existing FBI leases in the National Capital Region at a design cost of \$23,500,000, an estimated construction cost of \$789,000,000, and a management and inspection cost of \$31,500,000 for an estimated total project cost of \$844,000,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of the General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the program.

Provided further, that nothing in this resolution shall be construed as providing the Administrator of the General Services or the Federal Bureau of Investigation authority to restrict access to the building known as the "John A. Wilson Building."

NAYS—201

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleave
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Elfreth
Escobar
Espallat
Evans (PA)
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)
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
Huffman
Ramiliz
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozi
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
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—17

Carter (GA)
Casar
Courtney
Dean (PA)
Doggett
Fields

Greene (GA)
Hunt
McBath
Miller (OH)
Murphy
Shreve

Stefanik
Swalwell
Williams (GA)
Wilson (SC)
Womack

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – RENOVATION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-FBIHQ-DC25
Congressional Districts: DC

FY 2025 Project Summary

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) proposes the repair and alteration of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (RRB) located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, to serve as a new consolidated Headquarters for the U.S. Department of Justice - Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The proposed project will repair, modify, reconfigure, and fit out the RRB, replacing the existing headquarters for FBI at the J. Edgar Hoover Building (JEH), located at 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, allowing for the consolidation of existing FBI leases in the National Capital Region.

The project will consist of reconfiguring approximately 2.6 million rentable square feet (RSF) at the RRB to meet FBI’s headquarters needs. GSA will relocate existing tenants and perform the necessary building and space improvements to support FBI’s mission requirements.

Congress appropriated \$850 million to GSA for construction of a new FBI headquarters through Public Laws (P.L.) 114-113 (FY 2016), 115-31 (FY 2017), 117-328 (FY 2023), and 118-47 (FY 2024). Although significant, this sum is not nearly enough to proceed with construction of a new facility. \$843,769,886 from these appropriations remains available and GSA has submitted a transfer request to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations to allow these funds to be used for repair and alteration of the RRB. These funds, in conjunction with \$555 million appropriated to the FBI, will be used to facilitate the headquarters consolidation effort.¹ Using FBI Headquarters Consolidation funding to repair and alter the RRB will meet the FBI’s mission requirements and provide the fastest FBI headquarters solution at a fraction of the cost of new construction.

FY2025 Committee Approval Requested

(Design, Management and Inspections and Construction) \$843,769,886²

¹ Specifically, FBI was appropriated \$180 million from P.L. 114-113, \$323 million from P.L. 115-31, and has \$52 million from other available Salaries and Expenses balances set aside for the FBI new headquarters project.

² In addition to GSA’s \$843,769,886, FBI has \$555 million for the RRB project which will be used for pre-construction, construction, and fit-out requirements.

GSA **PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – RENOVATION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-FBIHQ-DC25
Congressional Districts: DC

Overview of Project

The FBI is an intelligence-driven and a threat-focused organization with both national security and law enforcement responsibilities. Its mission is to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States.

The proposed FBI Headquarters at the RRB will consolidate approximately 6,000 FBI headquarters personnel currently housed in JEH and six additional³ leased locations throughout the National Capital Region. The proposed headquarters will facilitate an open-plan workspace environment and will significantly improve the security and information technology infrastructure as required by the FBI's national security mission.

Project Budget⁴

Design (FY 2026).....	\$23,500,000
Estimated Construction Cost (FY 2026)	\$789,000,000
Management and Inspection (FY 2026).....	\$31,500,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC).....	\$844,000,000

<u>Schedule</u>	Start	End
Repairs and Alterations	FY 2025	FY 2030

Tenant Agencies

Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Justification

FBI requires a new consolidated headquarters facility because the current JEH facility is failing and FBI is scattered across multiple expensive leases within the National Capital Region. Renovation of the RRB will allow FBI to consolidate up to seven⁵ locations and

³The final number of leases to be consolidated into the RRB will depend on the program of requirements and available budget.

⁴The estimated project budget and distribution of project costs are estimates. The actual distribution of costs between the various budget categories may change based on FBI's program of requirements and building needs.

⁵The final number of leases to be consolidated into RRB will depend on the program of requirements and available budget.

GSAPBS

PROSPECTUS – RENOVATION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC

Prospectus Number: PDC-FBIHQ-DC25
Congressional Districts: DC

will provide the appropriate utilities, technical infrastructure, and space design needed to support FBI's national security and law enforcement mission.

The current dispersion and fragmentation of headquarters functions across multiple locations within the National Capital Region has created challenges to effective collaboration. Dispersion diverts time and resources, hampers coordination, and decreases operational flexibility. By collocating personnel in a modern headquarters solution, FBI's workforce will have the space and technology needed to support its mission of protecting the American people and upholding the Constitution.

The approximately 1.8 million RSF JEH, which the FBI has occupied since 1974, is deteriorating significantly, including a crumbling concrete façade, mechanical piping failures, eroding structural concrete slabs in the basement of the building, obsolete network transformers, and other health and safety deficiencies. The IT infrastructure in JEH has reached capacity with limitations on further expansion. JEH was not designed to support today's FBI mission that includes an increased emphasis on national security and other emerging threats. These challenges can best be addressed through a newly renovated facility that will provide a flexible infrastructure capable of supporting evolving IT requirements.

Since 2017, FBI has reduced the number of its leases in the National Capital Region and has identified which of its remaining leased sites are appropriate for consolidation into a new headquarters facility with a focus on traditional office space and the value of co-location. At this time, up to 7 locations, including JEH, occupying approximately 2.6M RSF are planned to be consolidated into the 2.6M RSF RRB⁶.

Twenty years ago, when the new FBI Headquarters project was initiated, the RRB was not an available space under consideration and the focus was on building a new facility on a suburban campus. Many things have changed in the federal space portfolio since then, and the FBI and GSA decided to assess a variety of options available to include existing federal space. In this review, the RRB was identified as an existing federal building that meets FBI's mission needs. It has an appropriate amount of space and it will take significantly less time and funding to relocate FBI into RRB. Repair and alteration of the RRB is an expeditious and cost-effective means of vacating the obsolete JEH and consolidating FBI operations in the National Capital Region.

⁶ The proposed renovation project does not reduce square footage since JEH and the leases that FBI is proposing to consolidate into RRB are approximately the same square footage as RRB.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – RENOVATION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-FBIHQ-DC25
Congressional Districts: DC

Major Work Items⁷

Exterior building security enhancements.

Interior building security enhancements.

Interior building reconfiguration to support FBI specific special space requirements.

Infrastructure repair, replacement and upgrades as needed, including elevators, escalators, air handler units, and electrical switchgear, and the parking garage.

Modifications and upgrades to meet new life safety, building code and executive order requirements.

Prior Appropriations

Prior Appropriations			
Public Law	Fiscal Year	Amount	Purpose
114-113	2016	\$75,000,000	GSA - Construction Management and oversight activities and other project support costs.
115-31	2017	\$200,000,000	GSA - Construction and acquisition (including funds for sites and expenses, and associated design and construction services).

⁷ Major work items were identified through previous building evaluations and known FBI requirements. The actual work items will be determined as part of a building security assessment and through the project design process.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – RENOVATION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-FBIHQ-DC25
Congressional Districts: DC

117-328	2023	\$375,000,000	GSA - Construction and acquisition (including funds for sites and expenses, and associated design and construction services).
118-47	2024	\$200,000,000	GSA - Construction and acquisition (including funds for sites and expenses, and associated design and construction services).
Appropriations to Date ⁸		\$850,000,000 ⁹	

Prior Committee Approvals

None – prior Committee approvals have been for a New Construction project and not the renovation and alteration of the RRB.

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

New Construction.....	\$2,431,380,000
Ronald Reagan Building Modernization.....	\$1,600,257,000

⁸ In addition to GSA’s \$843,769,886, FBI has \$555 million for the RRB project which will be used for pre-construction, construction, and fit-out requirements.
⁹ GSA’s appropriations for FBI Headquarters consolidation is approximately \$6 million less than the \$850 million appropriated due to GSA expending funds in previous years for consulting, management, and site studies.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – RENOVATION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-FBIHQ-DC25
Congressional Districts: DC

The 30-year, present value cost of the Ronald Reagan Building Modernization is \$831,123,000 less than the cost of New Construction, an equivalent annual cost advantage of \$50,425,000.

Resolutions of Approval

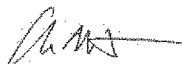
Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make the appropriations requested herein.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 9/19/2025

Recommended: _____



Acting Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

	CURRENT 4							PROPOSED				
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel			Usable Square Feet (USF)		
	Office	Total 7	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
Washington, DC Leased Locations		-										
	611	611	127,821	3,156	10,786	141,763	-	-	-	-	-	-
	144	144	42,122	1,200	2,280	45,602	-	-	-	-	-	-
	864	864	170,500	8,304	20,000	198,804	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,619	1,619	340,443	12,660	33,066	386,169	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Leased Locations		-										
	593	593	87,343	2,157	21,803	111,303	-	-	-	-	-	-
	314	314	61,923	960	20,031	82,914	-	-	-	-	-	-
	907	907	149,266	3,117	41,834	194,217	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-					-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland Leased Locations												
	111	111	49,719	1,050	7,500	58,269	-	-	-	-	-	-
	111	111	49,719	1,050	7,500	58,269	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government Owned Locations												
	3,728	3,728	897,538	128,220	263,170	1,288,928	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-					6,411	6,411	1,202,063	101,746	528,600	1,832,409
							1,603	1,603				
		3,728	897,538	128,220	263,170	1,288,928	8,014	8,014	1,202,063	101,746	528,600	1,832,409
Subtotal:												
	3,728	3,728	897,538	128,220	263,170	1,288,928	8,014	8,014	1,202,063	101,746	528,600	1,832,409
		-										
Total	6,365	6,365	1,436,966	145,047	345,570	1,927,583	8,014	8,014	1,202,063	101,746	528,600	1,832,409

Office Utilization Rate ²			Special Space 6			USF		
Current	Proposed		Visitor Center	Visitor Orientation Center/FBI Experience		17,200	32,400	
Buildings Office Tenants (excluding Judiciary, Congress, and agencies with less than 10 employees)								
176	117		Firing Range			13,200		
176	117		Mission Briefing Center/Conference areas			81,500		
			Cafeteria (includes kitchen and BUMART, ADX, ITX)			47,500		
			Shipping / Receiving Dock & Mail			24,600		
			Fitness Facility			22,700		
			Maintenance / Workshops			55,000		
			Credit Union / Retail Store			22,400		
						5,000		
			FBI Police Station			4,600		
			ADP (Automated Data Processing)			30,000		
			Health Center			6,700		
			Ops 1			47,900		
			Ops 2			5,000		
			Other (Polygraph suites, Protective Casework Rooms)			41,100		
			Weapon & Ammunition Storage			4,300		
			Total			67,500		
						528,600		

Current Office UR excludes 316,133 usf of office support space.
Proposed Office UR excludes 264,454 usf of office support space.

NOTES:
1 USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
2 Office Utilization Rate = total office space available for office personnel. UR calculation excludes office support space USF.
3 Total Building USF Rate = total building USF (office, storage, special) available for all building occupants (office, and non-office personnel).
4 Current locations include locations involved in interim and swing moves while awaiting completion of the proposed project.
5 The consolidation strategy of this lease will be analyzed via the A&E analysis
6 Special spaces are estimated and subject to change upon further A&E analysis
7 The number of personnel reflected in the housing plan does not reflect the total number of seats in each facility. The number reflected on the chart represents occupied desks vs. number of actual desks.
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE
BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a repair and alteration project to repair the existing curtain wall systems and skylight over the atrium at the Ronald Reagan Federal Office Building located at 1300 Pennsyl-

vania Avenue NW in Washington, DC at a design cost of \$3,066,000, an estimated construction cost of \$31,201,000, and a management and inspection cost of \$1,929,000 for a estimated total project cost of \$36,196,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of the General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the program.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0000-WA26
Congressional District: 98

FY 2026 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project for the Ronald Reagan Federal Office Building (RRB Complex) located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The proposed project includes the repair of the existing curtain wall systems and skylight over the atrium in the RRB Complex.

FY 2026 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, Construction and Management & Inspection) \$36,196,000

Major Work Items

Exterior Construction

Project Budget

Design..... \$3,066,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)..... 31,201,000
Management and Inspection (M&I)..... 1,929,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC) \$36,196,000

Schedule

	Start	End
Design and Construction	FY 2026	FY 2030

Building

The RRB Complex is a 3.88 million gross square foot, 10-story, mixed-use office building and includes the Federal Office Building (FOB), the International Trade Center (ITC), and a public parking garage. The building has five separate office towers connected by an atrium and public concourse areas. It was constructed in 1996 and is situated on 9.9 acres of land with 1,950 parking spaces.

The scope of the project will take place in the atrium and curtain wall areas of the FOB and ITC portions of the complex.

Tenant Agencies

Department of Homeland Security - Customs and Border Protection, Federal Protective Service; Environmental Protection Agency; Commerce Department - Office of the

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0000-WA26
Congressional District: 98

Secretary; Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Congress; and General Services Administration

Proposed Project

The project proposes the repair of multiple cylindrical drum leaks at the building's core, which houses the existing curtain wall systems and skylight over the atrium area within the FOB and ITC.

Major Work Items

Exterior Construction	<u>\$31,200,000</u>
Total ECC	<u>\$31,200,000</u>

Justification

The purpose of this project is to carry out the necessary repairs identified in the 2019 technical study of leaks at the RRB Complex. The study revealed multiple leaks in the cylindrical drum at the building's core, which houses the main atrium skylight, the north and south curtain walls, associated roofs, and the two gutter drains located between the skylight and the curtain walls.

Water leaks stem from various factors, including aging materials, exterior weathering, thermal expansion and contraction of different components, structural movement, metal fatigue, and the end-of-life of certain materials. The planned repairs will enhance the building's envelope, improving environmental safety and the indoor climate within the affected areas of the RRB Complex.

The building hosts multiple tenants with critical operational goals that necessitate continuous functioning facilities. It is essential for federal agencies and the public to have access to a safe and code-compliant environment, allowing the entire facility to be occupied while safeguarding against mold, mildew, and other environmental and safety issues. By addressing these issues, GSA will ensure reliable and efficient service while meeting current building codes, life safety, and accessibility requirements.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0000-WA26
Congressional District: 98

Summary of Energy, Water, and High-Performance Green Building Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of PBS Core Building Standards (CBS). GSA will focus on design and construction opportunities to increase energy and water efficiencies to minimize operating costs, incorporate sustainable design principles, and reduce the environmental impact of materials in a manner that is life cycle cost effective in accordance with 42 United States Code 6834.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

There are no feasible alternatives to this limited scope renovation. The cost of the proposed project is far less than the cost of leasing or constructing a new building, and GSA considers this asset a long-term hold.

Recommendation

ALTERATION

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – ALTERATION
RONALD REAGAN FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0000-WA26
Congressional District: 98

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 6/11/2025

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Administrator, General Services Administration

AMENDED COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

CONSTRUCTION NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE ANNEX—
ALTERATION FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL
BUILDING AND CLEMENTE RUIZ NAZARIO U.S.
COURTHOUSE, SAN JUAN, PR

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the first phase of a multi-phase project for design and construction of a new U.S. Courthouse Annex, along with alteration of the Federico Degetau Federal Building and Clemente Ruiz Nazario U.S. Courthouse Complex in the Hato Rey section of San Juan, Puerto Rico for additional design costs

of \$3,020,000, an amount allocated for the estimated construction cost of \$22,743,000, and an amount allocated for the management and inspection cost of \$2,527,000, for a total additional cost of \$28,290,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends Prospectus No. PPR-0017-SJ22.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator of General Services shall ensure that design of the new courthouse annex and alterations of the complex comply, at a minimum, with

courtroom sharing requirements adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Provided further, that the design of the new courthouse shall not deviate from the U.S. Courts Design Guide.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chair or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of the General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the program.

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS
CONSTRUCTION - NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE ANNEX
ALTERATION - FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND
CLEMENTE RUIZ NAZARIO U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN JUAN, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-0017-SJ24
Congressional District: N/A

FY 2024 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) requests approval for additional design, construction, and management and inspection (M&I) of a multi-phase project for design and construction of a new U.S. Courthouse Annex (Annex), along with alteration of the Federico Degetau Federal Building (Degetau) and Clemente Ruiz Nazario (Nazario) U.S. Courthouse Complex (Complex) in the Hato Rey section of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The proposed Annex, consisting of approximately 188,000 gross square feet (GSF), including 35 inside parking spaces, will be constructed directly adjacent to the Complex and be linked physically, functionally, and systematically with the existing buildings. The Complex will meet the 10-year space needs of the court and court-related agencies, and the Complex will accommodate the anticipated 30-year needs of the court.

The judiciary’s Courthouse Project Priorities list (approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 2023) includes a courthouse project in San Juan. The Judicial Conference designated Hato Rey as a judicial space emergency, prioritizing it above all new courthouse construction projects.

FY 2024 Committee Approval Requested

(Additional Design, ECC, and M&I)..... \$371,675,000¹

This prospectus amends Prospectus No. PPR-0017-SJ22. GSA is requesting approval of additional design costs of \$3,020,000, an estimated construction cost (ECC) of \$347,663,000, and management and inspection (M&I) costs of \$20,992,000, for a total additional cost of \$371,675,000, for cost escalations due to time, labor, and market conditions and increased square footage to account for inclusion of the District Clerk in the Annex.

¹ Prospectus No. PPR-0017-SJ22 was approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate on October 27, 2021, and January 12, 2022, respectively, for the Annex design cost of \$22,476,000.

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS
CONSTRUCTION - NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE ANNEX
ALTERATION - FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND
CLEMENTE RUIZ NAZARIO U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN JUAN, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-0017-SJ24
Congressional District: N/A

FY 2024 Committee Appropriation Requested

(Additional Design, ECC, and M&I)..... \$0²

Buildings

The Degetau Federal Building and Nazario Complex were constructed in 1974 and comprise 435,000 GSF situated on a 27-acre campus (Campus) in the Hato Rey section of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Campus also includes a standalone childcare center, an independent parking structure, and a standalone Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) building. The Campus is **the largest facility under GSA’s jurisdiction, custody, and control** in the Caribbean.

Overview of Project

The proposed Annex will be located on the southwest corner of the Campus, adjoining both Degetau and Nazario. Construction of this Annex will provide 6 new courtrooms and 10 new chambers. Upon completion, the Annex and Nazario, in total, will provide 12 courtrooms and 17 chambers, consistent with the application of courtroom sharing policies and limitation on the provision of space for projected judgeships.

Renovation of Degetau will address several critical building needs, including seismic retrofit, modernization of the building’s mechanical systems, and a backfill of approximately 90,000 usable square feet (USF) of space predominantly made vacant by the relocation of the FBI to a standalone building on the Campus and approximately 60,000 USF made vacant by occupant agencies that moved into trailers on the property due to seismic concerns. Future backfill includes components of the court family along with other Federal executive agencies currently located in leased space in San Juan. The project includes minimal renovation of Nazario to facilitate functional operation with the Annex.

² GSA is not requesting additional appropriated funds at this time. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, Public Law 118-47, appropriated \$28,290,000 for the project. The balance of the construction funding needed to complete the project will be requested in a future fiscal year.

GSA**PBS**

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS
CONSTRUCTION - NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE ANNEX
ALTERATION - FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND
CLEMENTE RUIZ NAZARIO U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN JUAN, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-0017-SJ24
Congressional District: N/A

Site Information..... Federally owned site

Annex Building Area³

Gross square feet (excluding inside parking) 172,250 GSF
Gross square feet (including inside parking) 188,000 GSF
Inside Parking Spaces 35

Project Budget (Annex + Nazario)⁴

Design

Design (FY 2022) \$22,476,000
Additional Design (FY 2024) 3,020,000

Total Design.....**\$25,496,000**

Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)

ECC (FY 2024) \$22,743,000
Additional Construction (future fiscal year) 324,920,000

Total ECC.....**\$347,663,000**

Management and Inspection (M&I)

M&I (FY 2024) \$2,527,000
Additional M&I (future fiscal year) 18,465,000

Total M&I.....**\$20,992,000**

Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....**\$394,151,000**

³ Square footages are approximate. The project may contain a variance in gross square footage from that listed in this prospectus. Total square footage has increased since Prospectus No. PPR-0017-SJ22 was approved to reflect the inclusion of the District Clerk in the annex.

⁴ New Courthouse building design to follow the 2007 *United States Courts Design Guide* (as partially revised in 2016).

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS
CONSTRUCTION - NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE ANNEX
ALTERATION - FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND
CLEMENTE RUIZ NAZARIO U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN JUAN, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-0017-SJ24
Congressional District: N/A

Project Budget (Degetau) (Future fiscal year request)

Design	\$18,900,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	242,022,000
Management and Inspection (M&I).....	10,251,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....	\$271,173,000

*Agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by GSA.

<u>Schedule</u>	Start	End
Design (Annex + Nazario)	FY 2022	FY 2025
Construction (Annex + Nazario)	TBD	TBD
Design (Degetau)	TBD	TBD
Construction (Degetau)	TBD	TBD

Tenant Agencies

Annex: Judiciary - U.S. District Court, Grand Jury; U.S. District Clerk; and Department of Justice - U.S. Marshals Service.

Nazario: Judiciary - U.S. District Court; U.S. Magistrate Court.

Degetau: Circuit Library, U.S. Probation; Health and Human Services; Department of Justice - U.S. Marshals Service and Office of the U.S. Attorneys; Department of Homeland Security - Federal Protective Service; Federal Communications Commission; Social Security Administration; GSA; and pending backfill by additional Federal agencies.

Major Work Items (Degetau) (Future fiscal year request)

Work items for the repair and alteration of Degetau will include structural upgrades; exterior construction; interior construction; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrades; plumbing upgrades; electrical upgrades; and demolition/hazardous material abatement.

GSA**PBS**

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS
CONSTRUCTION - NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE ANNEX
ALTERATION - FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND
CLEMENTE RUIZ NAZARIO U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN JUAN, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-0017-SJ24
Congressional District: N/A

Justification

The existing Complex does not meet the 2007 *U.S. Courts Design Guide* Standards (as partially revised in 2016) and lacks adequate security. The existing building configuration does not allow for distinct separation between restricted, secured, and public areas. The current Complex has significant space, security, and operational deficiencies and high seismic risks necessitating the construction of the Annex. The Judicial Conference designated this location as a space emergency, prioritizing it above all new courthouse construction projects.

GSA's *Seismic Rating System Report* lists Degetau as being exceptionally high risk. The report proposed a series of both structural and nonstructural retrofits to enable the buildings to meet established performance criteria for seismic safety. Some occupant agencies have vacated Degetau into temporary housing solutions due to seismic concerns. In addition to structural work, the Degetau building requires upgrades to the plumbing, electrical, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems; and hazardous material abatement as needed with demolition. A future repair and alteration project for Degetau to address seismic and other alteration work, including backfill, will be requested in a future fiscal year.

The new Annex, combined with a future alteration project for Degetau, addresses the long-term needs of the courts, and provides separate circulation for public, judges, and prisoners, thereby improving security as well as efficiency of court operations. In addition, the future alteration project at the Degetau Building addresses seismic and system needs. Furthermore, backfill of vacant space in Degetau allows for improved utilization of federally owned space.

Design Guide Exception

There are no exceptions to the 2007 *U.S. Courts Design Guide* (as partially revised in 2016).

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS
CONSTRUCTION - NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE ANNEX
ALTERATION - FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND
CLEMENTE RUIZ NAZARIO U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN JUAN, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-0017-SJ24
Congressional District: N/A

Space Requirements of the U.S. Courts

(Includes Annex, Nazario, and Jose V. Toledo U.S. Courthouse (Toledo) in old San Juan)

	Current		Proposed	
	Courtrooms	Judges	Courtrooms	Judges
District				
- Active	7	7	7	7
- Visiting	-	1	1	1
- Senior	1	2	1	5
- Visiting	-	1	1	1
Magistrate	3	5	4	5
Bankruptcy	3	3	3	3
- Visiting	-	1	-	1
Court of Appeals	1	2	1	3
Total:	15	22	18	26

Current: Nazario – 7 courtrooms; 9 chambers; Toledo - 6 courtrooms; 11 chambers
Degetau – 2 courtrooms; 2 chambers

Proposed: Nazario – 6 courtrooms; 7 chambers; Annex – 6 courtrooms; 10 chambers
Degetau – 0 courtrooms; 0 chambers; Toledo - 6 courtrooms; 9 chambers

Summary of Energy, Water, Sustainability, and Climate Risk Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of PBS-P100, *Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service*. GSA will focus on design and construction opportunities to increase energy and water efficiencies that minimize operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate sustainable design principles into projects, reduce the environmental impact of materials, and address climate risk liabilities in a manner that is life cycle cost-effective.

GSA**PBS**

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS
CONSTRUCTION - NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE ANNEX
ALTERATION - FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND
CLEMENTE RUIZ NAZARIO U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN JUAN, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-0017-SJ24
Congressional District: N/A

Prior Appropriations

Prior Appropriations			
Public Law	Fiscal Year	Amount	Purpose
117-103	2022	\$22,476,000	Annex Design
118-47	2024	\$28,290,000	Additional Annex Design, ECC, M&I
Appropriations to Date		\$50,766,000	

Prior Committee Approvals

Prior Committee Approvals			
Committee	Date	Amount	Purpose
House T&I	10-27-2021	\$22,476,000	Annex Design
Senate EPW	1-12-2022	\$22,476,000	Annex Design
Approvals to Date		\$22,476,000	

Recommendation

NEW CONSTRUCTION AND ALTERATION

GSAPBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS
CONSTRUCTION - NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE ANNEX
ALTERATION - FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL BUILDING AND
CLEMENTE RUIZ NAZARIO U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN JUAN, PR**

Prospectus Number: PPR-0017-SJ24
Congressional District: N/A

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 10/28/2024

Recommended: Elliot Doomes
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: Ralmi Carmahna
Administrator, General Services Administration

RECOGNIZING WYOMING HIGHWAY PATROL DISPATCHER CHRIS MCGUIRE

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Wyoming Highway Patrol Dispatcher Chris McGuire, who served our State for 35 years.

Chris handled split-second decisions, juggled multiple emergencies at once, and saved lives on Wyoming's highways. She coordinated responses during snowstorms, rescued stranded motorists, and managed AMBER Alerts, all while training new dispatchers and supporting her colleagues.

Dispatching is not a job for everyone. It demands focus, courage, and the ability to stay calm under intense pressure. Chris worked 60-hour weeks, often sacrificing time with her family. Yet, she never wavered in her commitment to keeping our community safe.

Public service is more than a job. It is a calling, and Chris inspires all of us who serve and reminds us of the unsung heroes who protect our families every day.

Mr. Speaker, Wyoming thanks Chris McGuire for her remarkable career and unwavering service.

ADDRESSING VIRGIN ISLANDS HEALTHCARE CRISIS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, healthcare in the Virgin Islands is in crisis. The Medical Executive Committee wrote an open letter to the community and to CMS, detailing adverse conditions in our hospitals. These include shortages of supplies, medication, equipment, staff, and patient placement challenges.

This crisis reflects systemic failures that compromise the ability to deliver appropriate care. These conditions did not develop overnight. Our two hospitals still operate under Medicare reimbursement formulas from 1982 and 1996.

While I continue to fight for Medicare rebasing, fortunately we have secured permanent increases in Medicaid funding from 55 to 83 percent and over \$1.7 billion in FEMA obligations to rebuild our hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, Congress and the administration must do more. Virgin Islanders deserve the same access, dignity, and quality of care as every American citizen. We will not stop fighting until our healthcare system receives the Federal support required to deliver standard of care.

HONORING ELIAS SUSSMAN

(Mr. FINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, today I have the extraordinary privilege of honoring Elias Sussman, a man whose life spans a century of American history and whose service continues to inspire and guide us.

At 100 years young, Mr. Sussman's story began in Brooklyn, New York, where he was born on October 28, 1925. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in December 1943. Driven by dedication, he volunteered for jump school and rigger training, earning the rank of Technician Fifth Grade and becoming a vital part of the Airborne Forces.

As a Member of the 17th Airborne Division, he saw heavy action, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge and participating in Operation Varsity, the mass parachute drops into Germany. His heroism reached beyond combat.

After landing, his unit liberated American prisoner-of-war camps. Moving to what he thought was a nearby labor camp, he freed Jewish survivors suffering from extreme hunger, sharing every ration that he had to sustain himself. This act of profound compassion is the true hallmark of his service.

Returning home after the war, he was honorably discharged in April of 1946. Mr. Sussman's journey from the streets of New York to the front lines of freedom is an enduring inspiration to us all. We thank Elias Sussman for his sacrifice, his bravery, and his incredible 100 years of life.

EXTENDING PREMIUM TAX CREDITS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to hold Republican leadership accountable for their unwillingness to extend the ACA Enhanced Premium Tax Credits.

I am a proud cosponsor of the Healthcare Affordability Act and Protecting Healthcare and Lowering Costs Act. Both permanently extend these credits. My colleagues in the Democratic Caucus have fought tirelessly to extend these subsidies.

What has Republican leadership done? They put out a 111-page healthcare bill that doesn't contain a single word about ACA credits. What the bill does do is cause 100,000 more people to become uninsured. Without extending these credits, a 60-year-old couple in my district will see their premiums increase by \$13,000 and an average family of 4 by \$17,000.

My Republican colleagues can pull all the stunts they want to make it look like they are working on healthcare costs, but Americans are not buying it.

Mr. Speaker, as we barrel towards the December 31 expiration date, the people of Westchester and the Bronx need to know that I, along with my

colleagues, will fight for their access to affordable healthcare. That is something every American deserves.

□ 1510

RECOGNIZING LIBERTY UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Liberty University women's soccer team on their 3-0 victory over the Missouri State Bears to claim the 2025 Conference USA Women's Soccer Championship.

Ivy Garner was named the CUSA Player of the Year and Championship Offensive MVP. Lauren Lettle earned honors as the CUSA Defensive Player of the Year and Championship Defensive MVP. Midfield Bri Myers and forward Lauren Flax were selected to the CUSA All-Tournament Team.

This title marks Liberty's second Conference USA crown in three seasons and secures them in automatic advancement to the NCAA Tournament.

I commend these student-athletes, their coaches, and the entire program that exemplifies excellence, dedication, and team spirit. Their success brings honor to Liberty University, who trains champions of Christ, Virginia's Fifth Congressional District, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK IN BONDI BEACH, AUSTRALIA

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep concern for the recent anti-Semitic attack in Bondi Beach, Australia.

This tragedy reminds us that hate does not recognize borders. Hatred toward the Jewish people is not confined to one nation or to one moment. It is a global threat, and it resurfaces everywhere. It demands a response from everyone.

Anti-Semitic events in the United States have reached historic highs in recent years. In Florida alone, reports have increased from 269 to 353 within only 1 year. However, what we need to realize is that America is an interfaith nation where Christians, Jews, Muslims, and people of all beliefs have helped shape this country.

When one community is targeted, all communities are at risk. Anti-Semitism has no place in Australia, no place in the United States, and no place in this world. We must condemn anti-Semitism loudly and reject all forms of hatred. We must respond to hate with unity. We must meet fear with courage, and we must choose to lead with justice and dignity for every single person, every single day.

RECOGNIZING STEVE REEDER

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Reeder, a dedicated local historian and the chair of the social studies department at Monrovia High School.

He has taught at Monrovia High School for over 25 years. Steve spent nearly 2 years researching and writing "Our Town," a book that chronicles the history of Monrovia and the surrounding areas in Morgan County. He first undertook the project to help his students with pride and to have pride in their community. "Our Town" was published earlier this year.

Steve and his students have also helped with the installation of several local history markers in the community. In addition to getting published, Steve was honored by WISH TV with their Golden Apple Award, which recognizes exceptional teachers in central Indiana.

I thank Steve for his decades of educating children and for supporting Morgan County communities.

RECOGNIZING INTERNS AND FELLOWS ON CAPITOL HILL

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

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important role that interns and fellows play on Capitol Hill and in the district offices and the important contributions that they make each and every day to this institution.

Every semester, young people from across the country come to intern and be part of democracy in action. Their enthusiasm, service, and optimism infuses our office with hope, energy, and much-needed help.

Today, I lift up all of my interns but, most especially, my communications fellow, Claire Satkiewicz, who has served our office well for the past 7 months. Her strong work ethic and multimedia talents have brought my team's messages to life, especially during the government shutdown, when our constituents needed to connect with us most.

She even had to step into our comms director's role when our comms director was absent for jury duty.

She will soon return to Northeastern University to complete her studies, but we know her future is bright.

In sum, to Claire and to all of our interns and fellows across the entire bit of Congress, we are thankful for their contributions, their enthusiasm, and heart for public service.

RECOGNIZING STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS IN NC-14

(Mr. MOORE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address

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

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize three outstanding high school football teams from North Carolina's 14th Congressional District who brought home State championships.

From my home county of Cleveland County, I congratulate the Crest High School Chargers, the 5A State champions. These young men showed grit, discipline, and heart all season.

Also from my home county, I congratulate Shelby High School, which earned the 3A title, continuing a proud tradition of excellence, proving that Cleveland County is a football home.

In northern Mecklenburg County, Hough High School captured the 8A championship. This incredible achievement reflects the talent and determination in communities like Cornelius.

However, these victories actually reflect much more than athletic skill. They reflect the support of coaches, parents, teachers, and communities who stand behind these teams. These young athletes made us very proud to represent the best of the 14th Congressional District.

I congratulate all three teams.

ABORTION CARE IS HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, the wealth of our Nation is the health of our people. Yet Republicans are doing everything in their power to make families sicker.

They want to deny children food, ban abortion care, and obstruct the extension of the Affordable Care Act subsidies. This is dire for folks in my district where, in a 3-mile radius, life expectancy drops by 30 years.

For my constituent, Paula, whose husband lost his job and became ill, the ACA has been their lifeline, carrying them through years of uncertainty as she became his caregiver.

This is a healthcare crisis that Republicans created, and it is inter-sectional.

Abortion care is healthcare.

Once again, the Republicans are using abortion care as a political bargaining chip. The truth: Republicans will send premiums sky high just to stop families from using their own money on a plan that covers abortion.

They are not just putting healthcare out of reach for millions; they are further restricting reproductive care. The shame and the sham of it all.

Mr. Speaker, we have the votes to extend these subsidies and save healthcare for our constituents. The House must vote on it now.

RECOGNIZING INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous men and women from the Indiana National Guard who are here to serve in Washington, D.C.

On December 6, about 300 service-members from Indiana deployed to our Nation's Capital. They have already started their mission in D.C. to keep our streets safe and free from violent criminals. I am especially thankful to these men and women for serving during the holidays.

These Hoosiers will miss cherished times celebrating Christmas and New Year's with family and friends to restore order in D.C.

While these Hoosiers just begin their mission here, this deployment is just another one of the ways on a long list that Indiana troops have supported our country.

In 2024, Indiana National Guardsmen deployed to Texas to secure our border. Earlier this year, 400 National Guardsmen returned from their mission in the Middle East. Indiana National Guardsmen continue to pour out their time and talents to serve our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the Indiana National Guard's dedication to serving our country continues to make all of us in Indiana very proud.

RECOGNIZING A.T. WALL

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great Rhode Islander, A.T. Wall.

A.T. was a dedicated husband, father, and criminal justice leader. After a life-changing internship with the juvenile justice system in New Haven while an undergraduate at Yale, he dedicated his career to making the Rhode Island Department of Corrections more just and restorative.

During his lengthy tenure, A.T. founded groundbreaking programs, offering medication-assisted treatment for inmates struggling with substance use disorders and training service dogs for disabled veterans. He dedicated his professional life to fostering second chances.

A man of deep faith and dedication, A.T. was always happy to lend a helping hand to anyone, including me.

My thoughts are with his wife, Maria; his children, Harrison and, my dear friend, Ash; his grandchildren; and his extended family.

He will be missed.

TAX CUTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, as I travel across Michigan's Fifth District,

I have heard from many Michiganders who are thrilled about the economic relief that House Republicans are providing.

Earlier this year, we passed the working families tax cut legislation, which is profamily, proworker, and pro-Michigan.

This historic legislation empowers families by preventing residents of Michigan's Fifth District from facing a 27 percent tax hike and increasing take-home pay by up to \$11,700.

In addition, the legislation increases the child tax credit, strengthens paid family leave, and establishes savings accounts for newborns, allowing families to invest in their child's future from birth.

House Republicans have accomplished so much this year, but we are only just getting started.

□ 1520

RECOGNIZING A CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE FOR CHI OMEGA CHAPTER OF AKA

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a century of excellence by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Chi Omega Chapter located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

The Chi Omega Chapter was chartered under the leadership of Anna Easter Brown, one of the original 16 founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

The chapter is home to Ruth Anderson Smith, who has served as a member for over 75 years and is 103 years old. She is a Chi Omega Diamond. There are three Chi Omega Pearls who served for over 65 years in membership, with 12 over 50 years who are Golden Members.

That is 100 years of membership, educational support, health advocacy, and steadfast commitment to our HBCUs and transforming lives and strengthening eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate everyone who came to celebrate this amazing celebration of 100 years.

HONORING TENSE FRANKLIN BANKS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of Tense Franklin Banks, who passed away this week at 75.

Tense was a gifted writer and recognized for contributions to preserving the history of Linville Falls and Avery County of the North Carolina Society of Historians.

Tense is remembered by many as someone who had an impeccable memory and who believed that the preserva-

tion of local history was critical to pass on to future generations.

Tense was a friend and someone I admired greatly for her talents and warmth. She, along with the entire Banks family, has a special place in my heart.

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to provide comfort and care to the Banks family during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING NORMA CYNTHIA SIMON'S 100th BIRTHDAY

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Norma Cynthia Simon on her 100th birthday. Her life exemplifies the power of education, family, and service.

Ms. Simon was born on December 15, 1925, in South America, in Guyana's capital, Georgetown.

Ms. Simon devoted 35 years to learning and teaching as an educator. She taught her children that education is a pathway to opportunity. She is the mother of 5, grandmother of 10, and great-grandmother of 14.

I am very fortunate to have her great-granddaughter, Maxe Samiko Hinds, in my office, continuing her great-grandmother's legacy of public service.

Today, I wish Ms. Simon a happy birthday and thank her for leaving us a great legacy. I commend Ms. Simon on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DONALD E. OLSOMMER, SR.

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

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Donald E. Olsommer, Sr., of Sterling, Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Scranton, Don devoted his life to serving his country, community, and family. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served for 30 years in the Pennsylvania National Guard. He rose to the rank of major, leading the National Guard units in Carbondale, Honesdale, and Scranton, and the Tobyhanna Reserve Unit as a company commander.

Don was elected to public service twice as a Wayne County commissioner, served as township supervisor, and was deeply involved in civic and charitable efforts throughout his community.

Don owned and operated a local Christmas tree farm, founded a small insurance company, and was the co-founder of the Sterling Little League. Most of all, he cherished the time he spent with his family.

It was an honor to know Don, and I know everyone who had the pleasure of meeting him feels the same way. My thoughts and prayers go to Don's fam-

ily and friends, including his son, Pennsylvania State Representative Jeff Olsommer, as they grieve their loss and remember Don. He will be greatly missed.

REVIEWING SOCIAL MEDIA BEFORE APPROVING VISAS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, happy holidays to everyone.

I rise because we have to do something about the nonimmigrant visa process right now. I have several constituents who want to see their families for the holidays, but, unfortunately, this administration has put in place a new social media policy for anyone applying for a nonimmigrant visa.

Essentially, they are scrubbing your social media to see if you agree with the President or not. That is essentially what is happening. It is not about dangers to our country. If it were, it would go a lot faster than the many months that it is taking right now.

I have one constituent, for instance, who traveled abroad for a consular appointment. When she tried to come back, she was notified that, because of this policy, they need 4 months to review her social media, including accounts that they had already deleted. As a result, she faces the possibility of losing her job. Her daughter, who is a U.S. citizen, is going to fall behind in school.

These are serious consequences for so many families across the country. We need to make sure we change this policy and make it better. Most importantly, we need to get these visas approved.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL" LONG

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William "Bill" Long on his retirement from MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association.

As the Representative for Michigan's Fourth Congressional District, home to many of those hardworking MEMA members, I can attest to the lasting impact of Bill's leadership as president and CEO.

Bill Long has spent more than 40 years in the automotive and parts industry. Prior to joining MEMA in 2012, he held executive roles at Echlin Inc., Dana Incorporated, and Proliance International.

Appointed CEO in 2019, Bill helped redefine MEMA's mission: uniting vehicle aftermarket and original equipment suppliers, and positioning the association as a strong, unified voice during a period of major industrial transformation.

Bill's commitment and collaboration are evident in the partnerships he has built with automakers, technology leaders, research institutions, and government agencies and representatives.

Over the years, Bill has served on numerous boards and earned widespread recognition. He remains a respected figure in motorsports, including leadership roles with NASCAR and IndyCar. He currently serves on the boards of the Automotive Hall of Fame and the Center for Automotive Research in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring his distinguished career. I wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

'TIS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL

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

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, 'tis the week before Christmas, and here on the Hill, to keep health insurance premiums from skyrocketing, we have just the bill.

A majority of the House is ready to vote "yes," but the Speaker is sending us home. Why? It is anyone's guess.

ACA enhanced premium tax credits expire at the end of the year. Without them, millions will not afford healthcare, I fear.

Small business owners and employees, gig workers, farmers, and the self-employed, too, without those tax credits, they don't know what they will do.

The Speaker shrugged, saying our work for the year is done, but there is one bill we should pass before heading home—just one.

Two hundred eighteen House Members signed a petition to bring a 3-year tax credit extension to the floor. We should vote on it now before we head for the door.

We will vote in January, so don't give up the fight. In the meantime, may your holiday season be merry and bright.

□ 1530

RECOGNIZING BILOXI CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN MILLER

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career and well-earned retirement of the chief of police for the Biloxi Police Department, John Miller.

A coast native, Chief Miller dedicated more than three decades of his life to protecting the people of Biloxi, Mississippi. He joined the department in 1990 as a patrol officer and quickly distinguished himself through hard work and leadership. Just 5 years later, he was selected for the Special Crimes Unit, where he rose through the ranks

of sergeant and lieutenant serving in both the narcotics and criminal investigative units.

In December of 2009, John Miller was named chief of police, a role he carried with integrity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to his officers and to the community. His compassion, dedication, and steady leadership were especially evident during one of the most challenging times in the history of the department and the city of Biloxi: Hurricane Katrina.

Chief Miller set a tone for professionalism, resilience, and service that truly exemplifies what it means to be south Mississippi strong.

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank him for his service and wish him and his family the very best in his retirement.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL L. FRIEDMAN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Michael L. Friedman of Toledo, Ohio, a devoted public servant, proud veteran of the 180th Fighter Wing, and indefatigable community leader whose half century of impact on northwest Ohio will long endure. Mike Friedman embodied service.

From his honorable duty in the United States Air Force and the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing to his tireless advocacy for working families through the American Federation of Government Employees, he lived by the values of responsibility, loyalty, and fairness. He believed deeply in democracy.

Serving for decades as an Ohio Democratic Party State central committee member and executive committee member, a national delegate, and even a Presidential elector, he carried out all these roles with conviction, heart, and perseverance.

Mike was also a storyteller. His unmistakable voice brought people together across neighborhoods, union halls, veteran posts, and dinner tables. Guided by his faith, Mike was grounded in love for his beautiful family and unwavering in his beliefs. He gave generously of himself to others.

America is stronger and more just because of citizens like Mike Friedman. He lived, served, and cared so deeply.

RENAMING THE KENNEDY CENTER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I learned that the Kennedy Center board asked or said that the Kennedy Center would be renamed the Trump-Kennedy Center.

That is a sacrilege to a martyred, heroic, historic American President

whose name was attached to the Kennedy Center for his support for cultural excellence in America and because he was an assassinated President who we all mourned on November 22 through November 25 and thereafter because he gave his life for our country.

The idea that Donald Trump would want his name to go before Kennedy's or even with Kennedy's is a sacrilege. It should not be changed ever, and it should go through this Congress, who named it the Kennedy Center, on a bill in this House and signed by President Lyndon Johnson.

Stop this, Mr. Trump. If you have any sense of dignity and honor, you will renounce this. Don't say that you are honored. You should renounce it. John Kennedy's name stands before all others, and the Kennedy Center should not be renamed.

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

REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the new Republican healthcare legislation.

Instead of extending Affordable Care Act tax credits and keeping premiums from skyrocketing, House Republicans are pushing a plan that would force more than 20 million Americans to pay, on average, twice as much for the same coverage they have today. As a result, 4 million Americans will lose their insurance while others are going to be forced to pay far more for far worse coverage.

Americans are already facing an affordability crisis. The House Republican solution is to cut a trillion dollars from healthcare, pass the largest cut to SNAP in history, and do nothing while Trump's tariffs raise costs across the board.

When families are struggling every day to keep their heads above water, House Republicans are cutting all lifelines and throwing them a bag of bricks.

This is not how government is meant to work. We need to uplift the American people and give them a fair shot at a good life that rewards hard work.

That is what House Democrats will always fight for, a government that works for you, the American people. That is why we are forcing a vote to extend the ACA subsidies. We should not leave D.C. until we have that vote.

Regardless of what the Republicans do, the American people need to know that House Democrats, when we are back in the majority, will fight for a healthcare system that works for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING ANGELINA PETRA RESENDIZ

(Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Brownsville native Seaman Angelina Petra Resendiz was tragically murdered while serving our Nation at Naval Station Norfolk.

Angelina was a culinary specialist whose life and service to our country was cut short.

Despite many warnings from her friends and family of her disappearance, the U.S. Navy mislabeled her as an "unauthorized absence" instead of the "duty status whereabouts unknown."

This was tragic. I was proud to honor Seaman Resendiz by securing language in this year's NDAA to conduct oversight of the Department's application of designations in cases involving missing servicemembers who are later found deceased. This is an important step towards ensuring that any servicemembers who go missing receive a proper classification and investigatory response to assure their life has every shot of living.

Today, I ask us to continue looking out for our servicemembers at home and abroad to assure their safety and security.

REMEMBERING HAREGEWAIN MITIKU AYALEW

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

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Haregewaine Mitiku Ayalew, a beloved community member from San Jose, California, who passed away in November.

Ms. Ayalew's life was defined by service, generosity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting the vulnerable.

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 for our aging neighbors.

Guided by her faith and deep compassion, her service reached across continents as she organized aid and support programs for families in her native Ethiopia, including raising funds to build a facility for elders and individuals living with disabilities and illness.

Her volunteer energy and time commitment to the Mekane Rama Saint Gabriel Church was extraordinary and deeply appreciated by an entire community.

I recall visiting that very church when I attended her memorial and was moved by the sight of more than 1,000

neighbors who came out to pay their respects and pay homage to this remarkable woman.

May Ms. Ayalew's memory be a blessing. Her life's work and values live on through her two daughters, Aden Kassaye and Rebekah Kassaye, and in the countless lives she uplifted through her compassion and service.

DEADLINE TO RELEASE EPSTEIN FILES

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow at midnight is the deadline for Pam Bondi to release the Epstein files. That is what THOMAS MASSIE's and my bill calls for. It passed this body 427-1, passed the Senate 100-0, and the President signed it. Now, three Federal judges have ordered the release of all of these files from Maxwell's and Epstein's grand jury.

Here is the reality. Any Justice Department official who does not comply with this law will be subject to prosecution for obstruction of justice. If Pam Bondi does not comply with the law, she will be held either in inherent contempt of Congress or subject to impeachment.

We will not rest until the law is complied with and justice is served.

□ 1540

CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK: CHRISTINE CULBERSON

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christine Culberson of Spotsylvania County as Virginia's Seventh District Constituent of the Week.

Christine was recently named Teacher of the Year by the Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association for good reason. She was recognized for her unwavering passion of career and technical education. This work has enriched the learning experience for students across Spotsylvania County Public Schools.

Educators like Christine take the time to invest in our students and inspire a lifelong learning, restoring quality education of our children.

Christine's recognition isn't just a personal achievement, it reflects the innovation flourishing in Spotsylvania County Schools. Her efforts uplift her colleagues and elevate the entire CTE community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Christine for everything she has done for public education, and I am proud to honor her today.

URGING THE RELEASE OF EKREM IMAMOGLU

(Mr. RASKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, many of us in Congress are calling for the immediate release of Mr. Ekrem Imamoglu, who is the mayor of Istanbul, Turkey.

Istanbul is Turkey's largest city. It is one of the world's great cities where 16 million people live and stand strong for democracy. They elected Mr. Imamoglu as their mayor three different times, and he is focused on improving public infrastructure and serving nutrition and health to the millions of kids who live in that city.

He was detained in March 2025, along with 106 other leaders in Istanbul. The Turkish Government has now seized his family business, suspended his Twitter account, revoked his college diploma, and banned any public images or posters of him.

I want to tell Mayor Imamoglu that he has many people in the United States Congress closely following this outrage against democracy and the rule of law. We are wishing his family happy holidays, and we are working and demanding to see that he be released.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. NORMA MOYE

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Ms. Norma Moye who passed earlier this week at the young age of 92.

As a fourth-generation resident, Norma was Paso Robles, California, in the 19th Congressional District. She served her community in many ways: being on the boards for the Pioneer Day, the Historical Society, and, of course, as a leader in the Chamber of Commerce. However, where she was most impactful was due to her work as the founder and executive director of the Paso Robles Main Street Association.

Under her leadership, downtown Paso Robles transformed from vacant storefronts to a bustling hub of community. She was a champion for local businesses, supporting her neighbors, helping them thrive, and transforming the local economy.

Thanks to her commitment to service, she lives on in every person who visits downtown in the community and the energy that is Paso Robles.

As we mourn her loss, let us celebrate Norma Moye, her legacy of service, and let us do that by enjoying the town of Paso Robles.

LIBERTY VERSUS TYRANNY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight it is a great honor to gather with our

dear colleagues to focus on a modern-day conflict that will have major implications for this country and the world in the days and years to come.

The United States, for over a century, since our hard-fought victories with Allies during World Wars I and II learned the hard way: Isolation is not in our Nation's security interest.

Isolation is not in our Nation's security interest.

Our Nation is not the most populous nation on Earth, with 340 million people. However, in every era it seems the constellation of dictatorship begins to upset world order. These aggressors invade smaller nations first to conquer more territory and for their own narrow self-interest.

Dictatorships in today's world include Russia, with 140 million people; China, with 1.5 billion people; Iran, with 92 million people; and North Korea, with 26 million people.

This group of nations is a developing spiderweb of tyranny with four times the population of the United States. Thus, alliances with free nations matter. That is why Canada, Australia, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations matter. Only together with Allies can the free world offset predatory dictatorships.

Following World War I, slowly and at great cost, a constellation of Allies began to emerge. Leaders of surviving nations created what has come to be called the free world, but this alliance of liberty was very hard-fought, and it champions freedom, not dictatorship.

Foundational is the rule of law with institutions of justice, ensuring individual rights, not repression by dictators or conquest by aggressor, thugs, and murderers.

Our Nation did not seek to be leader of the free world. Rather, our forebears grew this association with the realization that cataclysmic wars were not in the interests of humanity nor the United States of America.

President Woodrow Wilson created the League of Nations after World War I, which three decades later transformed into the United Nations, an institution to collectively assemble world leaders to promote understanding and peace so as to avoid war.

Civil and political leaders of our Nation in both major political parties, though reluctant to assume leadership in such a daunting undertaking never before in the world, were determined to build a world of law, not conquest. The goal of lasting peace outweighed their own self-interest.

A short distance away from our Nation's Capitol rests the national World War II Memorial. It was dedicated in 2004 to the Allied victory in World War II. Over 100 million people, nearly one-third of our population, has now visited that hallowed site. This monument represents the 20th century's greatest achievement, the victory of liberty over tyranny.

The monument stands as a timeless reminder of the moral strength and

power that can flow when free people are united and bond together in the common, just cause of liberty itself.

Following the horrific great power wars of the 20th century, across Europe alone are lain the bodies of 500,000 U.S. veterans who rest in military cemeteries and fields from World Wars I and II. From Flanders Fields to Normandy, their enormous sacrifice, along with the millions of veterans who returned home, bequeathed to us the moment to build the umbrella of alliances to push back tyranny. Extending liberty and achieving democratic governance peacefully served as examples to other nations. What the World War I and II generations yielded for us has been the longest era of peacetime among great powers in the history of the world—until now.

Not only is Russia at war in Europe, but the United States of America is acting peculiarly and dangerously out of step with our forebears' resolve.

□ 1550

Let me just, for a moment, focus on Vladimir Putin and his evil aspirations as dictator of Russia. Let us recall Putin's imperative is to reconstitute the Soviet Union that collapsed in 1991 of its own criminality and dysfunction. Its border extended across 13 time zones then, all the way through most of Germany. Through force, Putin aspires to rewrite the structure of Europe again and end democratic practice across the Continent.

Meanwhile, the United States appears absent. Liberty is under threat, and America seems to be wavering on the sidelines, playing off liberty and dictatorship.

The increasingly collaborative coalition of Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China, the spider web of modern tyranny, are enemies of liberty. See it. They collude to upend American and global security.

Chancellor Merz of Germany, a NATO ally, recognized this reality when he recently stated: "The threats are real. We are not at war, but we no longer live in peacetime."

Ukraine has become the front line for liberty's fight in our time and generation. See it.

In 2014, Russian dictator Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, an ally of the United States. Together with our European allies, we partnered to achieve Ukraine's accession to the European Union of free nations, and clearly Putin invaded Ukraine in 2014 just after Russia's puppet dictator who had become President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, was driven out of that nation after his treasonous betrayal of the democratic aspirations of the free people of Ukraine.

He stole millions and committed crimes against its freedom, and he found his way back to Moscow. Vladimir Putin knew his control of that puppet and of Ukraine had been thwarted, so he chose to invade Ukraine starting in 2014 against all

laws of diplomacy. Putin snuffed out liberty in his own country, and now he intends not just to end liberty in all of Europe, but he seeks to replace it with tyranny that traces its bloody lineage across centuries of Russian aggression and murder of innocents.

There can be no compromise with Putin. He violated the Budapest Memorandum, which allowed Ukraine to prosper, starting in 1991 after the fall of the Soviet Union, when it promised to let all nuclear weapons be removed from Ukraine with the promise that they would not be invaded, that others would protect them.

Russia signed that agreement. The United States signed that agreement. That agreement has been violated. Why should we trust Putin now, when he couldn't even keep his word on the Budapest Memorandum?

Let us not forget the great betrayal that allowed Putin to invade Ukraine in the first place. As the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, a newly independent Ukraine had become the third largest nuclear power in the world. However, as a responsible nation, Ukraine signed the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the behest of the United States of America and the demand of Russia. In exchange, the security of Ukraine was to be guaranteed under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum signed by our country, Russia, and Ukraine.

However, Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014 after his puppet was driven out. Russia always betrays its commitments. Look no further than the decades before when the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement during World War II was signed and then violated and Poland was invaded. We must not betray our commitment as leader of the free world to Ukraine's liberty.

Ukraine is fighting valiantly against Russia. It is holding the line at the front. The Ukrainian people have fought so astoundingly until the current President and his party here in Congress decided not to send the funds to allow Ukraine to procure the weapons it needs. There has been a pause during this year, which makes it harder, but the Ukrainians have held the front.

Ukraine has one time zone and encompasses a landmass less than 3 percent the size of Russia's vast territory which stretches across—are you ready?—11 time zones. They have enough. They ought to deal in their own country. Russia's population equals four times as many people as Ukraine's.

Putin was the aggressor. He invaded, as I said, in 2014, and he has kidnapped tens of thousands of Ukrainian children. Why? It is because in Russia, the birthrate is going down. He has murdered tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians. He has reinstituted the gulag system of prisons to torture Ukrainians. He has attacked religious communities and buildings, broken families apart, murdered and tortured scores of

hundreds of clergy, killed Jehovah's Witnesses and any other religion that attempts to prosper in that part of the world, and summarily executed prisoners of war and civilians alike.

This is what Putin promises the rest of Ukraine and our NATO allies, should we let him succeed in Ukraine. See it. See it for what it is. Russia's history is marked by repressive expansion and murder throughout the centuries. There is no liberty nor desire for any liberty. Russia kills at will.

Freedom advocate Alexei Navalny, a Russian, was imprisoned last year and left to die in a frozen Arctic prison. Putin's goons murdered a young Ukrainian journalist almost 30 years ago when Ukraine became free. Why? It is because Gongadze was telling the truth about the corruption and the underhandedness of Russia inside of the free Ukraine. He was killed and then buried with his head in the ground and his legs in the air right before people would enter the town just to be a lesson to behave yourself and don't ever, ever put a word in a publication against Vladimir Putin.

Putin murdered countless Catholics, Mormons, others who wanted to freely practice religion in that part of the world. Why were they murdered? It was because they weren't Russian Orthodox adherents.

If Putin is permitted to conquer Ukraine, he will not stop there. This is not speculation. This is history. We already see Russian troops concentrated at the borders with Baltic States. They are hitting the fly zone in Poland, the border, Finland, Russian violations of NATO airspace and territorial waters.

A Polish diplomat once advised me: If you pay no attention to foreign affairs, then foreign affairs will find you. What a true statement that is. Surely, the Poles know.

America has tried in the past to stick its head in the sand. That doesn't work. Isolation doesn't work. Partnership works. America can repeat the mistakes of the 1920s by withdrawing our support, but we have already lived through that. We don't want to go through that again. Inevitably, that myopia will force the free world to pay a higher price for freedom as tyranny deepens its roots in the world. On the other hand, America can take a stand now to provide further assistance for Ukraine to advance liberty for this new generation.

Remember, only 20 percent of the world is free now, according to Freedom House's Freedom Index. This means that 80 percent of the world lives under some form of tyranny. We are very privileged in our country if we can hold it.

In our privileged place in the world, America cannot forget that around our globe and throughout history, liberty is extremely rare and precious and utterly vulnerable.

The Trump administration is failing to meet the moment. My dear colleagues will talk about this in just a

moment, but what this administration is doing is just not ignoring the problem. They are actively complicit in tyranny's march across Europe.

□ 1600

This administration's new and adolescent national security manifesto, as they call it, is a retreat.

During his campaign, President Trump frequently repeated that he will end the war in Ukraine on day one. That surely didn't happen. One year into his return to office, the war in Ukraine rages on, and his actions have been favoring Russia's dictatorship.

In February and March, President Trump made his first real effort to negotiate, but what is he negotiating? Not liberty. Ukraine's President Zelenskyy came to the table and agreed to President Trump's mineral rights deal.

Trump responded to Russia's growing strikes but granted Putin several weeks' warning to end the shooting or face new sanctions. He did not implement the sanctions, even as Ukrainians were being murdered every day.

In August, President Trump literally rolled out the red carpet for dictator Putin to step foot in the land of the free during his visit to Anchorage, Alaska. Putin conceded nothing then; he concedes nothing now. Trump whined at Putin and again threatened sanctions.

Finally, in October, the President did sanction two large Russian oil firms, Lukoil and Rosneft, but then reinvigorated a negotiating process with several decidedly Kremlin-friendly provisions, even as Putin showed no signs of compromise.

Now, 4 months later, we are waiting on the Trump administration or Republicans in Congress to move additional sanctions. Up at the desk, we have a discharge petition to move a bill to enforce sanctions on Russia. We only need 2 more signatures to get to 218.

Where is the majority in this House? Two more signatures on the discharge petition to move Russian sanctions forward—liberty is calling. Can you see it? Can you hear it?

This October, the Trump administration started issuing Russia's threats to Ukraine for Putin. The Russian-drafted 28-point peace plan asked Ukraine not to negotiate peace but to capitulate.

They cited a recent corruption scandal in Ukraine, not for what it is—Russian interference and corruption in Ukraine through their emissaries—but as evidence that Ukraine is weak and must surrender.

This is a Russian infiltration of Ukrainian institutions that has been going on for centuries, and it has plagued Ukraine from the first day it became free, in 1991. Ukraine has had to build a nation on the corruption and infiltration of the corrupt, calculating, interfering Russian regime.

Then, just last week, the Trump administration stood shoulder to shoulder

with the Russian dictatorship. Never in my life did I imagine I would live to see the day when the United States of America, as a founding member of NATO and the United Nations, would vote with the dictatorships of the world. This happened on December 10, 2025, when the United States joined the dictatorships of Russia, Belarus, China, North Korea, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Niger in a 97-8 vote to oppose the United Nations resolution that aimed to strengthen international cooperation and coordination of efforts among nations.

This shameful vote of 97-8 does not express the values of the United States of America. It does not express the values of the American people, who place liberty above all. We value our closest allies, especially when Europe is at war. We don't side with the dictators.

The Trump administration publicly holds that the ultimate goal is peace. I agree. Everyone wants peace, except Putin. Do you not see it? Putin doesn't want peace. He wants Ukraine. The Ukrainians prove to us every day that liberty is worth fighting for. We best not forget that here in America.

Frankly, I haven't found anyone in the Trump family who has ever fought for the cause of liberty. There is no record of military service or public service in his family's history. In fact, Trump famously avoided service in Vietnam by faking bone spurs.

No one in my family ever had that luxury. They fought for over 100 years for this country, and we are proud of their service for liberty.

What seems clear to me is that too many people, like Putin, judge others by the weight of their wallet rather than the weight of their conviction for liberty.

As peace negotiations ensue this weekend in Miami, let us pray that the negotiation is not about squeezing every business deal out of Ukraine for The Trump Organization. That outcome is not in America's interest.

Steven Witkoff and Jared Kushner, two former real estate businessmen from New York, should negotiate peace and liberty, not business deals for themselves or the President they serve, business deals of a Russian-occupied Ukraine.

The free world must push back Russia's aggression and greed, or Putin's appetite will grow to spread Russian repression across all free peoples, which he has been trying to do since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Our late colleague John Lewis observed that freedom is not a state. It is an act. It does not sit on the floor but must be elevated by the steady diligence and attention of citizens who sacrifice to remain free. Liberty is not simply bestowed upon a people but fought for and defended.

History instructs us. In the 1770s and 1780s, a revolutionary generation of men and women rose up to secure liberty across 13 otherwise disconnected coastal Colonies here on the American continent.

Roughly 80 years later, a subsequent generation was called upon to fight and die in America's internal great war for liberty, the American Civil War, still our most costly war, with over 600,000 deaths. That generation ended the original sin of slavery and extended the hope of liberty across the American continent.

Then, in the 20th century, generations rose to the renewed call for sacrifice. Called the Greatest Generation, I call them the most unselfish generation. They fought, died, and successfully preserved and extended liberty here at home and to subjugated people around the world. They did it for us.

Americans believe that the history of their struggle against global tyranny ended with the defeat of Nazi Germany and the fall of the Communist Soviet Union, yet today, that history is still being written.

Free nations face not a new enemy but an old one. It is our turn now. Our free world must never play footsie with an axis of dictatorships like Russia, North Korea, Iran, and China to unleash their aggression on our world again. How not only stupid that would be, but how un-American.

America's foreign policy must promote liberty, not bow to tyranny. Free nations must support those who are willing to fight and die for liberty around our world, and Congress must ensure our Nation is always ready.

Our National Defense Authorization Act just passed, providing for military readiness for our Nation as well as assistance to Ukraine to ensure NATO's eastern flank is secure and Vladimir Putin moves back his troops inside his own country. He has plenty of it that he needs to attend to.

Congress can do more by passing a discharge petition that has been sitting in the well of this House since July. It would unlock the most significant legislation introduced in this Congress to place economic sanctions on Russia for its war crimes against Ukraine. Our petition needs only two more Member signatures to bring forward the vote to the floor. Every Democrat and two Republicans have signed thus far.

□ 1610

In our country, we must defend liberty first, last, and always, and it must never accommodate dictatorships.

We are reminded of this by this astounding visionary poet of Ukraine, who on Christmas, December 25, 1845, penned the following words about a country that, at that point, was only imagining through its greatest citizens a future that they could not live in their own lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, in closing my formal remarks tonight, I will quote the poet laureate of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko, who said:

O bury me, then rise ye up
And break your heavy chains
And water with the tyrant's blood
The freedom you have gained.
And in the great new family,

The family of the free,
With softly spoken, kindly word,
Remember also me.

Mr. Speaker, he was so prescient. He was so prescient.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker Emerita of the House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I salute MARCY KAPTUR and the Ukrainian Caucus for inviting Members to come together to raise concerns, to speak frankly about the need for strong sanctions on Russia, and to insist that any peace must be just, durable, and centered on the Ukrainian people themselves.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly 4 years, the people of Ukraine have stood on the front lines for freedom, defending their democracy, their sovereignty, and their right to live in peace on their own land. In fighting for democracy, they are fighting democracy writ large.

Congresswoman KAPTUR spoke beautifully, historically, geographically, and chronologically in every way about placing this conflict in time and place. I want to pick up on two parts of it in the time that I have.

In the conversation about peace, we hear people talk about Ukraine giving up land. What we are saying to Ukraine is that Russia came in, stole their children, as Congresswoman KAPTUR mentioned, tens of thousands of their children. They took them into Russia. Mr. Speaker, imagine if that ever happened to your family.

Secondly, they raped the women. They raped the women. Sometimes they did it in front of the children and sometimes in front of their parents.

I said to some Russian friends: Isn't it sad how the Russian troops have become brutes and are raping women as a weapon of war to demoralize the people of the country?

They said: Make sure you understand one thing. Russian soldiers follow orders. They are doing that because that is what they are told to do.

In addition to that, we have seen evidence of their killing families in front of family members in such a brutal way. What a ridiculous request: Kidnap our children, rape our women, kill civilian families, and ask us to give you land in return.

The other thing we sometimes hear people say in our country is: Why should we pay all that money when, in fact, we have needs in our own country? I don't think people realize that 90 percent of the security that we send to Ukraine is spent—of the 100 percent, 90 percent is spent in the United States, creating jobs in our country.

Secondly, there are other forms of humanitarian assistance. Across the board at least 60 percent of all that we spend on Ukraine is spent in the United States of America, creating jobs.

Again, Congresswoman KAPTUR spelled it out. I mean, some things bear repeating. She said it so beautifully. This is awful. Mr. Speaker, who do you trust? Who do you trust?

The Congresswoman spelled out very clearly the ridiculous notion that Ukraine should trust us—the Russians after the Budapest Agreement. Give up your nuclear weapons, and we will come to your aid, should you need that.

Forget about it now. Ukraine has been treated with great disrespect. Its people have just been subjected to such horror, and they have fought valiantly. The least we can do is the sanctions. What we should be doing in this House, which has overwhelming bipartisan support in support of the people of Ukraine, is to get some more people to sign the discharge petition.

I thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for her relentless, persistent, dissatisfied advocacy for Ukraine and the fact is we know, those of us who have visited there: If Putin takes Ukraine, what country is next? That is what we hear, the fear we hear from people in the region.

Do they trust Putin? The only person who trusted Putin was President Trump. I don't know what that is about. I know I had a picture, coming out of one of his Cabinet meetings, I pointed to the President, and I said: I am leaving this meeting because, Mr. President, with you, all roads lead to Putin.

Mr. Speaker, this is awful. They say Putin is the richest man in the world. He is a villainous person and somebody who uses rape, kidnapping, and family killings in order to demoralize a country.

He hasn't succeeded, and he is a loser because he thought he was going to win the first week of this war. It is now 4 years later.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI for her unrelenting support for liberty and the people Ukraine. May God bless them and may in our lifetime we see their consequential victory. We must not abandon them.

Ms. PELOSI. One more thing: Right before Christmas a few years ago, when President Zelenskyy came here and spoke, this body just rose up in support. We need more than applause, though. We need a discharge petition.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for joining us tonight with all of her duties.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the very distinguished former and future majority leader of our caucus who has distinguished himself in his career with a total commitment to our alliances globally, including our precious European colleagues. We thank him so very much for joining us here this evening from the State of Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman who heads the Ukrainian Caucus and has ties to Ukraine. She is deeply tied to America, to democracy, liberty, and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I adopt her remarks as my own. I will add to that, but it will be surplusage because we could repeat

everything she said and all the dangers she referred to and all the atrocities of the Russians.

As I was sitting here, with the exception of Mr. VINDMAN, who is a young man, it occurred to me that the speakers who have spoken so far are of a generation who were children at the time of the Soviet Union. They understood the viciousness of the bear, and they understood the enslavement of the Russian people and the captive nations.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the people of Ukraine, for the people of America, for the people of Europe, for the people of Asia and Africa, South America, and Australia because all of us are at risk if dictators like Putin prevail.

For Ukraine, the question is: Will America and this Congress allow it to become a nation betrayed? I have said it before, and I will say it again. President Trump, Vice President Vance, Secretary Rubio, Negotiator Witkoff, Secretary of Defense Hegseth, and others have done everything to express support for Vladimir Putin's and Russia's position and to exonerate them from the aggression and from their war crimes.

Earlier this year, Trump said that the Russians have all the cards. Mr. Speaker, someone ought to remind our President—and I do so tonight—that NATO has a combined defense expenditure of \$1.58 trillion. Together, we field 3.5 million troops. Our combined GDP is 25 times more than Russia's. Europe holds some \$246 billion in frozen Russian assets.

□ 1620

I suggest to all of us, to the President, and to the world at large: Those are a lot of cards, but we need to play them.

As long as they are in the deck, they won't make a difference. Every day we do not, we look weaker in the eyes of the world. That is a danger for us and a danger for the international community.

Every day, Russia slaughters more Ukrainians. At least 43,000 Ukrainian soldiers have already given their lives in defense of democracy, and many more have been wounded.

The Ukrainians will continue to fight valiantly, as the gentlewoman pointed out, with or without our support. However, our decision will determine whether their fight is in vain or will prevail.

The other day, a Ukrainian soldier on the front lines told a reporter: "They kept withholding military aid, couldn't agree on how to respond, and we keep paying for their indecisiveness with our blood, the blood of our children."

He was referring, of course, not just to the United States but to the world at large. Ukraine may be paying the price for our negligence today, but we, the free world, will ultimately bear the cost if we let Putin prevail.

When we fail to show our strength, our adversaries doubt our resolve. When our adversaries doubt our re-

solve, they are assuredly more likely to test our might.

That is the mistake that Neville Chamberlain made. That is the mistake that America and the United Kingdom made when we did not honor the Budapest Memorandum when Putin annexed Crimea.

In my view, Crimea is the mother of this war. The failure to act decisively in the face of that war crime, of that theft, and of that international law that was broken led Putin to believe that he could do this, the invasion of Ukraine, with impunity.

That is a mistake that Donald Trump is making now. This Congress must not do the same, and the good news is that this Congress has not done the same. There were 12 votes between 2022 and July of 2025.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that, on both sides of the aisle, the overwhelming majority of Members voted to support Ukraine. Mostly, it was unanimous on this side, but it was also unanimous on the Republican side, save 1 vote, and then it was 110 to 117, just a small minority.

Those votes average 80 percent of the Members of Congress voting to support Ukraine. It is not as if there is division in this House. As the gentlewoman said, there is a discharge petition, which lays in that desk behind me.

Mr. Speaker, 214 Democrats have signed it, and 2 Republicans have signed it. There are 216 signatures in all now. We need 2 more to say to Ukraine, to say to the world, and to say "yes" to our administration that we are in support of liberty over tyranny; we are in support of a people who have shown extraordinary courage.

Fortunately, we have a winning card to play. Ranking Member MEEKS and I have that bipartisan discharge petition to force on the Ukraine support, and two Republicans have signed that. That means there are another 100 who support Ukraine, and all they need to do is sign that petition, and we will vote in January on that bill that says that we are going to support Ukraine, freedom, democracy, liberty, and international law.

Every House Democrat and two Republicans, I say, have signed. Our legislation includes both sanctions to undermine Russia's war economy and direct financial and military aid for Ukraine's defense and reconstruction.

There were 80 United States Senators who have signed onto a bill imposing sanctions on Russia some 6 months ago, and it has not moved. What do you think that does to the psychology of Ukraine, Ukrainians, and their soldiers?

If we report out this bill, in my view, it will change this war not only materially but psychologically. It doesn't matter how many concessions you give to Putin—and this administration has given him many—he will keep fighting this war so long as he thinks he can outlast the free world.

This is an issue of resolve. I mentioned how much superiority we have

with respect to Russia in size, in money, and in resources.

Mr. Speaker, I know we can do this. Since the Russian invasion in 2022, the House has had at least 12 votes, and I mentioned them, and 80 percent of our people have supported them.

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to fold. Now is the time to call. If we play our hand correctly, we can still ensure that Putin suffers a defeat that will make other dictators around the world think twice before violating international law and creating war crimes.

Mr. Speaker, we must because make no mistake: Vladimir Putin is playing for keeps and for empire. Our European allies know that to be the case because they have been at the point of the enemy's spear when Chamberlain said that we were buying peace in our time. We then had World War II.

Let us act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues and friends who have signed on and voted for supporting Ukraine to sign this discharge petition.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), Fifth District, for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 17 minutes remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), the really extraordinary Congressman from District 21, who has just been unwavering as a freedom fighter here not just for our country but for countries around the world that are trying to liberate themselves from the type of tyranny that Ukraine is facing. Congressman COSTA.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the chairman of the Ukraine Caucus, Ms. KAPTUR, for her leadership, and for my other colleagues who have spoken this afternoon: Speaker Emeritus PELOSI and Representative STENY HOYER.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing threat that Russia poses to Ukraine, to Europe, to the United States, and to the broader international order.

On February 24, 2022—I think all of us can remember—Russia, preplanned and unprovoked, attacked Ukraine. At that time, there was broad consensus among Republicans and Democrats about what we needed to do. That was to stand up for democracy.

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM said it quite well at the time that this was about good versus evil.

□ 1630

I submit to you today that it is still about good versus evil.

Since that day, Russia has continued its assault on the rules-based international order. From the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russia has shown a blatant disregard for international law, national sovereignty, and fundamental human rights.

Sadly, I believe that modern-day Russia is a syndicate masquerading as a country with a mob boss called Putin. That is Russia today.

President Putin has violated, as any mob boss would, every international agreement he has ever signed, period. That is why a peace deal must be backed up by strong military deterrence and strong commitments from Europe and the United States to back Ukraine with NATO-like defense guarantees. It is very clear. Otherwise, Putin has no intention of keeping any agreement.

This is not a conventional war. It is a hybrid conflict, combining military force with cyberattacks at all different levels and fronts, disinformation campaigns, and economic warfare, alongside deliberate efforts to weaken NATO and undermine democratic institutions. They go on attacking civilian neighborhoods, bombing schools, hospitals, and churches. Clearly, Putin is a war criminal.

When the United States hesitates or sends mixed signals, we do not create stability; we invite aggression. Let's be clear about that. History is replete with examples of those who hesitate or send mixed signals. Therefore, American leadership remains the cornerstone of global security.

To President Trump, Putin respects one thing and one thing only, and that is strength. By supporting Ukraine, the United States is sending a clear message: authoritarian regimes cannot invade their neighbors without consequences. I ask the President of the United States to be strong and stand by the brave people of Ukraine and our allies.

Any sustainable resolution to this conflict must include Ukraine at the negotiating table. How else could you reach a peace agreement? The country under attack must have a decisive voice in shaping its own future and determining the terms of peace—otherwise, it is illogical—ensuring that agreements respect its sovereignty and the will of its people.

Therefore, we must continue to strengthen our alliance, develop agile and region-specific strategies, and ensure that we are prepared to respond across all domains, including cyberspace, information warfare, and economic coercion, because economic sanctions can work.

The President has the leverage, with continued military support, economic support, and sanctions using the sovereign wealth of Russia to pay for the damage and the harm that they have created, with our European allies. We have the leverage.

We cannot allow this aggression to go unanswered. We must stand firmly with Ukraine and defend the democracy and international order that we helped create. It has created prosperity since World War II, economic prosperity that democratic nations have shared because America stood strong.

That same order has brought peace and economic prosperity—think about

it—throughout the world for 80 years for democratic nations. Therefore, this is a seminal moment in American and world history that we are facing.

I urge my colleagues to act as we have—as Representative STENY HOYER indicated, 12 times in an overwhelming bipartisan fashion—to stand up for America's values, to stand up for human rights, to act collectively in a bipartisan fashion. Why? Because our security and the security of free nations everywhere depend on it.

My colleagues, my friends, the world is watching and looking for American leadership. This is the test of our time. "Glory to Ukraine"; "Slava Ukraini."

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman COSTA for his fervent leadership on every level and for all he has done to continue negotiations with our closest allies that fight at our side and push back the edge of tyranny wherever it exists.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 8 minutes remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. VINDMAN), a great patriot from Virginia's Seventh District.

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm my commitment to peace in Ukraine, a peace that acknowledges the massive sacrifice of the Ukrainian people and that secures perpetual sovereignty, not just a temporary reprieve that the Russians will use to rearm and reattack.

We must continue to stand firmly with the Ukrainian people in their fight for freedom and sovereignty. I have traveled to Ukraine extensively since this major phase of the war started in February 2022, 15 trips, the first 14 between June 2022 and October 2023, investigating war crimes and trying to help the Ukrainian people. The last one was the only bipartisan House delegation visit to Ukraine this year. Frankly, I think that is a shameful statistic, that only Congressman MIKE TURNER and I managed to make it to Ukraine this year, a year the Ukrainians faced enormous pressure.

In those trips, I visited places like Bucha, Irpin, Hostomel, places where Russian soldiers brutally executed civilians, places where Russians attacked Ukrainian infrastructure, attempting to freeze and starve the Ukrainian population.

I tell you that what I saw was a war crime, and those crimes are perpetuated almost daily by Russians, including attacks on and killing of POWs.

It is in the United States' national security interest to secure peace between Russia and Ukraine, but only when that peace comes with dignity and security for the Ukrainian people.

We have seen Russia's playbook. They use time. They buy time to rearm so they can attack. They sow discord throughout the neighborhood, in Moldova, Transnistria, Georgia, and Ukraine.

True peace will never be achieved by the world by appeasing Putin. That is why we must stand together. This peace proposal that we have recently seen, the 28-points, Dmitriev, who is the leader of the sovereign wealth fund, and Witkoff, a real estate investor—I call it the Dim-Wit peace proposal.

This Dim-Wit peace proposal is nothing more than a giveaway to Vladimir Putin. It does nothing to achieve peace. Frankly, it would have made Prime Minister Chamberlain blush after Munich, that level of weakness and appeasement.

Let me be clear. A just and lasting peace in Ukraine could not be achieved by the United States alone. It could not be achieved without transatlantic unity. It could not be achieved without European support.

We must stand with the Ukrainian people. We must stand on the right side of history and not support a shameful and weak appeasement deal.

"Glory to Ukraine"; "Slava Ukraini."

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman VINDMAN for his service to our country and also to the cause of liberty globally.

□ 1640

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN), who represents Ohio's First District in the greater Cincinnati area. Let's be kind to him. He has been waiting a long time.

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her incredible leadership and remarkable remarks.

I rise today on behalf of the children of Ukraine. More than 35,000 children from Ukraine have been stolen by Vladimir Putin. These children are being hidden in Russia and being sent to indoctrination camps. Some are even being trained as soldiers to fight against their own country.

We can't wait for a peace agreement to reunite these children with their families. They are not bargaining chips, and Putin must release them now.

As the father of two, I can't imagine the terror of having a child taken from our family, from our home.

Earlier this year, we uncovered a State Department program to track these abducted children had been terminated. We were able to get it back up and running.

Our bill, the Abducted Ukrainian Kids Recovery and Accountability Act, will restart this program so that we can keep tracking every single child. This bill was included in the NDAA and will be signed into law tonight. We can't stop until these children are back where they belong, which is home.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LANDSMAN. He is such an outstanding Member. I thank him for being here.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for your deference and ability to allow us to speak.

I just want to end this evening by saying that this Special Order is not really just about this generation but those to come, and for our children, for our grandchildren, the kind of world that we leave them. We simply cannot appease dictators, because we will leave a very ugly world to them in the future.

The last thing I wish to place on the RECORD, if you would allow me just a couple of seconds here, in 2014, when the Olympics were going on in Sochi, for the first time in Russia in modern history, Vladimir Putin used the Olympics, when most people were distracted, to cover up the fact that he was going to invade Ukraine, which he did. The Olympics were the shield from a public relations standpoint, but what had just happened was that his stooge who was the head of Ukraine then, Viktor Yanukovich, had to flee the country because he was such a crook and was totally a tool of Putin.

What the American people need to understand is, Ukraine had to dig itself out from under decades, centuries of Russian imposition and corrupt leaders that held down the ability of this country to flower into a free nation.

What we are fighting for is for the ability of people to have liberty first, last, and always, in the place, in the world where Stalin killed more people than anywhere else in the history of the world.

God bless America.

“Glory to Ukraine,” “Slava Ukraini.”

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

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

CHANGING HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to be here this afternoon as we talk about the need to promote accountability, flexibility, choice, and to allow small businesses to galvanize together to find the best options for their employees in the changing health insurance market.

I will start today by ceding some time to my friend from the State of Montana, Representative DOWNING, who has great experience in working with the marketplace in his home State of Montana.

I yield to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DOWNING).

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, so much.

I rise today to discuss or to comment on what I see is the biggest fraud this body has ever put upon the American people.

Let's go back to the beginning of the unaffordable care act, ObamaCare. How was this sold to the American people? You can keep your doctor if you like them. You can keep your plan. Your insurance premiums are going to go down.

I will tell you, all of that—I will tell you; this is one time that both the Republicans and Democrats agree, that it did not deliver on that.

The Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare, has been one of the biggest drivers in increasing not just the cost of health insurance but the cost of healthcare.

To continue this deception, it was clear that this plan would not work. You don't have to be a Ph.D. in mathematics to understand why. As you start to add things—the essential health benefits that you added onto these policies, these required benefits, as you started to add things that had to be covered—and I am not saying whether those were good or bad. But if you add expenses, you can't make prices go down. It would be like saying if you went to a fast food restaurant and ordered a soda and the price is going to go down but they have to give you a free cheeseburger as well. It just doesn't make common sense. It doesn't make mathematical sense. So to further this deception, they realized that it only worked by subsidizing it. You had to levy a tax to subsidize it.

The architects on the other side of the aisle who put this together realized that the American people would rebel against this if they were given a tax to pay for it. How did they hide that? Well, let's just tax the payers, let's tax the insurance companies, and then they can pass those expenses down to the American people through higher premiums. That is exactly what happened.

Then let's look at another phenomenon. As these prices start going up, people start to question whether they are getting value for what they are paying for. For some folks, the answer was no. They didn't want to pay those higher rates, and so some folks came off.

As we see, the people who come off tend to be the people who least need services. So the healthy, younger people tend to be the ones that come off. As they do that, that concentrates the risk. That makes the prices go higher for the insurance companies, for the payers.

As that happens and you get into the next policy year, they have to raise the rates again. As they raise the rates again, you lose more subscribers to those policies. You further concentrate the risk. This is known as adverse selection.

What happens in adverse selection, every time you see that raise, those prices rise, you start to see more people come off. They look for alternatives like healthcare sharing ministries, they look for something else, or they go uninsured. You start this endless cycle of these prices going up.

There is another thing I want to point out. This is kind of economics 101. The more money you put into a system, the more expensive things get. We have seen that in so many different areas. We have seen that in subprime lending. We have seen that in student loans. You put money into a system, and it starts to push prices up.

One of the other contributors we have is not just adverse selection, which is concentrating the risk and making it more expensive for the insurance companies, but we put so much money in the system that we are seeing rises in actual healthcare.

It is important to make the distinction between the rising cost of healthcare and the related rising cost of health insurance. So we just come to this death spiral of this becoming more and more and more unaffordable. In my personal opinion, this entire system is going to collapse under its own weight, and you have got two solutions.

The other side thinks that we should just write a blank check from the Federal Government, no matter how big that check is going to be, so that we can hide the fact that this is failing.

Let's face it. This is seen as a landmark piece of legislation that the Democrats have pushed over the last couple of decades. It is important to them to protect this landmark legislation. I am sorry, but the emperor is not wearing clothes. In order to hide that, they are doing these smoke screens with these increased subsidies.

Now, let's look at the subsidies that have really gotten a lot of attention, these ObamaCare subsidies that we have been talking about that the Democrats brought in response to COVID. These are subsidies to folks who are on the individual market.

It is important to note that the individual market is a small percentage of the insureds. This is not the entire market. This is not a small group. This is not a large group. This is a small percentage of folks who are on the individual marketplace, who get their health insurance through healthcare.gov or through one of the exchanges. It is a very small part.

□ 1650

When the Democrats first put this, it was a reaction to the chaos during COVID, and it was, by their intent and by their architecture, a temporary solution for a temporary problem. So it was designed to expire. It had a sunset.

Then, when it was coming up to a sunset, when the Democrats still had control and had the ability to make this permanent, they still put an expiration date on it. These enhanced premium tax credits, or these ObamaCare credits, were designed to expire at the end of this year. Essentially, January 1 is when they were designed to expire.

It is entirely policy brought by the Democrats. This was not Republican policy, it was a smokescreen. There are estimates it will cost between \$300 and \$400 billion to pay for it over the next

10 years if they are expanded. Like I said, it is a smokescreen.

Folks are starting to talk about whether prices are going to go up or go down or what these subsidies will do. Let's talk about that for a second. These subsidies are a very small part of the increases that we are seeing in premiums because of what I have already talked about. It is because of rising costs of healthcare and because of rising costs of health insurance that are due to those healthcare increases as well as that adverse selection.

Let me just put this small percentage in perspective. In Montana, we have a number of payers, a number of insurance companies. The one with the largest increase on the individual market was about 25 percent. It is a high number, I agree, but that 25 percent was a single digit amount. About 9 percent of that, was attributed to the enhanced premium tax credits, the ObamaCare credits. Even without that, the prices are going up. Independent of these ObamaCare credits that we are discussing, it is going up in the small group, the large group, and it is going up in every other part of insurance.

That part without the enhanced premiums, as I said, that delta between 25 and 9, let's say that is 16 percent, everybody else is still seeing that. They are still seeing that increase.

One of the smallest increases we saw from our major payers was about 10, a little bit over 10 percent, and about 3 or 4 percent of that was attributed to the ObamaCare premiums.

The reason I am bringing this up is that it is a very small percentage of these overall costs. One thing that I want to point out is that if these tax credits are allowed to expire on the 31st, premiums are going up. If we extend them, premiums are going up. It is happening either way.

Just one thing I want to end on so that people understand how this process works. If this body decides to extend those premiums, let's say it is for 2 years or 3 years, an arbitrary amount, then what happens?

The way that insurance rates are filed is they go to the States, the payers, the insurance companies bring them to the States. They file, they are approved, they get filed with CMS, with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and then the open enrollment period starts, which is usually mid-November to mid-December.

Mr. Speaker, during that open enrollment period is when you buy your policies for the following year. We just closed that open enrollment period a couple of weeks ago for the 2026 policy years. Those rates are already baked in. If we were to extend those credits, the rates are already baked in.

Unless we go to extraordinary measures of allowing the payers to, once again, refile their rates and then have another open enrollment period, which I guess would be March or April by the time we got all that through, then, what do we with that?

Do we make those rates ex post facto? Do we have them go back to the beginning of the year? Or do you allow it to go through its normal cycle, in which case those rates affect the 2027 year.

The point I am making is that by extending those ObamaCare subsidies, we are not affecting the 2026 rates without going to extraordinary measures to unroll everything that has already happened.

What will happen is those insurance companies that filed higher rates with the assumption of those premium tax credits staying in will get the benefit of having a higher rate plus having that tax credit.

Going back to how I started this, this fraud was put on to the American people to hide the taxes so that the American people weren't taxed directly. They taxed the insurance companies that are getting these tax credits to change those rates for the people. This is not going to affect what is happening right now without extraordinary measures.

In closing, what we need to do, and I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding, we need to start looking at alternatives on what are the core drivers of the costs of health insurance.

How do we rate health insurance so that younger, healthier people are still willing to pay for it so we have spread risk there?

What are the things that we can look at for driving costs down to stopping this endless cycle of adverse selection so that people can actually, as was promised on this big fraud perpetrated on the American people, have the doctor they want, the plan they want, and have their rates going down?

This ObamaCare premium debacle is not the answer, but we do need to get to work and figure out how we can get to the root causes of these rising prices. That is because, as I said, this is either going to collapse under its own weight or we are going to be forced to write an unlimited check to the Federal Government which many of my colleagues and I are unwilling to do.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. We appreciate his expertise and understanding on these issues as we take it on toward the future.

I want to read one comment before I call up the Congressman from Colorado.

This is from The Washington Post, which may be the most liberal major newspaper in America.

Their comments were simply: "Many honest people will feel the squeeze next year, but any serious effort to extend ObamaCare subsidies would need to include lower income caps, require some out-of-pocket premiums and impose additional anti-fraud protections."

The Washington Post said this. They recognize the reality that this has been a broken system that has been covered up for years at the expense of other taxpayers and the overall cost of

healthcare. That is why we are having the discussion today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK). I thank him for joining this conversation, and we look forward to his comments.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, we heard so much from the gentleman from Montana who knows a lot about health insurance.

Healthcare is more than these enhanced premium tax credits. The Democrats have tried to make it about enhanced premium tax credits, but healthcare is more than that.

As the gentleman from Montana pointed out, enhanced premium tax credits would cover 7 percent of the American people. That is what we are talking about with their solution. It would be 7 percent.

Even if we were to fix that 7 percent, what would the fix mean?

Let's talk about who these people are.

These are folks in the enhanced premium tax credit who make, for a family of four, over \$128,000 a year. That is what we are talking about. We are not talking about people who are making 40 or 30 or \$50,000. Those tax credits continue under this broken, failed Affordable Care Act system. Those continue.

What my friends over here want to do is pull money out of our pockets and give it to people who are making for a family of four over \$128,000 a year.

Is that their solution for 7 percent of the people?

That doesn't make sense. That is what it would do.

What effect would it have?

It would reduce premiums by 5 percent for 7 percent of the population all making over \$128,000 for a family of four. That doesn't sound like much of a solution to me because it is not a solution.

The solution is free market reforms.

The fact of the matter is that the enhanced premium tax credit is a Band-aid on the gaping wound of ObamaCare. It is a Band-aid on the gaping wound of the Affordable Care Act.

□ 1700

The left loves to mislabel things. We know that they called the spending package that they passed 4½, 4 years ago the Inflation Reduction Act. What did it lead to? It led to 22 percent inflation. In 1 year, 9 percent inflation. We are still dealing with the effects of their misnamed Inflation Reduction Act.

They called this the Affordable Care Act, and it has been nothing of the sort. It is anything but the Affordable Care Act.

My friends on the other side of this aisle created this mess. No one over on this side, not one person who is here serving in this body on this side of the aisle, voted for our current healthcare system—not one voted for the Affordable Care Act.

Those on the other side of the aisle who did vote for it promised a few things. What did they promise? Lower premiums. Where are the lower premiums? This is the ObamaCare system that we are living under right now. They promised lower premiums. We are not getting those.

They promised better healthcare. Are we getting better healthcare? I don't think most Americans believe that we are.

They promised that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Sure, if your doctor takes the insurance that they force you into.

We are currently living under ObamaCare, under the Affordable Care Act, so if you don't like our healthcare system, news flash, you don't like ObamaCare, you don't like the Affordable Care Act.

The fact of the matter is that this law was written behind closed doors in a backroom deal here in this building and down at the Obama White House with and by insurance companies. There you go, with and by insurance companies. That is a fact.

The scam is this: The scam is that the money is taken from average Americans and sent as a subsidy not to other Americans, but to big insurance companies. That is the scam. That is the scam. The profits of these big insurance companies are at an all-time high. UnitedHealthcare profits are up 1,200 percent under their plan. I get lectured all the time that we are the ones for big business, the ones cutting the deals. They are the ones that cut the deal with the insurance companies, and they put it to the American people when they did.

Those same insurance companies are denying the claims of the very same taxpayers who pay taxes to subsidize their profits. What a scam, a government-sponsored scam.

Under the ACA, the government colluded with insurance companies to ensure customers for themselves, for the insurance companies, and to profit from subsidies provided by the government.

Government intervention does not work in healthcare. In Medicare and Medicaid, the government sets reimbursement rates that underpay doctors and cause access issues.

Very quickly, what are the solutions?

We are \$36, \$37 trillion in debt. We have to fix this system. We can't throw money at the problem. We can't just continue to throw more money. We have to fix a broken system.

How do we fix that? We need long-term solutions for healthcare. What are the real solutions? There are lots of them. I don't have time to go through every one individually today, but the bottom line is that we need to get the government out of dictating healthcare to the American people. We need to return to a patient-centered, market-driven solution in healthcare that doesn't pick big insurance companies over the American people. The Amer-

ican people should have a choice about who they see and who they pay for their insurance.

That is the solution. It isn't this scam. It isn't this election-year gimmick that some are trying to make it out to be. It isn't the solution that fixes a 5 percent fix for 7 percent of the population. It is real, honest healthcare reform for all the American people.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CRANK for his remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from the 13th Congressional District of North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT).

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HARIDOPOLOS for hosting this Special Order hour on one of the critical issues that we face as a nation and have faced for the better part of 20 years now.

I am referring, of course, to ObamaCare, a deceptively named bill, the Affordable Care Act, which has, of course, been a disaster for Americans all over the country.

Before it was passed, Democrats essentially allowed big insurance companies and Federal bureaucrats to craft an extremely regulated patchwork of rules and cloudy regulations to enrich themselves at the expense of the American patient and American physician.

They then jammed it through Congress without a single Republican vote, ushering in a new era of high costs, restricted access, and lower quality healthcare.

As is the case far too often, this law is now harming precisely the groups of people it was designed to assist.

At its core, ObamaCare is a redistributionist program that empowers a public and private bureaucracy rather than patients and physicians.

In various medical fields that are not part of the ObamaCare web, the harmful effects of its policy have not been seen since the law's passage. For example, over the past decade, the cost of outpatient services rose between 80 and 100 percent on average. Prescription drugs are up, at times, 200 percent.

Meanwhile, as a counter example, the cost of LASIK surgery, which is not covered under the ObamaCare policy or subjected to its onerous regulatory framework, has decreased by 30 percent over the same time. Free from bureaucratic suppression, more providers have entered the LASIK market, and innovations like bladeless lasers have made operations safer, more efficient, and more available.

Another example: Cash-pay diagnostic imaging is often 75 percent cheaper than the ObamaCare-approved MRIs. Direct primary care providers offering wholesale labs can be, at times, 15 times cheaper than doctors who are required to fill out government-mandated paperwork.

The examples could continue on and on. Sadly, ObamaCare has succeeded in blocking free market innovations from reaching the broader American

healthcare system. Rather than reform the broken system that they designed, the Democrats are committed to throwing more money at the problem, literally subsidizing a framework that has elevated costs so much that they are even willing to subsidize households earning \$600,000 per year.

It is time to reintroduce competition into healthcare by removing handouts to corporate titans. We must cut the layers of red tape that hurt patients and providers. We must build a commonsense system that enables the patient to have choices, which will, of course, bring about more quality care and increased access. In a very basic sense, we should not make healthcare a DMV-type experience.

I thank Congressman HARIDOPOLOS again for holding this Special Order.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KNOTT for his comments.

I yield to the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. FEDORCHAK).

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. HARIDOPOLOS' leadership on this issue and organizing this Special Order, inviting all of us freshmen and a few other nonfreshmen here to talk about an issue that is so important to our country and to all of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, our healthcare system is broken, and my constituents in North Dakota know it.

The law that was supposed to make things better, the Affordable Care Act, has definitely not lived up to its name. If you like your plan, you can keep it, they promised. A typical family will save \$2,500 a year, they assured. The ACA will help bring down healthcare costs and even reduce the deficit, they claimed. Well, none of that is true.

Here we are, fixing the ObamaCare mess Democrats created 15 years ago. Families today are paying higher premiums, facing fewer choices, and watching Washington throw money at a problem that needs to be fixed immediately.

Yet, somehow, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to paint this as a problem that Republicans created.

□ 1710

The reality is, Democrats passed ObamaCare without a single Republican vote, not one. They also set the enhanced premium tax credits to expire this month. Ask them why. They had the votes. They could have extended this. They could have made it permanent, but they didn't. They set the expiration date for this month. This was completely their doing.

The COVID-era enhanced premium tax credits expanded eligibility far beyond the ACA's original design, including households earning well into six figures. In North Dakota, that means a family of four earning over \$125,000 a year. Making those temporary subsidies permanent would cost taxpayers \$350 billion over 10 years. For all that money, it still won't fix the problem.

Since the enhanced subsidies were enacted, premiums have increased 31 percent. These subsidies don't show up in people's wallets. They go straight to the insurance companies with no incentive to lower prices or improve care. Even worse, massive fraud plagues the marketplace.

A recent Joint Economic Committee study found roughly 35 percent of marketplace enrollees are now considered phantom enrollees. These are people who exist on paper but generate zero medical claims. The chart on my right shows a massive growth of these types of claims, all the way up to almost 11 million of those types in existence today.

Regardless of whether they have a single claim in a year, insurance companies still get paid anyway, while working families pay more and more for their premiums.

Democrats call that affordable. North Dakotans sure don't. That is why Republicans offered a different path last night, one that focuses on patients, affordability, and real competition, not endless subsidies.

The Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act takes practical steps to lower costs and expand options. It creates cost-sharing reductions that will actually stabilize the market. These will reduce marketplace premiums by 11 percent after the first year of implementation. That is nearly twice as much as the impact of extending the Democrats' credits.

Our plan also cracks down on pharmacy benefit managers, the middlemen who drive up drug prices. Our plan requires transparency so employers and workers can finally see where their prescription dollars are going.

It also expands association health plans, allowing small businesses and self-employed workers to band together and increase competition. This could lower premiums by as much as 30 percent. Our plan also protects employer-sponsored insurance and strengthens flexible tax-advantaged options like CHOICE arrangements.

These reforms give workers control over their coverage dollars and lets employers offer benefits for the first time.

Most importantly, this is just the beginning. We have many more policy reforms coming. Republicans' vision for healthcare is putting patients, not insurance companies, in control, with greater access, more choices, lower costs, and good quality care.

These are commonsense reforms. It is past time we move beyond temporary patches and tackle the problem head-on and fix what is broken.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative FEDORCHAK for adding her voice to this very important debate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER), the doctor, for his ideas on how we reform our system.

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, recent polls show that the top issue on the

minds of Americans today is that of affordability. Whether food, education, childcare, energy, or healthcare, rising prices are resulting in more and more Americans feeling less secure about their economic well-being.

Indeed, prices have been going up. Under President Biden, inflation hit 9 percent in June 2022. Cumulatively over the Biden Presidency, inflation is up 21.2 percent.

Things have improved since President Trump and Republicans assumed office in January. Energy prices are down by 6.3 percent. Inflation is moderated, but with the exception of energy, we have not had deflation. Prices are higher than we would like them to be.

Nowhere is the issue of affordability more acute than in healthcare. We must address America's healthcare affordability crisis. As a physician, I will tell you, though, the first step in solving any medical problem is getting the correct diagnosis. If you do not know what the problem is, you will not formulate the right treatment. You may make the patient worse.

That is what has been going on.

What is the problem, then? Our problem is that Big Government's anti-free market, anticompetitive, and anti-consumer policies have made our healthcare system more and more expensive by the year.

This has been a problem for a long time, but it was made much worse after the passage of ObamaCare in 2010.

How did ObamaCare, the unaffordable care act, make healthcare more expensive? Quite simply, by removing what market forces there were in our system and expanding the role of government. The unaffordable care act literally outlawed the private insurance market.

Remember Barack Obama saying that if you like your plan, you can keep it. They lied. They outlawed your plan. What were the results?

The ostensible rationale for the unaffordable care act was to get more people insured, but we know that, in many cases, workers lost their private insurance and have been, if you will, dumped by their employers onto Medicaid.

The Foundation for Government Accountability has estimated that if non-Medicaid expansion States all expanded and added able-bodied, working-age adults to their Medicaid programs, an additional 3.6 million Americans would lose their private health insurance.

Similarly, enhanced COVID-era ObamaCare credits—remember, that is what we are talking about today—crowded out employer-based insurance.

According to the Paragon Institute and the Congressional Budget Office, extending the COVID credits would reduce employer-based coverage by roughly 4 million people.

In addition to crowding out employer plans, The Wall Street Journal's Allysia Finley recently highlighted that the ACA and its subsidies even led

many Democrat-run cities, including Chicago and Detroit, to offload public-sector retiree healthcare costs onto ObamaCare. These cities moved their retirees onto ACA exchanges, eliminating their unfunded healthcare liability. Finley correctly argues that COVID credits make this dumping of public-sector retirees' healthcare obligations onto the exchanges even more likely, as few governments have set aside, especially in blue States and cities, the money to pay their retirees' future healthcare costs. Through ObamaCare, you are paying for the financial irresponsibility of some of our biggest city governments, blue cities especially.

The unaffordable care act has resulted in skyrocketing health insurance premiums. In 2014, the first year that subsidized ACA marketplaces were in effect, premiums increased 47 percent. That is right. They increased by 47 percent in 1 year. Over the next decade, premiums increased another 96 percent.

The only reason that this is not more obvious to Americans today is that the healthcare consumer is not only paying the premiums, but the taxpayer is paying extensive subsidies, accounting for 90.3 percent of the increased premiums.

Healthcare affordability is critical. Therefore, we need to look at the issue that has received a lot of attention these days, the expiration of the COVID-era enhanced ObamaCare credits. The expiration date was passed by congressional Democrats as part of the misnamed Inflation Reduction Act without a single Republican vote.

□ 1720

Mr. Speaker, as mentioned, this scheme known as ObamaCare exchanges resulted in skyrocketing insurance costs. At the same time, we need to address some false assertions about what the expiration of these enhanced super subsidies would mean.

First, the vast majority of ObamaCare subsidies are not expiring at all. What is at issue are these temporary COVID-era subsidies. Even if these enhanced COVID super subsidies were to expire, the Federal Government and the taxpayers will still cover 78 percent of the premiums, compared to roughly 88 percent right now. That is a relatively small change, nowhere near doubling.

In fact, if the COVID subsidies are allowed to expire, only 4.3 percent of the projected premium increase would be attributable to that change. Again, that is less than 5 percent of the increase. Here is the key point the other side does not want to talk about. ObamaCare premiums are going up regardless, even if the COVID credits are extended.

ObamaCare premiums are expected to rise about 18 percent in 2026, driven by higher medical costs, labor shortages, economic uncertainty, inflation, and other conditions. These increases are structural. They have nothing to do with the expiring subsidies.

What Democrats are doing is conflating premiums with out-of-pocket costs. Premiums are not doubling, and out-of-pocket costs are rising only because the expiration of these enhanced subsidies is exposing a deeper truth that the unaffordable care act is, for many families, anything but affordable.

According to CMS, the projected average premium after tax credits for the lowest-cost plan, should the COVID subsidies expire, is \$50 per month. That is about \$20 less than they were in 2020.

In the year 2026, most enrollees on HealthCare.gov will have access to plans priced at or below \$50 per month. To put that into perspective, compared to the years prior to the COVID pandemic, marketplace enrollees this year will have access on average to lower-plan premiums and more choices.

This debate isn't just about premiums. It is also about expanded eligibility and widespread abuse. The COVID expansion dramatically broadened eligibility far beyond the middle-class and lower middle-class families and significantly increased the subsidies.

Under this system, households earning \$500,000 a year or more can qualify for subsidies. In 2024, nearly 42 percent of the enrollees, on the other hand, paid nothing at all. These subsidies don't go to individuals. They go directly to insurance companies.

That is why many Americans see these enhanced COVID subsidies for what they really are: Welfare checks to large healthcare corporations. Worse still, the system incentivizes fraud. People are encouraged to misreport their income in order to qualify for larger subsidies and zero-dollar plans. As a result, insurance companies collect an estimated \$35 billion in taxpayer subsidies for phantom enrollees.

An estimated 6.4 million individuals were improperly enrolled in ObamaCare in 2025, often fraudulently taken off their private insurance plans to do so, costing taxpayers \$27 billion. Among households claiming incomes between 100 and 150 percent of the Federal poverty level, roughly 62 percent were not actually eligible. It gets worse.

In 2024, insurance companies received at least \$35 billion in subsidies for about 12 million marketplace enrollees who made not a single medical claim—not a single checkup, not a single prescription.

About 40 percent of the people fully subsidized under the COVID credits never used their coverage at all, often because they didn't know that they were enrolled or they didn't even exist. One Social Security number, according to the Government Accountability Office, was used to purchase health insurance 125 times. That is massive fraud.

When fraud estimates from the exchange subsidies alone range into the tens of billions of dollars, it is not unreasonable—no, it is responsible—to ask people to contribute something.

Even a small copay insurance payment per month, \$10 or \$20 per month, promotes personal responsibility, discourages fraud, and helps ensure that the system serves the people who really need it, not those gaming it and not the corporations cashing the check.

That is what this debate is about. It is about facts, accountability, sustainability, and making coverage more affordable for all Americans. It is not the fear-mongering of my Democrat colleagues.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MOORE), the Representative of the 14th District. He is the former speaker of the house of North Carolina and my current colleague on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, before giving my remarks about the Affordable Care Act, I want to mention a couple of things.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I mention on the House floor the tragic passing of Greg Biffle, his wife, and two children in an airplane crash that happened just a few hours ago in North Carolina. On behalf of this body and all North Carolinians, I want to express my condolences to this wonderful family on this terrible tragedy. They will be in the thoughts and prayers of so many around the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to let this body know about the passing of a great leader in our State, former Governor Jim Hunt, who passed away today. The news came out a little bit ago from his daughter who currently is our State's Lieutenant Governor.

He was a great man and a great leader in North Carolina. He loved and cared a lot about public education in our great State. He was a man I came to know during my time as speaker of the statehouse and he was someone who loved his State.

Our thoughts and prayers and condolences are with his widow and with his family, particularly as we go into this Christmas season.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS) affording some time to not only myself but to a number of our colleagues today to talk about the legacy of ObamaCare that we find ourselves inheriting here in this Congress.

It is a program that passed some 15 years ago before I believe any of the Members who have spoken so far today were even serving in this body. Here we are in a situation where we have to try to clean up this mess. Why would I say it is a mess?

Mr. Speaker, I can think back to a time before ObamaCare, back before this passed. Healthcare was less expensive. Healthcare was more accessible. A person could go out and afford to buy health insurance. Prescription medications were more affordable. In fact, when I talked to colleagues, when I talked to businessowners, and when I talked to folks, it was easier to be able to get good health insurance.

ObamaCare passes. What happens? We see healthcare costs spike. We see prescription drug costs go out of control. We see total inefficiencies in the system. We see a lot of wasted money. We see these phantom insured folks. These people aren't really insured, but insurance companies are receiving billions of dollars every year for coverage that simply does not exist.

Look at the premiums. Look at a lot of the sticker shock that a lot of Americans are getting right now during this time of year, as we are in the Christmas season, where they are told, they will have to pay more. They need to understand ObamaCare is what has caused all of this mess.

When we move away from a free-market system where we are allowed to have greater efficiency, when we have a system that strives for cost containment but, at the same time, great health outcomes, it works better.

Today, we hear stories of denials and delays, everything on insurance, and it costs more. That, my friends, is unfortunately the legacy of ObamaCare. It is why this body is not going to continue to throw good money after bad. It is an investment that is not paying off economically, and it is an investment that is not paying off for the health of Americans around this country.

On the planned premiums, the actual cost, the premium cost, ObamaCare premiums have risen two times faster than employer plans.

We have a chart. We probably can't see it on TV. There is a chart where we can see this thing spiking up right there out of control. Those are the resulting ObamaCare premium increases that are happening.

□ 1730

This is not acceptable, and it is not appropriate to keep throwing money after it.

These surging premiums are also driving a higher Federal subsidy cost. So what do we mean? The ACA subsidy grew from \$18 billion in 2014 to \$92 billion in 2023. Now, how many people out there think that they have actually gotten better healthcare in that period of time? I don't think many are going to speak up and say that they are.

Get this. I have talked about it going from \$18 billion to \$92 billion. This year alone, in 2025, costs are projected to reach \$138 billion. Again, it just keeps going up.

The only thing my friends on the other side of the aisle know to do is to keep throwing money at it—keep throwing money at it; nothing to try to improve efficiency, nothing to try to improve coverage, nothing to try to improve the system, nothing but wasting more and more money in a system that is not working.

The COVID extension is what a lot of talk has been about. There was a temporary COVID extension that, when Democrats were in charge, they solely passed, right? They passed to put that in place. The Biden administration put that in with an expiration date.

Well, they knew it could not continue. They knew it wouldn't sustain. I think, frankly, they knew it wasn't going to work.

Get this. Let's say we went along with extending that. It would cost right now \$335 billion over 10 years, which is going to, again, only put the budget more out of balance, is going to affect our national debt, and it is simply not sustainable.

The other thing that we looked at earlier was what is called the zero-claim enrollment. That is where folks really aren't even assured. I think they are called phantom insured. It is not real, but it is money being paid to insurance companies. These zero-claim enrollments have more than tripled—more than tripled—rising from 3 to 4 million in 2021 to nearly 12 million in 2024.

Get this. In 2024, about 35 percent of the marketplace enrollees had zero claims, up from 20 percent before the subsidy expansions. At the same time, these insurers received billions in taxpayer subsidies for enrollees who received no care, including—this is real numbers—\$21 billion in 2023 alone.

To those folks watching, those folks who are genuinely concerned about improving access to healthcare and affordability, know that Republicans are serious about this. We passed legislation this week to deal with that—to look at some marketplace reforms, to look at association health plans, to look at PBM reform and transparency, and to do things to drive those costs down and to make healthcare more accessible.

Also, look at the bill we put in a few weeks ago to put \$50 billion into rural healthcare that will help all of America. It will help my State in North Carolina, but it will help all 50 States because there are areas of our country where simply they do not have access to healthcare because of the rural location, distance to hospital, distance to provider, you name it. Republicans are putting those funds in there to make this more available.

Don't believe a lot of the hype on the other side out there of just spend money and spend money on a system that isn't working. Republicans are serious about improving healthcare for all Americans. The bills we have passed this week and the statements we have made are clear to that.

I appreciate Congressman HARIDOPOLOS, my good friend from Florida, for doing this.

I have to say, Congressman, you helped them bring attention to this. You did a great job in Florida when you were in the State legislature, the work that you all did, the work to help there and bringing this issue to the forefront here in Congress. Sir, as a colleague, I appreciate what you are doing, and I appreciate the time to speak today.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for those generous comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT), the 13th Congressional District, for comments.

ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commemorate the extraordinary story and mission of one of my neighbors and her family in North Carolina, someone by the name of Olivia Wooten.

Olivia is currently suffering mightily in a battle with ALS. I have watched in admiration as she has remained a constant source of robust encouragement and joy despite her debilitating illness.

Her circumstances have only brightened because of the eternal hope that she has in the Lord, her Savior, Jesus Christ. I spoke to Olivia earlier today, who fearlessly and joyfully awaits entry into eternal life, where “... there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor shall there be any more pain. . . .” as stated in Revelation 21:4. She helped me draft these remarks knowing that they would be heard by all today.

Olivia Wooten's parents, Robin and Elizabeth, met while attending college in Raleigh, North Carolina. Robin attended NC State, and Elizabeth enrolled at Saint Mary's School. They were married shortly after graduating in 1989 and returned to Robin's hometown in Kinston, North Carolina.

Robin and Elizabeth passed the years enjoying all that makes east North Carolina so special. They, with their loved ones, enjoyed hunting, fishing, time at the Crystal Coast, and a community that is more of a family than a neighborhood.

In the greatest blessings of all, Robin and Elizabeth became parents to two girls, Olivia in 1992 and Carrington in 1995.

In 2016, Robin was tragically diagnosed with ALS. Up to that point, Robin's faith in the Lord had been more ceremonial. While his wife, Elizabeth, regularly attended neighborhood Bible studies and prayer groups for years, Robin had not.

However, that fully changed as Robin came to grips with his diagnosis. Rather than indulging in fear or resentment of assured physical suffering here on Earth, Robin encouraged anyone he met to look up and to consider Christ. He pushed others to focus on eternity and to rely on the Lord rather than the fleeting things of this Earth. Robin helped others grow in their faith until entering his Heavenly home 1 year after his diagnosis.

Tragically, in July of 2023, Robin's daughter, Olivia, would herself be diagnosed with ALS. Since that time, Olivia has surpassed every expectation in how long and how well she has fought this vicious disease. Yes, while she has weakened, she remains buoyant and inexplicably joyful in a manner that can only be called inspirational and miraculous.

It was my honor and my privilege to speak with Olivia today. In spite of her

physical limitations and her suffering, which are unbelievably real, she will likely not walk unassisted again. She cannot go out with friends today. Absent a miracle, she will no longer be able to travel far from home. Absent a miracle, she will likely never meet her nephew, who will likely be born in the next few weeks.

Despite this very real suffering and the limitations that she is currently experiencing, her joy and her hope remain palpable. Olivia knows that her earthly departure is not the end but, rather, her new beginning in Heaven is with her Savior, Jesus Christ.

When I asked her what she wanted me to share with all of us, she simply requested the following for our consideration. She did not bring up policy. She did not bring up new types of ideas for Washington, D.C.

She simply said the following: “This Earth is fallen, and it offers afflictions for which there is no remedy other than the Almighty. My faith in Jesus has become more vibrant and real than anything I could have ever imagined. To anyone who hears this message, if you do not know Christ, I urge you to consider Him. Where this Earth offers temporary solutions, it cannot and it will not offer durable and lasting ones. Only Christ can offer real peace, real healing, real rest, and an eternal home.”

Olivia closed our conversation with a verse, which she aptly described as her life verse. It is Romans 8:28, and it simply states: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

In Olivia's testimony, I can see firsthand and I have seen firsthand the truth of this passage. As we enter the week of Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Christ, I stand in awe and in gratitude for Olivia and her family's witness and example, and I urge each person who hears this to consider her Savior, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KNOTT, and she will not be forgotten.

□ 1740

BROKEN OBAMACARE SYSTEM

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KNOTT, Congressman CRANK, Congressman DOWNING, Congressman ONDER, Congresswoman FEDORCHAK, and also Congressman MOORE for their comments today about the broken ObamaCare system.

It is simply that; it is broken. It is the reason why they have been subsidizing a broken system for a long time, at the expense of so many Americans and so many potential innovations, as well.

As this issue has been talked about very well today, I just want to remind people of where we were versus where we are. The Democrats had the opportunity to make this a permanent plan. They did not have the votes or the will

to get it done. They also had the opportunity to reduce taxes on tips. They had the opportunity to reduce the taxes on overtime. They had the opportunity to reduce taxes on Social Security, all of which are earned. Those are not welfare programs. Those are programs that are earned. When they had the power, they chose to do nothing.

This year, when we were passing the big, beautiful bill back in July, we had the opportunity again to reduce costs for this broken system. The Republicans put forth in this body a CSR. What happened here? They used the Byrd rule in the United States Senate to fight what would have reduced rates by 11 percent.

Let's break away from this discussion about affordability. Let's talk about reality. This is purely politics. Their votes have been shown throughout the year. They care nothing about results. They care everything about politics.

Candidly, maybe Republicans aren't as good at politics as the Democrats, but we are pushing policies that work and are based in reality. That is what this push has been about today, laying out the facts for the American public to say this system is untenable, and it only undercuts what could be the best system in the world.

There has been so much discussion about the 22 to 24 million people on ObamaCare. We all found out today that half of them might be phantom enrollees. We found out that the future is not bright when you look at the contrast of what it is doing to the remainder of the people who are paying for their own healthcare system.

There are 165 million people who have employer-based systems that they most likely contribute to or pay out of their own pocket. They are paying \$1,500 to \$2,000 a month, and they have to subsidize a broken system on top of it and crowd out a medical system in the process.

All we are asking from the other side is to say let's start doing some commonsense things. The number one thing I would like to see us do is simply do income verification so that those people who pay full freight and subsidize the system know that the people who are being helped are actually people truly in need who qualify for a program, instead of giving it away.

It is simple identification checks, just like we have asked the Democrats to do on things like voting, just like we have asked the Democrats to do on simple ideas to make things work again, so that when you pay your taxes, which are quite exorbitant, in my opinion, people know they are actually going to help people.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence this afternoon as we get ready to celebrate the holiday season.

CALIFORNIA AUDITOR'S REPORT

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KILEY of

California was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the California State auditor, the nonpartisan official auditor for the State, has just released a report that updates its assessment of the State's high-risk agencies.

The contents of this report are truly stunning—not really that stunning, actually, for those of us who have experienced the California State government at work. Even given our very low expectations, what the auditor has just reported is truly troubling.

This comes, by the way, as our State's Governor, Gavin Newsom, has recently boasted that California is the original DOGE. Newsom held out California government as a model of efficient, responsive, and accountable government.

Let's juxtapose that very notable statement, very surprising statement, with the clear-eyed fact findings of the State auditor. In this new report, which is issued annually, the auditor identifies high-risk State agencies. What does that mean? It means they pose a substantial risk of serious detriment to the State or its residents. To be considered high risk, an agency must not only exhibit serious waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement but must also have failed to take adequate corrective action.

In this new report, the auditor has identified eight separate California agencies as high risk. Four of those eight have joined the club, this dubious distinction, during the Newsom administration, including the newly added Department of Social Services this year.

Among the findings as to why these various agencies are considered high risk are that massive payment errors in our CalFresh program could now cost the State \$2.5 billion in Federal funds.

With Medi-Cal eligibility, ongoing problems in determining who is eligible, continuing to make payments to people who don't meet the income threshold, or who have left the State entirely, is also putting billions of dollars at risk.

Continued fraud and overpayment with our unemployment insurance benefits continue to cost the State billions of dollars. This is after the massive \$32 billion fraud in unemployment benefits during the COVID years.

Incredibly, the State has missed six straight deadlines for its annual comprehensive financial report, which puts in jeopardy our credit rating, as well as Federal funding.

The auditor's report documents IT projects that languish for months, for years, as antiquated systems beleaguer our bureaucracy, this despite Silicon Valley being a stone's throw away.

You have State entities that continue to fall short of minimum standards for information security and cybersecurity, putting our State, data, and privacy at risk.

Alarming, it is more than just cybersecurity. It is also the security of our physical infrastructure. For instance, the auditor finds that there are 49 dams that pose an extremely high hazard to life and property, and it is getting worse. In just the last 2 years, the number of dams rated either poor or unsatisfactory has increased by 73 percent.

The quality of government service is also unacceptably low. With the EDD, for example, not only do we have continuing, ongoing massive fraud and overpayments, but the folks who actually deserve to get paid benefits have a heck of a time getting the benefits they are entitled to.

The auditor found that, on average, the typical claimant has to call the EDD two to five times per week just to get assistance. The EDD has consistently failed to meet Federal benchmarks for timely payments to those who are actually deserving of benefits, whereas those who are committing fraud against the system seem to have no trouble getting their hands on as much money as they would like.

There are other examples in this report that just truly boggle the mind. For example, the aforementioned EDD during the COVID-19 years decided to order thousands of mobile devices, 7,224 to be exact—this is cell phones, hotspots—so that employees who aren't going into work can continue to do their jobs. These mobile devices, even after they were no longer being used because the pandemic was over, the State continued to pay for them, for thousands of them. They continued to pay service fees, costing the State millions upon millions of dollars.

□ 1750

Another illustrative example comes from CARB, the California Air Resources Board, that is responsible in many ways for the very high gas prices that the citizens of California have to pay. The report found that there was one particular CARB employee who was paid \$171,446 in salary on an annual basis, so a pretty decent salary they are getting paid. Here is the problem: It was for nearly 15 months after the employee had stopped working that they continued to get paid.

On top of all of this, the auditor found rampant nepotism at the Department of General Services and Caltrans when it came to hiring. They would hire their family members. They would hire their friends for these State jobs. They would even find instances where managers gave the candidates the questions, interview questions, in advance in order to help them get the job.

Now, all of this is in addition to the very well-known examples of just mind-boggling fraud and waste that exist in the California government.

We, of course, have the high-speed rail, now estimated to cost \$128 billion, which is several times more than initially anticipated, where after nearly 20 years we still haven't seen any track laid.

We have homelessness where there was another State audit that found that the State spent \$24 billion, lost track of the money, couldn't tell us where it went, and couldn't tell us if it did any good. Meanwhile, the homeless population in California increased substantially to the point to where half of the unsheltered homeless in this country reside in California.

More recently, we had the 911 system, where taxpayers were charged on their phone bills for years. \$650 million was spent to build out a new 911 system, and then the State had to scrap the whole project because the technology doesn't work.

Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely unacceptable. Californians sacrifice so much, paying the highest taxes in the country, and yet our citizens also get the least in return.

I will continue to call for accountability for the agencies and, more importantly, the political leaders in California who refuse to reform our State government in a manner that more appropriately and effectively serves our citizens.

I will also continue to use every tool we have here at the Federal level to insist upon the State giving our taxpayers a higher return on their investment. I will make sure that everyone is aware that when the Governor says the California government is a model of efficiency and responsiveness, nothing could be further from the truth.

RECOGNIZING FOLSOM HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, they have done it again. I rise today to recognize an extraordinary achievement by the Folsom High School Bulldogs football team, who captured their sixth California State championship with a very impressive 42-28 victory over Cathedral Catholic.

This championship run was defined by resilience, preparation, and leadership, none more evident than in the performance of junior quarterback Brody Rudnicki, who stepped into the spotlight and delivered a truly remarkable performance.

Brody accounted for six total touchdowns, throwing for two scores and rushing for four more while compiling 117 passing yards and 186 rushing yards.

This title marks the second State championship in the last 3 years under the leadership of Head Coach Paul Doherty, whose commitment to excellence has continued to elevate the Folsom football program as one of the premier high school programs in the entire State of California.

The Bulldogs' championship capped off an outstanding 14-1 season, highlighted by a 12-game winning streak that showcased consistency, teamwork, and competitive excellence throughout the year.

Equally impressive is the program's success in preparing student athletes for the future. Seven senior players have committed to continue their football careers at the next level, earning

opportunities at some of the Nation's most well-respected institutions and programs, including the United States Military Academy at West Point, Dartmouth College, Brigham Young University, the University of Southern California, Stanford University, the University of Nevada, and Oregon State University. These commitments reflect not only athletic talent but also academic achievement and character.

I had the chance to visit with the team a couple years ago when they won the State championship. When I was in the State legislature, because they won championships back then too, I actually had the chance to recognize the team during a session where they were there in attendance and the coaches were on the floor with us. The team was up in the gallery. That was a lot of fun.

I am sorry they can't be here in the U.S. House, though they are certainly welcome to visit anytime. At the very least, I look forward to seeing all of the players and hardworking coaches in person very soon and extending my congratulations, because this team means so much to the city of Folsom and to our entire community.

Congratulations, once again, to the State champions Folsom High School Bulldogs.

Mr. Speaker, 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. 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 waterways 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.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1071.—An act 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 for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 19, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2458. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Expiration of Interim Final Rule: Control of Communicable Diseases; Foreign Quarantine [Docket No.: CDC-2020-0013] (RIN: 0920-AA75) December 16, 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-2459. A letter from the Assistant Director, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — SpCas9 Protein; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2025-0212; FRL-13100-01-OCSP] 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 Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of December 17, 2025]

Mr. GRIFFITH: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 953. Resolution 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 (Rept. 119-411). Referred to the House Calendar.

[Submitted December 18, 2025]

Mr. WALBERG: Committee on Education and Workforce. H.R. 2270. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude child and dependent care services and payments from the rate used to compute overtime compensation; with an amendment (Rept. 119-413). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WALBERG: Committee on Education and Workforce. H.R. 4054. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reform accreditation; with an amendment (Rept. 119-414). 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 Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 6833. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reorganize the acquisition structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to establish the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation in the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. SALINAS, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6834. A bill to address infrastructure needs for food banks serving rural communities and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CROW, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. JAMES, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 6835. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to offer annual preventative health evaluations to veterans with a spinal cord injury or disorder and increase access to assistive technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 6836. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain gains and other income related to use of farmland by beginning farmers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS (for himself and Mr. MACKENZIE):

H.R. 6837. 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 Education and Workforce.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 6838. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act, the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, the Revised Statutes, and the Federal Reserve Act to require Federal banking agencies to consider economic growth when conducting supervisory functions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BARRAGAN (for herself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SOTO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 6839. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for removing transportation barriers to accessing eligible vaccines for individuals from low-income communities, minority communities, or other communities in which transportation poses a barrier to health care access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SCHKOWSKY, and Mr. AMO):

H.R. 6840. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to certify that the Government of Azerbaijan has taken certain meaningful steps with respect to Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. CHU (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 6841. 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 Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the

committee concerned.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LICCARDO, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MIN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TRAN, and Mr. WHITESIDES):

H.R. 6842. A bill to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 6843. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6844. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require codes on the labels of tobacco products for the purpose of tracking or tracing the tobacco product through the distribution system; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. MALOY):

H.R. 6845. A bill to establish a Federal multi-agency task force to combat illegal importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRANE (for himself, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. STRONG, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 6846. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct annual assessments on terrorism threats to the United States relating to the malicious use of unmanned aircraft systems by covered foreign adversaries, including terrorist organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6847. A bill to direct the Secretary of labor to use State occupational employment and wage estimates to calculate the adverse effect wage rate required to be paid to H-2A workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 6848. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to limit the extent to which copayments may be required for veterans receiving Whole Health well-being services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6849. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2121 Meridian Park Boulevard in Concord, California, as the "Carl Jefferson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 6850. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require manufacture, sale, or import of a minimum number of motor vehicles that met certain standards for drunk

and impaired driving prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TLAIIB, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6851. 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 Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EVANS of Colorado:

H.R. 6852. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust payment for skin substitute products under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 6853. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to identify entities engaged in activities detrimental to the national security, economic security, or foreign policy of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FINE:

H.R. 6854. A bill to prohibit aliens from receiving Federal public benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 6855. A bill to reauthorize the White House Conference on Small Business Authorization Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BACON, Mr. HOYER, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 6856. A bill to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation if the Government of the Russian Federation refuses to negotiate a peace agreement with Ukraine, violates any such agreement, or initiates another military invasion of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mrs. McBATH, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 6857. A bill to require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including a link to the webpage of the Office for Civil Rights where an individual can submit a complaint regarding discrimination in violation of such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. KEAN, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 6858. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a review of the deaths of certain veterans who died by suicide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. RYAN, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 6859. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on certain concession pricing practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 6860. A bill to amend the General Education Provisions Act to provide a private right of action to parents and eligible students to protect certain education-related rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona:

H.R. 6861. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to transfer certain functions of the Department of Labor to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. HARDER of California:

H.R. 6862. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to delay, until July 1, 2030, the termination of authority to award certain Federal Direct PLUS loans and the implementation of limits on certain loans for graduate and professional students enrolled at institutions with certain public health designations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 6863. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve transparency with respect to the suspension of Medicare payments pending an investigation into a credible allegation of fraud; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon (for herself, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6864. A bill to prohibit any person from using a motor vehicle to take a mammalian predator species on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUNT:

H.R. 6865. A bill to amend section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to prohibit the provision of Federal financial assistance to States and public institutions of higher education that provide certain higher education benefits to aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, 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. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. HOUCHEIN, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 6866. A bill to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of projects selected through the Port Infrastructure Development Program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6867. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institutes of

Health, to take certain steps to increase clinical trial diversity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LANDSMAN:

H.R. 6868. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to apply the least burdensome appropriate means for supporting certain administrative order requests with respect to over-the-counter monograph drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 6869. A bill to amend the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act to modify a provision relating to the extension of certain dates for the completion of the Regional Water System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LIEU, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 6870. 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 Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 6871. A bill to prohibit actions recognizing the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, 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. MACKENZIE (for himself and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 6872. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude holiday bonuses from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MALOY (for herself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 6873. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow amortization of geological and geophysical expenditures in connection with the exploration for, or development of, geothermal deposits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MANN (for himself and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 6874. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to allow recipients of certain grants to improve highway safety efforts through the integration of predictive data analytics, telematics, and other advanced technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. KIM, Mr. SELF, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 6875. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security to require a license for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of certain integrated circuits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. McDOWELL (for himself, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona):

H.R. 6876. A bill to require the imposition of visa sanctions with respect to each foreign person the President determines has per-

formed or otherwise facilitated chemical or surgical mutilations of United States minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 6877. A bill to support and promote the human rights of Southern Mongolians in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, and House Administration, 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. MCGOVERN (for himself, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H.R. 6878. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the regime of President Nayib Bukele in El Salvador, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. TITUS, Mr. STANTON, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. AMO, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 6879. A bill to prohibit sales of the most advanced artificial intelligence chips to countries of concern and facilitate the safe and efficient transfer of chips to approved United States persons abroad; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. VELAZQUEZ):

H.R. 6880. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to recognize employers with a commitment to helping employees balance workplace responsibilities and family obligations; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 6881. A bill to direct the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate certain payment increases under HHS programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, Ways and Means, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MILLS (for himself and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona):

H.R. 6882. A bill to request the Secretary of Defense to provide preference for offerors that are United States companies in professional services contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MIN (for himself, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. POU, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. WASSERMAN, Mr. SCHULTZ, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SIMON, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 6883. A bill to define reproductive coercion as a form of domestic violence, to provide Federal judges the authority to intervene in certain cases of domestic violence, and to create a private right of action for victims of domestic violence, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 6884. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a penalty for a freight broker that contracts with an unsafe carrier, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 6885. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt reimbursements of certain medical expenses and other payments related to accident, theft, loss, or casualty loss from determinations of annual income with respect to pensions for veterans and surviving spouses and children of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY of Utah):

H.R. 6886. A bill to amend the General Education Provisions Act to allow the release of education records to facilitate the award of a recognized postsecondary credential; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 6887. A bill to include in the National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction certain best practices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 6888. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on certain costs of tariffs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 6889. A bill to establish a competitive grant program to provide capital assistance for the maintenance, replacement, and rehabilitation needs of commuter rail bridges; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. TLAB, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H.R. 6890. A bill to discontinue a Federal program that authorizes State and local law enforcement officers to investigate, apprehend, and detain aliens in accordance with a written agreement with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to clarify that immigration enforcement is solely a function of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 6891. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to apply certain protections and oversight to buy now, pay later loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 6892. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to subscribe to additional shares of the capital stock of the Inter-American Investment Corporation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Ms. ELFRETH):

H.R. 6893. A bill to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 6894. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand and expedite

access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 6895. A bill to provide further means of accountability with respect to the United States debt and promote fiscal responsibility; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STANSBURY (for herself and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 6896. A bill to provide for certain requirements and oversight for demolition or substantial alteration of Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on 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. STEVENS (for herself and Ms. UNDERWOOD):

H.R. 6897. A bill to advance research, promote awareness and education, and improve health care, with respect to thyroid disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. SYKES (for herself and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio):

H.R. 6898. A bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to promote advancements and innovation in United States aeronautical research and technology for enhanced safety, noise, resiliency, and improved environmental impacts in United States aviation systems; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. TAYLOR (for himself and Ms. BROWN):

H.R. 6899. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to improve the administration of advisory committees at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. CHU, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEYER, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. BELL, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. SCHOLTEN):

H.R. 6900. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the nation's cost-of-living crisis; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, 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 Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mr. CASE, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 6901. A bill to establish the Atomic Civilians Commemorative Service Medal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TRAN (for himself, Mr. HURD of Colorado, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6902. A bill to promote public service announcement campaigns targeted at youth substance use prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 6903. A bill to require the Secretary of State to revoke any United States passport issued to an individual, on receipt of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the individual has a child support arrearage exceeding \$2,500; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on 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. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 6904. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to rehabilitation programs for veterans with service-connected disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6905. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to study and report to the Congress on the 2025 financial crisis in Argentina; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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. VINDMAN (for himself, Mr. BENTZ, and Mr. RULLI):

H.R. 6906. A bill to require the Attorney General and the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress reports on the drug addiction treatment and recovery industry; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 6907. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. VINDMAN (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 6908. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of Byrne grants for blue envelope programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 6909. A bill to direct the Director of National Intelligence to produce a National Intelligence Estimate on artificial intelligence systems developed or deployed by entities in the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. OLSZEWSKI (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.J. Res. 135. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the pardon power of the President; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H. Res. 959. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that illicit fentanyl-related substances are a weapon of mass destruction and should be classified as such, and recognizing President Trump's efforts to mitigate illicit narcotics from entering the United States through such actions as signing an Executive Order "Designating Fentanyl as a Weapon of Mass Destruction" and declaring the crisis caused by the rise of fentanyl a national health emergency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. LAWLER):

H. Res. 960. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 2025 as "National Lung Cancer Awareness Month" and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. SORESENSEN):

H. Res. 961. A resolution recognizing the schools selected as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2025 and celebrating the history of the Blue Ribbon Schools Program; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas:

H. Res. 962. A resolution honoring Harriet Tubman's extraordinary courage, unyielding opposition to the institution of slavery, and lasting contributions to American history; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACOBS (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BALINT, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. SOTO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BELL, Mr. STANTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H. Res. 963. A resolution condemning antisemitism in all its forms, including the proliferation and amplification of antisemitic content on artificial intelligence (AI) platforms, urging robust, transparent safeguards for AI, and recognizing stakeholders working to counter this threat; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. MCCLELLAN (for herself, Mr. BACON, and Mr. BEYER):

H. Res. 964. A resolution recognizing the bicentennial of the historic DACOR Bacon House; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H. Res. 965. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1689) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Ms. RIVAS,

Mr. LICCARDO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MIN, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. GRIJALVA, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. WHITESIDES):

H. Res. 966. A resolution recognizing the admirable contributions of Senate President Pro Tempore Monique Limón; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. HUNT):

H. Res. 967. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that European laws and regulations unfairly and unreasonably burden American speech and innovation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATERS:

H. Res. 968. A resolution recognizing the 90th anniversary of the National Council of Negro Women and honoring its historic legacy and continued service to the Nation; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 6833.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6834.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 6835.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 6836.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States; . . ."

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H.R. 6837.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 6838.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 6839.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 6840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 6841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 6842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 6843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 6844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, The General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 6845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, The General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 6846.

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 U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 6847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 6848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 6850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact legislation provided by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 6851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. EVANS of Colorado:

H.R. 6852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 6853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FINE:

H.R. 6854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Spending Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

Necessary and Proper Clause, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 6855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 18

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida:

H.R. 6857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 6858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 6859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution for the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof"

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 6860.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona:

H.R. 6861.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power "To raise and support Armies."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 13 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power "To provide and maintain a Navy."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power "To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the 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. HARDER of California:

H.R. 6862.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 6863.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon:

H.R. 6864.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HUNT:

H.R. 6865.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 6866.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 6867.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. LANDSMAN:

H.R. 6868.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 6869.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 6870.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 6871.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MACKENZIE:

H.R. 6872.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 6873.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 6874.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 6875.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. McDOWELL:

H.R. 6876.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 6877.

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. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 6878.

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. MEEKS:

H.R. 6879.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6880.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 6881.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution: "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. MILLS:

H.R. 6882.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. MIN:

H.R. 6883.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 6884.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 6885.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee find the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 6886.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6887.

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. PETERSEN:

H.R. 6888.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 6889.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 6890.

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, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 6891.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution provides Congress the authority to regulate commerce.

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 6892.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 6893.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 6895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section VIII of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. STANSBURY:

H.R. 6896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 6897.

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, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 6898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. TAYLOR:

H.R. 6899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 6900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. TOKUDA:

H.R. 6901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 14 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. TRAN:

H.R. 6902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 of the United States constitution

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 6903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 6904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6905.

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. 6906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. VINDMAN:

H.R. 6907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. VINDMAN:

H.R. 6908.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. VINDMAN:

H.R. 6909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. OLSZEWSKI:

H.J. Res. 135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. ROSE.

H.R. 135: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.

H.R. 169: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 210: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 293: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 349: Ms. GOODLANDER and Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.

H.R. 379: Mr. BENTZ.

H.R. 498: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 539: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.

H.R. 553: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 583: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 611: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.

H.R. 621: Mr. MIN.

H.R. 748: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 759: Ms. GOODLANDER.

H.R. 783: Ms. McBRIDE.

H.R. 863: Mr. MIN.

H.R. 915: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 929: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 958: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 1004: Mr. TRAN and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 1027: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1028: Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 1038: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1061: Mr. SWALWELL.

H.R. 1065: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 1076: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania and Mrs. TORRES of California.

H.R. 1106: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 1175: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1227: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. AMO.

H.R. 1254: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 1319: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 1329: Ms. RANDALL, Mr. MFUME, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BARRETT, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. IVEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. ROSS, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. BOST, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H.R. 1330: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1355: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1363: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1410: Mr. MIN and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1464: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 1470: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1475: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.

H.R. 1521: Mr. FRY.

H.R. 1522: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1538: Mr. RILEY of New York and Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 1548: Mr. RILEY of New York.

H.R. 1576: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 1613: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1616: Mr. RILEY of New York and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1628: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. OWENS, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. HUNT, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. GOTTFELDER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. MANN, Mr. SORESENSEN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. EZELL, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. BRESNAHAN, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 1661: Mr. COSTA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. FIELDS.

H.R. 1684: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 1731: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1733: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1734: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1735: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 1753: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1776: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 1822: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 1826: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1827: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1845: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1849: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 1858: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1884: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 1889: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1941: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.

H.R. 1943: Mr. BRESNAHAN and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 1960: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1965: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 1993: Mr. STAUBER and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2004: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 2008: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 2023: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.

H.R. 2028: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 2049: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 2089: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 2095: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 2103: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 2145: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 2213: Ms. GILLEN.

H.R. 2228: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2232: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 2244: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 2245: Mr. TRAN and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2253: Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2343: Mr. GARBARINO and Mr. RILEY of New York.

H.R. 2353: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 2362: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 2383: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 2410: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. KIM, and Mr. DELUZZO.

H.R. 2429: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2496: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 2514: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 2531: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 2538: Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 2548: Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. McBRIDE, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. TRAN, Mr. MIN, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2630: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 2672: Mr. FINSTAD and Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 2678: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 2692: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 2767: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 2810: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 2812: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 2831: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 2864: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2910: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 2921: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 2937: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.

H.R. 2939: Mr. MIN.

H.R. 2940: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 2950: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 2978: Mr. TRAN and Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 3045: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 3069: Ms. ELFRETH.

H.R. 3107: Ms. GOODLANDER.

H.R. 3112: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GARBARINO, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3117: Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 3119: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3122: Mrs. KIM.

H.R. 3144: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 3151: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 3164: Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. BYNUM, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 3178: Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3183: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 3206: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 3223: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 3262: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 3277: Mr. TRAN, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, and Mr. ONDER.
H.R. 3295: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 3304: Mr. BRESNAHAN and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 3316: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 3335: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 3340: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 3385: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 3389: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 3392: Mr. NEGUSE and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 3418: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3463: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 3497: Mr. MIN and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 3513: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 3534: Mr. TRAN and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3565: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 3591: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 3649: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 3684: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3686: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3694: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 3743: Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 3747: Mr. TRAN, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 3783: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 3885: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3946: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3959: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.
H.R. 3979: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4032: Mr. MESSMER.
H.R. 4047: Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 4074: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4101: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 4110: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 4206: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 4235: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 4245: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 4253: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.
H.R. 4282: Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 4296: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4398: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 4400: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4418: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 4473: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 4528: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 4546: Mr. BAUMGARTNER.
H.R. 4575: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 4582: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 4583: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 4669: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 4698: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4703: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4731: Mr. CORREA, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 4782: Mr. TRAN and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 4784: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 4840: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 4935: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 4936: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 4945: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4948: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 4957: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4965: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 4979: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 4980: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 4987: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 4994: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 4996: Mr. TRAN.

H.R. 5004: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5037: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 5052: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5074: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5106: Mr. MESSMER and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 5128: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 5138: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5152: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5164: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.
H.R. 5168: Mr. LATIMER and Ms. RANDALL.
H.R. 5198: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 5199: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 5206: Mrs. FOUSHEE and Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 5217: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 5221: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 5269: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 5280: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5298: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 5309: Mr. BERA and Ms. SIMON.
H.R. 5351: Mrs. KIM and Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5366: Mr. MIN and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 5387: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. TRAN, and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 5390: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 5415: Mr. ONDER and Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 5434: Mr. GOMEZ and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 5438: Mr. FINE.
H.R. 5452: Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 5459: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
H.R. 5461: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5469: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 5476: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. GOODLANDER, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 5479: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5482: Mr. TRAN and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 5483: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5490: Mr. TRAN and Mrs. KIM.
H.R. 5496: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 5519: Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TRAN, and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 5556: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5573: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 5584: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5586: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5593: Mr. HARDER of California and Ms. KING-HINDS.
H.R. 5594: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 5598: Mr. NEGUSE and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 5614: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 5616: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. BARR, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. TRAN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 5622: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 5625: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 5626: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 5703: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 5722: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 5755: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 5783: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 5862: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5905: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5945: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5961: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5964: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 5973: Mr. BELL.
H.R. 5996: Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 6022: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 6054: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 6085: Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 6088: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 6123: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 6124: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 6130: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 6166: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 6170: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6199: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 6241: Mr. BELL.
H.R. 6259: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 6260: Mr. TIFFANY.
H.R. 6265: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 6307: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6318: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 6359: Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 6397: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 6422: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 6423: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 6428: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 6440: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 6475: Mr. NEHLS.
H.R. 6488: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 6490: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6545: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6547: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 6552: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 6567: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 6591: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 6597: Mr. BELL.
H.R. 6601: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 6650: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6685: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 6696: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 6731: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CROW, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, and Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 6734: Mr. ONDER and Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.
H.R. 6736: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 6756: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 6757: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 6766: Mr. MANNION and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 6769: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 6781: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 6793: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 6797: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. KIM, and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 6815: Mr. FROST and Ms. TLAIB.
H.J. Res. 118: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H. Con. Res. 12: Ms. GOODLANDER.
H. Res. 70: Mr. STAUBER.
H. Res. 76: Mr. SUOZZI.
H. Res. 99: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 120: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H. Res. 254: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 317: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H. Res. 366: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 401: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 542: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 547: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Res. 602: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 617: Mr. NEGUSE.
H. Res. 723: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 744: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 793: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 822: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 832: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 854: Mr. VINDMAN.
H. Res. 866: Mr. BAUMGARTNER.
H. Res. 869: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 920: Mr. SUOZZI and Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H. Res. 929: Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. MCBRIDE.
H. Res. 956: Mr. NADLER, Ms. FEDORCHAK, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. TRAN.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1566: Mrs. RAMIREZ.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

No. 214

Senate

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the en bloc nominations provided for under the provision of S. Res. 532.

The Senator from Iowa.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor to give an update on one of my oversight projects. This is about an Office within the Department of Health and Human Services that many people may not know much about. It is called the Office of National Security or, in Washington-speak, ONS for short.

This Office informs HHS leadership about the threat landscape and also manages intelligence and counterintelligence. In addition, ONS also aims to protect HHS from disclosure of confidential information and other efforts that undermine U.S.-led research.

I have done oversight of ONS since my chairmanship on the Finance Committee during the 116th Congress. During the COVID pandemic, I successfully fought to ensure that ONS had a seat at the table with the intelligence community so it could lend its expertise however it was needed.

To fulfill its duties to the taxpayers, ONS needs to collaborate closely with national security partners, and the United States needs to be ready to fight health threats head-on—especially that includes domestic and foreign threats. That threat landscape isn't going to go away anytime soon, and it certainly isn't getting any better as pathogens evolve, which means the right hand of government must talk with the left hand of government.

So as part of my continuing oversight, on December 3 of this year, I wrote to HHS Secretary Kennedy and Director of National Intelligence

Gabbard. I asked Secretary Kennedy and DNI Director Gabbard for updates on their level of coordination, and I asked them about their efforts to ensure that ONS is engaged with the broader intelligence community to ensure robust information sharing. In the new year, I look forward to their responses to my investigation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as we wrap up—or are about to wrap up, I should say—our legislative work for 2025, I would say it has been quite a busy year here in the U.S. Senate: the longest session period in 15 years to kick off the year; a historic number of votes—the most, literally, in half a century. In fact, you can see on this chart the number of votes. You go back, the first date on there is 1989. Obviously, this is pretty small and difficult to see, perhaps, unless you are standing right over it, but if you look at the red line here, that is this year. So 653 votes have been cast so far this year, which dwarfs any year going back to 1989, which is what we have data going back to.

We have since researched further back. Turns out there was one year—1976. We went back eight decades. There was one year, in 1976, where the Senate cast more votes than we did this year.

But if you go back to 1989, the closest one is right here—1995, which, for those of us who were actually following it back then, that was the Contract with

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past, keep our lawmakers under the canopy of Your care. We do not ask You to separate them from life's stresses, strains, and setbacks but to shelter them by Your grace in sunshine and shadows. Accompany them in their coming in, their going out, and their daily work. Make them instruments to advance Your Kingdom. May no weapon formed against them prosper. Lord, encompass them with the everlasting arms of Your love, grace, and mercy.

And, Lord, we praise You for this season of peace and good will to humanity.

We pray in the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S8877

America year, and so that was a record number of votes cast in both I think the House and the Senate. But we have eclipsed that with 613 votes cast in 1995. This year, in the U.S. Senate, we have already cast 653, and we are not quite done yet.

It is historic just in terms of the number of votes cast, the number of hours in session, and the number of days in session; also historic just in terms of the amount of time that we have been around here. So we have put in a lot of time here this year.

I have always said that you can't equate volume of activity or busyness with productivity. Those are sometimes separate metrics. But I would argue that what really matters here is not the number of votes or the number of hours that we worked; it is what we accomplished with those hours.

This has been an incredibly productive Senate, and I am proud to say that we have accomplished a lot this year in the U.S. Senate.

Our flagship bill for the year, of course, was the One Big Beautiful Bill—the working families tax cut act—and the largest part of that was, in fact, the tax cuts that were enacted that are going to benefit American families.

Back in 2017, the Republicans delivered substantial tax relief for hard-working Americans, but that tax relief was scheduled to expire at the end of this month. So one of our main priorities for this year was extending that tax relief. And extend it, we did. But we didn't just extend it. We made it permanent, and we added to it additional tax relief on top. So, now, hard-working Americans can enjoy permanently lower rates, plus an increased standard deduction, a further increase in the child tax credit, a new bonus deduction for seniors, no tax on tips, and no tax on overtime. And that list goes on and on.

In addition to the new and permanent tax relief for individuals and families, we also made permanent important tax relief for businesses of all sizes to help our growth and expand jobs and opportunities for American workers.

I would just say, again, if you look at that map, this measures—again, it is too far away for people to see. But the color coding represents the amount of tax relief that people in these individual States, or even within a State, will receive based upon filings and what we expect they will be filing for next year. But you can see, at the top of that, the U.S. average is \$3,752 in savings, as a result of what we did to prevent what would have been the largest tax increase in American history.

So American families, this next year, and American businesses are going to have more money in their pockets as a result of what we did. Had we not taken those actions, the average family across this country would have seen a \$3,752 increase in their taxes.

So that is sort of representative of the chart across the country, and the

darker ones mean you are probably getting more tax relief relative to the lighter colors. Nevertheless, everyone in this country who files a tax return is going to see a much lower tax bill—tax liability—this next year, as a result of what we did.

That is a lot right there, in and of itself.

The One Big Beautiful Bill didn't end with the working families tax cuts. We also invested in a more secure border and safer streets. We made a historic investment in our national security, and we repealed the Democrats' natural gas tax and took steps to unleash American energy production to ensure Americans have stable, plentiful, and affordable supply of energy. We took measures to modernize the farm safety net, something very important in my State of South Dakota; to address housing costs; and to repair and upgrade our air traffic control system.

I could keep going.

The working families tax cuts and the rest of the One Big Beautiful Bill accomplished a lot for hard-working Americans, but that is not all that we have done in the Senate this year.

The American people elected President Trump last November. One of our priorities this year has been ensuring that the President has his team in place so he can do the job the American people elected him to do. I am proud to report that by the end of this week, we will have confirmed 417 nominees, far more than were confirmed by this point in either President Trump's first term or in President Biden's term. It is even more remarkable—again, you can see this in real form here.

This was President Trump's first term in office, at the end of his first year, which, again, ended 2017. There were 323 of his nominees that had been confirmed. Under President Biden, at the end of the first year, 2021, there were 365 of his nominees who had been confirmed by the U.S. Senate. And, as of today, that number here in 2025, in President Trump's second term, will be 417 nominees. That is important because every President needs to have his team in place to do the job the American people elected him to do.

So as we think about it—and we looked and discussed on the floor yesterday—and you look at the President's first term, what makes it more remarkable was the fact that there was a historic level of obstruction by the Democrats to getting the President's nominees in place. I am talking about something unlike anything we have ever seen in American history for any President of any political party.

If you look at his first term, President Trump remains the only President on record not to have had a single civilian nomination confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote—the only President on record. Democrats have dragged out the process on almost every single one of the President's nominations, not out of principle but out of petty partisanship.

Any President, going back in history, when they get elected, they get a mandate from the American people, generally in both political parties. I have been here through multiple administrations, both Republican and Democrat, and I have been here in multiple Congresses and Senates, both Republican and Democrat. In every case, particularly when you get past the Cabinet, which we all take very seriously, obviously, there is a process in place, and some of the changes we made to expedite nominations didn't affect Cabinet-level nominees. When you get to the sub-Cabinet level, in many cases, particularly noncontroversial nominees have been approved by unanimous consent or voice vote. It is a way of recognizing that a President needs to get his team in place in order to accomplish the work and the agenda that the American people elected, in this case, President Trump to do.

So what happened this year was historic and unprecedented because most of those lower level Cabinet nominees are done by unanimous consent. That has just been the practice. That has been the precedent. That has been the tradition. That has been the history of the U.S. Senate. And for President Trump, the first President in American history—but as I said, we, as Republicans, haven't let that stop us. So when we close out this year with a total of 417 nominees, we will have the backlog of nominees essentially cleared.

Considering nominations is one responsibility of the government. Funding the government, together with the House of Representatives, is another. One thing that I was determined on when I became leader was to make sure the Senate went about considering the yearly appropriations bills through regular order, a process that gives Senators from both parties the greatest chance to make their voices and the voices of their constituents, I might add, heard. We have done a lot to return the Senate to the regular order process this year.

Appropriations work was unnecessarily delayed by the Democrats' decision to shut down the government for 6 weeks. But despite that, we have had multiple individual appropriations bills signed into law, and the Senate is well on its way to passing five additional bills.

There is a lot more I could talk about when it comes to Senate accomplishments in 2025. We have taken action to repeal a number of burdensome rules and regulations, including the Biden electric vehicle mandate, appliance rules that would have driven up prices for hard-working Americans and businesses, and energy mandates that would have driven up energy prices for American families.

We passed the HALT Fentanyl Act to permanently schedule fentanyl analogs as the most deadly type of drugs. We passed the Laken Riley Act to keep criminal illegal aliens off of our

streets. We passed the GENIUS Act, a landmark bill to create the first U.S. Federal framework for stablecoins and ensure U.S. leadership in financial innovation. We passed the TAKE IT DOWN Act to combat nonconsensual explicit images being shared online. There is so much more that I could talk about.

We tried to do things that, ultimately, were blocked by Democrats, like legislation that would prevent biological males from hijacking opportunities for women and girls in sports.

I guess my point is that it has been a long and challenging year here in the U.S. Senate. I thank all of my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, and all the staffs, including folks here on the floor, who put in long days and long hours in this last year. I think, as I said, there is a lot to show for it.

If I put up this last chart, you will have a hard time—nobody will be able to read this, for sure. I do this simply to illustrate. This is the list of things that we have accomplished in this last year. It runs the gamut of all the things—some of which I just mentioned and a lot I didn't mention—that were included in the working families tax cuts, the One Big Beautiful Bill that passed last summer. But then there are so many other things on this list that were accomplished as a result of the good work we have done on behalf of the American people here last year.

It is an example of what we all came here to do. Thanks to our work this year, Americans are going to be looking at, one, safer streets; two, more money in their pockets; and, three, new opportunities to get ahead and new opportunities on the way for American people and American families.

Mr. President, we are going to keep advancing those priorities here in the U.S. Senate, in 2026, and build on the record accomplishments and successes that we have had here in 2025.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, Donald Trump gave a speech about how supposedly great his first year has been. So, of course, his speech was short because there is really not much to say about how great Trump has been.

For 18 minutes, the President, last night, tried to convince Americans the sky is green and that trees can walk. He yelled at the camera and said that things are somehow going great even

though costs are up. He said he is doing a great job in office—all of which is, obviously, false. And the American people didn't buy it.

It was clear, in watching the speech, that the President didn't want to be there. The only thing Americans saw last night was a very rich President trapped in a bubble, forced by his advisers to give a speech he didn't want to give. It is like your cousin who can't sit still for a Christmas photo, only this is the President of the United States.

Our country is in a lot of trouble right now, but instead of giving Americans a plan on how we will lower their costs, Donald Trump played the blame game. That is so typical of him. Instead of solving a problem, which is what a good President is supposed to do, he just points fingers at other people, and that doesn't do a bit of good to get the American people back on the right track. It is never a good sign when the President begins a speech by saying, "I inherited a mess," because that is just another way of telling people: I don't want to be responsible for any of this.

Again, President Trump's speech showed he lives in a bubble—a billionaire bubble—completely disconnected from the reality that everyday Americans are seeing and feeling. People are feeling squeezed harder and harder every day, and Donald Trump, last night, took a victory lap.

Now let's talk about one of the most important issues for Americans when it comes to costs: healthcare.

Last night, Donald Trump offered exactly zero solutions for how we are going to lower Americans' healthcare premiums. He kept blaming Democrats. He kept saying the healthcare crisis is not his fault.

But here are the facts—the immutable facts—Donald Trump: No amount of finger-pointing, lying, hyping it up, or patting yourself on the back is going to undo the fact that the American people are going to pay a lot more for healthcare come January 1.

On January 1, the ACA enhanced premium tax credits are going to expire because Donald Trump chose to let them die.

Even our Republican colleagues have told us time and time again that if Trump would do something here and support an extension of the tax credits, as we Democrats are fighting for, then maybe they would be able to do something. But he doesn't.

Now tens of millions are going to see their insurance premiums double on average. Four million people will lose insurance because Donald Trump let it happen, and he is there, sitting in front of the TV camera, patting himself on the back—unbelievable. Millions more with private insurance will see their premiums go up because Donald Trump let it happen. Our emergency rooms are going to be even more overrun. People are going to be kicked out of nursing homes. Rural hospitals will close. And

there is Donald Trump congratulating himself on how great he is.

Look, because of Republicans' total inaction on healthcare, huge damage has already been done, and nothing we do after January 1 can undo so much of that damage. As I have said before, the toothpaste is out of the tube.

However you want to say it, the point is this: Because of Republicans, it is now impossible, sadly, to prevent people from having to pay hundreds, if not thousands, more on their premiums next year. It is going to start January 1.

Even if we can figure out a way to stop the bleeding next year—that is a very big "if"—Republicans are still in shambles and have no plan themselves. For too many people, it is going to be too late because Republicans chose to let these ACA tax credits expire. They had an easy opportunity to join us in our 3-year, clean extension of the ACA credits, and they refused.

Well, Americans heard none of what they wanted to hear last night during Trump's speech—nothing about how he will lower premiums, nothing about how he will lower their cost of living, nothing about how Republicans could have fixed this crisis but didn't. Donald Trump kept playing the blame game. Many a President has tried to do that—all with disastrous results. People want solutions; Donald Trump gave them none.

Democrats, meanwhile, are not going to stop fighting to lower people's premiums, and we are not going to stop fighting to lower costs across the board and help Americans pay for the things they need and avoid those moments on Friday night when families sit around the kitchen table and say: How the hell am I going to pay this bill? I don't have the money for it. I need what the bill has asked me to pay for.

Look, we Democrats will not stop fighting to lower costs and help Americans pay for the things they need. These will be our watchwords in 2026: lower costs and lower healthcare costs in particular.

That issue ain't going away, Republicans. We are going to keep on it and on it and on it until maybe you join us to really solve the problem.

Republicans, healthcare is not going away. People need help to afford premiums, and Democrats are going to keep fighting and pushing this issue for all of 2026 and beyond.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, on the CR, Democrats want to get our work done to finish the bipartisan appropriations process. Our goal is a bipartisan bill that funds the government through fiscal year 2026.

Republicans worked for over a month and just yesterday gave Democrats a list of their cleared amendments, one of which has no text.

While I don't expect we will need quite as long as Republicans took, it will still take some time for us to work through our amendments so that we can finish the minibus in January.

Democrats are working in good faith to finish the process. As we have said, our goal is a bipartisan bill that funds the government through 2026, and we are working in good faith to finish this process. It is not easy. Obstacles always remain. No side is going to get everything they want. But a bipartisan agreement is the preferred outcome for the vast majority of Senators, Democrat and Republican.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE HEARING

Mr. President, now on the Senate Commerce Committee yesterday and what TED CRUZ had to say. Yesterday, the Senate Commerce Committee heard testimony from FCC Chair Brendan Carr—the first time he has appeared publicly before the Senate after trying to bully ABC and Disney into pulling Jimmy Kimmel off the air. Remember back then that Carr said in a podcast, “We could do this the easy way or the hard way.” He threatened ABC and Disney with investigations. What thuggery. He threatened to pull broadcaster licenses.

These are naked attempts at censorship in violation of the First Amendment’s protection to free speech. The threatening and bullying of the media into simply being a mouthpiece for Donald Trump is one of the greatest threats our democracy faces, and Mr. Carr has been a willing and eager henchman to achieve that very dangerous goal.

It was disturbing to hear Mr. Carr double down yesterday on his attempt to take Kimmel off the air, and it was troubling that too few Republicans were willing to stand up to him. But at least one Republican—the chair of the committee, the junior Senator from Texas, Senator CRUZ—spoke out against Mr. Carr’s bully tactics.

I don’t agree very much with Senator CRUZ on most everything he says, and I didn’t agree with many of the things he said yesterday at the committee, but CRUZ is absolutely correct that Mr. Carr’s conduct is dangerous. On the issue of Mr. Carr and the censoring of the news media, Senator CRUZ is right on the money. He is right when he said Mr. Carr’s behavior is the kind of stuff you see in “Goodfellas.”

No government, no matter who is in charge, has the right to silence, intimidate, or censor protected free speech no matter where it comes from.

There are lots of dangers to our democracy under this Trump regime—it is becoming more and more like a regime—but one of the top is the intimidating of media, is the consolidation of media to only have a voice that protects Donald Trump and defends Donald Trump. That is what dictators do. That is what Orban has done in Hungary and Erdogan in Türkiye. Dictators throughout history try to censor the media, consolidate the media so they are all under the thumb of the leader, of the dictator.

This is a dramatic danger, a huge danger, one of the greatest dangers to our democracy, and TED CRUZ talked

about that yesterday. Frankly, if CRUZ can speak out against the FCC’s obvious bullying tactics, so can other Republicans. Other Republicans should join him. Everyone should join him. What Mr. Carr is doing is a huge danger, and both Democrats and Republicans should unite to call this dangerous conduct out. CRUZ’s comments yesterday were the first step, and more on his side of the aisle in particular should join him.

Now, there is also the issue of affordability, which Mr. Carr did not address. Yesterday in committee, Republicans did not speak out on the issue that is in the very front of every American’s mind. While the Republicans rubberstamped Carr’s destruction of free speech—too many of them did that—they didn’t bother to question Carr about how families have to choose between internet and cell service for their kids and putting food on the table. The costs are going through the roof, led by the big media carriers like AT&T and Verizon.

Senator CANTWELL spoke out strongly on this issue. It is a cost issue. It is a cost-of-living issue. People hate paying a lot of bills that they don’t have the money for, and one of them is their bill for social media, for the internet.

Democrats have a very simple message for Carr and the Trump administration: We need high-quality and low-cost wireless service, not the other way around.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The majority whip.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today having just heard the minority leader talk about the President’s address to the Nation last night. I listened carefully to what the President had to say, and I thought he did an outstanding job explaining what a difference a year makes, because what the President inherited and Republicans inherited when we took over after Joe Biden and the Democrats had been in charge—our country was weaker, our country was poorer, and our country was less safe.

What we have seen is a complete reversal over the last year, with a focus on significant changes at the border, where we now have a secure border—the most secure it has been in years and years and even decades.

There is a huge difference on energy. We are right now going into the Christmas season, and gasoline prices are at the lowest they have been in 5 years.

There is a complete change in taxes, where the Democrats wanted to raise taxes on American families by \$5 trillion. Instead, this year and as we go into next year, people are going to see a dramatic difference in lower taxes, impacting how much money they have in their pockets.

There has been a dramatic change in national security. We now have peace through strength, and we didn’t have that over the last administration.

Then, on top of all these things, President Trump announced something called a warrior dividend. That is going to give \$1,776 to each and every one of our brave men and women in uniform, and there are over 1 million of them right now. What a gift and what bonus to thank them for their service.

Oh yes, we are dramatically changing the direction of this country. We are getting America back on track.

Just this morning, we got additional good news. It is the latest inflation report. The inflation has slowed in November to 2.7 percent, and that is lower than anything anyone expected. That is a reflection of the work we are doing. Core inflation was the lowest since March of 2021. That is when Joe Biden and the Democrats came into office, and we faced 40-year high inflation. That is what the American people suffered through under 4 years of Biden and the Democrats.

This is good news for consumers, it is good news for Main Street, and it is good news for the country.

The evidence is undeniable: Republicans are getting America back on track.

This Christmas, families are really feeling the relief that comes from returning to commonsense energy policies. You unleash American energy, as we have done—taken the leash off that the Democrats had applied to American energy production—you get more energy production, and prices go down.

I remember when consumers were paying \$5 a gallon for gasoline and even higher for diesel. Now, in Wyoming, it is less than \$2.50 a gallon. I hear that in Oklahoma—from Senator LANKFORD—it is \$1.99 a gallon.

I will never forget the day that Joe Biden told his Environmental Protection Agency—he said: Prioritize climate over energy that is affordable, available, and reliable.

That era is over. By unleashing American energy that is now affordable, available, and reliable, Republicans are making America safer and more prosperous.

Now, a vital piece of all of this energy dominance is America’s clean coal. A few months ago, President Trump declared that American clean coal is essential for our Nation’s safety and prosperity, and he is right.

As part of the Working Families Tax Cut bill, Republicans in Congress lowered the royalty rate for coal production on Federal lands. The old, higher tax rates risked keeping coal in the ground. Lower rates mean higher production and lower energy costs. It is good, certainly, for my home State of Wyoming, and it is good for America.

Wyoming is America’s energy breadbasket. Our Powder River Basin coal produces nearly half of all the coal in America, and it is the cleanest burning coal in the world. More production means more affordable energy. More production means revenue for Wyoming schools as the taxes come in. More production means more certainty

for decades in the future in terms of our energy security. More production means good-paying jobs, and Joe Biden tried to cripple coal production in America.

His administration imposed a punishing Buffalo Resource Management Plan on Wyoming and on parts of Montana, a plan to stop mining of American coal. Republicans used the Congressional Review Act to restore sanity to energy production. Now, Wyoming coal producers in the Powder River Basin can provide the coal needed to continue powering our Nation.

As a result, miners see a bright future again. Coal production is now up 6 percent since last year. Another critical piece of American energy superiority is nuclear energy. Last year, the Senate passed my bill to ban the import of Russian uranium. President Trump is also supporting uranium production and nuclear energy as part of his all-of-the-above energy strategy.

Uranium production now in the United States is booming. My own State of Wyoming is the second largest producer of uranium in America. Our production has increased nearly 100 percent since last year.

Because of Republican policies, production facilities that were once dormant are now ramping up. That is because they have certainty in terms of business. Nuclear energy fuels 20 percent of American electricity. We need it. More power from all energy sources is going to bring affordable electricity prices in the future.

Remember, Republicans also ended this electric vehicle mandate that the Democrats were trying to foist upon the American people. We got rid of the \$7,500 government subsidies to buy electric vehicles. When California tried to control what cars we can drive, Republicans stepped in to stop them. Electric vehicles are vehicles Americans don't want, can't afford, aren't practical in my home State of Wyoming or the Presiding Officer's State of Montana. We are not going to allow California to force-feed us. They tried. Now Americans are back in the driver's seat.

Republicans also removed Green New Deal regulations. We did it throughout the entire government, and taxpayers saved billions. Additionally, Republicans repealed the Biden-era tax on natural gas. That saves Americans money when they heat their homes. Republicans rolled back Biden-era regulations on home appliances. Now Americans have the freedom to purchase what they want, the appliances that work best for them and their families and their budgets.

The contrast between Republicans and Democrats is dramatic, and we certainly heard it last night with the President's address. Senate Democrats have absolutely no plans or no desire to make energy more affordable. They don't. They want it more expensive so we use less, and that helps their green climate initiatives.

Democrats may talk about affordability. Yet energy costs are the highest in their own home States. Think about it. Senator SCHUMER, he was just on the floor of the Senate, his home State of New York, and he was addressing affordability. He wasn't talking about putting more money in people's pockets. Nope, his home State electricity prices are up 34 percent over the last 6 years. New York's energy prices are 44 percent higher than the national average.

In California, electricity prices are up 58 percent in 5 years. Democrats ought to take responsibility for the higher prices because it is their policies that caused them.

Affordable, reliable American energy is a necessity. It is not a luxury. It is good for our workers; it is good for our economy; and it is good for our safety and our national security.

America is an energy superpower. Under Republicans, we are finally beginning to act like it again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this year, the Trump administration began a calculated show of political theater in force designed to spread fear and terror in Chicago and surrounding Illinois communities.

Masked Federal agents pepper-sprayed, punched, body slammed, and even shot individuals, including U.S. citizens, during violent immigration enforcement actions. Virtually all of what I just said was captured on video. They deployed tear gas canisters against clergy, broke into apartments, zip-tied children.

When they were required by the Federal courts to disclose how many people had been detained recently, they came up with 614 names; 16 of the 600 had any criminal record that presented a threat to public safety whatsoever—16 out of 614.

President Trump has not gone after the worst of the worst as he promised. Instead, he has brought some of the worst, most unprofessional, and most poorly trained Federal law enforcement officers and agents into our city.

Because of his so-called Operation Midway Blitz, children are afraid to go to schools, businesses are closing, and families are being torn apart. Yet the Trump administration shows no regret. They are reveling in the fear and chaos they are creating.

Look at the Border Patrol official Gregory Bovino. On Tuesday, he returned to Chicago after leaving last month and bringing his campaign of fear to North Carolina and New Orleans. As soon as he arrived back in Chicago, Mr. Bovino went to the picket line of Local 705 of the Teamsters at Mauser Packaging Solutions.

These workers are on strike for better benefits, safer working conditions, and measures to prevent ICE from entering their workplace without a Federal judicial warrant.

Bovino brought Federal agents to this picket line to intimidate and interrogate these workers. He laughed in their faces as they demanded better working conditions. In court testimony, Mr. Bovino has praised Federal agents' use of excessive force as "exemplary," even after multiple U.S. citizens were hospitalized following their encounters with his Federal agents.

When addressing Federal agents prior to a confrontation with peaceful protesters, Mr. Bovino stated that "if someone strays into a pepper ball, then that's on them."

Bovino has tear-gassed peaceful crowds, encouraged his agents to fire pepper balls at protesters, and threatened to go "even harder on the streets," when Federal judges dare to order him to follow the law. But Mr. Bovino is not alone in his cruelty. Many Trump officials have been posting and gloating about their clear violations of constitutional rights.

While President Trump has given them carte blanche to violate the law, there is a reality ahead. One day President Trump will not be in the White House. When he goes, those who ordered these unlawful activities finally may be held accountable and prosecuted. Section 242 of title 18 of the United States Code makes it a crime for a Federal law enforcement official acting under color of law to violate the constitutional rights of any person.

I have no expectation that President Trump's Justice Department will investigate these violations currently taking place in Chicago. But the statute of limitations from these provisions is 5 years. The next administration will be well within its rights to hold accountable anyone who violated an individual's constitutional rights or directed others to do so during this Trump administration.

While the Supreme Court's outrageous decision in *Trump v. The United States* may have personally immunized President Trump from prosecution, it provided no such protection for these agents.

The Trump administration officials responsible for the use of excessive force or unlawful detention may face criminal consequences for their role in the Midway Blitz. That is why, today, my colleague Senator DUCKWORTH and I have submitted a criminal referral to the Justice Department regarding the unlawful actions of senior Trump administration officials and Federal immigration agents in Operation Midway Blitz.

To take one example, a Border Patrol agent shot a Chicago woman multiple times. Body camera video reportedly shows the agent threatening the woman, saying "Do something," and then I will delete the next term he used, prior to shooting her.

Afterward, the agent bragged in text messages to other agents about shooting the woman, writing "5 shots, 7 holes." As ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have directed my staff to continue gathering

evidence of potential violations of section 242, and we will provide this evidence to the Justice Department in due course.

In addition, Illinois elected officials are hard at work documenting crimes committed by these Federal agents. The mayor of Evanston has opened an investigation after Federal agents pinned down a man and struck him in the head. The Village of Broadview is conducting criminal investigations related to ICE's use of tear gas and rubber bullets against first responders and peaceful protesters.

Tomorrow, the Illinois Accountability Commission will hold its first public hearing, which will examine the widespread use of chemical agents during Midway Blitz. There will come a time when the people responsible for these assaults, tear-gassing, and unjust detention during this unlawful immigration action will face real accountability.

These officials swore an oath when they began their service to preserve and protect the Constitution, but in their role as Federal law enforcement officials, there is ample evidence they violated the very rights they promised to defend.

Today, I am putting those participating in Operation Midway Blitz on notice: You can continue to terrorize people. You can ignore the rulings of our courts, our laws, and our Constitution. You can hide behind your masks. You can ignore due process requirements in the Constitution. The day will come when justice will be served. The day will come when you will be held accountable. The day will come when this pitiful display of meanness and intolerance will become one of the saddest chapters in our Nation's history, and you will be held accountable. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

HONORING SERGEANT EDGAR BRIAN TORRES TOVAR, SERGEANT WILLIAM NATHAN HOWARD, AND AYAD MANSOOR SAKAT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, this past weekend marked the 389th birthday of the National Guard. The Guard was on the front lines in our fight for freedom even before the birth of our Nation and played a critical role in securing our independence.

Today, the men and women who put on the uniform continue to live out that legacy by serving our communities, responding to disasters and emergencies, and protecting our Nation's defense in overseas combat, security, and reconstruction missions.

The members of the National Guard are hard-working folks who live and work in our communities and made a commitment to our country to be ready whenever and wherever duty calls.

As a proud veteran of the Iowa Army National Guard, I raised my right hand and also took the oath to serve, and that service was shaped by the folks in uniform who were standing shoulder to shoulder with me.

From those who served alongside of me to those who came before me and after me, we all promised to be "Always Ready, Always There." But instead of celebrating that legacy last Saturday, our Nation was rocked with the news that we had lost some of our own. And nowhere felt this tragic loss more than Iowa, as we learned two brave Iowan National Guardsmen gave their lives in service to our country.

While supporting counterterrorism operations in Syria, SGT Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar and SGT William Nathan Howard, members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, came under fire and were killed by a lone ISIS gunman near Palmyra.

This senseless attack also took the life of a U.S. civilian interpreter Ayad Sakat and wounded three more members of the Iowa National Guard. Two of the injured servicemembers were evacuated for surgery. They were taken from Syria to Jordan and from Jordan on to Germany.

And in keeping with "Always Ready, Always There," it was actually an Iowa unit—the 185th Air Wing, the 185th Medical Group—that evacuated our Iowa Army National Guardsmen from Jordan to Germany. They surrounded the wounded and reassured them that they were all from Iowa, and they were there to care for their Iowa brothers.

But our Iowa National Guard family is hurting. As we mourn the loss of two of our own and pray for the continued recovery of our wounded, my heart goes out to their families, their loved ones, and, of course, the folks they served with. This loss is immeasurable. So please join me in honoring the lives of these heroes today.

Friends describe 25-year-old Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, from Des Moines, as selfless, goofy, and kindhearted, an amazing soldier and an even better friend. He was the first in his family to serve in the military. He joined the Iowa Army National Guard before his high school graduation ceremony in 2019, which speaks to his character in wanting to serve at such a young age.

Sergeant Torres-Tovar, your service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. My heart breaks for your friends, your family, and your community.

And as I was able to speak with his family, yesterday, they were torn apart and still in shock at the loss of their son. I was able to hug his mother and hold her hands and express my sorrow that she would not see her son again.

Mr. President, 29-year-old SGT William Nathaniel Howard, known as "Nate," from Marshalltown, IA, was a loving husband and described as an amazing man of faith. He joined the Iowa National Guard soon after graduating from Marshalltown High School and has been enlisted ever since. His stepfather Jeffrey Bunn, who serves as the Meskwaki Nation Police Department chief, shared that Nate wanted to be a soldier from a very young boy, all the way to his adulthood.

To his family, especially his wife Arianna and their son, my prayers are with you.

These men are two of our Nation's finest, a true testament to the selfless bravery it takes to put on the uniform and keep our homeland safe from the threat of radical Islamic terror. They are also a reminder that our freedom is not free, and every American owes an enormous debt of gratitude to our servicemembers who put their lives on the line.

I know firsthand the sacrifice of men and women who put themselves in harm's way. In 2003, I had the privilege of leading 150 Iowa Army National Guardsmen as a company commander in Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Together, we drove supply convoys, conducting transportation and security missions in a combat zone. My soldiers, those incredible men and women, were critical to the mission, and our shared trust and commitment to each other was a very special bond.

To those who have served alongside Sergeants Torres-Tovar and Howard and to the 1,800 Iowans currently deployed throughout the Middle East, I feel your loss and your hurt. I have been in those boots. And rest assured, America has your back.

When I heard the tragic news, I rushed to comfort the families and traveled to visit the wounded and escort the fallen back to our homeland.

Sergeant Howard's brother, SSG James Roelsgard, who was serving in Kuwait at the time, is also a National Guardsman. He and I accompanied the bodies to Dover Air Force Base. Before we left Germany, we had a moment alone with the other escorts in the hulk of that C-17, which, ironically, was piloted and flown by the West Virginia Air Guard—West Virginia having lost a soldier here, locally, only a few weeks ago. But in that C-17, Sergeant Roelsgard knelt down beside his brother's case, draped in the flag, and he wept.

We all feel that loss.

I was able to accompany our fallen back to Dover Air Force Base, and there we were joined by our Iowa delegation and led by our Commander in Chief, and, all together, we comforted the families, and we mourned together.

Our Governor Kim Reynolds has ordered all flags in Iowa to fly at half-staff, out of respect and remembrance, until the bodies of our Iowa National Guardsmen have returned home and are laid to rest.

But that does not mark the end of their stories. We will continue to stand with their families and communities in mourning. We will make sure the world knows the legacy of Iowa's heroes and that every American life is precious.

Sergeant Torres-Tovar and Sergeant Howard, we remember you, we honor you, and we are proud of you. Your Nation is indebted to you.

The legacy of these heroes will never, ever be forgotten. Godspeed to our heroes, and God bless these great United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 858

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, well, I don't come to you very often, but I come to you, when I come, with important stuff. You know, I am not a politician. It is easy for you to see that. We have so much work that can be done and should be done, all the time here.

You know, I am going to speak to you today about folks that we owe everything to—not some, but everything, to. You know, I have said so many times as a Governor of West Virginia—I said over and over and over—that we owe every single thing to those who serve in our military, the active folks that are serving in our military. They have given us everything—everything.

You know, in my little State of West Virginia, we are really proud because we step up. We step up in every way.

I am here today, in a lot of ways, for Sarah and Andy too. Surely, God above, we have not forgotten Sarah and Andy.

We just lost Sarah Beckstrom, a great National Guardsman, absolutely in the prime of her life—20 years old—gunned down right on our streets here.

And Andy Wolfe continues to fight for his life, and he is improving. He has done wonderful. Andy, in many ways, is our miracle—our miracle for not only West Virginia but our miracle for this Nation, in lots of ways.

But I also come today on something that is enormously important. I come today with my bill for this Nation, for the most prestigious honor, the most prestigious medal in our military, and that is the Medal of Honor.

I want to talk to you about the namesake of this bill, Woody Williams. You know, Woody was a friend, a good friend. His name was Hershel "Woody" Williams. My bill is S. 858. It is going to be called the Hershel Woody Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act. And in a few minutes, I will ask for unanimous consent for this. I will ask that we quit playing these silly, silly, silly politics and step up to the plate and honor absolutely those that have given, in many instances, the ultimate sacrifice.

So with all that being said, as I move forward here, I would say to you this: My bill is a testament—a testament—that will go on the National Mall. It is fully funded. It is fully funded with private donations.

We absolutely know that the recipients of the Medal of Honor, absolutely, those folks—all the way back to the Civil War—those folks have been in every single conflict that this Nation has been in, and it is so enormously important it is off the charts.

This monument in the National Mall will be in proximity to the other memorials and monuments that remember wars that these individuals fought and died in, in an absolutely appropriate setting. This monument reflects the American people's collective appre-

ciation for the Medal of Honor recipients' bravery and stands as a lasting tribute to their legacy.

These individuals come from every corner of our Nation, from Hawaii to Maine, from every State. We have at least one individual from every State that has gone beyond the call of duty.

These people are like Army SGT Brian Buker from Maine. These people are like Navy ENS Charles Hamman from Maryland, Air Force MSgt John Chapman from Massachusetts, and Coast Guard Signalman First Class Douglas Munro from Washington State.

Mr. President, we are honored to have these great recipients, many of them with us today. But I do know that two are really right here with us today—U.S. MG Patrick Brady from South Dakota, who served in Vietnam and made several missions to evacuate wounded soldiers. He utilized 3 helicopters in a single day to Evacuate 51 seriously injured men.

It is unbelievable. It is totally unbelievable. The bravery. The sacrifice. Un-flat-believable.

We also have with us U.S. Army LTC William Swenson from Washington State and living up in California. He made multiple trips to the enemy's kill zone to evacuate wounded soldiers and recover four fallen U.S. servicemen.

I just don't know how in the world—you talk about this unbelievable bravery. You talk about their unbelievable sacrifice. They have given so much in every single way, and we should be so, so, so proud.

Like I said a few minutes ago, we are asking to do something on the National Mall. It has been vetted in every single possible way. The House has passed it unanimously. We passed it out of committee unanimously. Honestly, what is wrong with us in America? What could possibly be wrong with us in America to not step up and do something as small but as great as this for our greatest—greatest—medal recipients, the Medal of Honor. Absolutely.

I tell you this: I am grateful to be joined in this effort by 12 Senators that have cosponsored, including 5 of my colleagues from the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Again I underline that this passed the House 414 to 0. It passed committee without objection. It is absolutely unbelievable. Unbelievable.

The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation has been a great champion and partner on this bill. The National Congress of American Indians has also supported this effort, as it has 42 recipients who are Native American.

It is unthinkable for me. I am new to the game. I have white hair, and I have done a lot of stuff. But Mr. President, absolutely, if we can't do this—we have a miserable, miserable approval rating as it is—14 percent. I don't see how in the world it is 14 percent, to tell you the truth. But if we have 14 percent as our approval rating of what we do, we should be disgraced off the chart.

But if we can't step up and support these heroes that have given the ultimate sacrifice beyond belief, these people that absolutely have a level of courage and bravery, have a level of service, have a level of sacrifice that is totally off the chart—totally off the chart. Do we not realize that every single solitary thing we have—everything that we have today—is due to folks like this?

In every way, I hope and pray that we will just stand up and say absolutely, unanimously, we concede.

As if in legislative session notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 858 and the Senate proceed to immediate consideration; further, that the Justice 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?

The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Reserving the right to object, as we know, the Commemorative Works Act restricts new museums and memorials from being built on the National Mall without an act of Congress. It is one of the ways Congress likes to try to maintain and be mindful of the evolution of the National Mall and monuments and museums that meet our collective bipartisan standard for placement there.

Since I first arrived in the Senate, I have been working across the aisle to support the building of two important museums on the National Mall—one being the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino and the other being the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. Both of these efforts are longstanding bipartisan. In fact, Senator CRUZ and I, along with Senator MORENO and others, have a bipartisan bill that would adopt the necessary language for placement on the Mall. Meanwhile, Senators KLOBUCHAR and LUMMIS have a bipartisan bill to do the same for the women's museum.

So let me be clear. I wholeheartedly agree that the sacrifices made by Medal of Honor recipients should have a place of recognition for all Americans to see in our Nation's Capital. I also supported the Senator from West Virginia's bill when it came before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee just yesterday morning.

As ranking member of the Rules Committee, let me also offer to the Senator from West Virginia and his constituents some good news. I am happy to share that the committee is working as we speak to approve the installation of a statue in the Capitol for national Medal of Honor recipient Herschel "Woody" Williams, the individual whom the placement legislation is named after.

But as I shared in committee yesterday morning, I also believe that the story of the American Latino and the fight for equality by American women should also be enshrined on the National Mall. So we have an amendment that would add the text of those bills to S. 858 to also allow the Latino and women's museums to build on the National Mall.

My colleague from West Virginia was very eloquent, very passionate, and I share his conviction. The effort to approve the placement language, the location language for the Latino museum and the women's museum has been held up far too long. So I hope the Senator from West Virginia will join me in trying to do away with—what was it that he said?—the “silly, silly politics” because when you look at the history of Latinos in America, it includes 60 Medal of Honor recipients, beginning with Phil Bazaar and John Ortega for their service in the Civil War.

Latino contributions, including paying the ultimate sacrifice, is nothing new. And it includes, by the way, David M. Gonzales from my hometown of Pacoima for his bravery during World War II. The history of women in America includes the story of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, also a Medal of Honor recipient. All these stories deserve to be told in a location of prominence.

As I said yesterday morning when the Energy and Natural Resources Committee marked up and approved S. 858—I made remarks at the time clearly announcing my intention to offer this amendment when the Medal of Honor bill came up for consideration on the floor of the Senate, so here I am. It shouldn't be a surprise to anybody.

I would urge my colleagues to agree to include my amendment so that all three of these bills can finally move forward after years and years of hard work and bipartisan support.

Therefore, I would ask the Senator to modify his request so my amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the Justice substitute amendment, as amended, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my bill has gone through all the steps. The great Senator who is here speaking—his bill has not gone through the steps, and it being held up is surely not my fault, and of everything in the world, it is not these great recipients' fault.

I may have missed one person that could possibly be in our Gallery, and that is Marine Corps Capt. Raymond Murphy of Colorado.

But I want to just tell you this, sir: We have gone through every step the right way. We have gone through the

hearings, the markups, the unanimous passage by the ENR Committee. Therefore, I absolutely object in every single way. His bills have not gone through the committee. His bills have not had a hearing and been passed out of committee. This is absolutely skipping the proper steps. I may be new, but we have done it right.

And absolutely what we are doing is we are turning our backs on the greatest of the greatest of the greatest. This is the very thing—the very, very thing—I support the museums that he speaks of. We all would. But absolutely this act right here is the very root of what is wrong with us.

For God sakes-a-living, how do you absolutely look at those great people, how do you look at what they have given all of us and turn your back on them? I don't get it.

I absolutely object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there an objection to the original request?

The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Reserving the right to object, I want to set the record straight. The museum efforts that I talked about have gone through all the proper steps. There have been committee hearings. They have been approved by committee. They have been approved in prior Congresses separately by both Chambers, so they are ready to move.

I am disappointed, frankly—not surprised—that the amendment is not accepted.

Therefore, I object and would look forward to working with my colleague from West Virginia and anybody else to advance all three of these proposals as expeditiously as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, I am not going to volley back and forth. Use the Rules Committee, not this Congress.

Like I said before, I absolutely object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

HONORING SERGEANT EDGAR BRIAN TORRES-TOVAR, SERGEANT WILLIAM NATHANIEL HOWARD, AND AYAD MANSOOR SAKAT

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to speak briefly in gratitude today.

Yesterday, Dover Air Force Base once again had the honor of receiving the remains of three Americans who died in service to our Nation: SGT Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, of Des Moines, and SGT William Nathaniel Howard, of Marshalltown—both Iowans, both servicing in the Iowa National Guard—and Ayad Mansoor Sakat, a resident of Michigan, originally an Iraqi, who served alongside American troops for 4 years during the war in Iraq and who has become a nationalized American citizen. All three were killed in a tragic incident in Syria. All three served bravely. And all

three were welcomed home with the dignity and respect that all who serve our Nation and fall in service to our Nation deserve.

DIGNIFIED TRANSFERS AT DOVER AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. President, I appreciate the forbearance of my colleague from Virginia. I just wanted to briefly thank my colleagues from Iowa.

I am the senior Senator from Delaware. For 15 years, I have invited home State Senators to join me in dignified transfers at Dover Air Force Base. And I understand it is logistically very demanding. But this year has been the first time. In the last year, the two Senators from Georgia joined for the dignified transfer of three Georgians—reservists who died in an incident at Tower 22 in Jordan. More recently, the two Senators from Illinois joined when four soldiers died in a tragic training accident in Lithuania.

Yesterday, the State of Iowa and its delegation really showed up: the Governor of Iowa, Kim Reynolds; of course, the Adjutant General, Stephen Osborn—MG Stephen Osborn of the Iowa National Guard—three Members of the House delegation: Congresswoman ASHLEY HINSON, Congressman ZACH NUNN, Congressman RANDY FEENSTRA, and our two Senators—Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY and Senator JONI ERNST. Senator ERNST served as a colonel and deployed with the Iowa National Guard. Senator ERNST accompanied the remains of the two fallen members of the Iowa National Guard all the way from Ramstein, and it was our honor in Delaware to welcome them to our State.

It is my honor to rise briefly in thanks for the service of the men and women of AFMAO, which is the Armed Forces Mortuary Affairs unit, and Dover Air Force Base. This is a solemn duty and one that the men and women of Dover Air Force Base carry out with exceptional grace, care, and skill.

I want to close by thanking all of the volunteers from our community in Dover, DE, who dedicate their time to making sure that the families of the fallen are welcomed, are supported, are prayed over, and know that our Nation is grateful for their service and their sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, prior to my remarks, I would ask permission that, upon the conclusion of my remarks, Senator SHAHEEN be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes before the initiation of the scheduled vote.

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

NVIDIA

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise today to express deep concern and frustration over President Trump's decision to approve the sale of advanced Nvidia H200 AI chips to the People's Republic of China.

I appreciate the fact that my colleague Senator COONS is on the floor

because I will conclude with a discussion of a bipartisan bill that Senator RICKETTS and Senator COONS have introduced in the Senate that, I think, is a very important piece of legislation.

I am worried that the transfer of these chips will compromise U.S. security and enable the People's Republic of China to catch up in one area where the United States has a significant and a very qualitative advantage over the PRC.

For decades, under administrations of both parties, the United States has adhered to a simple principle: We do not sell our most advanced security-critical technology to adversaries. That principle exists for a reason. Advanced semiconductors, like Nvidia's H200 chip, are not consumer gadgets. They are matters of national security. They are the foundation of the future of warfare. They are our edge—the United States' edge—in the development of the technologies of the future. Right now, that future is up for grabs. We protect our chips because they preserve America's advantage in space, cyberspace, and, importantly, as a nuclear deterrent.

During President Trump's first term, the administration clearly understood this, and they expanded export controls on semiconductor technologies to China, placing strict controls on firms like Huawei. At the start of this administration, again, President Trump publicly embraced the longstanding policy: that export controls were treated as national security decisions, as they should be.

But that consensus, apparently, has not lasted. It was challenged very aggressively by corporate interests, most notably by Nvidia's CEO, Jensen Huang, who is a frequent presence at the White House.

The status quo was also challenged by President Trump's sort of self-proclaimed AI and crypto czar, billionaire David Sacks, who argued that the United States should give sensitive articles to China in order to make China dependent upon American technology.

That argument sounds clever, but it isn't. By that logic, should we sell China F-35 fighter jets, advanced missile systems, top-tier satellite technologies? Of course, we shouldn't. We don't preserve our leverage by handing our rivals the very tools that they need to close the gap they have with us. We preserve leverage by maintaining advantages that they can't replicate quickly or cheaply.

And they are attempting to close this gap by cheating. The Justice Department just announced, within the last few days—within the last few days—a dismantling of a major China-linked AI smuggling network, Operation Gatekeeper, seizing more than \$50 million worth of these Nvidia chips illegally exported to China. They are trying to steal this technology, reverse engineer, and take the intellectual property to eliminate this edge that we have.

The administration initially claimed it would only permit the sales of infe-

rior chips, such as the Nvidia H20, not the H200, which is hardware explicitly described as degraded and limited, but China declined. They waited, believing that President Trump would fold, and that is what happened. President Trump, within the last week, has announced that he plans to approve the sale of the H200, one of Nvidia's most powerful AI chips, second only to the very top of its product line.

Let's be clear in what this chip is. The H200 is used to train and deploy frontier AI systems—systems that U.S. national security Agencies have long warned have numerous military and intelligence applications.

Previous administrations, working with allies, imposed export controls precisely—precisely—because they worked. China fell behind. Even the CEO of China's leading AI firm has admitted publicly that the access to advanced chips is their biggest bottleneck.

President Trump is now solving this problem for China. The administration claims that, in exchange—in exchange—the United States will receive a share of the revenue—25 percent of the sales is what we are being told—but that admission should alarm us. Decisions that were once made purely on our national security priorities are now apparently up for sale, and the administration's justification that this will somehow keep China hooked on U.S. technology doesn't withstand normal scrutiny.

We have got decades of evidence that China basically steals foreign technology as fast as it can. They won't be hooked on these chips. They will take these chips, reverse engineer them, produce their own, and wipe out the edge that we now have with China in this critical defense technology.

Now, in less than a week after President Trump's announcement, one of the deal's leading proponents, David Sacks, is already starting to backtrack on his theory that we should give these articles to China. Let's look at the facts surrounding the timing of this announcement.

Nvidia's CEO has attended \$1 million-a-plate fundraisers for the President. His company donated to build the President's ballroom, and now, after months of lobbying and contributions, Nvidia got what it wanted.

I am very, very nervous that the President is bartering away this edge and may barter away other edges to those who are lobbying and contributing to him. This is a pattern that we have seen of transactional politics jeopardizing our security.

China is reaping the rewards of this. They are already leading or are rapidly catching up in so many critical industries. Why would we give up an edge on this one?

The American people are watching this play out, and they are particularly concerned about China, about China's advances, and about giving up the edge we have over China in this key area.

That is why I have signed on, with many in this body—I think there are now 10 cosponsors, equally divided between Democrats and Republicans—to Senators RICKETTS and COONS' SAFE CHIPS Act, which would insist upon rigorous export controls over these chips, particularly as they might be transferred to China, the People's Republic of North Korea, Iran, and Russia. The number of bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation and of some similar legislation that is offered by other Members, by Senator BANKS and Senator COLLINS, is growing.

I urge my colleagues to get on board with this legislation and make sure that we don't harm our national security by transferring technologies of such incredible importance to our country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2918

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, my colleague from Virginia was very persuasive, I think, in pointing out the threat to national security that providing Nvidia's chips to China presents.

Unfortunately, another area that has the potential to significantly undermine our national security is that of the efforts by this administration to try and negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine.

Now, don't get me wrong. I support ending the war in Ukraine. I think it would be in America's interests, in Europe's interests, and in Ukraine's interests to do that. But to do it in a way that undermines Ukraine for the long term—that gives Vladimir Putin access to the Ukrainian army, which is the largest army in Europe now and is the most technologically advanced—and to do that in a way that would further undermine the future security of Ukraine is not in America's interest.

But, to continue his war in Ukraine, Vladimir Putin needs two things. He needs money, and he needs weapons.

Russia has hundreds of billions of dollars in assets that are frozen overseas, some of which are subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Moscow is fighting hard to regain access to that money because it would help sustain its war effort.

But, as we know, money alone is not going to be enough. Sanctions have significantly degraded Russia's defense industry, and to keep building weapons, Russia relies on outside supply chains. Much of that support now comes from Chinese entities that are providing the materials and the technologies that are keeping Russia's war machine running.

So, if President Trump is really serious about ending this war, those are the pressure points to put against Vladimir Putin.

The good news is that the tools we need to apply that pressure already exist. The United States can deny Russia access to its frozen sovereign assets, and we can disrupt the supply chains that enable Russia to keep fighting. The Foreign Relations Committee has already reported out two

bills that have had strong bipartisan support that would address each of these.

One is the REPO Implementation Act, known as REPO 2.0. I think that is particularly important because hundreds of billions of Russian sovereign assets have been frozen, including about \$5 billion here in the United States, since the start of Russia's murderous invasion of Ukraine.

To help Ukraine beat back the Russian invasion and to eventually rebuild, seizing and repurposing those Russian frozen funds is the right place to start. Senators RISCH and WHITEHOUSE led the Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity for Ukrainians Act, known as the REPO Act, which I supported, to allow the frozen assets in America to support Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction to ensure Russia's accountability and ensure a just and lasting peace.

The partnership has worked again in this session of Congress to put in place an even stronger REPO 2.0. This bill, which passed out of committee, promotes the regularly scheduled transfers of sizable amounts of these underlying assets to Ukraine to build pressure until Russia ceases its war of aggression and agrees to terms that compensate Ukraine for war damages.

Now, I think it is particularly important for the United States to act because our EU friends have been working on this issue. They have had significant objections. Last year, when the first REPO Act was introduced, they raised a number of concerns. But this year, our European allies are working very hard to get this done in Europe where most of the Russian assets are actually being held.

There is a meeting on this today in Brussels. The question of freezing and then seizing and deploying Russian sovereign assets is a global security question. It should be decided by people operating in a global security environment.

Now, as I said, the Foreign Relations Committee adopted REPO 2.0 by voice vote in October, and I am confident we will pass this legislation out of this Congress at some point in the next few months, if not today.

But supporting Ukraine against Russia in this unjust war is important to America's national security. One way to help ensure that Ukraine has the support they need is to pass the REPO 2.0 Act.

So, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 243, S. 2918; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Lady Astor was the

first woman to serve in the British Parliament, the British House of Commons. In 1933, she was asked at a cocktail party: Do you know where Hitler was born? And without missing a beat, she responded: At Versailles.

And the point of the response was that harsh reparations from the Treaty of Versailles led to German resentment and the rise of the demagogue Hitler.

It had the opposite of the planned effect. The plan was to punish Germany. The plan was to make Germany pay for the war that they had begun, but in the end, it led to the rise of Hitler.

I fear many in the Senate, though they are well-intentioned, will repeat the same mistake of meting out punishment without considering the ramifications. If the authors of this bill are successful, they will confiscate Russian sovereign funds and distribute those funds to Ukraine.

One could make a good argument for the fairness of making Russia pay for their war of aggression. But first one must consider this currently seized money is an integral part of peace negotiations.

Once this money is seized, an important facet of the peace compromise will disappear, and Russia may well be induced to just keep fighting this terrible meat grinder of a war.

What a tragedy if, in haste, the result of punishing Russia is to prolong the war.

Confiscating Russian sovereign assets is essentially an act of economic war. Seizing and transferring these assets to Ukraine may make people in Washington feel virtuous, but it will not bring peace.

Confiscating Russia's sovereign assets will reinforce the view of hard-liners in Moscow that Russia's war lies not with Ukraine but really with the United States and the West.

There is no justification for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but this bill directly undermines President Trump's diplomatic efforts to end the killing in Ukraine. In fact, the Trump administration recently warned the European Union not to give seized Russian funds to Ukraine. Russia's frozen assets could be used as a bargaining chip and are being used as a bargaining chip in negotiations.

But confiscating their sovereign assets and giving them to Ukraine will only convince Moscow that there is no negotiated settlement to be had with Kyiv. The result will be the further destruction of Ukraine. More Ukrainian soldiers and civilians will die, and more cities and towns will be turned to rubble.

Nicholas Mulder is an associate professor at Cornell. He highlights the danger of the destabilizing precedent that Western countries would set by seizing assets to end a war they are not openly involved in.

Professor Mulder writes, that such an action would "broaden coercive actions that states could take for disputes to which they are not a direct party."

Elisabeth Braw, a columnist at Foreign Policy and a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, also highlights the risk of blowback to Western companies.

She states that if Western governments themselves begin confiscating assets without due process, they will expose Western companies to the caprice of undemocratic regimes.

In fact, Russia has already threatened to seize \$288 billion of Western assets that are in Russia. So we take their money; they take our money. Where does the cycle end?

This bill will hand the Russians another tool to fuel resentment against us. American leaders speak of a rules-based international order, but the theory that the United States can confiscate the assets of another country we are not at war with is legally fraud.

Professor Mulder argues that economic reprisals are the prerogative of injured states, not of third parties. Rather than compel respect for international law, our actions will demonstrate to our adversaries that we are flouting it.

This bill will be used by the Kremlin to show the world that while Washington demands that others follow the rules, we are happy to break them when we see fit.

In a multipolar world, Washington can no longer expect to act with impunity, particularly when dealing with a nuclear power. We understood the serious dangers that our country faced during the Cold War, but three decades of hubris and repeated foreign policy disasters prove that Washington's foreign policy establishment is badly broken.

A good way to start on the road to fixing that broken foreign policy is rejecting this disastrous bill which will only delay and possibly end the peace negotiations.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague from Kentucky's longstanding efforts to object to sanctions and to any way to hold accountable states that commit atrocities like Vladimir Putin, but I think he is just wrong on how we end this war.

The way we end this war is by putting pressure on Vladimir Putin so that he is willing to come to the table. He has not been willing to come to the table to have serious negotiations.

And the President's rolling out the red carpet for him in Alaska, welcoming him back into the international community, also has not brought him to the table.

So the only thing Vladimir Putin understands—and I agree with my colleague about the Russian people. I have been to Russia. The Russian people are wonderful. They are being misled by a tyrant who will do anything to continue to expand Russia's influence, not only in Europe but around the world.

My colleague, I am sure, hasn't read some of the documents that show what

Russia is doing right now to meddle in the United States to try and influence public opinion about the war in Ukraine. So I think he is absolutely wrong.

That is why I am going to continue to ask for a unanimous consent to pass the third bill that came out of the Foreign Relations Committee because I think that Russia—not Ukraine, not U.S. taxpayers—should pay for the destruction it has caused.

What the REPO 2.0 bill would do would be to make clear that aggression carries lasting financial consequences.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2657

Mr. President, now, the other bill that I think is critical is the STOP China and Russia Act. This is bipartisan legislation that Senator CORNYN cosponsored with me that targets those Chinese entities that are supplying Russia's defense industrial base.

It focuses on machine tools, on electronics, on industrial inputs that have military applications, those inputs that are showing up in Russia in their armored vehicles, in their drones, and in the those missiles. Those inputs enable Russia to rebuild forces and to prepare for future conflict.

In fact, I don't know that my colleague from Kentucky who is on the Foreign Relations Committee with me was at the hearing that we had earlier this year where we heard expert testimony before the committee from both the majority and minority witnesses that made clear that the buildup that is happening in Russia right now goes beyond Ukraine.

As one of those experts said:

At this point, seeing the trends in Russia's military capabilities, reconstitution, adaptation, the buildup in Russian forces, there is no other reason to do that unless you are expecting a confrontation with a much larger potential adversary than Ukraine, because just to fight the war in Ukraine, Russia doesn't need to do what it's currently doing.

That is a quote from one of those experts.

That is exactly why this pressure matters, why it is important for us to make sure that Vladimir Putin is really willing to come and negotiate in good faith, which he has not been willing to do. Denying Russia money and weapons reduces the risk of a wider conflict later.

Congress should take swift action to advance the second bill and to target the resources that Putin needs to keep this war going because they raised the cost of continued aggression in terms that Putin can't ignore.

If my colleague from Kentucky thinks that nobody in America cares about what is happening in Ukraine, he needs to talk to the folks in New Hampshire who are part of Common Man for Ukraine who provide supplies and go to Ukraine on a regular basis to try to help the people who are effected.

Now, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate take up and pass S. 2654, the STOP China and Russia Act 2025.

As if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 241, S. 2657; further, that the committee-reported substitute amendment be 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 with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, it is a naive notion to think that we will yell and scream and gnash our teeth and tell China: Quit selling dual-use materiel to Russia and that they will immediately have a sanguine face and say: Oh, of course. What were we thinking? We will quit doing it.

That is what the logic of this legislation is. We are going to tell China to quit doing it.

Now, there is another way diplomacy could work. We have hundreds and hundreds of sanctions on China. If you want China to do something, you could offer to China to remove some sanctions in exchange for them not selling weapons that have dual-use or parts that have dual-use to Russia.

There are ways you can gain things through diplomacy, but they are transactional, and they include carrots and sticks. But just making sort of over-the-top statements about how evil China is and communist this, communist that, will not get you anything.

If you want something from China, you have to offer them something in exchange. If you want them to quit selling dual-use parts to Russia that they are using in the war, offer them some relief from the hundreds and hundreds of sanctions we have put on them.

Instead, what this body and the same people who are for this bill have advocated is, we are going to go one step further. Anybody who sells oil to Russia, we are going to put a 500-percent tariff on them.

How do you think China will respond to a 500-percent tariff? You think China is going to say: "Oh, we are so sorry. Our bad. We should not trade with Russia, and we will do whatever the U.S. tells us?"

No. They will react like anybody else that is a sovereign nation, and they will push back and they will say: "Hell no. We are not going to stop buying oil and gas from Russia."

Then there will be a 500-percent tariff on China, which means what? An embargo. We have got an embargo the President has already declared on Venezuela.

Do we want an embargo on goods with China? Do we want to defeat China by not trading with them? In fact, I think it is the opposite. I think you defeat and influence China by trading with them.

The moment we have no trade with China, is the moment, in all likelihood, they will say: We have got nothing to lose in going into Taiwan. The moment they go into Taiwan will be when we have absolutely no trade with China.

So it is the opposite. These people want to isolate us—isolate us from trade. They want a trade isolationism throughout the world. It is a mistake and won't work.

It is not that some of the goals or things that they advocate for aren't desirable. I agree, we should try to get China to quit selling dual-use parts to Russia. But guess what. When Secretary Yellen and Secretary Blinken went over there, what did they do? They went over there and publicly chastised China in their country. Do you think that worked? No. That made China mad. They did the opposite.

This is the opposite of diplomacy. If you want diplomacy, you don't call people names, you don't treat them like a stepchild, you don't treat them like a rebellious teenager and say: I am wagging my finger. You better quit selling dual-use parts to Russia.

No. You have to offer them something they want, and in exchange, they do something we want. That is the way diplomacy works. But in Washington, diplomacy works by "We will have a resolution, and this resolution will say how evil China is." It doesn't have any effect.

The sanctions haven't worked, taking Russia's money is not going to work, and chastising China is not going to work. If you want to have better relations, you have to have relations where it is a give-and-get relationship. That is what diplomacy is all about.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I think my colleague is confused. This bill would not tell China what to do; it would require sanctions that would prohibit the actions that I outlined about support to Russia. And there aren't any tariffs in this bill.

Again, my colleague is confused.

I don't think giving NVIDIA chips to China is the way to get China to cooperate with the United States. I think developing a relationship where China understands where we are on issues and we understand where they are is important, and that is what this bill is about. It is about helping China to understand that we stand in support of Ukraine and that we don't support China providing weapons and keeping Russia's war machine going.

So I am afraid my colleague from Kentucky is interested in appeasement rather than interested in trying to solve the issues.

We will come back to the floor and continue to try to raise these issues because it is important for Ukraine to understand that there are Members in this Congress who believe we need to support them in this unjust war that

Russia started, and Russia is continuing to cause thousands of casualties and millions of dollars in destruction in the country.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RELATING TO "POLICY ON ADHERING TO THE TEXT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and resume consideration of S.J. Res. 82, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 82) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act".

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 82

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 654 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—50

Banks	Cassidy	Daines
Barraso	Cornyn	Ernst
Blackburn	Cotton	Fischer
Boozman	Cramer	Graham
Britt	Crapo	Grassley
Budd	Cruz	Hagerty
Capito	Curtis	Hawley

Hoehen	McConnell	Schmitt
Husted	McCormick	Scott (FL)
Hyde-Smith	Moody	Scott (SC)
Johnson	Moran	Sheehy
Justice	Moreno	Sullivan
Kennedy	Mullin	Thune
Lankford	Paul	Tuberville
Lee	Ricketts	Wicker
Lummis	Risch	Young
Marshall	Rounds	

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 82) was rejected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we are getting ready to turn the page into 2026, which is hard to process in some ways because so much has happened in 2025.

I have a habit when I approach the end of the year to look back and also take a quick look forward where things might be going. But just thinking about this year, we have had more votes in this body this year than any Senate since 1976. We have been in session more days than any Senate in the past 50 years. We actually confirmed more nominations in the first year of a new Presidency than any Senate in decades and decades. It has been a lot of work that has happened in this Chamber this year.

Just reflecting back on that, I see what still needs to be done, but I think there is some benefit just for us to be able to pause for a moment and think about what has already occurred in this incredibly busy year.

We talk a lot about the Working Families Tax Cut Act that we passed this past summer. The regulations are being written out by the IRS and multiple others to be implemented for this coming tax season. But there are so many things that actually went into that, and the debate around it was so noisy, I think people lose track of the things that are actually in it.

I talked to some teachers in Oklahoma who have no idea that next year, when they buy school supplies, they will be able to write off a deduction for the school supplies that they purchase because of the Working Families Tax Cut Act. We are literally treating every classroom as if it is their own small business and they have their own small business expenses. They can deduct from their taxes their expenses from their classroom. That has never happened before, and we think that will be a tremendous gain for classrooms all over the country and will be a direct help to teachers. That was one of many things that were in the bill as well as things like no tax on tips to be able to help service-related employees all over the country and no tax on overtime, which is especially beneficial to our first responders and our law enforcement who work so much overtime, including the Capitol Police who are

right here. There are a lot of overtime hours, and that is going to be a direct help to them.

I was talking to a person at a check-out line not long ago who was a working senior adult. As I am checking out, she said: Hey, that bill that y'all passed? That is going to keep me from paying taxes on my income after Social Security, after I am receiving that, and that is going to be a huge help to me.

She just couldn't thank us enough because, as a working senior, she just needed a little bit of help.

There are so many different things that we were able to get done in that Working Families Tax Cuts bill. We were able to provide a new child tax credit. We were able to provide a tax incentive to businesses that actually provide quality childcare for their employees so that so many employees who want to have their kids near them at work could actually have that opportunity. I am grateful that we are able to do some things that are substantial for a lot of those families.

Within the past hour—it is kind of funny—even just walking the floor on this, I had someone who just made a random comment. They had no idea of my connection to it, but they just made a random comment about a part of the bill that I actually helped author in that Working Families Tax Cuts bill, and that is the area where we deal with full expensing.

If you are not a business owner, you have no idea what that is, but if you own a farm or a ranch or a business, you know exactly what it is. If you have got big capital expenses—think, for a farm or a ranch, a tractor or a truck or think, for manufacturing, a big piece of equipment—when you are able to purchase that, that is a business expense, but in the past, in the Tax Code, you would have to write that business expense off over several years. You do eventually get to write it off, but all of the expense is actually in the first year when you had to buy it. You were prohibited from writing it all off in your first year.

I was able to get that changed in this bill, in the section that I authored, so that those businesses and farmers and ranchers, in the year that they purchase that big equipment, can also write it off on their taxes in that 1 year rather than having to stretch it out over several years. It is exactly the same to the Federal Government as far as income that is coming in as tax revenue to the Federal Government. There is no difference. But to that business and that farm and ranch, it is a huge difference for them.

As for many of those small businesses that have big capital expenses, literally, if they have a big capital expense that year, they also have to go to the bank and borrow money to help pay their taxes that year because it takes several years to be able to depreciate that out. That is gone as of this year. That is no longer going to be an issue.

Literally, every economist has said that it is one of the most significant parts of the bill as far as economic activity across the country because it incentivizes more people to buy another piece of equipment to be able to use. It makes a business more efficient—and guess what. The person who sold them the piece of equipment also gets more business. It literally churns our economy and gets us up into a higher speed economically, providing more jobs and more opportunity for more people.

I also worked a lot on a section of the bill that a lot of people don't talk about, but it is very important to me, and I found it has been very important to a lot of other folks as well in the nonprofit sector.

In 2017, we made a change in the tax law. That change doubled the standard deduction, simplifying the tax filings for about 91 percent of Americans, which is much more straightforward than it used to be. But the tradeoff for that was, if you donated to a nonprofit and you didn't itemize your taxes, that nonprofit donation was no longer tax deductible for you, meaning the top 9 percent of people in the country in income who itemize their taxes get to write off their nonprofit donations, but no one else does. That may not seem like a big deal, but in the past decades, nonprofits have lost \$20 billion—\$20 billion going into nonprofits. That is a very significant issue.

America has three safety nets: The third of those safety nets is government. The first safety net is the family. The second safety net are churches and nonprofits. The third safety net is government. The government can never keep up with all of the issues and the social needs. We have got to have strong families. We have got to have strong churches and nonprofits. They are the ones that are actually taking care of the homeless and the hurting and the hungry. They are the ones who do it every single day. They are the volunteers who are out there who are supported in what they are doing by usually small-dollar donations.

So, as of January 1 of next year, we will have made a permanent change in tax policy to say, if your family donates to a nonprofit of your choice—pick whichever one you want to—if your family donates to a nonprofit, as of next year, you will be able to write off up to \$2,000 of that donation on your taxes whether you itemize or not.

The goal is to have stronger nonprofits, which means more people getting assistance in their communities face to face. The government writes checks. Nonprofits meet people face to face—mentor, help—in a way that the government never can.

So this body made a decision together in their Working Families Tax Cuts Act to say we are going to do something to be able to strengthen our nonprofits all around the country, and I am very proud to be able to be a part of that.

We forget about this, but we started this year by passing a very simple piece of legislation. It says, if someone is illegally present in the country and has committed a crime, if he is arrested, he has to be removed from the country. As strange as it is, that didn't used to be the law. We literally had people arrested who were illegally present in the country. Then they were just released right back out again. Many of those individuals had committed crimes over and over and over, and they were just released again, released again, released again.

This body voted this past January and said that that is not going to ever happen again. We are never going to have individuals who are victims of crime in just this repetitive nature of it over and over again.

We have done a lot to just talk about the value of every single child. This body and my colleagues who are here will know that I speak out often on this issue. I am one of those crazy people who thinks children are valuable—all of them. I don't think some children are valuable and some children are disposable. I think all of them are valuable. So we have done a lot to be able to just talk about this issue and to be able to bring it up.

There are several bills that we have actually worked through, one being the MOMS Act, which bolsters access to resources and assistance to help moms and children thrive.

We have actually tried to work through multiple different things dealing with conscience protections. There is a bill that I have that actually works to protect the conscience rights of those who are in the medical profession and are going through training.

As odd as it sounds right now, in medical training, you are now brought to a point that it is assumed that abortion is going to be part of your medical training unless you opt out of it. Even at that point, they can still bring you in and say: You have got to be able to choose right now.

I can tell you stories of medical students who have actually reached out to our office and said that they literally were brought into an abortion as a part of their medical training and were told, if they left, they would have a mark on their educational record saying that they abandoned the patient. This is even when they had said they did not plan to ever do elective abortions in their practices—ever—and wanted to be able to opt out of it.

Listen, there is a simple way to be able to do this. Change the perspective on it to say that, automatically, everyone is opted out and that, if you wanted to do elective abortions, you would have to choose to opt into that in your residency.

But the abortion folks want to make sure as many people as possible are trained to be able to do elective abortions because they want to keep that going—violating the conscience rights of many people who go into medicine

to save life, not to take it. So we are working through the process to be able to now protect that.

CINDY HYDE-SMITH, the great Senator from Mississippi, and I are working on a bill called the RESTORE Act to deal with infertility issues and to be able to find multiple different ways to walk alongside families.

We have a bill that deals with pastors and nonprofits that have been targeted by the IRS for simply speaking their minds. It should not be so in America.

Senator JACKY ROSEN, my Democrat colleague from Nevada, and I lead the anti-Semitism task force here in the Senate. Anti-Semitism should not be a partisan issue—it should be a non-partisan issue—and it should not be a part of who we are in America. The problem is we have rising anti-Semitic conversation happening all around our Nation right now from the left and from the right, and it is disheartening in a nation that values every single person.

Of the many people who actually speak out openly about diversity in our Nation and about protecting the rights and opportunities of every person no matter where they are from—for them to have equal opportunity and an equal ability to be able to rise—they seem to have no problem, at times, ranting anti-Semitic tropes, sometimes flip-pantly and sometimes in a hostile way.

We have had folks just during this year, in public settings, talking about how much they love Hitler or making jokes about the gas chambers. We have folks talking about organized Jewry or folks talking about, if you support Israel, maybe you have some kind of brain virus. We have folks chanting “from the river to the sea” and “liberation by any means.” On a college campus even this year, a Jewish student was confronted with someone saying: If I see another pig female Jew, I will drag you away, rape you, and throw you off a cliff.

This is the United States of America. We stand for the rights of every individual to have any faith of their choosing and to live that faith openly and without fear. So why is it that, when I go to Hanukkah festivals, there have to be so many police there? Do you know why? It is because some people hear these dumb statements and they do dumb things. Acts of violence come out of that.

Just this year, we had two Israeli Embassy staff members who were murdered while they walked out of an event here in Washington, DC—just this year. Just this year, we had, in Boulder, CO, a gathering of folks there just to stand in support of Israel, and someone came by with incendiary devices and literally set a group of Jewish people peacefully speaking out for Israel—they set them on fire in the street. Just this year, a Chabad Jewish center was set on fire overnight in Florida. That is in our country. I could go on and on—not to mention the incredibly painful first day of Hanukkah with the attack in Sydney, Australia.

Anti-Semitism has no place in our Nation. Now, I understand you have a First Amendment right to be able to say any dumb thing that you want to say, but I also have the right to call it out for what it is. It is anti-Semitic hatred. Don't try to shape it in some way to say: This is my right to be able to speak out.

It is. It is also my right to call it out and say: In my party, as a Republican, we have no place for anti-Semitic hatred. In our Nation, we should make no space for someone to be able to intimidate someone because of their faith or their background no matter who they are.

This year—this year—we were able to pass a bill assisting rural hospitals with \$50 billion—\$50 billion. I don't know what the rural hospitals are like in everybody else's State, but I can tell you what they are like in Oklahoma. They take care of some great people. They are dedicated folks in the medical profession, but they struggle because they don't have a high patient count. They are not trying to do intricate surgeries; they are trying to help someone who just got hit on the road in an accident or to help someone who had a heart attack or someone who had a stroke. They are trying to stabilize them and to help them. Yes, they are going to transfer them to a big hospital somewhere else, but they are desperately needed all across rural Oklahoma. They really struggle to keep up because of the incredible price of medical technology now. So we just passed a bill dealing with \$50 billion to be able to help rural hospitals all over the country get caught up and then to be able to maintain what they are doing.

We were able to help rural nursing homes as well, rural nursing homes that were actually facing a Biden-era rule that Biden-era folks—they told me they meant well by it, but basically they were requiring a bunch of additional 24-hour nursing assistants and nurses to be able to be on sight at any point in those nursing homes.

Now, that sounds like a great idea, but understand that there are physically not that many nurses that live in rural areas across the country. What that really was going to mean—although they seem to have meant well, what that really meant was they were going to close down a bunch of rural nursing homes all over my State, distancing people at one of the most vulnerable moments of life away from their families. That is a terrible idea.

This body was able to flip that and say: We are not going to allow that to be able to happen. We are going to change that to where that is different.

This body just passed the national defense authorization. Thankfully, we have now gone six decades, and every single year, we have passed it.

In my State, we were able to do several things to be able to make sure we are protecting national security in the work we continue to do in Oklahoma.

Tinker Air Force Base is the largest Air Force depot we have in the coun-

try. It is critical for the maintenance of all those aircraft and the strength of our warfighters.

Tinker Air Force Base has struggled with civilian hiring—we have thousands of people there—not because we don't have great Oklahomans that want to serve our Nation as a civilian at Tinker Air Force Base but because of foolish hiring rules that were set aside and created that slowed down the process of hiring.

In the national defense authorization, I was able to put in an amendment to be able to get that changed so that we are able to actually do the civilian hiring that our Nation requires so that we can actually continue to be able to defend ourselves and our Nation anywhere in the world.

We want to make it very clear that we have the most lethal, most moral fighting force in the history of the world, and we want to make sure we are strong and ready enough that no one ever would challenge us—ever. That is what brings us greater national security.

This year, in a moment probably no one here saw—and that is OK. We all have different issues in our States. In a solemn moment in April of this year, we gathered on the Capitol grounds right over there, around the enormous, 100-year-old trees that are planted all over the Capitol grounds, and we were able to plant a tiny, little live oak. Most folks probably won't even notice, but you will. Next to that little live oak—it is just about that tall now—is a little plaque saying it is a seedling from the Oklahoma City Survivor Tree.

Thirty years ago this past April, a person with deep hatred for the Federal Government drove up to the Federal building in Oklahoma City with a truck loaded with fertilizer and diesel fuel, ignited it, and killed 168 people that day. It was 30 years ago this year.

Across the street from the Federal building there was a tree that was just a gangly little tree that was in a parking lot, quite frankly, growing up through the asphalt. The detonation itself literally twisted the tree across the street and blew every single leaf off of it—literally blew every single one of them off of it.

No one paid any attention to that. Obviously, through the recovery and all that happened in trying to recover families, taking care of people, and trying to stabilize the community, no one really noticed until the next year, literally a year later, that that twisted, bent tree budded. It survived that blast, and it has become the signature of Oklahoma City, the Survivor Tree. It is still doing well, by the way.

A seed pod was taken from that tree, was grown in some soil, and then it was transplanted here to the Capitol grounds so that every person that walks past it for centuries from now will walk past and see that little plaque and remember those who were lost and those who survived and those who were changed forever in April of 1995.

We have to do that this year because we never want to forget.

We have gotten a lot done this year. There is still a lot more to do next year. We have to finish appropriations, we have a lot of work to do on housing costs, we have a lot of other bills that are still pending, but we have been able to accomplish much.

I understand full well that we are divided. I understand full well that we don't agree on everything. I get that. But where we can find agreement, let's get moving. Let's solve the issues.

One last thing. Many folks in this body know my friend Jim Inhofe. Jim Inhofe served in this body literally for decades. He used to sit right there.

Jim Inhofe and I several years ago worked on a new formula for veterans hospitals—to partner a veterans hospital with another hospital so they would share resources. So the veterans hospital would never have to keep up with other hospitals; they could share resources and physicians in a brandnew way.

It had never been done quite like this before. We were able to partner together to be able to do that in Tulsa, OK, where Oklahoma State hospital and a new veterans hospital would rise up right in conjunction with it so that the best researchers, the best equipment, the best physicians could share that space back and forth so that our veterans would never hear someone say “Well, we are going to have to send you to a different VA hospital, a different place, to be able to get that type of care.” They could get it right there at home.

It is a new model. I am pleased the Veterans' Committee and other leadership, including my colleague JERRY MORAN, who is sitting on the floor today, were a part of it.

For Jim and I to be able to work through that process was an honor, for us to be able to get that in Tulsa.

Never did I ever think that a couple of years later—this year—I would be dedicating that hospital as the James Mountain Inhofe Tulsa Veterans Medical Center after my friend Jim Inhofe passed away. That hospital that he and I worked together on now bears his name.

Veterans, in the days ahead, will continue to get quality care in Northeast Oklahoma from the legacy of Jim Inhofe but also from the commitment of this body to say that we are going to do what it takes to take care of our veterans, as we continue to do.

I am grateful to this body for the work that we get done because it matters to people, but we have lot more to do, so let's get after it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, first, before I make the remarks I would like to make, let me commend my colleague from Oklahoma Mr. LANKFORD for his comments. I have said this to my colleagues, Republican and Democrat, and

I would join in this call for getting things done.

A message that I have tried to make clear is that many of us, most of us, perhaps all of us are away from home, away from family. We come to Washington, DC. And in much of my life, I felt guilty about being gone from things at home. That sense of regret about being absent to family, to kids, to wife, is somewhat compensated for in the service that comes from this, serving in the U.S. Senate, from public service. But unless we actually accomplish things, it is hard to justify the sadness that comes, the challenges that come, the absence of fulfilling responsibilities that occur in our lives if we are here without accomplishments.

As Senator LANKFORD made so clear, it doesn't always have to be the biggest things or the things that are thought of to be the biggest; it could be things that are in many ways, in people's minds, the modest or small things. But I can't imagine that anybody in the U.S. Senate or Congress or public service or in jobs that are demanding would do so if they didn't think there was a goal accomplished at the end of their time.

We all ought to take to heart what the Senator from Oklahoma said about getting things done. It can help us justify being away from those we love so frequently and doing something that actually matters to America and the world.

We don't—certainly we shouldn't—come here for purposes of the name on the door or a nice desk in a big office or for the camaraderie or to be able to call yourself a U.S. Senator. Those things are absolutely meaningless. But if we can find the common denominator between Republicans and Democrats, between individuals from different States and different parts of the country; if we can find the common denominator between people who have different ideas and political philosophies, the U.S. Senate should be a place that is designed to pull people together, to bring us together so that those accomplishments occur.

I commend my colleague from Oklahoma as a Senator who has accomplishments and works hard to make sure that we all are working together so we all can have accomplishments. I express my gratitude to and respect for the Senator.

REMEMBERING CHARLEY SHOEMAKER

Mr. President, I want to take the moment I have to honor the life and mourn the passing of a Kansan, Charley Shoemaker—someone I knew really well and somebody who was from time to time an adviser to me, particularly on issues related to veterans.

Charley Shoemaker was born and raised in Leavenworth, KS. Charley took Kansas values and hard work and dedicated his service—he took service to heart, and he worked hard on behalf of other people—especially veterans—throughout his life.

He served in the U.S. Army, sacrificing for his country and defending

freedom in Vietnam. Following his departure from the Army, Charley met his wife Roberta in Leavenworth, where they raised their children and would enjoy 44 years of marriage together.

Charley's dedication to his fellow servicemembers continued well after his time and well after the time that Active Duty came to an end. Charley found the VFW or the VFW found Charley—I am not sure which, but they became integrally engaged and involved with each other. He was so involved in his local VFW post in Leavenworth, he served in many positions throughout his time as a member.

Charley began his leadership role as the commander of VFW Post 56 but would go on to serve as district manager, Kansas Department commander, Western Conference commander, and VFW councilman for Kansas and Colorado. He later served as VFW national inspector general under national commander B.J. Lawrence.

It was through his service that I came to know Charley. His knowledge, expertise, and passion for improving the lives of other veterans—veterans he knew and veterans he never met—were incredibly valuable to them and valuable to me. He regularly provided me with advice and was part of a group of veterans who met with me to discuss veterans' affairs.

Charley's compassion and his insight into tackling the challenges that veterans face were invaluable to me but so much more valuable to thousands of veterans across Kansas and across our country that he served.

Charley's passion for giving back to his fellow servicemembers and his community led him to give much of his time and energy to volunteering—volunteering each year, for example, for the Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade. He established the Leavenworth County Law Enforcement Awards Dinner to honor those who dedicated their lives in service to their community and their country.

Charley was a light to all who knew him, and he is deeply missed. My prayers are with his sons, Michael, Patrick, Christopher, and Charles; his grandchildren, brothers and sisters, and many nieces and nephews. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Mr. President, I thank you for the opportunity to express my gratitude and respect for Charley—a life well lived.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HUSTED assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The majority leader.

COMMEMORATING 30 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM ON JULY 11, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous

consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 321.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 321) commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 2025.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Merkley-Daines substitute amendment at the desk to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Merkley-Daines substitute amendment at the desk to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 4140) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the significance of the 30th anniversary of normalization of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) the strong and enduring relationship built by the United States and Vietnam based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to peace and prosperity;

(2) honors the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the United States during the past 50 years, including—

(A) their tireless commitment to strengthening ties between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) facilitating reconciliation and economic prosperity between the 2 countries;

(3) honors—

(A) the service of members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, including those who gave their lives in the conflict; and

(B) United States veteran-led initiatives established and dedicated to engaging in reconciliation efforts with the Vietnamese people;

(4) expresses the commitment of the United States to the sustained continuation of funding and operational support to war legacy programs in Vietnam foundational to the bilateral relationship, including—

(A) dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Airport;

(B) unexploded ordnance removal;

(C) support for persons with disabilities;

(D) capacity building in provincial and national efforts on mine action; and

(E) accounting for Vietnamese missing and fallen soldiers from the war;

(5) acknowledges the significant progress in various areas of bilateral cooperation, including political and diplomatic relations, trade and economic ties, defense and security, and people-to-people exchanges, including the United States-supported Fulbright University, Vietnam's first independent non-profit higher education institution;

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to sustaining and building on the partnership officially established in the

U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in September 2023, underscored by the fundamental principles guiding the bilateral relationship, including respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and

(7) expresses—

(A) the determination of the United States to continue strengthening cooperation with Vietnam across sectors; and

(B) the vital importance of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam to addressing shared challenges and promoting continued peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

The resolution (S. Res. 321), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4141), in the nature of a substitute, to the preamble was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, since the end of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have resettled in and built vibrant communities across the United States, which contribute to the rich diversity of our Nation;

Whereas joint efforts across the administrations of President Ronald Reagan and President George H. W. Bush to address questions surrounding United States servicemembers missing in action (MIA) set the foundation for the normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and Vietnam;

Whereas, between 1991 and 1993, the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs of the Senate conducted public hearings and issued an extensive report on prisoner of war (POW) and MIA issues, helping to lay the domestic political foundation for subsequent breakthroughs in United States-Vietnam relations;

Whereas efforts to identify and return the remains of service members missing in action on both the United States and Vietnamese sides, alongside unexploded ordnance removal, dioxin remediation, disability programs supporting survivors impacted by these war remnants, and efforts to continue public education on these topics have contributed to ongoing war legacy programs, which are a vital component of the bilateral relationship between Vietnam and the United States;

Whereas section 521 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236) expressed the Senate's support for the normalization of relations with Vietnam and sent an important political signal to the Executive branch on moving ahead with diplomatic normalization;

Whereas, on February 4, 1994, President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo, which had been in place since the end of the Vietnam War, paving the way for the announcement of a normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 1995;

Whereas significant progress has been made in the bilateral relationship since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam, leading to cooperation between the governments and peoples of the United States and Vietnam in an array of areas, extending to political, economic, and cultural ties;

Whereas, in January of 2001, Congress passed the bipartisan Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of Public Law 106-554) to promote reconciliation between the United States and Vietnam through an international exchange program between the 2 countries, which allowed

Vietnamese nationals to pursue advanced studies in the United States and United States citizens to teach in the fields of science, mathematics, medicine, and technology in Vietnam;

Whereas, in September and October of 2001, respectively, the House of Representatives and the Senate approved measures to implement a bilateral trade agreement negotiated during the Presidency of Bill Clinton, which was subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 3, 2001;

Whereas, in December 2006, Congress granted permanent normal trade relations status to Vietnam under title IV of division D of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432);

Whereas, on July 25, 2013, President Barack Obama and Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang agreed to establish a comprehensive partnership between Vietnam and the United States based on the principles of respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, respect for political institutions, independence and sovereignty, and each other's territorial integrity;

Whereas, on May 23, 2016, President Barack Obama announced the removal of remaining United States restrictions on the sale of lethal weapons and related services to Vietnam, following President George W. Bush's 2007 decision to permit case-by-case sales of nonlethal defense items and defense services and President Obama's 2014 decision to partially ease United States restrictions on the transfer of lethal weapons and articles to Vietnam;

Whereas President Donald Trump became the first United States President to visit Vietnam twice in one presidential term, including a November 2017 state visit during which President Trump and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang—

(1) concluded a 3-year Plan of Action for Defense Cooperation to increase bilateral naval activities;

(2) agreed on the first visit of a United States aircraft carrier (the USS Carl Vinson) to Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War;

(3) reaffirmed the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight, and unfettered commerce in the South China Sea and a bilateral commitment to a rules-based approach to resolving maritime disputes;

(4) celebrated the conclusion of a joint effort to clean dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment in Da Nang, Vietnam;

(5) welcomed the United States' commitment to contribute to dioxin remediation efforts at Bien Hoa Airport; and

(6) pledged to increase bilateral trade and investment relations, including \$12,000,000,000 in commercial agreements;

Whereas, on September 10, 2023, President Joe Biden and General Secretary Nguyen Phú Trọng issued a Joint Communiqué that—

(1) upgraded the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

(2) celebrated the expansion of dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Air Base, extending the bilateral partnership agreement into 2028, and expanding unexploded ordnance tracking and clearance activities;

(3) recognized considerable progress made in the bilateral relationship in a short, 10-year period; and

(4) underscored fundamental principles guiding United States-Vietnam relations and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity;

Whereas, on October 26, 2025, the United States and Vietnam agreed to a Framework for an Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair and Balanced Trade, which will bolster United

States national and economic security, expand bilateral trade, and strengthen supply chain security;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam have formed a partnership in promoting peace, cooperation, prosperity, and security in the Indo-Pacific region, including by—

(1) recognizing the strategic importance of free and open access to the South China Sea; and

(2) continuing programs initiated during the administrations of President Obama, President Trump, and President Biden to help Vietnam enhance its maritime capabilities;

Whereas, throughout these positive developments, Congress has consistently offered strong bipartisan support for the continuation and eventual completion of war legacy programs in Vietnam as the basis on which the bilateral relationship was established 30 years ago;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam will continue to deepen cooperation in a wide range of areas, including political and diplomatic relations, economic trade and investment, science and technology, education and health, cultural and people-to-people ties, defense and security, regional and global issues, and the promotion and protection of internationally-recognized human rights, to ensure the interests of the people in the United States and in Vietnam and to contribute to peace, stability, cooperation, and prosperity around the world: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 321

Whereas, since the end of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have resettled in and built vibrant communities across the United States, which contribute to the rich diversity of our Nation;

Whereas joint efforts across the administrations of President Ronald Reagan and President George H. W. Bush to address questions surrounding United States servicemembers missing in action (MIA) set the foundation for the normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and Vietnam;

Whereas, between 1991 and 1993, the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs of the Senate conducted public hearings and issued an extensive report on prisoner of war (POW) and MIA issues, helping to lay the domestic political foundation for subsequent breakthroughs in United States-Vietnam relations;

Whereas efforts to identify and return the remains of service members missing in action on both the United States and Vietnamese sides, alongside unexploded ordnance removal, dioxin remediation, disability programs supporting survivors impacted by these war remnants, and efforts to continue public education on these topics have contributed to ongoing war legacy programs, which are a vital component of the bilateral relationship between Vietnam and the United States;

Whereas section 521 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236) expressed the Senate's support for the normalization of relations with Vietnam and sent an important political signal to the Executive branch on moving ahead with diplomatic normalization;

Whereas, on February 4, 1994, President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo, which had been in place since the end of the Vietnam War, paving the way for the announcement of a normalization of relations between

the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 1995;

Whereas significant progress has been made in the bilateral relationship since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam, leading to cooperation between the governments and peoples of the United States and Vietnam in an array of areas, extending to political, economic, and cultural ties;

Whereas, in January of 2001, Congress passed the bipartisan Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of Public Law 106-554) to promote reconciliation between the United States and Vietnam through an international exchange program between the 2 countries, which allowed Vietnamese nationals to pursue advanced studies in the United States and United States citizens to teach in the fields of science, mathematics, medicine, and technology in Vietnam;

Whereas, in September and October of 2001, respectively, the House of Representatives and the Senate approved measures to implement a bilateral trade agreement negotiated during the Presidency of Bill Clinton, which was subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 3, 2001;

Whereas, in December 2006, Congress granted permanent normal trade relations status to Vietnam under title IV of division D of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432);

Whereas, on July 25, 2013, President Barack Obama and Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang agreed to establish a comprehensive partnership between Vietnam and the United States based on the principles of respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, respect for political institutions, independence and sovereignty, and each other's territorial integrity;

Whereas, on May 23, 2016, President Barack Obama announced the removal of remaining United States restrictions on the sale of lethal weapons and related services to Vietnam, following President George W. Bush's 2007 decision to permit case-by-case sales of nonlethal defense items and defense services and President Obama's 2014 decision to partially ease United States restrictions on the transfer of lethal weapons and articles to Vietnam;

Whereas President Donald Trump became the first United States President to visit Vietnam twice in one presidential term, including a November 2017 state visit during which President Trump and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang—

(1) concluded a 3-year Plan of Action for Defense Cooperation to increase bilateral naval activities;

(2) agreed on the first visit of a United States aircraft carrier (the USS Carl Vinson) to Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War;

(3) reaffirmed the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight, and unfettered commerce in the South China Sea and a bilateral commitment to a rules-based approach to resolving maritime disputes;

(4) celebrated the conclusion of a joint effort to clean dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment in Da Nang, Vietnam;

(5) welcomed the United States' commitment to contribute to dioxin remediation efforts at Bien Hoa Airport; and

(6) pledged to increase bilateral trade and investment relations, including \$12,000,000,000 in commercial agreements;

Whereas, on September 10, 2023, President Joe Biden and General Secretary Nguyen Phú Trọng issued a Joint Communiqué that—

(1) upgraded the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

(2) celebrated the expansion of dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Air Base, extending the bilateral partnership agreement into 2028, and expanding unexploded ordnance tracking and clearance activities;

(3) recognized considerable progress made in the bilateral relationship in a short, 10-year period; and

(4) underscored fundamental principles guiding United States-Vietnam relations and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity;

Whereas, on October 26, 2025, the United States and Vietnam agreed to a Framework for an Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair and Balanced Trade, which will bolster United States national and economic security, expand bilateral trade, and strengthen supply chain security;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam have formed a partnership in promoting peace, cooperation, prosperity, and security in the Indo-Pacific region, including by—

(1) recognizing the strategic importance of free and open access to the South China Sea; and

(2) continuing programs initiated during the administrations of President Obama, President Trump, and President Biden to help Vietnam enhance its maritime capabilities;

Whereas, throughout these positive developments, Congress has consistently offered strong bipartisan support for the continuation and eventual completion of war legacy programs in Vietnam as the basis on which the bilateral relationship was established 30 years ago;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam will continue to deepen cooperation in a wide range of areas, including political and diplomatic relations, economic trade and investment, science and technology, education and health, cultural and people-to-people ties, defense and security, regional and global issues, and the promotion and protection of internationally-recognized human rights, to ensure the interests of the people in the United States and in Vietnam and to contribute to peace, stability, cooperation, and prosperity around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the significance of the 30th anniversary of normalization of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) the strong and enduring relationship built by the United States and Vietnam based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to peace and prosperity;

(2) honors the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the United States during the past 50 years, including—

(A) their tireless commitment to strengthening ties between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) facilitating reconciliation and economic prosperity between the 2 countries;

(3) honors—

(A) the service of members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, including those who gave their lives in the conflict; and

(B) United States veteran-led initiatives established and dedicated to engaging in reconciliation efforts with the Vietnamese people;

(4) expresses the commitment of the United States to the sustained continuation of funding and operational support to war legacy programs in Vietnam foundational to the bilateral relationship, including—

(A) dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Airport;

(B) unexploded ordnance removal;

(C) support for persons with disabilities;

(D) capacity building in provincial and national efforts on mine action; and

(E) accounting for Vietnamese missing and fallen soldiers from the war;

(5) acknowledges the significant progress in various areas of bilateral cooperation, including political and diplomatic relations, trade and economic ties, defense and security, and people-to-people exchanges, including the United States-supported Fulbright University, Vietnam's first independent non-profit higher education institution;

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to sustaining and building on the partnership officially established in the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in September 2023, underscored by the fundamental principles guiding the bilateral relationship, including respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and

(7) expresses—

(A) the determination of the United States to continue strengthening cooperation with Vietnam across sectors; and

(B) the vital importance of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam to addressing shared challenges and promoting continued peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 571, 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. 571) remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, 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. 571) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT WILLIAM NATHANIEL HOWARD AND UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT EDGAR BRIAN TORRES-TOVAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 572, 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. 572) 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 servicemembers on December 13, 2025.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 572) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4323, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4323) to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 4323) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETERANS ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT OF 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 276, S. 1383.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1383) to establish the Veterans Accessibility Committee on Equal Access, 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, 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 "Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL ACCESS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs an advisory committee on matters relating to accessibility of the Department for individuals with disabilities.

(2) *DESIGNATION.*—The advisory committee established by paragraph (1) shall be known as the "Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access" (in this section the "Advisory Committee").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) *VOTING MEMBERS.*—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 15 voting members, appointed by the Secretary. In appointing such members, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

(A) Four are veterans with disabilities, including mobility impairment, hearing, visual, and mental or cognitive disabilities.

(B) Four are experts on issues described in subsection (f)(1)(A) or the provisions of law set forth under subsection (f)(1)(B).

(C) Two are employees of the Department, one from the Section 508 Office and one from the Architectural Accessibility Program, or successor programs or offices, who oversee the compliance of the Department with Federal accessibility laws.

(D) Five are representatives nominated by national veterans service organizations that advocate for veterans with physical, sensory, mental, or cognitive disabilities.

(2) *EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.*—The Advisory Committee shall also include four ex officio members (or their designees):

(A) The Under Secretary for Health.

(B) The Under Secretary for Benefits.

(C) The Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs.

(D) The chairperson of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (known as the "Access Board").

(3) *QUALIFICATIONS.*—In selecting members under paragraph (1), in addition to any qualifications described in such paragraph, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that members are selected based on their ability to support the success of the Advisory Committee.

(c) TERMS; VACANCIES.—

(1) *TERMS.*—A member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years. The Secretary may reappoint members to the Advisory Committee for such additional two-year terms as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) *VACANCIES.*—The Secretary shall fill a vacancy in the Advisory Committee in the same manner as the original appointment not later than 180 days after such vacancy occurs.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) *FREQUENCY.*—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less frequently than twice each year.

(2) *SUBCOMMITTEES.*—The Advisory Committee may form subcommittees, which shall meet as often as required.

(3) *QUORUM.*—A majority of the members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(e) *CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.*—The Secretary shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Advisory Committee. If the position of Chairperson or Vice Chairperson becomes vacant, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall select a new Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, as the case may be, not later than 30 days after the date on which the position became vacant.

(f) DUTIES.—

(1) *REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT AND SEEK ADVICE.*—On a regular basis, the Secretary shall consult with and seek the advice of the Advisory Committee—

(A) on improving the accessibility of the Department for individuals with disabilities, including improving—

(i) the accessibility of information of the Department, including electronic information;

(ii) the accessibility of the services and benefits furnished by the Department;

(iii) the accessibility in facilities or on property of the Department;

(iv) the accessibility of facilities of non-Department benefits services providers or health care providers furnishing care or services under programs administered by the Department, including under the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code; and

(v) the acquisition process of the Department to ensure that products and services, including information technology and information and communication technology (as defined in the standards issued by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board pursuant to section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d)), are accessible when purchased; and

(B) for ensuring the compliance of the Department with provisions of law, where applicable, relating to disability and accessibility, including—

(i) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12184 et seq.);

(ii) sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791, 794, and 794d);

(iii) the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note);

(iv) the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 note);

(v) the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-480); and

(vi) such other provisions of Federal law as may be that ensure equal access to Federal properties and facilities, benefits, or services for individuals with disabilities.

(2) *PROVISION OF ADVICE.*—In providing advice to the Secretary, the Advisory Committee shall, focusing on the areas of greatest need for the Department—

(A) assess the disability access needs of veterans, the public, and Department employees for full access to the Department's information, services, and benefits by reviewing relevant information, such as filed complaints by people with disabilities or physical assessments of the Department's properties and facilities;

(B) provide assessments of accessibility at the Department and the compliance of the Department with applicable provisions of law relating to disability and accessibility; and

(C) provide advice on improving accessibility at the Department, including the accessibility of all—

(i) communications, including internal and public facing;

(ii) services and benefits; and

(iii) facilities.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) *REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.*—Not later than two years after the date of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, and not less frequently than once every two years thereafter, the Advisory Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report that, focusing on areas of greatest need for the Department—

(i) identifies and assesses access barriers affecting veterans, the public, and employees of the Department;

(ii) determines the extent to which the programs and activities of the Department address the barriers identified in clause (i), including compliance of the Department with provisions of law relating to accessibility law and reporting;

(iii) provides recommendations and access priorities to improve the accessibility of the Department's services, benefits, information, technology, and facilities;

(iv) provides a description of access improvements and assesses the Department's implementation of recommendations from previous reports of the Advisory Committee, including any unmet recommendations that remain necessary for improving accessibility for the Department; and

(v) provides any recommendations for legislation, administrative action, or other actions that the Advisory Committee determines appropriate.

(B) REPORTS TO CONGRESS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the receipt of a report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of such report and any comments and recommendations of the Secretary concerning such report that the Secretary determines appropriate.

(ii) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—The Secretary shall publish on a publicly accessible website of the Department such report and such comments and recommendations as may have been submitted along with such report.

(iii) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this subparagraph, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(I) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives;

(II) the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate; and

(III) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.

(g) ADVISORY COMMITTEE PERSONNEL AND RESOURCE MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—(A) A member of the Advisory Committee who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall not be compensated for the performance of the duties of the Advisory Committee.

(B) Members of the Advisory Committee who are officers or employees of the Federal Government shall not receive additional compensation beyond travel for the performance of the duties of the Advisory Committee.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Advisory Committee.

(3) RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall ensure that such personnel, funding, and other resources are made available to the Advisory Committee as the Secretary determines appropriate to carry out the duties of the Advisory Committee.

(4) INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall furnish to the Advisory Committee such information as the Advisory Committee may request from the Secretary, subject to applicable provisions of law.

(h) TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1383), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING SPOUSE CAREER SERVICES ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous

consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1204 and that 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. 1204) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain spouses eligible for services under the disabled veterans’ outreach program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, 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. 1204) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1204

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 “Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act”.

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES FOR SERVICES UNDER THE DISABLED VETERANS’ OUTREACH PROGRAM.

Section 4103A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and eligible persons” after “eligible veterans”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and eligible persons,” after “Other eligible veterans”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and eligible persons” after “veterans” each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “or eligible person” after “veteran” each place it appears; and

(ii) by inserting “or eligible person’s” after “veteran’s”;

(2) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) by inserting “and eligible persons” after “eligible veterans” each place it appears; and

(B) by striking “non-veteran-related”; and

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

“(e) ELIGIBLE PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘eligible person’ means—

“(1) any spouse described in section 4101(5) of this title; or

“(2) the spouse of any person who died while a member of the Armed Forces.”.

FOCUSED ASSISTANCE AND SKILLS TRAINING FOR VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION SUCCESS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4446 and that 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 (H.R. 4446) to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, 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 (H.R. 4446) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VA BUDGET SHORTFALL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1823 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 (H.R. 1823) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 1823) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETPAC ACT OF 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 279, S. 787.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 787) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, 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 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 “VetPAC Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 120. Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission (in this section referred to as the ‘Commission’).

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 17 members appointed by the Comptroller General of the United States, of which not fewer than 2 shall be veterans.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible for appointment to the Commission under paragraph (1) if the individual has significant expertise in operating or advising large medical systems, including expertise in quality of care, staffing issues, information technology, artificial intelligence in health care, medical supply chains, procurement of medical supplies, medical facility construction or leasing, medical facility architecture or engineering, medical research, and managed care plans and networks.

“(B) EXPERIENCE OF MEMBERS.—In appointing members under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall select individuals from backgrounds that reflect the broad diversity of health care received by veterans, including non-profit health systems, public and private health systems, care furnished by the Veterans Health Administration, and care furnished by the Department of Defense.

“(3) ETHICAL DISCLOSURE.—A member of the Commission shall be considered an employee of Congress whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate for purposes of applying subchapter I of chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, except that a member of the Commission is required to file public financial disclosure reports without regard to their number of days of service or rate of pay.

“(c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

“(1) TERMS.—A member of the Commission shall be appointed under subsection (b)(1) for a term of 5 years, except that the Comptroller General shall designate staggered terms for the members first appointed.

“(2) VACANCIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject to any conditions that applied with respect to the original appointment.

“(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

“(3) EXPIRATION OF TERMS.—The term of any member shall not expire before the date on which the member’s successor takes office.

“(d) MEETINGS.—

“(1) FREQUENCY.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairman, but not less frequently than once per year.

“(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold meetings.

“(e) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Comptroller General shall designate one member of the Commission as Chairman and one member of the Commission as Vice Chairman, at the time of appointment of such member and for the term of appointment of such member, except that in the case of vacancy of the Chairmanship or Vice Chairmanship, the Comptroller General may designate another member for the remainder of that member’s term.

“(f) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—

“(1) REVIEW.—The Commission shall—

“(A) review operations at the Veterans Health Administration; and

“(B) prepare reports for Congress based on such review, including recommendations to Congress.

“(2) TOPICS TO BE REVIEWED.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1)(A), the Commission shall include periodic reviews of the following, taking into consideration other independent assessments in selecting topics to limit duplicative efforts:

“(A) Information technology infrastructure at medical facilities of the Department, including with respect to electronic health record systems.

“(B) Referrals to care at facilities of the Department and under the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of this title, and factors impacting those referrals.

“(C) Access and wait times at medical facilities of the Department and under the Veterans Community Care Program, including both primary and specialty care, and factors impacting those wait times.

“(D) The quality of health care furnished by the Department and through the Veterans Community Care Program.

“(E) Workforce issues, including workforce performance, recruitment, and retention factors.

“(F) Patient satisfaction and customer service at medical facilities of the Department and through the Veterans Community Care Program.

“(G) The training of health care providers and the standards of care at facilities of the Department and in the Veterans Community Care Program.

“(H) The long-term budgetary outlook of the Veterans Health Administration, as well as key components driving budgetary changes over time.

“(I) Procurement of supplies at medical facilities of the Department.

“(J) The research program of the Department, including both internal and external research.

“(K) Hospital construction, leasing, and capital requirements.

“(L) The interaction of care under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the TRICARE program under chapter 55 of title 10, and commercial health care plans with care furnished by the Veterans Health Administration.

“(3) USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the Commission, to the extent practicable, shall use existing data that has been compiled by the Department, compiled for the Department, or purchased by the Department, including—

“(A) data described in subsection (c)(1) of section 1704A of this title; and

“(B) the results of the independent assessments conducted under such section.

“(4) ISSUES REGARDING VETERAN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY GENERALLY.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the Commission shall review the effect of policies under this title on the delivery of health care services to veterans and assess the implications of changes in health care delivery for veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary.

“(5) TRANSMITTAL OF CERTAIN REPORTS.—If the Secretary or the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to Congress (or a committee of Congress) a report that is required by law and that relates to policies for health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall transmit a copy of that report to the Commission.

“(6) CONSULTATION AND ADDITIONAL REVIEWS AND STUDIES.—

“(A) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the Commission shall consult periodically with the chairmen and ranking members of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-

erans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding the agenda of the Commission and progress towards achieving that agenda.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS.—The Commission may conduct additional reviews, and may submit additional reports to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives, from time to time on such topics relating to the activities of the Commission as may be requested by the Chairman and members and as the Commission determines appropriate.

“(C) SPECIAL STUDIES.—The Commission may conduct special studies requested by the chairman or ranking member of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate or the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and as the Commission determines appropriate.

“(7) COORDINATION.—In carrying out reviews, preparing reports, and conducting studies under this section, the Commission shall, to the extent practicable, coordinate with the Inspector General of the Department to ensure the work of the Commission does not interfere with investigations or remediations underway by the Inspector General.

“(8) BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS.—Before making any recommendations to Congress, the Commission shall examine the budget consequences of such recommendations, directly or through consultation with appropriate expert entities.

“(9) REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—By not later than March 15 of each year, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report containing the results and recommendations from the review conducted under paragraph (1).

“(B) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—A recommendation may be included in a report under subparagraph (A) if a simple majority of the members of the Commission vote to include the recommendation in the report.

“(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

“(A) employ and fix the compensation of an Executive Director (at a rate of pay not greater than that provided for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5) and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission, without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service;

“(B) seek such assistance and support as may be required in the performance of its duties from appropriate departments and agencies of the United States or departments or agencies of a State;

“(C) enter into contracts or make other arrangements, as may be necessary for the conduct of the work of the Commission (without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 6101));

“(D) make advance, progress, and other payments that relate to the work of the Commission;

“(E) provide transportation and subsistence for individuals serving the Commission without compensation; and

“(F) prescribe such rules and regulations as the Commission determines necessary with respect to the internal organization and operation of the Commission.

“(2) DATA COLLECTION.—In order to carry out its functions, the Commission shall—

“(A) utilize existing information, both published and unpublished, if possible, collected and assessed either by its own staff or under other arrangements made in accordance with this section;

“(B) carry out, or award grants or contracts for, original research and experimentation, if existing information is inadequate; and

“(C) adopt procedures allowing any interested party to submit information for use by the Commission in making reports and recommendations.

“(3) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure directly from any relevant department or agency of the United States health care information the Chairman determines would be helpful to enable the Commission to carry out this section.

“(B) TIMING.—Upon request of the Chairman, the head of a department or agency of the United States shall furnish information requested under subparagraph (A) to the Commission on an agreed upon schedule or not later than 180 days after the date of the request.

“(h) COMPENSATION.—

“(1) MEMBERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—While conducting the business of the Commission (including travel time), a member of the Commission shall be entitled to compensation at the per diem equivalent of the rate provided for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.

“(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While conducting the business of the Commission away from home and the regular place of business of the member, a member may be allowed travel expenses, as authorized by the Chairman.

“(2) PHYSICIAN COMPARABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR PERSONNEL.—The Commission may provide a physician comparability allowance to physicians serving as personnel of the Commission in the same manner as physicians of the Federal Government may be provided such an allowance by an agency under section 5948 of title 5, and for such purpose, subsection (i) of such section shall apply to the Commission in the same manner as it applies to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

“(3) TREATMENT OF PERSONNEL.—For purposes of pay (other than pay of members of the Commission) and employment benefits, rights, and privileges, all personnel of the Commission shall be treated as if they were employees of the United States Senate.

“(i) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—An employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement and without interruption or loss of civil service status or privileges.

“(j) ACCESS OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AGENCIES TO INFORMATION.—The Commission shall provide to the Comptroller General, the Congressional Research Service, and the Congressional Budget Office unrestricted access to all deliberations, records, and nonproprietary data of the Commission not later than 30 days after such access is requested.

“(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—The Commission shall submit requests for appropriations in the same manner as the Comptroller General submits requests for appropriations, but amounts appropriated for the Commission shall be separate from amounts appropriated for the Comptroller General.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 119 the following new item:

“120. Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission.”.

(c) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 280 days after the date on which amounts are first appropriated to the Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission established under section 120 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall make initial appointments of members to the Commission under subsection (b)(1) of such section.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the Moran amendment to the substitute, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute amend-

ment, as amended, be 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 4142) was agreed to as follows:

On page 27, strike lines 8 through 17 and insert the following:

“(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Commission shall submit requests for appropriations in the same manner as the Comptroller General submits requests for appropriations, but amounts appropriated for the Commission shall be separate from amounts appropriated for the Comptroller General.”.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 787), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 787

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 “VetPAC Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 120. Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission (in this section referred to as the ‘Commission’).

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 17 members appointed by the Comptroller General of the United States, of which not fewer than 2 shall be veterans.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible for appointment to the Commission under paragraph (1) if the individual has significant expertise in operating or advising large medical systems, including expertise in quality of care, staffing issues, information technology, artificial intelligence in health care, medical supply chains, procurement of medical supplies, medical facility construction or leasing, medical facility architecture or engineering, medical research, and managed care plans and networks.

“(B) EXPERIENCE OF MEMBERS.—In appointing members under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall select individuals from backgrounds that reflect the broad diversity of health care received by veterans, including nonprofit health systems, public and private health systems, care furnished by the Veterans Health Administration, and care furnished by the Department of Defense.

“(3) ETHICAL DISCLOSURE.—A member of the Commission shall be considered an employee of Congress whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate for purposes of applying subchapter I of chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, except that a member of the Commission is required to file public financial disclosure reports without regard to their number of days of service or rate of pay.

“(c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

“(1) TERMS.—A member of the Commission shall be appointed under subsection (b)(1) for

a term of 5 years, except that the Comptroller General shall designate staggered terms for the members first appointed.

“(2) VACANCIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject to any conditions that applied with respect to the original appointment.

“(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

“(3) EXPIRATION OF TERMS.—The term of any member shall not expire before the date on which the member's successor takes office.

“(d) MEETINGS.—

“(1) FREQUENCY.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairman, but not less frequently than once per year.

“(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold meetings.

“(e) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Comptroller General shall designate one member of the Commission as Chairman and one member of the Commission as Vice Chairman, at the time of appointment of such member and for the term of appointment of such member, except that in the case of vacancy of the Chairmanship or Vice Chairmanship, the Comptroller General may designate another member for the remainder of that member's term.

“(f) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—

“(1) REVIEW.—The Commission shall—

“(A) review operations at the Veterans Health Administration; and

“(B) prepare reports for Congress based on such review, including recommendations to Congress.

“(2) TOPICS TO BE REVIEWED.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1)(A), the Commission shall include periodic reviews of the following, taking into consideration other independent assessments in selecting topics to limit duplicative efforts:

“(A) Information technology infrastructure at medical facilities of the Department, including with respect to electronic health record systems.

“(B) Referrals to care at facilities of the Department and under the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of this title, and factors impacting those referrals.

“(C) Access and wait times at medical facilities of the Department and under the Veterans Community Care Program, including both primary and specialty care, and factors impacting those wait times.

“(D) The quality of health care furnished by the Department and through the Veterans Community Care Program.

“(E) Workforce issues, including workforce performance, recruitment, and retention factors.

“(F) Patient satisfaction and customer service at medical facilities of the Department and through the Veterans Community Care Program.

“(G) The training of health care providers and the standards of care at facilities of the Department and in the Veterans Community Care Program.

“(H) The long-term budgetary outlook of the Veterans Health Administration, as well as key components driving budgetary changes over time.

“(I) Procurement of supplies at medical facilities of the Department.

“(J) The research program of the Department, including both internal and external research.

“(K) Hospital construction, leasing, and capital requirements.

“(L) The interaction of care under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the TRICARE program under chapter 55 of title 10, and commercial health care plans with care furnished by the Veterans Health Administration.

“(3) USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the Commission, to the extent practicable, shall use existing data that has been compiled by the Department, compiled for the Department, or purchased by the Department, including—

“(A) data described in subsection (c)(1) of section 1704A of this title; and

“(B) the results of the independent assessments conducted under such section.

“(4) ISSUES REGARDING VETERAN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY GENERALLY.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the Commission shall review the effect of policies under this title on the delivery of health care services to veterans and assess the implications of changes in health care delivery for veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary.

“(5) TRANSMITTAL OF CERTAIN REPORTS.—If the Secretary or the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to Congress (or a committee of Congress) a report that is required by law and that relates to policies for health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall transmit a copy of that report to the Commission.

“(6) CONSULTATION AND ADDITIONAL REVIEWS AND STUDIES.—

“(A) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the Commission shall consult periodically with the chairmen and ranking members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding the agenda of the Commission and progress towards achieving that agenda.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS.—The Commission may conduct additional reviews, and may submit additional reports to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives, from time to time on such topics relating to the activities of the Commission as may be requested by the Chairman and members and as the Commission determines appropriate.

“(C) SPECIAL STUDIES.—The Commission may conduct special studies requested by the chairman or ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate or the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and as the Commission determines appropriate.

“(7) COORDINATION.—In carrying out reviews, preparing reports, and conducting studies under this section, the Commission shall, to the extent practicable, coordinate with the Inspector General of the Department to ensure the work of the Commission does not interfere with investigations or remediations underway by the Inspector General.

“(8) BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS.—Before making any recommendations to Congress, the Commission shall examine the budget consequences of such recommendations, directly or through consultation with appropriate expert entities.

“(9) REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—By not later than March 15 of each year, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report containing the results and recommendations from the review conducted under paragraph (1).

“(B) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—A recommendation may be included in a report under subparagraph (A) if a simple majority of the members of the Commission vote to include the recommendation in the report.

“(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

“(A) employ and fix the compensation of an Executive Director (at a rate of pay not greater than that provided for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5) and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission, without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service;

“(B) seek such assistance and support as may be required in the performance of its duties from appropriate departments and agencies of the United States or departments or agencies of a State;

“(C) enter into contracts or make other arrangements, as may be necessary for the conduct of the work of the Commission (without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 6101));

“(D) make advance, progress, and other payments that relate to the work of the Commission;

“(E) provide transportation and subsistence for individuals serving the Commission without compensation; and

“(F) prescribe such rules and regulations as the Commission determines necessary with respect to the internal organization and operation of the Commission.

“(2) DATA COLLECTION.—In order to carry out its functions, the Commission shall—

“(A) utilize existing information, both published and unpublished, if possible, collected and assessed either by its own staff or under other arrangements made in accordance with this section;

“(B) carry out, or award grants or contracts for, original research and experimentation, if existing information is inadequate; and

“(C) adopt procedures allowing any interested party to submit information for use by the Commission in making reports and recommendations.

“(3) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure directly from any relevant department or agency of the United States health care information the Chairman determines would be helpful to enable the Commission to carry out this section.

“(B) TIMING.—Upon request of the Chairman, the head of a department or agency of the United States shall furnish information requested under subparagraph (A) to the Commission on an agreed upon schedule or not later than 180 days after the date of the request.

“(h) COMPENSATION.—

“(1) MEMBERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—While conducting the business of the Commission (including travel time), a member of the Commission shall be entitled to compensation at the per diem equivalent of the rate provided for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.

“(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While conducting the business of the Commission away from home and the regular place of business of the member, a member may be allowed travel expenses, as authorized by the Chairman.

“(2) PHYSICIAN COMPARABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR PERSONNEL.—The Commission may provide a physician comparability allowance to physicians serving as personnel of the Commission in the same manner as physicians of the Federal Government may be provided such an allowance by an agency under section 5948 of title 5, and for such purpose, sub-

section (i) of such section shall apply to the Commission in the same manner as it applies to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

“(3) TREATMENT OF PERSONNEL.—For purposes of pay (other than pay of members of the Commission) and employment benefits, rights, and privileges, all personnel of the Commission shall be treated as if they were employees of the United States Senate.

“(i) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—An employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement and without interruption or loss of civil service status or privileges.

“(j) ACCESS OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AGENCIES TO INFORMATION.—The Commission shall provide to the Comptroller General, the Congressional Research Service, and the Congressional Budget Office unrestricted access to all deliberations, records, and nonproprietary data of the Commission not later than 30 days after such access is requested.

“(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Commission shall submit requests for appropriations in the same manner as the Comptroller General submits requests for appropriations, but amounts appropriated for the Commission shall be separate from amounts appropriated for the Comptroller General.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 119 the following new item:

“120. Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission.”.

(c) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 280 days after the date on which amounts are first appropriated to the Veterans Health Administration Policy Advisory Commission established under section 120 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall make initial appointments of members to the Commission under subsection (b)(1) of such section.

IMPROVING VETERAN ACCESS TO CARE ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration Calendar No. 272, S. 607.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 607) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an integrated project team to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 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 “Improving Veteran Access to Care Act”.

SEC. 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF AND REPORT ON EFFORTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a plan to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans

Affairs, including improvements for both patients and employees of the Department responsible for scheduling such appointments.

(b) **ELEMENTS OF PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(A) such actions, resources, technology, and process improvements as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure the Department achieves, in a timely manner, improved delivery of health care, access to health care, customer experience and service relating to the receipt of health care, and efficiency with respect to the delivery of health care; and

(B) a proposed schedule and timeline to carry out such plan.

(2) **OBJECTIVES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the plan required by subsection (a) addresses the following objectives:

(i) To develop or continue the development of a scheduling system that enables both personnel and patients of the Department to view available appointments for care furnished by the Department, including primary care, mental health care, and all forms of specialty care.

(ii) To develop or continue the development of a self-service scheduling platform, available for use by all patients of the Department, which shall—

(I) enable such patients to view available appointments and, subject to the method provided under subclause (II), fully schedule appointments for all care furnished by the Department;

(II) if a referral is required for an appointment, provide a method for the patient to request a referral and subsequently book an appointment if the referral is approved; and

(III) provide such patients with the ability to cancel or reschedule appointments.

(iii) To create a process through which all patients of the Department can telephonically speak with a scheduler who can assist the patient to determine appointment availability and can fully schedule appointments on behalf of the patient for all care furnished by the Department.

(iv) To carry out such other functions, oversight, metric development and tracking, change management, cross-Department coordination, and other related matters, including improvements to employee-facing information technology, training, and processes, as the Secretary determines appropriate as it relates to scheduling tools, functions, and operations with respect to health care appointments furnished by the Department.

(B) **EXPLANATION OF INABILITY TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN OBJECTIVES, FEATURES, OR SERVICES.**—If the Secretary determines that an objective under subparagraph (A), or any feature or service in connection with that objective, cannot be implemented or otherwise incorporated into a final product pursuant to the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall include with the plan submitted under such subsection a report containing—

(i) an explanation as to why that objective, feature, or service cannot be implemented or incorporated, as the case may be; and

(ii) a plan for implementing the plan required by subsection (a) without that objective, feature, or service.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than two years after submitting to the appropriate committees of Congress the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall fully implement the plan.

(d) **COORDINATION WITH ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.**—In developing the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the elements and objectives of such plan set forth under subsection (b) are developed in consideration of the deployment schedule and capabilities of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program of the Department to ensure a smooth transition to using the tools and features under such plan as relevant and appropriate.

(e) **IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS.**—Not later than each of one year and two years after the date on which the Secretary submits the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the progress of the Secretary in implementing such plan, including—

(1) the costs incurred to implement the plan as of the date of the report;

(2) the expected costs to complete implementation of the plan (including costs for management and technology);

(3) the schedule for deployment of any capabilities developed pursuant to the plan; and

(4) the goals and metrics achieved, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing the plan.

(f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Secretary to include in the plan required by subsection (a) any technology or process that would preclude or impede the ability of a veteran to contact or schedule an appointment directly with a facility or provider through a non-online scheduling process, should the veteran choose to do so.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **FULLY SCHEDULE.**—The term “fully schedule”, with respect to an appointment for health care, means that the appointment booking is completed, rather than simply requested.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; that the committee-reported title amendment be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 607), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The committee-reported amendment to the title was agreed to as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and implement a plan to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived in relation to the Simmons nomination.

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

VOTE ON EN BLOC NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there no further debate?

If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations provided under the provisions of S. Res. 532?

Mr. THUNE. 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 655 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	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—43

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

NOT VOTING—4

Booker	Smith	Warren
Durbin		

The en bloc nominations were confirmed as follows:

Calendar Number 166: Henry Mack III, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor

Calendar Number 267: James Percival, of Florida, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security

Calendar Number 354: Pedro Allende, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security

Calendar Number 429: Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 430: Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy

Calendar Number 431: Amy Henninger, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense

Calendar Number 432: David Denton, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy

Calendar Number 452: Benjamin Hobbs, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Calendar Number 453: Ronald Kurtz, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Calendar Number 454: Jonathan Burke, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury

Calendar Number 455: Chris Pilkerton, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security

Calendar Number 456: David Courcelle, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years

Calendar Number 461: Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training

Calendar Number 462: Derek Theurer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury

Calendar Number 463: Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury

Calendar Number 465: Crystal Carey, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of four years

Calendar Number 466: Rosario Palmieri, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor

Calendar Number 467: James Murphy, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2027

Calendar Number 468: Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense

Calendar Number 469: Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 470: James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 477: Braden Boucek, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of four years

Calendar Number 478: Dominick Gerace II, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of four years

Calendar Number 479: Jerome Francis Gorgon, Jr., of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years

Calendar Number 480: Bryan Stirling, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years

Calendar Number 481: Thomas Wheeler II, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of four years

Calendar Number 482: Thomas Albus, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of four years

Calendar Number 483: Adam Mildred, of Indiana, to be United States Attor-

ney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of four years

Calendar Number 484: Harry Kumar, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce

Calendar Number 486: Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs

Calendar Number 488: Andrew Veprek, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration)

Calendar Number 489: John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Calendar Number 509: William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration

Calendar Number 510: Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Calendar Number 511: Mitch Graves, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029

Calendar Number 512: Jeff Hagood, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029

Calendar Number 513: Randall Jones, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2028

Calendar Number 514: Arthur Graham, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2026

Calendar Number 516: Douglas Troutman, of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency

Calendar Number 517: Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor

Calendar Number 518: Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense

Calendar Number 520: Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety

Calendar Number 521: Stella Herrell, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

Calendar Number 522: Peter Metzger, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury

Calendar Number 523: Charles Arrington, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term expiring July 1, 2030

Calendar Number 524: Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services

Calendar Number 525: Stephen F. Rickard, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years

Calendar Number 526: Elana S. Suttenger, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Su-

perior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years

Calendar Number 527: John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years

Calendar Number 528: Thomas Ferguson III, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years

Calendar Number 529: Robert Kadlec, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 530: Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 531: Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 532: Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy

Calendar Number 533: David Beck, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration

Calendar Number 534: Charles Young III, of West Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army

Calendar Number 535: Michael Borders, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force

Calendar Number 536: William Lane III, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force

Calendar Number 537: John Noh, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 538: James Caggy, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position)

Calendar Number 539: Timothy Dill, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 540: Michael Payne, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense

Calendar Number 541: Maurice Todd, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 550: Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Calendar Number 551: Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration

Calendar Number 552: Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

Calendar Number 553: Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2028

Calendar Number 554: Trent Morse, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2030

Calendar Number 555: Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring November 30, 2030 (Reappointment)

Calendar Number 556: Paul Hollis, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years

Calendar Number 557: Francis Cassidy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Calendar Number 558: Joseph Gormley, of Maryland, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association

Calendar Number 559: Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years

Calendar Number 561: Jeffrey Goettman, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Africa, Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Environment, Labor, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the Rank of Ambassador

Calendar Number 562: Arjun Mody, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Commissioner Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2031

Calendar Number 563: Julie Callahan, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador

Calendar Number 564: Leo Brent Bozell III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Africa

Calendar Number 565: Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra

Calendar Number 566: Brent Christensen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Calendar Number 567: Morvared Namdarkhan, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs)

Calendar Number 568: Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services

Calendar Number 569: John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture

Calendar Number 570: Andrew Duva, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General

Calendar Number 575: Erin Creegan, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years

Calendar Number 576: Ryan Anthony Kriegshauser, of Kansas, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas for the term of four years

Calendar Number 577: James Kruger, of Mississippi, to be United States At-

torney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of four years

Calendar Number 578: Scott Leary, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of four years

Calendar Number 579: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Calendar Number 580: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2029

Calendar Number 582: Melissa Argyros, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia

Calendar Number 583: Yehuda Kaploun, of Florida, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador

Calendar Number 584: Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru

Calendar Number 585: Darryl Nirenberg, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania

Calendar Number 586: Tammy Bruce, of California, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations; and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

Calendar Number 587: Christopher Yeaw, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Arms Control, Non-proliferation, and Stability)

Calendar Number 588: Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years

Calendar Number 589: Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2029

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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. 560, Joshua Simmons, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Pete Ricketts, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bernie Moreno, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Marsha Blackburn, Tom Cotton, David McCormick, Ted Budd.

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 Joshua Simmons, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 656 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—43

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

NOT VOTING—4

Booker	Smith	Warren
Durbin		

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 43. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joshua Simmons, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 70, 574, and 476, and that the mandatory quorums be waived; further, if cloture is invoked on the nominations individually, all postcloture time be expired, and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations and the Simmons nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than January 5, 2026; finally, if confirmed, 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.

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. 70, Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz, Deb Fischer, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Tim Sheehy, Katie Boyd Britt, Jame E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Jon Husted.

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 Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 657 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Banks	Hagerty	Murkowski
Barrasso	Hoeven	Paul
Blackburn	Husted	Reed
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Britt	Johnson	Risch
Budd	Justice	Rosen
Capito	Kaine	Rounds
Cassidy	Kelly	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	King	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Shaheen
Crapo	Lee	Sheehy
Cruz	Lummis	Sullivan
Curtis	Marshall	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Ernst	McCormick	Tuberville
Fetterman	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young
Graham	Moreno	
Grassley	Mullin	

NAYS—36

Alsobrooks	Hassan	Padilla
Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Collins	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Gallego	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Hawley	Warnock
Durbin	Smith	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. McCORMICK). On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 36.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

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. 574, Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

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 Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 658 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Banks	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moreno
Blackburn	Hassan	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeven	Paul
Budd	Husted	Ricketts
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cassidy	Johnson	Rounds
Collins	Justice	Schmitt
Coons	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	King	Shaheen
Cramer	Klobuchar	Sheehy
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Welch
Fischer	McCormick	Wicker
Graham	Moody	Young

NAYS—35

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kelly	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Schiff
Cantwell	Markey	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Slotkin
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Fetterman	Murray	Warner
Gallego	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Smith	Warren
Durbin	Warnock	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 35. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

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. 476, Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, John Barrasso,

Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz, Deb Fischer, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Tim Sheehy, Katie Boyd Britt, James E. Risch.

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 Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 659 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeben	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
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—7

Booker	Kelly	Whitehouse
Curtis	Smith	
Durbin	Warren	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 42. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, when I became majority leader, I made it very clear that I was committed to funding the government through the regular order consideration of appropriations bills, not through an omnibus or long-term CR, oftentimes written behind closed doors.

The regular order process gives Senators from both parties the fullest chance to make their voices and the voices of their constituents heard, which is why I am disappointed that we will not be moving to our second package of appropriations bills tonight.

Republicans were ready to go, but, unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues are not there yet. Hopefully, they will get there.

Republicans have worked hard all year to get us back to taking up appropriations bills through regular order. We had a positive start with the Senate passing three appropriations bills before the August State work period, something that hadn't been done here since 2018.

Then we hit a setback when Democrats decided to shut the government down for 6 weeks. That was disappointing, obviously.

But I want this body to know that I remain as committed as ever to funding the government through the regular order process. And when we come back, after the holidays, we are going to redouble our efforts to get this government funded and prevent any repeat of the Democratic shutdown.

I hope that my Democrat colleagues will join us. I hear them speaking to that effect, and I will take them at face value. And I hope that we can work together to fund the government in the way it should be funded, through regular order and the appropriations process.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. 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.

NOMINATIONS EN BLOC

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, while I voted No on S. Res. 532, which calls for an up or down vote on 97 nominations, en bloc, I would have voted yea on the following nominations if I had the opportunity to vote on each nomination separately:

1. Calendar Number 429: Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

2. Calendar Number 430: Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

3. Calendar Number 431: Amy Henninger, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

4. Calendar Number 432: David Denton, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

5. Calendar Number 454: Jonathan Burke, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury.

6. Calendar Number 461: Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

7. Calendar Number 470: James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

8. Calendar Number 478: Dominick Gerace II, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years.

9. Calendar Number 479: Jerome Francis Gorgon, Jr., of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of 4 years.

10. Calendar Number 480: Bryan Stirling, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of 4 years.

11. Calendar Number 518: Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense.

12. Calendar Number 522: Peter Metzger, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

13. Calendar Number 524: Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services.

14. Calendar Number 525: Stephen F. Rickard, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

15. Calendar Number 526: Elana S. Suttenger, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

16. Calendar Number 527: John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

17. Calendar Number 529: Robert Kadlec, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

18. Calendar Number 530: Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

19. Calendar Number 531: Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

20. Calendar Number 532: Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

21. Calendar Number 533: David Beck, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

22. Calendar Number 535: Michael Borders, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

23. Calendar Number 536: William Lane III, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

24. Calendar Number 538: James Caggy, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. (New Position)

25. Calendar Number 539: Timothy Dill, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

26. Calendar Number 540: Michael Payne, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense.

27. Calendar Number 541: Maurice Todd, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

28. Calendar Number 551: Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

29. (66) Calendar Number 552: Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

30. Calendar Number 553: Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

31. Calendar Number 555: Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring November 30, 2030. (Reappointment)

32. Calendar Number 565: Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra.

33. Calendar Number 566: Brent Christensen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

34. Calendar Number 567: Morvared Namdarkhan, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs).

35. Calendar Number 575: Erin Creegan, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of 4 years.

36. Calendar Number 578: Scott Leary, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years.

37. Calendar Number 582: Melissa Argyros, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia.

38. Calendar Number 583: Yehuda Kaploun, of Florida, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador.

39. Calendar Number 584: Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru.

40. Calendar Number 585: Darryl Nirenberg, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

41. Calendar Number 587: Christopher Yeaw, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Stability).

42. Calendar Number 588: Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of 4 years.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all

Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-79, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Lebanon for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$34.5 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-79, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Lebanon for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$34.5 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-79, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Lebanon for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$34.5 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-79

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Lebanon.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$31.0 million.

Other \$3.5 million.

Total \$34.5 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales

(FMS) case LE-B-UAH was below congressional notification threshold at \$12.26 million (\$10.85 million in major defense equipment) and included fifty M1151A1 High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs). The Government of Lebanon has requested that the case be amended to include an additional ninety M1151A1 HMMWVs. This amendment thus exceeds the notification threshold, therefore notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred forty (140) M115A1 high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWVs).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: RF-7850M-HH multiband handheld radio; Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver; Quicklook electronic counter-countermeasures (ECCM) waveform; spare parts, repair parts, publications and technical documentation; training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (LE-B-UAH).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 16, 2025.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-10, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100.2 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of

this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

—
DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-10, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100.2 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

—
DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-10, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100.2 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

—
TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-10

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$100.2 million.
Total \$100.2 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: Follow-on technical support of Aegis class destroyers, to include Combat Systems Sea Qualification Trials (CSSQT); test and evaluation services; sustainment support and services; Aegis computer software updates; systems integration and testing, in-country and on-site engineering support; all necessary emergent engineering and technical support services; familiarization, operational support; system overhauls; system upgrades; on-the-job practical operations and maintenance; combat systems integration; development, testing, and installation of program patches; adaptation data and annual service agreements; fielding technical inquiries by the purchaser; operational integration and maintenance support; field service engineering; problem investigation; technical assistance; support solutions to technical problems arising from post-production; testing

capabilities; supporting U.S. Government contractors and technical engineers; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (JA-P-QQU).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: JA-P-QCX; JA-P-QEZ; JA-P-QKW; JA-P-QPI.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 16, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—Aegis Class Destroyer Support

The Government of Japan has requested to buy follow-on technical support of Aegis class destroyers, including Combat Systems Sea Qualification Trials (CSSQT); test and evaluation services; sustainment support and services; Aegis computer software updates; systems integration and testing, in-country and on-site engineering support; all necessary emergent engineering and technical support services; familiarization, operational support; system overhauls; system upgrades; on-the-job practical operations and maintenance; combat systems integration; development, testing, and installation of program patches; adaptation data and annual service agreements; fielding technical inquiries by the purchaser; operational integration and maintenance support; field service engineering; problem investigation; technical assistance; support solutions to technical problems arising from post-production; testing capabilities; supporting U.S. Government contractors and technical engineers; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100.2 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific.

The proposed sale will improve Japan's capability to meet current and future threats by ensuring Japan Maritime Self Defense Force's (JMSDF) Aegis fleet remains ready to provide critical capabilities in the defense of Japan. Specifically, the requested CSSQT services will provide JMSDF with capability support that is vital to the effective and safe operations of the Aegis Combat Systems (ACS) suite. Japan continues to modernize its fleet to support Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) roles and special mission requirements. The JMSDF Aegis Fleet will fulfill Japan's mission goal of acquiring and maintaining their Aegis capable ships and will further enhance interoperability with the U.S. Navy, build upon a long-standing cooperative effort with the United States, and provide enhanced capability with a valued partner in a geographic region of critical importance to Japan and the U.S. Government. The Aegis destroyers in Japan's fleet afford greater flexibility and capability to counter regional threats and to enhance stability in the region. Japan currently operates Aegis ships, is proficient at using their evolving ballistic missile defense capability, and is effective at employing the AN/SQQ-89A(V)15J undersea warfare combat system for undersea surveillance and detection. Japan will have no difficulty absorbing these services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Corporation, located in Moorestown, NJ. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Japan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-10

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Aegis Weapon System (AWS) is a multi-mission combat system providing Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) for surface ships. The follow-on technical support includes Combat System Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT) test and evaluation (T&E) services, and software in support of AWS Baseline 9 with integrated Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD).

2. The CSSQT services for Japan's Aegis System Equipped Vessels (ASEV) are critical to ensuring that the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force's (JMSDF) Aegis destroyer fleet remains ready to provide critical capabilities in the defense of Japan. Specifically, the requested CSSQT services provide the JMSDF with capability support vital to the effective and safe operations of the Aegis Combat Systems (ACS) suite.

3. The Aegis CSSQT services facilitate Japan's MSDF's multi-mission Aegis destroyers' ability to meet readiness and operational requirements to include Ballistic Missile Defense, Air Defense Warfare (ADW), surface warfare (SUW), Naval Gun Fire Support (NGFS), AntiSubmarine Warfare (ASW), and electronic warfare (EW) missions. CSSQT includes in-port assessment of shipboard systems, Waterfront Integration Testing (WIT), CSSQT-specific training, and installation of telemetry and support equipment. It also includes at-sea support of the range, target launch/recovery, and boat and aircraft services at Oahu Operation Area and Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) in Kauai, Hawaii.

4. The at-sea CSSQT events provide tracking and live-fire events of ADW, including IAMD, SUW, Undersea Warfare (USW), EW, and Command, Control, and Communications (CCC).

5. After completing CSSQT events, the USN will analyze data and deliver a final report to document system performance during CSSQT. ADW live fire events will use Standard Missile SM-2, SM-6, and Enhanced Sea Sparrow Missile (ESSM) from JMSDF inventory. SUW and ASW live fire events will use JMSDF inventory of gun ammunition and torpedoes.

6. The CSSQT Services do not provide specific technology to Japan. The test scenarios developed are based on the capabilities included in the ACS suite.

7. Japan currently operates eight Aegis destroyers with BMD capability. Japan signed a General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), and continues to make progress in safeguarding information. Japan was the first foreign customer to purchase the AWS and is the only foreign customer with Aegis BMD capability. Japan has scrupulously complied with end use monitoring requirements and there is no evidence of physical tampering or compromise of hardware since Japan first purchased the AWS in the early 1990s. Japan currently operates, maintains, and supports the BMD capability in four Kongo class destroyers, two

Atago class destroyers, and two Maya class destroyers, demonstrating a high level of readiness and proficiency. Japan has completed CSSQTs on all previous Aegis equipped ships.

8. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

9. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

10. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released by the U.S. Government. The sale is necessary in the furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

11. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Japan.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 26-0A. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-10 of April 3, 2018.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as

amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 26-0A. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-10 of April 3, 2018.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 26-0A. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-10 of April 3, 2018.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-0A

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Slovakia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-10; Date: April 3, 2018; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On April 3, 2018, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 18-10 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of fourteen (14) F-16 Block 70/72 V configuration aircraft; up to sixteen (16) F-16 F110 General Electric or F100 Pratt & Whitney engines; fifteen (15) M61A1 Vulcan 20mm guns; sixteen (16) APG-83 active electronically scanned array (AESA) radars; fourteen (14) modular mission computers; fourteen (14) LINK-16 multifunctional information distribution system—joint tactical radio system (MIDS-JTRS) secure communication systems; sixteen (16) LN260 embedded global positioning system inertial navigation systems (EGI); fourteen (14) joint helmet mounted cueing systems; fourteen (14) improved programmable display generators (iPDGs); thirty (30) AIM-120C7 air-to-air missiles; one hundred (100) AIM-9X air-to-air missiles; twelve (12) ATM-9X captive air training missiles, two (2) AIM-120C7; twenty-four (24) AIM-9X additional guidance units; two hundred twenty-four (224) computer control groups and airfoil groups for GBU-12 Paveway II 500 lb guided bomb kits; twenty (20) enhanced computer control groups for enhanced Paveway II (GBU-49); one hundred fifty (150) KMU-572F/B guidance kits for joint direct attack munition (JDAM) 500 lb Guided Bomb (GBU-38); sixty (60) LAU-129 guided-missile launchers; thirty-six (36) MK-82 or BLU-111 500 lb inert fill bomb; four hundred (400) MK-82 or BLU-111 500 lb bomb bodies; four hundred (400) FMU-152 joint programmable fuzes; and six (6) AN/AAQ-33 sniper pods. Also included were fourteen (14) joint helmet mounted cueing system II; fourteen (14) AN/ALQ-213 electronic warfare management systems; sixteen (16) AN/ALQ-211 advanced integrated defensive electronic warfare suites; sixteen (16) AN/ALE-47 countermeasure dispensers; advanced identification friend or foe; secure communications and cryptographic appliques; joint mission planning system; ground training device (flight simulator); electronic combat inter-

national security assistance program support; software and support; facilities and construction support; spares and repair/replace parts; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documentation; missile containers; DSU-38A/B illuminated target detector (GBU-54); munition support and test equipment; aircraft and munition integration and test support; studies and surveys; U.S. government and contractor technical, engineering and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$2.91 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$2.01 billion of this total.

On October 17, 2018, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 18-0H of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the addition of the following MDE items: two (2) F110 General Electric or F100 Pratt & Whitney engines; four (4) iPDG; four (4) modular mission computers; four (4) Link-16 MIDS-JTRS; ninety-six (96) MXU-650C/B airfoil groups; ninety-six (96) MAU-209C/B or MAU-169D computer control groups; twelve (12) guidance units for AIM-9X-2 tactical missiles; and twelve (12) guidance units for AIM-9X-2 captive air training missiles (CATM). The following non-MDE items were also included: thirty (30) CATM-120C; twelve (12) joint helmet mounted cueing systems II; and twenty (20) aviator night vision devices AN/AVS-9. The total cost of the new MDE items was \$30.6 million, and the total cost of the new non-MDE items was \$5.6 million. The total notified cost of MDE increased to \$2.04 billion. The total case value did not increase and remained \$2.91 billion.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: four (4) F-16D Block 70/72 V configuration aircraft without engines; five (5) F110 General Electric or F100 Pratt & Whitney engines (4 installed, 1 spare); five (5) improved programmable display generators (iPDG) (4 installed, 1 spare); twelve (12) AN/AAQ-33 Sniper pods; five (5) embedded global positioning system inertial navigation systems (4 installed, 1 spare); one (1) Small Diameter Bomb increment I (SDB-I) guided test vehicle; one hundred twenty (120) GBU-39 SDB-I; twenty (20) LAU-129 guided missile launchers (16 installed, 4 spares); five (5) M61A1 anti-aircraft guns (4 installed, 1 spare); five (5) APG-83 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars (4 installed, 1 spare); five (5) 7000AH modular mission computers (4 installed, 1 spare); and five (5) Link-16 Multifunctional Information Distribution System—Joint Tactical Radio Systems. The following non-MDE items will also be included: AN/ALQ-254V(1) Viper Shield advanced electronic warfare suites, including lab assets (or equivalent); Infrared Search and Track (IRST) pods and processors; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost of the new items is \$990 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$609.4 million to a revised \$2.65 billion. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$380.6 million to a revised \$1.25 billion. The estimated total case value will increase by \$990 million to a revised \$3.90 billion.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided because the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will improve Slovakia's capability to meet current and future threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet in combat-ready status and providing a credible deterrent to regional threats.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The IRST is a high resolution, passive, infrared sensor system that searches for, detects, and tracks threats with infrared signatures at long ranges within its field of regard. It functions without emitting any radiation of its own and enables aircrews to detect adversaries before those adversaries see or sense them.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to the other items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 16, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith transmittal No. 25-56, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.01 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No.

25-56, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.01 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-56, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.01 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-56

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$1.01 billion.
Total \$1.01 billion.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing and National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy a Tactical Mission Network (TMN).

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: unmanned aerial systems; government and commercial off-the-shelf software; communications equipment; tool kits; test equipment; support equipment; technical documentation; training; spare parts; maintenance; telecommunication hosted/managed services; system security services and engineering support; analysis services; fusion services; safety and range support; cloud engineering support and services; U.S. Government and contractor technical support; engineering and logistics support services; warranty services; Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO); field office support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TW-B-ZFB).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: ZB-B-VFA.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 17, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Tactical Mission Network Software, Equipment, and Services

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy a Tactical Mission Network (TMN). The following non-MDE items will be included: unmanned aerial systems; government and commercial off-the-shelf software; communications equipment; tool kits; test equipment; support equipment; technical documentation; training; spare parts; maintenance; telecommunication hosted/managed services; system security services and engineering support; analysis services; fusion services; safety and range support; cloud engineering support and services; U.S. Government and contractor technical support; engineering and logistics support services; warranty services; Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO); field office support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.01 billion.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's ability to meet current and future threats by enhancing communication and interoperability of its forces. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be selected through competitive procurements conducted by the U.S. Government in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the permanent assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the recipient. Support teams will travel to the recipient on a temporary basis, as required, to provide engineering and technical support services as well as program and technical reviews.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-56

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Tactical Mission Network (TMN) is an enterprise-grade cloud-based communication platform that consists primarily of open-source and commercially available software. Commercial technologies such as Virtual Private Networks, Mobile Device Management, and Endpoint Security Software are used to provide a secure environment. Tactical Mission Networks are generally equivalent to hybrid commercial cloud deployments in their configuration and deployment. The TMN offers applications and services to its users to enable situational awareness, secure communication, file sharing,

video distribution and streaming, and data analysis. Included in this sale are end-user devices, including phones, tablets, and laptop personal computers. This hardware is secured with the latest commercially available security software and endpoint monitoring.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is Controlled Unclassified Information.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-93, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$96 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-93, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$96 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-93, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$96 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-93

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

- (i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).
- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0.
Other \$96 million.
Total \$96 million.
Funding Source: National Funds.
- (iii) Description and Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

- Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.
- Non-Major Defense Equipment: AH-1 W helicopter unclassified spare and repair parts; U.S. Government technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.
- (iv) Military Department: Navy (TW-P-JWM).
- (v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-P-JWI.
- (vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.
- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.
- (viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 17, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—AH-1W Helicopter Spare and Repair Parts
The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy AH-1 W heli-

copter unclassified spare and repair parts; U.S. Government technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$96 million.

The proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by maintaining the operational readiness of the recipient's fleet of AH-1 W helicopters. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be selected through competitive procurements conducted by the U.S. Government in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the recipient.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-108, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei

Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$4.03 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-108, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$4.03 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-108, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$4.03 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-108

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$2.43 billion.

Other \$1.6 billion.

Total \$4.03 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Sixty (60) M109A7 Self-Propelled Howitzers (SPH).

Sixty (60) M992A3 Carrier Ammunition Tracked (CAT) Vehicles.

Thirteen (13) M88A2 Recovery Vehicles.

Four thousand and eighty (4,080) Precision Guidance Kits (PGK).

Forty-two (42) International Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems (IFATDS).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: M2A1 Machine Guns; M2A1 spare barrels; vehicle internal communication systems training; Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) Re-

ceivers (DAGR); M795 High Explosive 155mm projectiles with Composition B; primers; fuzes; propellant charges; technical assistance; accessories; technical data; spare parts; new equipment training; contractor and United States Government services; tool kits; technical manuals; training devices; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TW-B-ZFF).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 17, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—M109A7 Self-Propelled Howitzers

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy sixty (60) M109A7 Self-Propelled Howitzers (SPH); sixty (60) M992A3 Carrier Ammunition Tracked (CAT) Vehicles; thirteen (13) M88A2 Recovery Vehicles (RV); four thousand and eighty (4,080) Precision Guidance Kits (PGK); and forty-two (42) International Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems (IFATDS). The following non-MDE items will also be included: M2A1 Machine Guns; M2A1 Spare barrels; Vehicle Internal Communication Systems training; Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver (DAGR); M795 High Explosive 155mm projectiles; primers; fuzes; propellant charges; technical assistance; accessories; technical data; spare parts; new equipment training; contractor and United States Government services; tool kits; technical manuals; training devices; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$4.03 billion.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's ability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the self-defense of its forces. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be selected through competitive procurements conducted by the U.S. Government in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of fifteen additional U.S. Government and fifteen U.S. contractor representatives to the recipient for a duration of two years to support new equipment training and de-processing.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-108

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M109A7 Self-Propelled Howitzers (SPH) is the sixth product improvement to the original M109 SPH. The M109A7 is an armored, full tracked howitzer and is operated by a crew of four. The M109A7 can receive fire mission, compute firing data, and independently select and take up its firing position. The M109A7 can also automatically unlock and point its cannon, fire, and move without external technical assistance.

2. The M992A3 is a Carrier Ammunition Tracked (CAT) Vehicle. The vehicle provides artillery in the field in support of the howitzer.

3. The M88A2 is a Recovery Vehicle (RV). The vehicle provides a 70-ton capable recovery system in addition to repairing and replacing damaged parts while under fire.

4. The International Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems (IFATDS) is an exportable version of the Army's Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System. IFATDS is a software suite that can be installed on a standard laptop computer using a Windows operating system. IFATDS software provides a fully automated system to help commanders plan, coordinate, control, and execute fires. The system is used for field artillery, mortars, rockets, and close-air support.

5. The Enhanced Portable Inductive Artillery Fuze Setter (EPIAFS) enables GPS guided munitions, such as the PGK, to be fired from the Paladin. The improved Platform Integration Kit, a subsystem of the EPIAFS, stores and transfers the cryptographic keys for the PGK's GPS receiver.

6. IFATDS software accepts location (latitude, longitude, elevation), movement (direction, speed), and target type (personnel, armored vehicle, wheeled vehicle, reinforced site, etc.) data from a variety of sensors (soldiers, laser range finders, counter fire radar systems, etc.). The system uses this data to recommend type and means of artillery, mortar, and rocket munitions with which to attack the target. The software also provides commanders and staff with planning capabilities to pre-position and pre-plan target attacks in advance of military operations. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific coding, munition table information, and algorithms used in IFATDS software, the adversary would be able to develop countermeasures that could potentially reduce the effectiveness of friendly artillery, mortar, rocket, and close air support operations.

7. The M1156A1 PGK is a cannon artillery fuze which uses GPS to increase the delivery accuracy of standard 155mm high explosive ammunition. The NA37 M1156A1 includes M-code capability and eliminates the need for an anti-tamper coating to protect critical Key Data Processor technology. It is also a height of burst (HOB) fuze, which uses a proximity sensor to cause the round to burst in the air over the enemy, increasing lethality against the target.

8. M231 and M232 charges are unclassified, however they have associated technology that is sensitive. Certain aspects of the performance, specifically the interior ballistics characteristics, and some of the design features are considered sensitive data. This unclassified sensitive data could be used by a technologically advanced potential enemy to duplicate the charges through reverse engineering. No technical data packages or test

information should be supplied. M231 and M232 charges are unclassified, however they have associated technology that is sensitive. Certain aspects of the performance, specifically the interior ballistics characteristics, and some of the design features are considered sensitive data.

9. The M782A1 Multi-Option Fuze for Artillery is an artillery fuze, which provides user selectable options for point detonation, delay, and HOB functions to 105mm and 155mm artillery.

10. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

11. Release of this technology is within the disclosure authority delegated for Taiwan as stipulated in the National Disclosure Policy.

12. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification. Moreover, the benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

13. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

14. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

15. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-01, concerning the Army's proposed Let-

ter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$4.05 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-01, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$4.05 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-01, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$4.05 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-01

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$3.86 billion.

Other \$190 million.

Total \$4.05 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eighty-two (82) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS)

Four hundred twenty (420) M57 Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS)

Seven hundred fifty-six (756) M31A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System-Unitary pods (GMLRS-U)

Four hundred forty-seven (447) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System-Alternative Warhead pods (GMLRS-AW)

Thirty-nine (39) M1152A1 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV)

Forty-five (45) International Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems (IFATDS)

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: M28A2 Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket pods (LCRRPR); M249 machine guns; 5.56mm ammunition; M2A1 machine guns, 50 caliber; M1084A2 trucks, cargo, Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV); Resupply Vehicles (RSV); M1089A2 truck, wrecker, FMTV, cargo, RSV; M1095 trailers, cargo, FMTV 5-ton; Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS) Core Communication Management System (CCMS) in support of ANNRC-90E and ANNRC-92E; frequency-hopping radios; tool kits; test equipment; support equipment; technical documentation; spare parts; training; U.S. Government and contractor technical support; engineering and logistics support services; field office support; and elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TW-B-ZFG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-B-ZDJ.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 17, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy eighty-two (82) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS); four hundred twenty (420) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS); seven hundred fifty-six (756) M31A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System-Unitary pods (GMLRS-U); four hundred forty-seven (447) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System-Alternative Warhead pods (GMLRS-AW); thirty-nine (39) M1152A1 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV); forty-five (45) International Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems (IFATDS). The following non-MDE items will also be included: M28A2 Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket pods (LCRRPR); M249 machine guns; 5.56mm ammunition; M2A1 machine guns, 50 caliber; M1084A2 trucks, cargo, Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV); Resupply Vehicles (RSV); M1089A2 truck, wrecker, FMTV, cargo, RSV; M1095 trailers, cargo, FMTV 5-ton; Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS) Core Communication Management System (CCMS) in support of ANNRC-90E and ANNRC-92E; frequency-hopping radios; tool kits; test equipment; support equipment; technical documentation; spare parts; training; U.S. Government and contractor technical support; engineering and logistics support services; field office support; and elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$4.05 billion.

The proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's ability to meet current and future

threats by enhancing the self-defense of its forces. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be selected through competitive procurements conducted by the U.S. Government in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of three U.S. contractor representatives for a period of three years and two U.S. contractor representatives for a period of one year to provide engineering and technical support services as well as program and technical reviews.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-01

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C-130 transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a five-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) M270 launcher and can fire all the MLRS Family of Munitions (FOM), including the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) and Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). Utilizing the MLRS FOM, the HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with Global Positioning System-aided (GPS) precision accuracy.

2. The GMLRS M31A2 Unitary is the Army's primary munition for units fielding the M142 HIMARS and M270A1 MLRS launchers. The M31 Unitary is a solid propellant artillery rocket that uses GPS/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)-aided inertial guidance provided by Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) or M-Code. It accurately and quickly delivers a single high-explosive blast fragmentation warhead to targets at ranges between 15 and 70 kilometers. The rockets are fired from a launch pod container that also serves as the storage and transportation container for the rockets. Each rocket pod holds six (6) total rockets.

3. The M30A2 GMLRS Alternative Warhead shares a greater than ninety percent commonality with the M31A1 Unitary. The primary difference between the GMLRS-U and GMLRS-AW is the replacement of the GMLRS-U's high explosive warhead with a 200-pound fragmentation warhead of preformed tungsten penetrators which is optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The munitions otherwise share a common motor, GPS/PPS-aided inertial guidance provided by SAASM or M-Code, control system, fusing mechanism, multi-option height of burst capability, and effective range between 15 and 70 kilometers.

4. The M57 ATACMS is a conventional, semi-ballistic missile that utilizes a 500-pound high explosive warhead. It has an effective range of between 70 and 300 kilometers and has increased lethality and accuracy over previous versions of the ATACMS due to a GPS/PPS aided navigation system provided by SAASM or M-Code.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that the recipient can provide substantially the same-degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-02, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$353 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 2602, concerning the Army's proposed Let-

ter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$353 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-02, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$353 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-02

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$336 million.

Other \$17 million.

Total \$353 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One thousand five hundred forty-five (1,545) tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided (TOW) 2B BGM-71F-7-RF missiles.

Fourteen (14) TOW 2B BGM-71F-7-RF fly-to-buy lot acceptance missiles.

Twenty-four (24) Improved Target Acquisition Systems (ITAS).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: lithium-ion battery box; missile simulation rounds; ITAS High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) mounting kits; engineering and logistics support services; technical assistance; training; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TW-B-ZFH and TW-B-ZFI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-B-ZBT.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 17, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided missile system

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy one thousand

five hundred forty-five (1,545) tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided (TOW) 2B BGM-71F-7-RF missiles; fourteen (14) TOW 2B BGM-71F-7-RF fly-to-buy lot acceptance missiles; and twenty-four (24) Improved Target Acquisition Systems. The following non-MDE items will also be included: lithium-ion battery box; missile simulation rounds; ITAS High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) mounting kits; engineering and logistics support services; technical assistance; training; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$353 million.

The proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing defense capability of its forces. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be selected through competitive procurements conducted by the U.S. Government in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government and contractor representatives to the recipient.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-02

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The radio frequency (RF) TOW 2B missile (BGM-71F-3-RF) is a top attack missile designed to defeat armored vehicles, reinforced urban structures, field fortifications, and other similar targets. TOW missiles are fired from a variety of TOW launchers in use by the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, and Foreign Military Sales partner nations. The TOW 2B RF missile can be launched from the same launcher platforms as the existing wire-guided TOW 2B missile without modification to the launcher. The TOW 2B missile (both wire and RF) contains two tracker beacons (Xenon and thermal) for the launcher to track and guide the missile in flight. Guidance commands from the launcher are provided to the missile by the RF link contained within the missile case. The hardware, software, and technical publications provided with the sale thereof are unclassified. However, the system itself contains sensitive technology that instructs the system on how to operate in the presence of countermeasures.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is Controlled Unclassified Information.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific

hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH, Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith transmittal No. 26-06, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$375 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith transmittal No. 26-06, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$375 million. We will issue a news release to no-

tify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith transmittal No. 26-06, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$375 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-06

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$340 million.

Other \$35 million.

Total \$375 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One thousand and fifty (1,050) Javelin FGM-148F missiles.

Ten (10) Javelin FGM-148F fly-to-buy lot acceptance missiles.

Seventy (70) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LwCLU).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Javelin LwCLU basic skills trainers; missile simulation rounds; battery coolant units; interactive electronic technical manuals; Javelin operator manuals; lifecycle support; physical security inspection; spare parts; system integration and check out; technical assistance; tool kits; training; and other elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TW-B-ZFJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-B-ZZY.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 17, 2025.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Javelin Missile System

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy one thousand and fifty (1,050) Javelin FGM-148F missiles; ten (10) Javelin FGM-148F fly-to-buy lot acceptance missiles; and seventy (70) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LwCLU). The following non-MDE items will

also be included: Javelin LwCLU basic skills trainers; missile simulation rounds; battery coolant units; interactive electronic technical manuals; Javelin operator manuals; lifecycle support; physical security inspection; spare parts; system integration and check out; technical assistance; tool kits; training; and other elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$375 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's ability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the self-defense of its forces. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be selected through competitive procurements conducted by the U.S. Government in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government and contractor representatives with the recipient.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness because of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-06

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Javelin Weapon System is a medium-range, man portable, shoulder-launched, fire and forget anti-tank system. It may also be mounted on a variety of platforms including land vehicles, aircraft, and watercraft. The system weighs about 43.5 pounds and has a maximum range in excess of 4,500 meters. The system is lethal against tanks and other systems with conventional and reactive armors. The system possesses a secondary capability against bunkers.

2. The Javelin Weapon System's key technical feature is the use of fire-and-forget technology, which allows the gunner to fire and immediately relocate or take cover. Additional special features are the top attack and direct fire modes, an advanced tandem warhead and imaging infrared seeker, target lock-on before launch, and soft launch from enclosures or covered fighting positions. The Javelin missile also has a minimum smoke motor thus decreasing its likelihood of being detected on the battlefield.

3. The Javelin Weapon System is comprised of two major tactical components, including a reusable Lightweight Command Launch Units (LwCLU) and a round contained in a disposable launch tube assembly. The LwCLU incorporates an integrated day-night sight that provides a target engagement capability in adverse weather and countermeasure environments. The LwCLU may also be used in a stand-alone mode for battlefield surveillance and target detection.

The LwCLU's thermal sight is a third-generation forward-looking infrared sensor. To facilitate initial loading and subsequent updating of software, all on-board missile software is uploaded via the LwCLU after mating and prior to launch.

4. The missile software which resides in the LwCLU is considered sensitive. The sensitivity is primarily in the software programs which instruct the system how to operate in the presence of countermeasures. The overall hardware is also considered sensitive in that the inhaled wavelengths could be useful in attempted countermeasure development.

5. The missile is autonomously guided to the target using an imaging inhaled seeker and adaptive correlation tracking algorithms. This allows the gunner to take cover or reload and engage another target after firing a missile. The missile has an advanced tandem warhead and can be used in either the top attack or direct fire modes (for targets under cover). An onboard flight computer guides the missile to the selected target.

6. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

7. If a technologically advanced adversary obtains knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

8. A determination has been made that the recipient can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

9. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No.

26-07, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$91.4 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-07, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$91.4 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-07, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$91.4 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0.
Other \$91.4 million.
Total \$91.4 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: Harpoon radar seekers; return, repair, and re-shipment of Naval Harpoon missiles; component parts and support equipment; spare containers; personnel training and training equipment (both classified and unclassified); publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor technical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (TW-P-MCW).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-P-MCL.
 (vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 17, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Harpoon Missile Repair Follow-on Support

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy Harpoon radar seekers; return, repair, and reshipment of Naval Harpoon missiles; component parts and support equipment; spare containers; personnel training and training equipment (both classified and unclassified); publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor technical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$91.4 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's ability to meet current and future threats by providing surface and maritime defenses onboard various ships in inventory. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be selected through competitive procurements conducted by the U.S. Government in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require unspecified number of U.S. Government and contractor personnel to visit the recipient on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews, as well as to provide training and maintenance support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Harpoon Seeker repair follow-on support provides for the sustainment of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) Harpoon Program of Record. This LOA will provide return, repair, and reshipment of Harpoon missiles, component parts and support equipment, personnel training and training equipment (both classified and unclassified), publications and technical doc-

umentation, and U.S. Government and contractor technical support services required for the long-term sustainment and operations of the recipient's Harpoon Program.

2. The Harpoon radar seeker is a radar guidance system used to assist the Harpoon missile in locating a target.

3. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that the recipient can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
 COOPERATION AGENCY,
 Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-09, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.1 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
 COOPERATION AGENCY,
 Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-09, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.1 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
 COOPERATION AGENCY,
 Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-09, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.1 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-09

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
 Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
 Other \$1.1 billion.
 Total \$1.1 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: ALTIUS-700M system loitering munitions integrated with full-motion video and an infrared gimbal seeker/tracker as well as assured position, navigation, timing, and resilient communications systems, and an integrated warhead assembly with energetics and canisters; inert 700M systems for training use only; ALTIUS-600 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems integrated with command and control radio, multi-constellation Global Navigation Satellite System module, electro-optical/longwave infrared camera gimbal, and canister launchers; associated support; solid metal training rounds; spares; ALTIUS trailers; ground control systems; battery chargers; operator and maintenance training; operator, maintenance, and training manuals; technical manuals; maintenance tool kits and test sets; logistics and fielding support; testing support; technical assistance including engineering services; program management; transportation; site surveys; facility, logistics, and maintenance evaluations; quality assurance and de-processing team support; field service support;

and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (TW-P-AME).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-P-AMC.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 17, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—ALTIUS-700M and ALTIUS-600 Systems

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) has requested to buy the following non-MDE items: ALTIUS-700M system loitering munitions integrated with full-motion video and an infrared gimbal seeker/tracker as well as assured position, navigation, timing, and resilient communications systems, and an integrated warhead assembly with energetics and canisters; inert 700M systems for training use only; ALTIUS-600 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems integrated with command and control radio, multi-constellation Global Navigation Satellite System module, electro-optical/long-wave infrared camera gimbal, and canister launchers; associated support; solid metal training rounds; spares; ALTIUS trailers; ground control systems; battery chargers; operator and maintenance training; operator, maintenance, and training manuals; technical manuals; maintenance tool kits and test sets; logistics and fielding support; testing support; technical assistance including engineering services; program management; transportation; site surveys; facility, logistics, and maintenance evaluations; quality assurance and de-processing team support; field service support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$1.1 billion.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's ability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the self-defense of its forces. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be selected through competitive procurements conducted by the U.S. Government in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of one technical representative for an estimated two years of support and an unspecified number of U.S. Government and contractor representatives

for an estimated duration of up to five years to support equipment fielding, training, and program management.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness because of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-09

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The ALTIUS-700M system is composed of a loitering munition with a full-motion video seeker payload integrated command and control radio, multi-constellation Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver, and assured position navigation and timing module. Every ALTIUS-700M comes as a complete "All-Up-Round" (AUR) with an integrated warhead and canister launcher. The ALTIUS-700M system is designed for expeditionary deployment by mobile, ground, or maritime forces. The ALTIUS-700M leverages autonomy to allow a single operator to control multiple systems simultaneously. The ALTIUS-700M payload is a Hellfire R9E-L Blast Frag Equivalent warhead.

2. The ALTIUS-600 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) system is composed of an unmanned aerial system integrated with command and control radio and a multi-constellation GNSS module. Every ALTIUS-600 comes as a complete AUR with a canister launcher. The ALTIUS 600 ISR system provides an on-demand capability to conduct ISR and targeting missions along with serving as a communication relay for eligible systems on the Mobile Ad-Hoc Network. The ALTIUS 600-ISR autonomy to allow a single operator to control multiple systems simultaneously. The ALTIUS 600 ISR carries an electro-optical/long-wave infrared camera gimbal.

3. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary obtains knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that the recipient can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant informa-

tion is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-97, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the NATO Support and Procurement Agency for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$136.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-97, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the NATO Support and Procurement Agency for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$136.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-97, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the NATO Support and Procurement Agency for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$136.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-97

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) for Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$0 million.

Other \$136.1 million.

Total \$136.1 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales case N4-B-VQX was below congressional notification threshold at \$50.7 million (\$0 in MDE) and included booster pellets; flight motors; gas generators; Stinger warheads sections; and U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical services. NSPA has requested that the case be amended to include additional non-Major Defense Equipment. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: booster pellets; flight motors; gas generator cartridges; Stinger warheads sections; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; technical documentation; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (N4-B-VQX).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: N4-B-VQY.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 18, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

NATO Support and Procurement Agency—Stinger Service Life Extension Program Components, Parts, and Services

The NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) manages the Stinger Service Life Extension Program on behalf of Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, and has requested to buy additional booster pellets; flight motors; gas generator cartridges; Stinger warheads sections; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; technical documentation; and other related elements of logistics and program support that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales case, valued at \$50.7 million, included the following non-MDE items: booster pellets; flight motors; gas generators; Stinger warheads sections; and U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical services. The estimated total cost is \$136.1 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of NATO partners that are a force for political stability and economic progress.

The proposed sale will improve NATO Allies' capability to meet current and future threats and enhance interoperability with U.S. and other allied forces. This proposed sale will contribute to U.S. and NATO defense goals by increasing readiness and enhancing the air defense capabilities of NATO Allies. Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into their armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be PTI Technologies Inc., located in Oxnard, CA; and L3 Harris, located in Melbourne, FL. At

this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to NSPA.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I was absent for rollcall vote No. 439, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 273, David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 631, on the Cloture Motion (Motion to Invoke Cloture: Susan Courtwright Rodriguez to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina).

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 632 on the Joint Resolution (H.J. Res. 131).

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 633 on the Cloture Motion (Motion to Invoke Cloture: S. Res. 520).

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 634 on the Nomination (Confirmation: Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina).

UNANIMOUS CONSENT OBJECTION—H.R. 5345

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to H.R. 5345, the Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act.

I support my colleagues' efforts to support victims of identity theft, including children, and I am a proud cosponsor of this effort. However, I continue to be concerned that the bill's lack of administrative funding to implement the legislation would harm the Agency's ability to serve the American public.

According to SSA estimates in August 2024, implementing this bill would cost approximately \$93 million over 10 years due to hiring and training new employees, implementing necessary system changes, and estimated increased workloads.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Social Security's customer service budget has dropped by 23 percent since fiscal year 2010

after adjusting for inflation. Over the same period, SSA is serving 17 million more Social Security beneficiaries, a 28-percent increase. Moreover, Since February 2025, SSA reduced staff by nearly 6,000 employees through encouraging retirements and voluntary resignations, including 2,000 from front-line positions. In August 2025, SSA diverted 2,000 field office staff away from serving customers in the front office to answer national 800 number calls indefinitely. Field offices, which bore the brunt of those staffing cuts, are now forced to backfill the staffing shortages with other employees at the expense of timely processing benefit claims and assisting seniors who come into the field offices. Simply put, SSA is having to do more with less resources and fewer staff.

Creating a new component within the Agency without sufficient funding will force SSA to divert even more of its skeletal staff away from its other core mission work to perform these duties, exacerbating wait times further.

I am committed to working with the sponsors of the legislation and our colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations to ensure that SSA has the necessary resources to effectively implement the bill while improving customer service for the millions of Americans who rely on Social Security. Until then, I will object to any unanimous consent request in relation to this legislation.

AFGHAN REFUGEES

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I rise to address the situation facing refugees from Afghanistan who were resettled in Vermont and who, like Afghan refugees in other States, the Trump administration is now threatening to deport.

Vermont is home to more than 650 Afghans who risked their lives to support the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. They have been welcomed by our communities. They are growing our workforce and tax base and contributing to our economy. A statewide nonprofit in Vermont, the Vermont Afghan Alliance, which is largely led by Afghans, helps reunite these Afghans with their families and assists other Afghan refugees when they arrive. They are one of several groups in Vermont doing incredible work to resettle Afghans. These individuals risked their lives for our government, and they did everything we asked of them. And now, they have become valued members of our communities.

The U.S. withdrawal in 2021 was chaotic, but the Afghans who fled did so because of a very real fear of persecution. No one can question that. Afghans who had worked with the U.S. military and intelligence community were taken to the airport in Kabul to help secure it before being allowed on a plane. They were told to leave their wives and children behind, assured that their families would come later. They feared for their lives. These individuals

had been subjected to rigorous vetting at the time of employment with the U.S. military or intelligence community, and many were vetted again in a third country by an interagency vetting process before coming to the United States.

Once in the United States, they were vetted again when applying for an immigration benefit. They were vetted yet again when interviewed by a USCIS officer in the U.S., and in adjusting immigration status. So our Afghan allies are some of the most thoroughly vetted members of our immigrant community. In fact, they may be the most extensively vetted foreign population in U.S. history.

The vetting is exhaustive, it has spanned years, conducted by multiple Agencies and administrations. It has included turning over cell phones to the FBI, providing every address resided at since birth, notification of every biometric exam taken in their lifetimes, and detailed information about the occupations and addresses of family and extended family members.

But as extensive as the vetting was and is, we know that no vetting process is 100 percent foolproof. No one can predict with absolute certainty that a person—regardless of nationality—who is cleared today won't commit a crime years later.

The horrific, targeted shooting of two members of the West Virginia National Guard on November 26—by an Afghan refugee who was reportedly trained by the CIA—was a terrible crime for which the person responsible should and will be brought to justice.

President Trump's use of that tragedy to go after a minority community has become a hallmark of this administration's hostile attitude toward immigrants and refugees. Even though it was the Trump administration that vetted the accused most recently prior to granting him asylum, President Trump has called for re-vetting all refugees who arrived under President Biden. This includes people from Afghanistan and 18 other countries, some of whom also reside in Vermont. The President has halted resettlement, paused all asylum applications, and called for the removal of anyone deemed a risk.

The fact that an Afghan has been charged with this heinous crime is tragic, but it is no more reasonable to label the entire Afghan refugee community, as well as those from 18 other countries, a security risk than it would be to label all Vermonters a security risk because of the act of one individual who a year ago shot three Palestinian students walking down a street in Burlington. It is wrong to accuse a whole population, whether on religious, racial, ethnic, or other grounds, for the abhorrent act of one individual.

I want to convey my condolences to the family of the West Virginians who were targeted, one of whom, Sarah Beckstrom, died while serving her country. She was only 20 years old and had a promising life ahead of her.

At the same time, I want to express my appreciation to the Afghans who supported our ill-fated mission in Afghanistan, at great risk to themselves, and who as a result had to abandon their country and their families to seek safety in the United States. Five years later, many of them are still waiting to be reunited with their families. Our communities are better for their presence among us.

TRIBUTE TO RANA ALTENBURG

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Rana Altenburg as she retires from Marquette University. Rana has served as the leader of Marquette's government affairs and community engagement initiatives since 1996. Her retirement marks the conclusion of an exceptional career spanning nearly three decades of service to Marquette University and the greater Milwaukee community.

Rana's time at Marquette began as a student, where she earned her bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish. Later, Rana received her MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Over her 30-year career at Marquette, Rana's advocacy efforts contributed to increased investment by both the Federal and State governments, resulting in major infrastructure projects near campus, such as the Wisconsin Avenue median, Wells Street median, Marquette Interchange, 27th Street Corridor and the Menomonee Valley. Later, Rana and her team helped secure Federal and State funding that supported capital projects and research efforts, including working with me to secure congressionally directed spending for an expansion of the school of dentistry, a simulation lab in the college of nursing, and catalytic development in the Near West Side of Milwaukee.

Rana championed the university's Les Aspin Center in Washington, DC, providing students interested in public service opportunities for internship and professional development in our Nation's Capital. The Les Aspin Center has offered incredible opportunities to many young people still working in public service, including on my staff. On campus, she was a mentor to student leaders.

A tireless advocate for Marquette, Rana takes immense pride in not only being an alumna; she is also a parent, donor and season-ticket holder to Marquette's nationally ranked basketball programs.

Outside of her work at Marquette, Rana serves as founding president of Near West Side Partners, which she helped launch in 2015. Near West Side Partners brings together schools, businesses of all sizes, nonprofits, and neighbors to strengthen and improve the community they live in. She is also a member of the boards of directors of the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

I am pleased to congratulate Rana Altenburg on a distinguished career and wish her, her husband Jeff, her daughters Sophia and Hannah, son-in-law Jack, and her granddaughter Honor much happiness and well-deserved time together in the years ahead. We will continue to look to her for her thoughtful servant leadership and wise counsel, and I know that her impact will continue to be felt within the Marquette and greater Milwaukee community for generations to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS E. NIXON

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I honor today Mr. Dennis E. Nixon for his commitment as one of our Nation's leading banking authorities and executives, particularly for his 50 years of extraordinary service to the broader Texas communities and Texas banking industry.

A Pittsburgh, PA, native, Dennis grew up in many different places across the United States due to his father's military service. His family eventually moved to Corpus Christi, TX, where Mr. Nixon graduated from high school. He then attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated in 1964 with a degree in finance. Following graduation, Mr. Nixon spent 6 years as a bank examiner with the U.S. Treasury Department before joining the Union National Bank in 1970. In 1975, he joined the Bank of Commerce, the predecessor of the International Bank of Commerce, IBC, and International Bancshares Corporation, where he currently serves as the president and chief executive officer of the International Bank of Commerce in Laredo, TX, and as chairman of the International Bancshares Corporation.

Since joining the International Bank of Commerce, Mr. Nixon has played a vital role in International Bancshares Corporation's ranking as the largest minority-owned bank organization in the United States and one of the largest independent banks in Texas. Mr. Nixon's knowledge across all areas of banking was pivotal in the development of IBC's acquisition and expansion efforts. His tenure at IBC has been marked by visionary strategies and a commitment to excellence, transforming the company into an industry-leading financial institution with assets reaching approximately \$16 billion and serving 75 communities from Del Rio to Brownsville, TX, and into Oklahoma.

Beyond his duties as chief executive officer of the International Bank of Commerce and chairman of the Bancshares Corporation, Mr. Nixon is a member of the Texas Business Leadership Council, a network of CEOs and business executives that aims to advance Texas prosperity in a globally competitive business environment. Most notable is his stewardship in raising \$11 million for MD Anderson Cancer

Center, where he serves as a senior member of the board of visitors, demonstrating his commitment to improving the health and quality of life for all citizens.

In 2006, Mr. Nixon was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame. In 2007, he was elected to serve on the board of directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and in 2008, he was named "International Citizen of the Year" by the World Affairs Council of San Antonio. The Texas Bankers Association awarded him the 2015 Texas Bankers Foundation's 50-Year Banker Award. In 2016, Mr. Nixon and his wife received the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning. In 2018, he received the Distinguished Business Leader Award from the Texas Association of Business.

Mr. Nixon has been widely recognized for his generosity to communities in Texas and around the globe. He received the Paul Harris Fellow Award by Rotary International and the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award by the State of Israel for his outstanding community and philanthropic service. He is also involved in the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, United Way of Laredo, the Boys and Girls Club of Laredo, and Legatus. He serves as a founding member of the Association of South Texas Communities and the Alliance for Security and Trade. Mr. Nixon's service has received well-earned praise from organizations that strive to improve the health and quality of life of south Texans.

Mr. Nixon's exceptional career and his relentless efforts toward economic development are defined by intentionality, dedication, and success. He has dedicated his life and career to serving others and improving the communities in Texas and beyond. For his remarkable work, and all that he has yet to accomplish, I would like to recognize him.

I offer my thanks and appreciation to Dennis Nixon for 50 years of steadfast service to Texas communities and the Texas banking industry. I send him my best wishes for the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING LATIMER GROCERY

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Latimer Grocery of Franklin County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2008, Latimer Grocery began with a straightforward mission to ensure that communities have access to a dependable, local grocery store. At a time when rural areas increasingly faced the risk of becoming food deserts, founder Landon Plagge, along with a committed group of community members, stepped in to fill a

critical need. Their efforts created more than a business; they created a place where neighbors could reliably find the essentials that supported their daily lives.

In 2020, ownership transitioned to a group of eight families, which includes Karla and Doug Peter, Mark and LuAnn Johansen, Roy Plagge, Delray and Barb Farrer, Tyler and Sarah DeBour, Randy and Sue Debour, Kent and Chris Morton, and Scott and Jennifer Borchering. The families embraced the store's community-centered foundation while guiding its continued growth. Under their leadership, Latimer Grocery has strengthened its role as a hometown hub, offering the trusted service customers have come to expect. They also expanded partnerships with local producers to provide groceries, baked goods, and a full deli. Today, customers can purchase locally raised meats, area-grown grains, and locally produced bakery goods from Sheffield, IA, or products from The Olde Creamery in Garner, IA. The deli remains at the heart of Latimer Grocery. Known for hot and cold sandwiches, it also serves seasonal dinner deliveries during harvest, ensuring farmers working long hours have access to fresh and warm meals. Weekend pizzas have become a favorite among families, and the store's delivery service, which is especially valuable for elderly and disabled residents, helps ensure that everyone in the area maintains access to quality food. These services highlight Latimer Grocery's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of the community.

Latimer Grocery is equally invested in supporting local families and children. The store partners with local schools through a reading rewards program, giving students coupons for treats based on the number of books they read. Each fall, the annual Halloween Spooktacular draws families from across the region for a festive evening of costumes, games, and free food, showcasing the store's commitment to creating positive, memorable experiences for its customers. With a team of seven employees and nearly two decades of service, Latimer Grocery stands as a testament to resilience, local collaboration, and heartfelt service. Under its united leadership, Latimer Grocery remains a cherished gathering place and an essential resource, demonstrating how a smalltown business can strengthen an entire community through dedication and care.

It is my honor to recognize the entire Latimer Grocery team for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING SISTER'S HOME STYLE ENTREES

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small

Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Sister's Home Style Entrees of Humboldt County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2011, Sister's Home Style Entrees began as a simple passion project in the kitchen of founder Deb Davis. What started as Deb preparing home-cooked meals for family and friends quickly evolved into a service rooted in compassion, quality, and community. Her dedication and the growing demand for dependable, nutritious, ready-made meals transformed a small hobby into a thriving commercial kitchen operation serving customers across Iowa and neighboring States.

As the company grew, Deb was joined by co-owner Mary Catherine Ferry, whose leadership and partnership helped guide Sister's Home Style Entrees through major expansions and increased production. Together with a dedicated team of 48, they built an operation that now prepares over 75,000 meals every month. Their focus on supporting the elderly and homebound population has made the small business not just a meal provider, but a support system for individuals striving to maintain independence. Families, too, have embraced the convenience and flexibility of reliable, high-quality frozen meals when they need them.

Under Deb's vision and Mary's continued leadership, Sister's Home Style Entrees has grown into an industrial-scale commercial kitchen without ever losing sight of its founding values: service, heart, and consistency. The company remains proudly women-owned in Humboldt, IA, and embodies the spirit of a close-knit, mission-driven enterprise. As Deb transitioned into retirement and ownership passed fully to Mary Catherine this past June, the business represents a model of thoughtful, well-planned succession, ensuring stability for employees, customers, and community partners for years to come.

Sister's Home Style Entrees has been widely recognized for its impact, receiving honors such as the 2015 SBA Iowa Top Small Business Award and the 2021 Iowa Venture Award Honoree. The company is also known for its generosity, regularly donating meals to food pantries, nonprofit organizations, and surrounding communities. Their contributions have strengthened local support networks and provided vital resources to families facing food insecurity. Sister's Home Style Entrees' story reflects the power of community-minded entrepreneurship and the lasting difference a mission-driven small business can make in the lives of the people it serves.

It is my honor to recognize Mary Catherine Ferry, Deb Davis, and the entire Sister's team for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT DUBLIN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize the students and teachers at Dublin Consolidated School as November's Granite Staters of the Month for their efforts to honor local veterans, including by inviting them to a special assembly and by raising money for the Wounded Warrior Project.

At the beginning of this school year, the students at Dublin Consolidated School—which serves children in kindergarten through fifth grade—invited local veterans to a special Veterans Day assembly. While the students and teachers were not sure how many veterans would participate, on Veterans Day, the students honored almost 20 veterans with songs and readings, and after the assembly, the students thanked the veterans for their service. This special assembly was the first Veterans Day event that the school has hosted, but they have resolved that it won't be the last.

The teachers at Dublin Consolidated School helped organize the event as a way for students to learn about military service and the contributions of veterans to our country's history. They also helped students learn about the Wounded Warrior Project and the support that it provides for wounded, ill, and injured veterans, servicemembers and families and brainstormed ways to raise money for the organization. Through a coin drive held in the weeks leading up to the assembly, the students raised more than \$900, an amount matched by USAA bank, to help those who kept our country safe, secure, and free.

The special Veterans Day celebration hosted by the students and teachers at Dublin Consolidated School is an example of the Granite State spirit of showing gratitude and respect for our veterans. Their work to honor local veterans is why I am proud to name them November's Granite Staters of the Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:01 p.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. 1071. An act 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 for other purposes.

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 waterways 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 enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 12:14 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. 3492. An act to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration of minors.

H.R. 3616. An act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review regulations that may affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system.

H.R. 6703. An act to ensure access to affordable health insurance.

At 4:19 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. 498. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for gender transition procedures for minors.

H.R. 845. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

H.R. 1366. An act to provide for the location of multiple hardrock mining mill sites, to establish the Abandoned Hardrock Mine Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4776. An act to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to clarify ambiguous provisions and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 498. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for gender transition procedures for minors; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 845. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing

the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3492. An act to amend section 116 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to genital and bodily mutilation and chemical castration of minors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3616. An act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review regulations that may affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4776. An act to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to clarify ambiguous provisions and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITIONS

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Finance be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 95, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Interim Guidance Simplifying Application of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax to Partnerships," and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Ron Wyden, Tim Kaine, Peter Welch, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Chris Van Hollen, Andy Kim, Angus S. King, Martin Heinrich, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Edward J. Markey, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Cory A. Booker, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, Bernard Sanders, Gary C. Peters, Mark R. Warner, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Richard Blumenthal, Mazie Hirono, Jeff Merkley, Jacky Rosen, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Finance, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 95. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Interim Guidance Simplifying Application of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax to Partnerships".

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 18, 2025, she had presented to the President of the United States 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. 284. An act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

S. 1071. An act 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 for other purposes.

S. 2878. An act to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 3558. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal penalties for interfering with National Guard protective zones; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3559. A bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Jose, California, as the "Corporal Patrick D. Tillman VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3560. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of contraceptive items and services at no cost-sharing under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3561. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to apply certain protections and oversight to buy now, pay later loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 3562. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to amend the rules of the Commission relating to disclosures by advisers of private funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3563. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense assess and, as appropriate, implement open technical standards for digital content provenance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3564. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institutes of Health, to take certain steps to increase clinical trial diversity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3565. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to authorize the use of remaining funds under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program for competitive subgrants to support the success of the broadband deployment projects funded by that program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 3566. A bill to withdraw normal trade relations treatment with respect to the Peo-

ple's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3567. A bill to authorize the President of the United States to issue letters of marque and reprisal with respect to acts of aggression against the United States by a member of a cartel, or a member of a cartel-linked organization, or any conspirator associated with a cartel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3568. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide individuals approved for naturalization with the right to complete the naturalization process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3569. A bill to establish a Federal multi-agency task force to combat illegal importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3570. A bill to establish duties for online service providers with respect to end user data that such providers collect and use; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3571. A bill to limit the authority of U.S. Border Patrol personnel to their traditional border security duties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 3572. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to allow recipients of certain grants to improve highway safety efforts through the integration of predictive data analytics, telematics, and other advanced technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3573. A bill to amend the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act to modify a provision relating to the extension of certain dates for the completion of the Regional Water System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 3574. A bill to prohibit United States courts from recognizing, enforcing, or giving effect to any judgment, order, decree, or provisional measure issued by a court of the People's Republic of China in a proceeding motivated by retaliation for lawful acts, including political speech; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3575. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to provide for certain ways in which credit unions may be Agent members of the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER:

S. 3576. A bill to establish a Commission on the Federal Regulation of Cannabis to study a prompt and plausible pathway to the Federal regulation of cannabis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MORENO, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3577. A bill to provide funding to State and local law enforcement agencies to com-

bat auto theft and stolen automobile trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3578. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to consider alternative approaches before determining that a U.S. nonbank financial company shall be supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3579. A bill to address data and research gaps to improve marine environmental data collection, particularly in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska, prioritize technology that supports research, bycatch reduction, and marine benthic habitat in Alaska fisheries, advance and streamline electronic monitoring and electronic reporting in United States fisheries, and establish a fund to provide financial assistance for fishermen purchasing gear and technology aimed at reducing bycatch and marine benthic habitat contract from trawl fishing gear; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 568. A resolution recognizing the schools selected as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2025 and celebrating the history of the Blue Ribbon Schools Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 569. A resolution expressing support for declaring 2026 the "Year of Math" in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 570. A resolution designating November 2025 as "National Lung Cancer Awareness Month" and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. Res. 571. A resolution remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 572. 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; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. Res. 573. A resolution expressing the need for the United States' continued leadership on matters of religious freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 138

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to require each enterprise to include on the Uniform Residential Loan Application a disclaimer to increase awareness of the direct and guaranteed home loan programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 226

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 226, a bill to require a strategy to oppose financial or material support by foreign countries and nongovernmental organizations to the Taliban, and for other purposes.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income gain from the sale of qualified real property interests acquired under the authority of the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program administered by the Department of Defense pursuant to section 2684a of title 10, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to prevent unfair and deceptive acts or practices and the dissemination of false information related to pharmacy benefit management services for prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 646

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 646, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to carry out Executive Order 14160.

S. 735

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 735, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program.

S. 844

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 844, a bill to accelerate workplace time-to-contract under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 900

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 900, a bill to require certain flags of the United States to be made in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 952

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 952, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide a uniform 8-digit subheading number for all whiskies.

S. 1173

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1173, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify and preserve the breadth of the protections under the Medicare Secondary Payer Act.

S. 1191

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1191, a bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to require the Council on Environmental Quality to publish an annual report on environmental reviews and causes of action based on alleged non-compliance with that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1217

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1217, a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry.

S. 1324

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1324, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to modify eligibility for the State response to contaminants program, and for other purposes.

S. 1329

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1329, a bill to address the behavioral health workforce shortages through support for peer support specialists, and for other purposes.

S. 1478

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1478, a bill to provide the United States Government with additional tools to deter state and non-state actors from wrongfully detaining United States nationals for political leverage, and for other purposes.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

CURTIS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1504, a bill to require the Social Security Administration to make changes to the social security terminology used in the rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Administration.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) 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. 1664

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1664, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a consistent set of policy guidelines for Federal research agencies to address financial instability of graduate researchers and postdoctoral researchers, and for other purposes.

S. 1666

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1666, a bill to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft.

S. 2012

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2012, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2035

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2035, a bill to establish statutory rights to choose to receive, provide, and cover fertility treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 2198

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2198, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit the authority of the Department of Defense and other Federal law enforcement personnel to support civilian law enforcement activities, and for other purposes.

S. 2330

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2330, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the recruitment and retention of paraprofessionals in public elementary schools, secondary schools, and preschool programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

RISCH) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2423, a bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into a memorandum of understanding relating to housing projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2508, a bill to give effect to a final rule of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration relating to gas pipeline leak detection and repair, and for other purposes.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2709

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) 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. 2947

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2947, a bill to establish a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2947, *supra*.

S. 3085

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3085, a bill to ensure that certain operations, functions, and services of the Federal Government relating to enforcement of firearms laws and firearm export licensing continue during a lapse in appropriations.

S. 3098

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3098, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish information about conditions and cohorts the Department of Veterans Affairs is considering for purposes of establishing or removing presumptions of service connection regarding toxic exposure, and for other purposes.

S. 3145

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3145, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test a comprehensive alternative response for emergencies model under the Medicare program.

S. 3226

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3226, a bill to provide for the creation of the missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel records, and for other purposes.

S. 3254

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3254, a bill to establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health.

S. 3265

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3265, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and enhance the work opportunity tax credit, to encourage longer-service employment, and to modernize the credit to make it more effective as a hiring incentive for targeted workers, and for other purposes.

S. 3283

At the request of Mr. MORENO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3283, a bill to establish that citizens of the United States shall owe sole and exclusive allegiance to the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3355

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3355, a bill to establish a national strategy for combating scams, and for other purposes.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3369, a bill to establish a public health plan.

S. 3393

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3393, a bill to authorize contributions to the United Nations Population Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 3398

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) 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. 3416

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3416, a bill to prohibit public comments from governments and individuals designated as foreign adversaries.

S. 3477

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3477, a bill to exempt humanitarian care packages sent to members of the Armed Forces stationed overseas from certain postal reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 95

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 95, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Interim Guidance Simplifying Application of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax to Partnerships".

S. RES. 554

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 554, a resolution recognizing the strong link between climate change and skyrocketing insurance premiums.

S. RES. 555

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 555, a resolution recognizing that climate change poses a threat to the mortgage market and to home values.

S. RES. 564

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 564, a resolution recognizing the ability of solar, storage, and wind to quickly and cheaply meet United States power demand growth.

S. RES. 567

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3994

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3994 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 name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor 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. 4056

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 4063

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4063 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. 4072

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4072 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. 4096

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4096 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. 4112

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4112 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. REED (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3561. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to apply certain protections and oversight to buy now, pay later loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am joined by Senators VAN HOLLEN, BLUMENTHAL, and GILLIBRAND, in introducing the Buy Now, Pay Later Protection Act. This bill will extend key consumer protections for traditional credit cards to “buy now, pay later,” BNPL, loans. These include standardized disclosures, periodic account statements, chargeback rights, billing error rights, and a prohibition on surprise fees.

The typical “pay-in-four” BNPL loan allows consumers to purchase a product and then pay back the loan over four equal installments, with the first installment akin to a downpayment. BNPL typically does not charge interest, but it does charge late fees. The lenders make their money primarily by charging merchants. When BNPL is offered as an option at check-out, consumers are more likely to complete a purchase and tend to spend more money.

In the mid-2010s, BNPL became a popular alternative to credit cards for online retail purchases, particularly among younger consumers. Its popularity soared during the pandemic, as more consumers turned to online shopping. Growth since then has been explosive. According to data from the CFPB and Adobe Analytics, BNPL credit totaled an estimated \$2 billion in 2019 and is expected to be around \$120 billion this year. Around 15 percent of Americans have used BNPL in the past year—that’s around 90 million people.

When used responsibly, BNPL can be an important source of credit for those who are weary of credit cards. If they are well-designed, transparent, accountable, and supervised, BNPL products can legitimately help these Americans meet their need for credit. In fact, the typical BNPL user is a lower income borrower who wants to spread out payments over time without incurring interest.

Given the huge growth in this market in only a few short years, it is critical to review when the laws governing these products must be updated. It should be uncontroversial for BNPL borrowers to receive many of the basic protections that credit card holders currently have, but they currently lack any of these protections because existing laws were not drafted with BNPL products in mind. This has resulted in gaps and uncertainty for BNPL users.

The commonsense protections in the BNPL Protection Act include clear in-

formation on due dates, fees, and how to dispute charges. The bill requires BNPL lenders to issue periodic account statements. It provides consumers with a right to seek a chargeback when they are victims of fraud or deception, so that they don’t keep getting charged if they don’t get what they paid for. They also prohibit the credit reporting bureaus and debt collectors from going after a consumer when they dispute a transaction, so that borrowers are not penalized or harassed into repaying debt they may not owe. The CFPB had these protections in place until the current Acting Director rescinded them earlier this year.

These protections are crucial now because BNPL delinquencies and defaults have been on the rise. Nearly 25 percent of BNPL users made late payments, which is a sharp increase over prior years, in many cases resulting in significant late fees even on relatively small-dollar loans. BNPL users do seem to be struggling to an even greater degree than credit card holders. According to Bloomberg, 43 percent of those who owe money to BNPL services said they were behind on payments, and 28 percent said they were delinquent on other debt because of BNPL spending. Indeed, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York found that “a disproportionate share of BNPL users are already financially fragile” and that while BNPL may deliver benefits to lower income consumers, “BNPL may attract consumers who already have financial difficulties and are struggling to pay their existing bills and debt payments.”

In short, this bill will preserve the availability of BNPL credit while helping consumers avoid hidden fees, better manage their finances, and have more transparency into the terms and conditions of their loans. It will clarify the regulatory status of BNPL loans to match how consumers are using this new product.

Finally, this bill will require the CFPB to begin supervising BNPL providers in order to spot violations before they snowball. BNPL providers are not currently subject to compulsory Federal supervision by the CFPB. Rather, they may be subject to supervision only by the States in which they do business. Some States require registration and conduct examinations, while others do not. This system may allow potential violations of consumer protection laws to fall through the cracks, leaving consumers exposed to harm and limiting accountability for BNPL providers who don’t play by the rules.

I thank the supporters of this legislation, including the National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients, Americans for Financial Reform, and the Consumer Federation of America.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3569. A bill to establish a Federal multi-agency task force to combat illegal importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 3569

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 “Strengthening Task Force Operations to Prevent Illicit Vapes Act” or the “S.T.O.P. Illicit Vapes Act”.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL MULTI-AGENCY TASK FORCE TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF E-CIGARETTES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—On the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, there shall be established (or reestablished) a multi-agency task force to combat the illegal importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes (in this section referred to as the “Task Force”).

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The Task Force shall develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for reducing the number of unauthorized e-cigarettes in the market, including setting goals, sharing information, and coordinating efforts where appropriate.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Task Force shall be composed of each of the following members:

(1) The Attorney General, who shall serve as co-chair.

(2) The Secretary of Health and Human Services, who shall serve as co-chair.

(3) At least one representative of the Food and Drug Administration, appointed by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

(4) At least one representative of the Department of Justice, appointed by the Attorney General.

(5) A representative of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, appointed by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(6) A representative of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, appointed by the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

(7) A representative of the United States Marshals Service, appointed by the Director of the United States Marshals Service.

(8) A representative of the United States Postal Inspection Service, appointed by the Chief Postal Inspector.

(9) A representative of the Federal Trade Commission, appointed by the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission.

(10) A representative of Homeland Security Investigations, appointed by the Executive Associate Director of Homeland Security Investigations.

(11) A representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, appointed by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(12) Representatives of such other Federal agencies that have roles or responsibilities related to e-cigarette enforcement, as appointed by the co-chairs of the Task Force, acting jointly.

(d) **MEETINGS.**—The Task Force shall meet not less frequently than once every 30 days.

(e) **SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than April 30 and October 31 of each year, the Task Force shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing—

(A) the authorities of each agency represented on the Task Force to combat the illegal importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes;

(B) all actions taken by each agency represented on the Task Force to combat the illegal importation, distribution, and sale of e-

cigarettes, including the investigation and prosecution of criminal, civil, seizure, and forfeiture actions, including enforcement actions against unauthorized e-cigarette manufacturers, importers, and distributors, during the 6-month period—

(i) with respect to a report due on April 30, ending on the immediately preceding March 31; or

(ii) with respect to a report due on October 31, ending on the immediately preceding September 30;

(C) recommendations for additional criminal or civil authorities that may be necessary to address the public health threat of the illegal importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes; and

(D) areas for improvement with respect to collaboration among the agencies represented on the Task Force.

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(f) **SUNSET.**—The Task Force shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Task Force is established under subsection (a).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 568—RECOGNIZING THE SCHOOLS SELECTED AS NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS FOR 2025 AND CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF THE BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 568

Whereas the Blue Ribbon Schools program was created by the Reagan Administration in 1982 to provide nationwide recognition of schools for academic excellence and progress in closing achievement gaps;

Whereas the Blue Ribbon Schools program has been considered the highest Federal honor for schools in the United States and has honored more than 9,000 public (including charter) and private (including parochial) schools since its inception;

Whereas the Blue Ribbon Schools program validates the work of the educators of the United States, models the best teaching practices across the United States, and inspires schools to adopt similarly rigorous practices;

Whereas the Blue Ribbon Schools program plays an important role in uplifting best practices in closing achievement gaps, especially as the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress, commonly referred to as the “Nation’s Report Card”, showed that average reading and mathematics scores for high school seniors fell to their lowest levels in 2 decades;

Whereas the decision made August 29, 2025, by the Department of Education to discontinue the Blue Ribbon Schools program has eliminated a national spotlight on what works in education;

Whereas despite the decision by the Department of Education, States and commu-

nities continue the legacy of the Blue Ribbon Schools program by leading initiatives to recognize their own exemplary schools at the State and local level;

Whereas, before the Department of Education discontinued the Blue Ribbon Schools program in 2025, the schools from the State of Illinois selected for the 2025 Blue Ribbon Schools designation included—

- (1) Ascension Catholic School;
- (2) Clarendon Hills Middle School;
- (3) Glen Oaks Elementary School;
- (4) Highlands Elementary School;
- (5) Kennedy Junior High School;
- (6) Liberty Intermediate School;
- (7) Lincoln-Way East High School;
- (8) Lyons Township High School;
- (9) Mascoutah Middle School;
- (10) Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy;
- (11) Pleasantdale Middle School;
- (12) Prescott Elementary School;
- (13) Regina Dominican High School;
- (14) Sarah Adams Elementary School;
- (15) St. Anne Catholic School;
- (16) St. Giles School;
- (17) St. John of the Cross Parish School;
- (18) St. Matthias School;
- (19) St. Norbert School;
- (20) St. Therese Chinese Catholic School;
- (21) Sunset Ridge Elementary School;
- (22) The Academy at St. Joan of Arc;
- (23) Timothy Christian P-8;
- (24) Walker Elementary School;
- (25) Warren Elementary School;
- (26) Wheaton Academy;
- (27) William Fremd High School; and
- (28) Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart; and

Whereas it is imperative that the Senate honors the schools selected to be Blue Ribbon Schools in 2025 from every State and the legacy of the Blue Ribbon Schools program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and celebrates—

(A) the schools selected to be 2025 National Blue Ribbon Schools before the Blue Ribbon Schools program was discontinued; and

(B) the history of the Blue Ribbon Schools program;

(2) commends the educators, school administrators, and communities of such schools for their hard work that led to this achievement; and

(3) calls upon the Secretary of Education to immediately reinstate the Blue Ribbon Schools program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 569—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DECLARING 2026 THE “YEAR OF MATH” IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 569

Whereas research in the mathematical sciences is an exciting and active area of intellectual pursuit;

Whereas education in the mathematical sciences is foundational and serves as a connecting fabric for all advances in science and engineering;

Whereas advances in mathematical and statistical sciences enable understanding of complex systems and design of new technology, with implications for societal challenges in health, defense, energy, transportation, and other areas;

Whereas mathematical research yields applications every day in fields such as medicine, cybersecurity, manufacturing, artificial intelligence, energy, biotechnology, agriculture, weather prediction and disaster preparedness, and business;

Whereas the national mathematics community is working together to maintain the global preeminence of the United States in the mathematics sciences;

Whereas many, if not most, people in the United States have developed a negative relationship with math because math can be tough, but math is also fascinating, rewarding, and incredibly useful;

Whereas the national mathematics community is working together to engage young students, parents, and educators in hands-on activities that will inspire future generations of talent in mathematics and all sciences;

Whereas the International Congress of Mathematicians (referred to in this preamble as the “ICM”) 2026 will be held in Philadelphia, from July 23 to July 30, 2026;

Whereas the first ICM was held in 1897, and since 1900, ICMs have taken place every 4 years;

Whereas only twice before has the United States been chosen as the host country for an ICM, the 11th in 1950 and the 20th in 1986, and hosting one is a source of pride for host country mathematicians and politicians;

Whereas an ICM showcases what is going on in contemporary mathematics;

Whereas the scientific prizes awarded by the International Mathematical Union are the highest distinctions in the mathematical world and are awarded every 4 years at the opening ceremony of the ICM, and the most famous is the Fields Medal, which was first awarded in 1936 and is considered the “Nobel Prize” of mathematics; and

Whereas hosting the ICM 2026 provides a platform for the United States to declare 2026 the “Year of Math”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the declaration of a “Year of Math” in the United States;

(2) celebrates the United States being selected as host of the International Congress of Mathematicians 2026 and using this platform to increase the visibility of mathematical sciences as fields of study and to communicate the myriad benefits of education in mathematics and statistics;

(3) recognizes that mathematics underpins all of the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines, which are critical to the national security and economic prosperity of the United States; and

(4) celebrates the role that mathematics and statistics play in the everyday lives of all people of the United States, including in technology, news, games, literature, and music.

SENATE RESOLUTION 570—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH” AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF LUNG CANCER

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 570

Whereas lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among individuals in the United States, accounting for more deaths than colorectal, breast, and prostate cancer combined;

Whereas, in 2025, an estimated 226,650 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with lung cancer, and 124,730 individuals (approximately 340 individuals per day) will die from the disease;

Whereas 1 in 16 men and 1 in 17 women in the United States will develop lung cancer during their lifetimes;

Whereas each year more women die from lung cancer than breast, ovarian, and cervical cancer combined;

Whereas, in 2025, cigarette smoking directly caused approximately 109,100 of the 124,730 lung cancer deaths, and exposure to secondhand smoke causes over 7,300 lung cancer deaths each year in adults who do not smoke;

Whereas approximately 10 to 20 percent of lung cancer diagnoses occur in people who have never smoked, and the proportion of lung cancer diagnoses in individuals who have never smoked is increasing in the United States;

Whereas women who never smoked are more likely than men who never smoked to get lung cancer;

Whereas Black men have the highest incidence of lung cancer and the highest mortality rate from lung cancer in the United States, and nonwhite individuals are 13 to 18 percent less likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer early in their lives;

Whereas veterans are 25 percent more likely to develop lung cancer compared to the general public, and although approximately 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 veterans have an elevated risk of lung cancer and are eligible for screening, less than 3 percent of veterans get screened;

Whereas lung cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in veterans;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate is 67 percent for those diagnosed with localized lung cancer and 12 percent for those diagnosed at a stage when the cancer has spread to distant parts of the body;

Whereas the number of individuals in the United States recommended to receive lung cancer screening was estimated to be 14,500,000 as of 2021;

Whereas only 16 percent of individuals in the United States at high risk for lung cancer undergo lung cancer screening;

Whereas limited geographic availability of facilities and transportation barriers are persistent challenges to lung cancer screening;

Whereas 62 percent of adults are not familiar with lung cancer screening and the low-dose computed tomography scan;

Whereas the stigma surrounding lung cancer—

(1) creates barriers to early diagnosis, treatment, and research; and

(2) has a detrimental impact on the quality of life of lung cancer patients;

Whereas lung cancer research is leading to breakthroughs in biomarker identification and the development of immunotherapies and targeted therapies that are improving survival and quality of life for those with lung cancer;

Whereas access to biomarker testing and cutting-edge diagnostics is challenging across populations and geographic areas; and

Whereas educational efforts can increase awareness of lung cancer and lung cancer screening among the general public, patients and their families, and health care workers and increase the early detection of lung cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2025 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) designates the first week of November 2025 as “National Women’s Lung Cancer Awareness Week”;

(3) designates the second Saturday of November 2025 as “National Lung Cancer Screening Day”;

(4) supports the purposes and ideals of National Lung Cancer Awareness Month;

(5) promotes efforts to increase awareness of, education about, and research on—

(A) mitigation of risk factors for lung cancer;

(B) lung cancer screening;

(C) treatment of lung cancer; and

(D) lung cancer affecting minorities and individuals who have never smoked; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Lung Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate awareness and educational activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 571—REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA AND COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, AND THOSE WHO WERE INJURED, IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 571

Whereas December 6, 2025, the 6-year anniversary of the terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this preamble as the “terrorist attack”), is a day of commemoration for those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, during the terrorist attack, including—

(1) Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson of Enterprise, Alabama;

(2) Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham of St. Petersburg, Florida; and

(3) Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters of Richmond Hill, Georgia;

Whereas the 3 servicemembers who died in the terrorist attack were posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Purple Heart;

Whereas the terrorist who committed the terrorist attack was a Saudi Arabian foreign military student who had been radicalized and established contact with Al Qaeda operatives prior to attending flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola;

Whereas Naval Air Station Pensacola security forces and Escambia County, Florida, law enforcement officers took decisive action to end the terrorist attack and have rightly earned the praises and awards bestowed upon them;

Whereas 2 civilians were awarded the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Medal for Valor for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 individuals were awarded the Purple Heart, or the law enforcement equivalent, for injuries sustained during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 9 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 law enforcement officers were awarded the Medal of Valor for their actions taken during the terrorist attack; and

Whereas December 6, 2025, marks 6 years since the lives of 3 military personnel were tragically cut short by the egregious act of terrorism at Naval Air Station Pensacola: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this resolution as the “terrorist attack”);

(2) commemorates in sorrow the servicemembers and civilians who lost their

lives, or who were injured, and the harm caused to the surrounding community, as a result of the terrorist attack;

(3) remembers Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham, and Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters, who were killed in the terrorist attack;

(4) expresses gratitude for the heroic actions that the civilians, uniformed personnel, and law enforcement performed during and in the aftermath of the terrorist attack;

(5) lauds the decision to give medals and awards to the law enforcement officers, uniformed servicemembers, and civilians who responded heroically on the morning of December 6, 2019; and

(6) commends the efforts undertaken by the Department of Defense to enhance security at military installations to ensure that the tragedy represented by the terrorist attack is never repeated.

SENATE RESOLUTION 572—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

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 572

Whereas, on the morning of December 13, 2025, members of the Iowa Army National Guard were conducting a counter-terrorism engagement near Palmyra, Syria, as part of ongoing multinational efforts to degrade Islamic State remnants;

Whereas, during this engagement, a lone gunman believed to be affiliated with the Islamic State opened fire on United States and partner forces in a deliberate assault;

Whereas, as a result of this attack, United States Army Sergeant William Nathaniel “Nate” Howard, age 29, of Marshalltown, Iowa, and United States Army Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, age 25, of Des Moines, Iowa, both assigned to the 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division of the Iowa Army National Guard, were killed in action;

Whereas a United States civilian interpreter also lost their life in this attack, and 3 other Iowa National Guard soldiers sustained injuries;

Whereas Sergeant Howard and Sergeant Torres-Tovar were dedicated soldiers who served with distinction in defense of the United States and in the global campaign against terrorism;

Whereas Sergeant Howard served over 11 years in the Iowa Army National Guard and had a deep commitment to his fellow soldiers and his mission, representing the very best of Iowa and the United States;

Whereas Sergeant Torres-Tovar was beloved by his community and fellow National Guardsmen for his selflessness, professionalism, and commitment to service, and he joined the Iowa Army National Guard before his high school graduation ceremony in 2019; and

Whereas the families, friends, and communities of Sergeant Howard and Sergeant Torres-Tovar have endured an immeasurable

loss and continue to honor the memory of their loved ones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory, service, and sacrifice of United States Army Sergeant William Nathaniel “Nate” Howard for his dedicated service to his State and to his country as a member of the Iowa Army National Guard;

(2) honors the memory, service, and sacrifice of United States Army Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar for his dedicated service to his State and to his country as a member of the Iowa Army National Guard;

(3) extends its sympathies, gratitude, and support to the families of Sergeant Howard and Sergeant Torres-Tovar, and to all others affected by this attack;

(4) honors the bravery and professionalism of the National Guard members and partner forces who responded under fire and cared for the wounded;

(5) expresses profound gratitude for the swift actions of the United States and allied personnel on the scene who engaged the attacker and prevented further loss of life;

(6) condemns in the strongest terms the horrific terrorist assault targeting United States service members and civilians;

(7) recognizes that the members of the National Guard and all volunteers who serve in harm’s way on behalf of the United States embody the highest ideals of duty, courage, and selfless service; and

(8) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the family of Sergeant Howard; and

(B) the family of Sergeant Torres-Tovar.

SENATE RESOLUTION 573—EXPRESSING THE NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES’ CONTINUED LEADERSHIP ON MATTERS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. RISCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 573

Whereas the freedom of religion is the United States’ first right that launched a revolution to enshrine freedom for all;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States clearly states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances”;

Whereas the United States’ founding fathers believed all persons had “inalienable rights”, as endowed by our Creator and further protected by the Government;

Whereas these inalienable rights also belong to those around the world, as they are inherent and the foundation of individual dignity and freedom;

Whereas the United States is the global leader in the fight to protect and expand the inalienable right to freedom of religion;

Whereas the United States has consistently reaffirmed its commitment to the freedom of religion, including through the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) and the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114-281);

Whereas Congress has reaffirmed its commitment to the promotion of religious freedom abroad by creating and confirming Ambassadors-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism;

Whereas other Western countries have not taken similar steps to enshrine the inalien-

able right of religious freedom in their founding documents or in a consistent pattern of domestic policies;

Whereas the rise of religious intolerance in Europe has created an environment that—

(1) criminalizes certain religious practices that target Jews; and

(2) creates subtly inhospitable environments for Christians;

Whereas countries around the world continue to engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, including violations of the inalienable right to freedom of religion;

Whereas governments in Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Burma, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Vietnam, and have all engaged in patterns of violations of varying degrees of religious freedom;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party arrested dozens of Zion House Church members and leaders in October 2025, which was the greatest attack on Christianity in China in decades in their continued campaign to Sinicize religion;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2025 Annual Report revealed that the Government of Nicaragua continues to ruthlessly suppress religious freedom for Christians, including through intimidation tactics;

Whereas Vatican leaders are mourning the ongoing killings of Christians for their faith, which are occurring in increasing numbers in some places;

Whereas according to the pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need, more than 360,000,000 Christians live in areas where they face high levels of persecution;

Whereas such patterns of violating religious freedom will continue in these countries unless the United States sends clear, concise, and strong messages to cease such behavior; and

Whereas, as the global leader for centuries on religious freedom, only the United States can proclaim without reservation that these countries must reverse course and protect and defend the inalienable rights of all people, particularly those who are seeking to exercise the most provocative right, which is the natural and inalienable right to freedom of religion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the United States’ leadership around the world to promote, protect, and expand the inalienable and internationally recognized right to freedom of religion;

(2) encourages the Secretary of State—

(A) to continue to engage on matters of religious freedom;

(B) to use all available tools and resources to discourage foreign governments from continuing patterns of violations; and

(C) to continue to engage on matters of religious freedom with friendly nations to prevent further erosion of religious freedom;

(3) reaffirms the importance of the offices of the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism;

(4) supports the offices of the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism to work together to ensure that no faith or believer is left behind; and

(5) commits the United States to always support those seeking freedom from authoritarian repression against our shared and inalienable rights.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4114. Mr. SCHUMER 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 4115. Mr. BENNET 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 4116. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) 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 4117. 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 4118. 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 4119. 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 4120. Ms. HIRONO 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 4121. Ms. HIRONO 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 4122. Ms. HIRONO 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 4123. Ms. HIRONO 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 4124. Ms. HIRONO 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 4125. Mr. LUJAN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) 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 4126. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) 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 4127. 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 4128. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. CURTIS) 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 4129. Mr. LEE 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 4130. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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 4131. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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 4132. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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 4133. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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 4134. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4135. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SULLIVAN) 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 4136. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. PADILLA) 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 4137. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) 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 4138. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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 4139. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KIM, Ms. BALDWIN, and 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 4140. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 321, commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 2025.

SA 4141. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 321, supra.

SA 4142. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other purposes.

SA 4143. Mr. TILLIS 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 4144. Mr. SCHUMER 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 4145. Mr. MURPHY 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 4146. Mr. GALLEG0 (for himself and Mr. KELLY) 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 4147. Mr. PADILLA 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.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4114. Mr. SCHUMER 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 USE OF FUNDS TO MAKE A PAYMENT FOR THE PERSONAL BENEFIT OF THE PRESIDENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Congress enacted the Federal Tort Claims Act in 1946 (which was subsequently enacted into positive law as chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (referred to in this section as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”), allowing plaintiffs to file tort claims against the United States in Federal court and waiving the application of a sovereign immunity defense for specific torts committed by Federal employees while acting within their scope of employment.

(2) The Department of Justice defends the Federal Government against claims that arise under the Federal Tort Claims Act (in this section referred to as “FTCA claims”). It is the responsibility of the Department to protect the legal and financial interests of the United States in settlements of FTCA claims.

(3) The Department of Justice is required to assess the legal sufficiency of FTCA claims that are being considered for possible settlement, before payment can be issued under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, the sole payment mechanism for claims that arise under the FTCA.

(4) President Trump filed 2 FTCA claims in 2023, stemming from investigations related to Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election and the search conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of his private residence at Mar-a-Lago.

(5) The unprecedented demand to use taxpayer dollars to pay the President, at his order, is in direct contravention of the system of checks and balances that the Constitution of the United States demands.

(6) Within the Department of Justice, the 2 individuals eligible to effectuate this command by President Trump, who are serving in the positions of Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, formerly represented the President or others in his political orbit. These individuals lack objectivity in the review of this request.

(b) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds made available under any division of this Act may

be used by the Department of Justice to approve or facilitate a claim that—

(1) is subject to the Federal Tort Claims Act; and

(2) results in a personal payment to the President, whether in the form of a settlement or any other payment issued under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, (commonly known as the “Judgement Fund”) for the personal benefit of the President.

SA 4115. Mr. BENNET 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. _____. (a) The United States International Trade Commission shall conduct a study evaluating the effects of tariffs on residential construction materials used in the United States.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States International Trade Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) In this section, the term “residential construction materials” means any of the following:

(1) Timber, lumber, and derivative products like paper, furniture, and cabinetry.

(2) Steel products and derivatives like appliances, fasteners, and electrical switches and outlets.

(3) Aluminum products and derivatives.

(4) Marble and granite.

(5) Copper ores, copper concentrates, refined copper, copper alloys, scrap copper, and derivative products.

(6) Carpet and textiles, vinyl, ceramic tile, laminate flooring, and wood flooring products.

(7) Concrete and cement products.

(8) Gypsum and plasters.

(9) Doors, windows, and frames.

(10) Resins.

(11) Glass.

(12) Insulation.

SA 4116. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) 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. _____. The National Science Foundation, in awarding base funds to the National Center for Atmospheric Research for fiscal year 2026 from funds appropriated under this Act, shall provide funding in an amount that is not less than the amount provided to the National Center for Atmospheric Research for fiscal year 2024, and the National Science Foundation shall ensure the continuation of all operations, capabilities, and facilities of the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

SA 4117. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be pro-

posed 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 394, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, sufficient funding shall be used to ensure the continuation of data collection and publication of research at long-term experimental areas (commonly referred to as ‘Experimental Forests and Ranges’).”.

SA 4118. 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:

On page 554, line 7, strike “program,” and insert “program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$13,100,000 is provided for the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$18,800,000 is provided for the Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$21,300,000 is provided for the Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$6,400,000 is provided for the Bridges to Doctorate program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$15,500,000 is provided for the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$20,800,000 is provided for the Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award.”.

SA 4119. 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 end of title VIII of division A, add the following:

SEC. 8125. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any prior Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense may be available for any activities that are in support of the cancellation of the Constellation-class frigates FFG-62 and FFG-63.

SA 4120. Ms. HIRONO 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:

Strike section 314 of division D and insert the following:

SEC. 314. (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—

(1) to transfer or delegate responsibilities that are administered by the Department of Education from the Department of Education to another Federal department or agency that have not been so transferred or delegated before May 1, 2025; or

(2) to carry out any interagency agreement or other agreement entered into with another Federal department or agency on or after May 1, 2025, unless the agreement is substantially similar to an agreement in effect before such date.

(b) 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 4121. Ms. HIRONO 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. _____. Using amounts made available under this Act, the Secretary of Education shall reappoint and restore each employee of the Department of Education who was wrongfully removed from employment with the Department on or after January 20, 2025.

SA 4122. Ms. HIRONO 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. _____. (a) Section 25F(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) INCOME RESTRICTION.—No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) to any taxpayer whose adjusted gross income for the taxable year is equal to or greater than \$1,000,000.”.

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026.

SA 4123. Ms. HIRONO 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. _____. (a) Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) COVERED STATE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered State’ means one of the States, or the District of Columbia, that—

“(i) for a calendar year, voluntarily elects to participate under this section and to identify scholarship granting organizations in the State, in accordance with subsection (g), and

“(ii) as applicable, agrees to make any payments described in subparagraph (C) to the Secretary.

“(B) EXCEPTION FOR FRAUD.—The term ‘covered State’ shall not include any State that, for the preceding calendar year, had identified a scholarship granting organization under subsection (g) that, pursuant to an investigation described in subsection (h)(2)(A), was subsequently determined by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration to have committed fraud.

“(C) CLAWBACK.—In the case of a State described in subparagraph (B), the State shall make payment to the Secretary in an amount equal to the total amount of qualified contributions received by the scholarship granting organization described in such subparagraph during any calendar year in which the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration has determined that such organization committed fraud.”,

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i), and

(3) by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) REVIEW BY TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION.—

“(1) REPORTS.—The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration shall annually submit a report to the applicable Congressional committees detailing the amount of qualified contributions that each scholarship granting organization in each State received during the preceding calendar year pursuant to this section.

“(2) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration shall—

“(A) investigate cases of fraud committed by scholarship granting organizations (including employees of such organizations) that have received qualified contributions pursuant to this section, and

“(B) annually submit a report to the applicable Congressional committees regarding the cases described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) APPLICABLE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘applicable Congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committees on Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and

“(B) the Committees on Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.”.

(b) The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026.

SA 4124. Ms. HIRONO 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. _____. (a) Section 70411 of Public Law 119-21 is repealed, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is restored as if such section 70411 had not been enacted.

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of Public Law 119-21.

SA 4125. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) 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 title I of division B, in the matter under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES” under the heading “DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT”, strike “: *Provided, That*” and insert “: *Provided, That*, of that amount, not less than \$2,000,000 shall be to support small and medium-sized businesses to conduct activities including navigating the rapidly evolving trade and tariff policies of the United States Government: *Provided further, That*”.

SA 4126. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) 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:

After title IV of division E, insert the following:

TITLE V—ROTOR ACT

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform Act” or the “ROTOR Act”.

SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(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 des-

ignated 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. 503. 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 regu-

lation), 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. 504. 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 555 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 de-

termine 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 air-

space 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. 505. 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. 506. 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 equipment, 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. 507. 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 Fed-

eral 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. 508. 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. 509. 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 503(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 4127. 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 the matter under the heading “UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR” in title I of division C, insert the following:

COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES ACT

For necessary expenses to carry out the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), \$3,000,000.

SA 4128. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. CURTIS) 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 C, insert after section 130 the following:

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE SHAKEALERT EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

SEC. 131. As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes any additional resources required by the United States Geological Survey to implement the technical implementation plan required to expand the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning system to additional western States, including the States of Nevada and Utah.

SA 4129. Mr. LEE 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 C, strike section 441.

In division C, strike section 448.

In division C, strike section 450.

SA 4130. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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. ____ ADJUSTING ALLOWABLE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS FOR NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(v)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(v)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(X)(i) In determining such reasonable costs for nursing and allied health education furnished by a hospital, beginning with respect to cost reporting periods beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall include as reasonable costs all direct and indirect costs incurred by a hospital participating in a nursing and allied health education program licensed by State law or accredited by a national or regional professional organization, including costs that—

“(I) were directly incurred by the hospital;

“(II) were allocated to the hospital by a related entity holding the applicable State license or accreditation by a national or regional professional organization;

“(III) were associated with the training or advanced clinical training of a program par-

ticipant at the hospital or at a related entity;

“(IV) were associated with contracts to provide for faculty for the program when such faculty are employed by an educational institution that is not a related entity; or

“(V) were associated with shared services, such as shared payroll and administrative services, to support the operation of an approved nursing or allied health education program, provided by an educational institution or a clinical site that is a related entity.

“(i) For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘related entity’ means, with respect to a hospital, any entity that is related by common ownership or control to—

“(I) the hospital itself; or

“(II) an entity—

“(aa) in which the hospital (or another entity that is a related entity with respect to the hospital) is the sole corporate member;

“(bb) that is the sole corporate member of the hospital;

“(cc) that is part of the same legal entity as the hospital; or

“(dd) that shares a board with the hospital.”

(b) ALLOWING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND HOSPITAL-BASED SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE CLINICAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue such rules as are necessary to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a).

(c) PROHIBITING RECOUPMENT OF CERTAIN COSTS UNDER MEDICARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may not recoup or reduce payments made to a hospital under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395c et seq.) for costs related to an approved nursing or allied health education program that are included on the Medicare cost report for such hospital if such costs would be allowable after the amendments made by subsection (a) take effect.

(2) REFUND OF AMOUNTS RECOUPED.—If, during the 6-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary recouped or reduced payments made to a hospital under such part A for costs described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall refund to the hospital the amount so recouped or reduced.

SA 4131. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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. ____ Section 399NN(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280m(h)) is amended by striking “2026” and inserting “2031”.

SA 4132. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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. ____ Section 3021(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10701(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (10) as paragraphs (5) through (11), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) Providing training and resources for first responders on the use of containment devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances, and purchasing such containment devices for use by first responders.”

SA 4133. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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. ____ Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART PP—CIVIL LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK GRANTS

“SEC. 3061. DEFINITIONS.

“In this part:

“(1) CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK.—The term ‘civilian law enforcement task’—

“(A) includes—

“(i) assisting in homicide investigations;

“(ii) assisting in carjacking investigations;

“(iii) assisting in financial crimes investigations;

“(iv) assisting in compliance with reporting requirements;

“(v) reviewing camera footage;

“(vi) crime scene analysis;

“(vii) forensics analysis; and

“(viii) providing expertise in computers, computer networks, information technology, or the internet; and

“(B) does not include the ability to make arrests or use force under the color of law.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency that certifies that retired law enforcement personnel hired using amounts from a grant under this part—

“(A) have appropriate and reasonably current training and experience to effectively carry out the tasks described in section 3062(a); or

“(B) will participate in appropriate continuing education programs to satisfy subparagraph (A).

“SEC. 3062. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of hiring retired personnel from law enforcement agencies to—

“(1) train civilian employees of the eligible entity on civilian law enforcement tasks that can be performed on behalf of a law enforcement agency; and

“(2) perform civilian law enforcement tasks on behalf of the eligible entity.

“(b) DISCIPLINARY RECORDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall make a good faith effort to determine whether a retired law enforcement officer seeking to be hired by the eligible entity using amounts from a grant under this part has a disciplinary record or an internal investigation record by—

“(A) conducting a search of the National Decertification Index; or

“(B) requesting the personnel record of the retired law enforcement officer from each law enforcement agency that employed the retired law enforcement officer.

“(2) **HIRING DETERMINATIONS.**—Before making any hiring determination, the highest ranking law enforcement officer of an eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) or a designee of that law enforcement officer shall review any findings of misconduct that arise as a result of a search or request conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

“SEC. 3063. ACCOUNTABILITY PROVISIONS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A grant awarded under this part shall be subject to the accountability requirements of this section.

“(b) **AUDIT REQUIREMENT.**—

“(1) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in a final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that an audited grantee has used grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

“(2) **AUDITS.**—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Defense; Commerce, Justice, Science; Interior, Environment; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2026, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this part to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

“(3) **MANDATORY EXCLUSION.**—A recipient of grant funds under this part that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this part during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in paragraph (1).

“(4) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants under this part, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this part.

“(c) **ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.**—Beginning in the fiscal year during which audits commence under subsection (b)(2), the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives an annual certification—

“(1) indicating whether—

“(A) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice under subsection (b) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director; and

“(B) all mandatory exclusions required under subsection (b)(3) have been issued; and

“(2) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under subsection (b)(3) from the previous year.

“(d) **PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Before the Attorney General awards a grant to an eligible entity under this part, the Attorney General shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded by the Attorney General to determine if grant awards are or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

“(2) **REPORT.**—If the Attorney General awards grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(A) a list of all such grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any such grants awarded; and

“(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded multiple grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose.”.

SA 4134. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 401, line 21, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$2,000,000 shall be available for the procurement and deployment of high-risk lightning detection sensor technology on National Forest System land.”.

SA 4135. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SULLIVAN) 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:

Beginning on page 623, line 22, strike “*Provided further*,” and all that follows through “direct administrative costs:” on page 624, line 2, and insert “*Provided further*, That funds made available in the preceding 2 provisos shall not be available for transfer: *Provided further*, That \$44,953,000 shall be for part C of title VI, which shall be awarded on a competitive basis, and may be used for construction, and that the 5 percent limitation in section 6305 of the ESEA on the use of funds for administrative purposes shall apply only to direct administrative costs: *Provided further*, That funds made available in the preceding proviso shall not be available for transfer.”.

SA 4136. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. PADILLA) 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 C, insert the following:

SEC. ____ SITE OF SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM.

(a) **AUTHORIZING SITE WITHIN RESERVE OF NATIONAL MALL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, including section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum may be located within the Reserve (as defined in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 107(d) of division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80t-5(d)) is amended by striking “, except that” and all that follows and inserting a period.

(b) **USE OF SITE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ANOTHER FEDERAL AGENCY.**—Section 107(b) of division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80t-5(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **SITE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ANOTHER FEDERAL AGENCY.**—

“(1) **NOTIFICATION TO OTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY.**—The Board of Regents shall not designate a site for the Museum that is under the administrative jurisdiction of another Federal agency or entity without first notifying the head of the Federal agency or entity.

“(2) **NOTIFICATION TO COMMITTEES.**—Once notified under paragraph (1), the head of the Federal agency or entity shall promptly submit written notification to the Chair and ranking minority members of the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on House Administration, the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, stating that the Federal agency or entity was notified by the Board of Regents that a site under its jurisdiction was designated and that a transfer will be initiated as soon as practicable.

“(3) **TRANSFER.**—As soon as practicable after the date on which the individuals described in paragraph (2) receive the written notification described in such subparagraph, the head of the Federal agency or entity shall transfer to the Smithsonian Institution its administrative jurisdiction over the land or structure that has been designated as the site for the Museum.”.

(c) **ENSURING DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS AND AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES.**—Section 104(b)(4) of division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80t-2(b)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) **ENSURING DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS AND AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Council shall ensure that the exhibits and programs of the Museum accurately and comprehensively represent the varied cultures, histories, events, and values held by women in the United States.

“(B) **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out its duties, the Council shall ensure that it seeks and utilizes to its maximum ability guidance from a broad array of knowledgeable and respected sources reflecting the diversity of the political viewpoints and authentic experiences held by women in the United States, and shall seek such guidance for both the creation and substantial revision of exhibits and programs.

“(C) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subparagraph—

“(i) the term ‘broad array’ means a range of experts and publications that represent the broad spectrum of communities of women, to include varied viewpoints, political ideologies, cultures, and lived experiences in the United States; and

“(ii) the term ‘knowledgeable and respected source’ means an individual who has gained through education, publication, or witnessing an important or historical event, the ability to advise on at least one unique viewpoint or experience of a particular community of women in the United States, and whose knowledge has been relied upon by a notable segment of that community for education, heritage preservation, or historical purposes, and includes the work of such an individual which reflects such ability and knowledge.”.

(d) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Smithsonian shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate,

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, a report on actions taken by the Director of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum and the Council of the Museum to comply with the requirements of the amendments made by subsection (c), including a description of actions taken with respect to substantial revisions of current exhibits and programs as well as the planning of future exhibits and programs.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of title I of division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80t et seq.).

SA 4137. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) 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. ____ Of the unobligated balances available in the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund established by section 223 of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (42 U.S.C. 3514a), \$100,000,000, in addition to any funds otherwise made available for such purposes in this or subsequent fiscal years, shall be available 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 4138. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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. ____ SITE OF SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO.

(a) AUTHORIZING SITE WITHIN RESERVE OF NATIONAL MALL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, including section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino may be located within the Reserve (as defined in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 201(g)(4) of division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80u(g)(4)) is amended by striking “, except that” and all that follows and inserting a period.

(b) USE OF SITE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ANOTHER FEDERAL AGENCY.—Section 201(g)(2) of division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80u(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) SITE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ANOTHER FEDERAL AGENCY.—

“(A) NOTIFICATION TO OTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY.—The Board of Regents shall not designate a site for the Museum that is under the administrative jurisdiction of another Federal agency or entity without first notifying the head of the Federal agency or entity.

“(B) NOTIFICATION TO COMMITTEES.—Once notified under subparagraph (A), the head of the Federal agency or entity shall promptly submit written notification to the Chair and ranking minority members of the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on House Administration, the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, stating that the Federal agency or entity was notified by the Board of Regents that a site under its jurisdiction was designated and that a transfer will be initiated as soon as practicable.

“(C) TRANSFER.—As soon as practicable after the date on which the individuals described in subparagraph (B) receive the written notification described in such subparagraph, the head of the Federal agency or entity shall transfer to the Smithsonian Institution its administrative jurisdiction over the land or structure that has been designated as the site for the Museum.”.

(c) ENSURING DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS AND AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES.—Section 201(d)(2)(D) of division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80u(d)(2)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

“(D) ENSURING DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS AND AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Trustees shall ensure that the exhibits and programs of the Museum accurately and comprehensively represent the varied cultures, histories, events, and values of Hispanic or Latino communities.

“(ii) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out its duties, the Board of Trustees shall ensure that it seeks and utilizes to its maximum ability guidance from a broad array of knowledgeable and respected sources reflecting the diversity of the political viewpoints and authentic experiences held by Hispanics or Latinos in the United States, and shall seek such guidance for both the creation and substantial revision of exhibits and programs.

“(iii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph—

“(I) the term ‘broad array’ means a range of experts and publications that represent the broad spectrum of Hispanic or Latino communities, to include varied viewpoints, political ideologies, cultures, and lived experiences in the United States; and

“(II) the term ‘knowledgeable and respected source’ means an individual who has gained through education, publication, or witnessing an important or historical event, the ability to advise on at least one unique viewpoint or experience of a particular Hispanic or Latino community, and whose knowledge has been relied upon by a notable segment of that community for education, heritage preservation, or historical purposes, and includes the work of such an individual which reflects such ability and knowledge.”.

(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Smithsonian shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, a report on actions taken by the Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino Museum and the Board of Trust-

ees of the Museum to comply with the requirements of the amendments made by subsection (c), including a description of actions taken with respect to substantial revisions of current exhibits and programs as well as the planning of future exhibits and programs.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 201 of division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (20 U.S.C. 80u).

SA 4139. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KIM, Ms. BALDWIN, and 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:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES TO CONDUCT HOSTILITIES WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA.

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense, or for any other department or agency of the United States Government, may be used to conduct hostilities with respect to Venezuela, except—

(1) pursuant to a specific statutory authorization enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) pursuant to a congressional authorization consistent with section 2(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541(c)).

(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the United States from—

(1) acting to defend itself or its citizens from an armed attack or the threat of an imminent armed attack;

(2) acting to defend the United States Armed Forces or United States personnel from an armed attack;

(3) conducting lawful counternarcotics operations that do not constitute hostilities; or

(4) providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Venezuela.

(c) HOSTILITIES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “hostilities” means any situation involving any use of lethal or potentially lethal force by United States forces, whether such force is deployed remotely and irrespective of the intermittency thereof.

(d) RELATION TO THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION.—Nothing in this section supersedes any requirement of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

SA 4140. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 321, commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 2025; as follows:

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the significance of the 30th anniversary of normalization of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) the strong and enduring relationship built by the United States and Vietnam based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to peace and prosperity;

(2) honors the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the United States during the past 50 years, including—

(A) their tireless commitment to strengthening ties between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) facilitating reconciliation and economic prosperity between the 2 countries;

(3) honors—

(A) the service of members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, including those who gave their lives in the conflict; and

(B) United States veteran-led initiatives established and dedicated to engaging in reconciliation efforts with the Vietnamese people;

(4) expresses the commitment of the United States to the sustained continuation of funding and operational support to war legacy programs in Vietnam foundational to the bilateral relationship, including—

(A) dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Airport;

(B) unexploded ordnance removal;

(C) support for persons with disabilities;

(D) capacity building in provincial and national efforts on mine action; and

(E) accounting for Vietnamese missing and fallen soldiers from the war;

(5) acknowledges the significant progress in various areas of bilateral cooperation, including political and diplomatic relations, trade and economic ties, defense and security, and people-to-people exchanges, including the United States-supported Fulbright University, Vietnam's first independent non-profit higher education institution;

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to sustaining and building on the partnership officially established in the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in September 2023, underscored by the fundamental principles guiding the bilateral relationship, including respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and

(7) expresses—

(A) the determination of the United States to continue strengthening cooperation with Vietnam across sectors; and

(B) the vital importance of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam to addressing shared challenges and promoting continued peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

SA 4141. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 321, commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 2025; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, since the end of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have resettled in and built vibrant communities across the United States, which contribute to the rich diversity of our Nation;

Whereas joint efforts across the administrations of President Ronald Reagan and President George H. W. Bush to address questions surrounding United States servicemembers missing in action (MIA) set the foundation for the normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and Vietnam;

Whereas, between 1991 and 1993, the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs of the Senate conducted public hearings and issued an extensive report on prisoner of war (POW) and MIA issues, helping to lay the domestic political foundation for subsequent break-

throughs in United States-Vietnam relations;

Whereas efforts to identify and return the remains of service members missing in action on both the United States and Vietnamese sides, alongside unexploded ordnance removal, dioxin remediation, disability programs supporting survivors impacted by these war remnants, and efforts to continue public education on these topics have contributed to ongoing war legacy programs, which are a vital component of the bilateral relationship between Vietnam and the United States;

Whereas section 521 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236) expressed the Senate's support for the normalization of relations with Vietnam and sent an important political signal to the Executive branch on moving ahead with diplomatic normalization;

Whereas, on February 4, 1994, President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo, which had been in place since the end of the Vietnam War, paving the way for the announcement of a normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 1995;

Whereas significant progress has been made in the bilateral relationship since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam, leading to cooperation between the governments and peoples of the United States and Vietnam in an array of areas, extending to political, economic, and cultural ties;

Whereas, in January of 2001, Congress passed the bipartisan Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of Public Law 106-554) to promote reconciliation between the United States and Vietnam through an international exchange program between the 2 countries, which allowed Vietnamese nationals to pursue advanced studies in the United States and United States citizens to teach in the fields of science, mathematics, medicine, and technology in Vietnam;

Whereas, in September and October of 2001, respectively, the House of Representatives and the Senate approved measures to implement a bilateral trade agreement negotiated during the Presidency of Bill Clinton, which was subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 3, 2001;

Whereas, in December 2006, Congress granted permanent normal trade relations status to Vietnam under title IV of division D of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432);

Whereas, on July 25, 2013, President Barack Obama and Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang agreed to establish a comprehensive partnership between Vietnam and the United States based on the principles of respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, respect for political institutions, independence and sovereignty, and each other's territorial integrity;

Whereas, on May 23, 2016, President Barack Obama announced the removal of remaining United States restrictions on the sale of lethal weapons and related services to Vietnam, following President George W. Bush's 2007 decision to permit case-by-case sales of nonlethal defense items and defense services and President Obama's 2014 decision to partially ease United States restrictions on the transfer of lethal weapons and articles to Vietnam;

Whereas President Donald Trump became the first United States President to visit Vietnam twice in one presidential term, including a November 2017 state visit during which President Trump and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang—

(1) concluded a 3-year Plan of Action for Defense Cooperation to increase bilateral naval activities;

(2) agreed on the first visit of a United States aircraft carrier (the USS Carl Vinson) to Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War;

(3) reaffirmed the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight, and unfettered commerce in the South China Sea and a bilateral commitment to a rules-based approach to resolving maritime disputes;

(4) celebrated the conclusion of a joint effort to clean dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment in Da Nang, Vietnam;

(5) welcomed the United States' commitment to contribute to dioxin remediation efforts at Bien Hoa Airport; and

(6) pledged to increase bilateral trade and investment relations, including \$12,000,000,000 in commercial agreements;

Whereas, on September 10, 2023, President Joe Biden and General Secretary Nguyen Phú Trọng issued a Joint Communiqué that—

(1) upgraded the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

(2) celebrated the expansion of dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Air Base, extending the bilateral partnership agreement into 2028, and expanding unexploded ordnance tracking and clearance activities;

(3) recognized considerable progress made in the bilateral relationship in a short, 10-year period; and

(4) underscored fundamental principles guiding United States-Vietnam relations and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity;

Whereas, on October 26, 2025, the United States and Vietnam agreed to a Framework for an Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair and Balanced Trade, which will bolster United States national and economic security, expand bilateral trade, and strengthen supply chain security;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam have formed a partnership in promoting peace, cooperation, prosperity, and security in the Indo-Pacific region, including by—

(1) recognizing the strategic importance of free and open access to the South China Sea; and

(2) continuing programs initiated during the administrations of President Obama, President Trump, and President Biden to help Vietnam enhance its maritime capabilities;

Whereas, throughout these positive developments, Congress has consistently offered strong bipartisan support for the continuation and eventual completion of war legacy programs in Vietnam as the basis on which the bilateral relationship was established 30 years ago;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam will continue to deepen cooperation in a wide range of areas, including political and diplomatic relations, economic trade and investment, science and technology, education and health, cultural and people-to-people ties, defense and security, regional and global issues, and the promotion and protection of internationally-recognized human rights, to ensure the interests of the people in the United States and in Vietnam and to contribute to peace, stability, cooperation, and prosperity around the world: Now, therefore, be it

SA 4142. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health

Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 27, strike lines 8 through 17 and insert the following:

“(k) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Commission shall submit requests for appropriations in the same manner as the Comptroller General submits requests for appropriations, but amounts appropriated for the Commission shall be separate from amounts appropriated for the Comptroller General.*”.

SA 4143. Mr. TILLIS 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 II of division E, insert the following:

SEC. _____. In awarding funds made available in fiscal year 2025 under paragraph (2) of the heading “Homeless Assistance Grants”, the Secretary shall prioritize the issuance of awards for expiring renewal projects in Tier 1 of the Continuum of Care Priority Listings after the close of the competition prior to making remaining awards.

SA 4144. Mr. SCHUMER 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 made available under any division of this Act may be used by the Department of Justice to approve or facilitate a claim that—

(1) is subject to chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”); and

(2) results in a personal payment to the President, whether in the form of a settlement or any other payment issued under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, (commonly known as the “Judgement Fund”) for the personal benefit of the President.

SA 4145. Mr. MURPHY 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 this Act shall be used in a manner that would enable the transfer of a presidential air transport aircraft that has been under foreign registry to a nongovernmental entity.

SA 4146. Mr. GALLEG0 (for himself and Mr. KELLY) 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 IV of division C, insert the following:

DRAGON BRAVO AND WHITE SAGE FIRES RECOVERY

SEC. 4 _____. (a) There are appropriated—
(1) \$160,000,000 to the Forest Service for recovery from the Dragon Bravo and White Sage fires in the Kaibab National Forest; and
(2) \$600,000,000 to the National Park Service for recovery from the Dragon Bravo and White Sage fires in Grand Canyon National Park.

(b) The amounts made available under this section are designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SA 4147. Mr. PADILLA 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. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the deployment of federalized members of the Armed Forces for use in, or as a support function to, immigration enforcement in the interior of the United States.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 5345, a bill to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft, dated December 18, 2025.

NOMINATIONS IN STATUS QUO

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the only nominations received by the Senate during the 119th Congress, First Session, to remain in status quo, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, be the following: Executive Calendar Nos. 241, 503, and PN Nos. 415, 446, 587, 588, 593, 595, 620, 621, 622, 658, 675, 676, 677, 680, 681, 682, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712–1, 712–2, 713, 714, 715–1, 715–2, 716, 717, 718, 719, and 720.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to execu-

tive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 592; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the following nomination: The following named officer for appointment as Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 302: To be Admiral, Adm. Kevin E. Lunday?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to Commissions, committees, Boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

APPOINTMENT

The presiding officer. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States–China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Honorable Randall Schriver of Virginia.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025, THROUGH MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted on the following date and times: Friday, December 19 at 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, December 23, at 8:30 a.m.; Friday, December 26 at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, December 30 at 11 a.m.; Friday, January 2 at 3 p.m.; Saturday, January 3 at 12 noon; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Saturday,

January 3, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, January 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate execute the order of December 18 in relation to Executive Calendar No. 70, Keith Bass.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I say thank you to all the staff here for a very long year and wish everybody a Merry Christmas and happy holidays and ask that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:07 p.m., adjourned until Friday, December 19, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS 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. MICHAEL D. ARMSTRONG
COL. JASON S. BAKER
COL. TIMOTHY C. BALDWIN
COL. DENNIS A. BICKETT
COL. JEFFREY M. BILODEAU
COL. WILLIAM L. BLANCO
COL. OLEN C. BRIDGES
COL. MATTHEW D. CALTON
COL. MAXIME C. CASTELEYN
COL. THOMAS P. COMPITELLO
COL. JEFFREY R. CREE
COL. DAVID E. CRENSHAW
COL. ADAM M. CURRY
COL. CHAD W. DANIELS
COL. ANTHONY W. DENNIS
COL. KRISTIN L. DERDA
COL. RUSSELL K. DESJARDINS
COL. CHARLES K. DOUGLAS, JR.
COL. MICHELLE D. EDWARDS
COL. MATTHEW J. ELDER
COL. IAN L. FAWKS
COL. TODD A. FITZPATRICK
COL. BRADLEY M. FRANK
COL. TODD R. FREDRICKS
COL. BRETT J. GAGNON
COL. PETER G. GARVER
COL. RUSSELL W. GIBSON
COL. PAUL C. GRAVELY
COL. MICHAEL J. GRZYBOWSKI
COL. STEPHEN T. GUERTIN
COL. CHRISTOPHER T. GUILMETTE
COL. WILLIAM B. HALL
COL. WILLIAM B. HANNA
COL. RUSSEL J. HARDEN
COL. LOUIS P. HAWKINS, JR.
COL. DONNY W. HEBEL
COL. DAVID M. HELFRICH
COL. WILLIAM L. HENRY
COL. RONALD D. HIGLE
COL. RONALD D. HIGSTEN
COL. VANCE R. HOLLAND
COL. JERAMY D. HOPKINS
COL. WILLIAM L. IRBY
COL. BARRY C. JACKSON, JR.
COL. MICHAEL J. JOCHEN
COL. AARON A. KELSEY
COL. ROBERT J. KINCAID, JR.
COL. KURT K. KOBERNIK
COL. JOHN M. KRUEGER
COL. WILLIAM J. LECATES
COL. BOBBY J. LEE, JR.
COL. MICHAEL M. MAJORS
COL. SHANE M. MARTIN
COL. MICHAEL D. MCCOY
COL. WILLIAM T. MCKNIGHT

COL. SHAWN M. MILLER
COL. JUAN M. MORA
COL. JACK M. MUSHALLO
COL. COREY J. NORRIS
COL. JAN M. OLEEN
COL. ERIC D. ORCUTT
COL. JOSEPH PALADINO
COL. CHANTRY T. PARKER
COL. JEREMY G. PFEIFER
COL. CHARLES R. RANKIN
COL. CHRISTOPHER S. RATCLIFF
COL. ANDREW M. RATCLIFFE III
COL. JAMES D. REESE
COL. MAROCCO V. ROBERTS, JR.
COL. MARCI J. SAM
COL. APRIL L. SAPP
COL. RODNEY D. SEABA
COL. MICHAEL L. SEEK
COL. DEREK M. SMITH
COL. TIFFANY M. SNEED
COL. KENNETH N. SNOW
COL. KURT K. SOUTHWORTH
COL. MARK C. STEVENS
COL. BRIAN J. STRAMAGLIA
COL. CODY J. STRONG
COL. RICHARD M. SUDDER II
COL. RODNEY K. TATUM, JR.
COL. DAVIS K. ULRICSON
COL. AUGUSTO VILLALAZHIGUERO
COL. WILLIAM H. WAGNER
COL. KENNETH R. WALKER, JR.
COL. ROBERT W. WALKER, JR.
COL. KENNETH J. WALSH, JR.
COL. JOE W. WARREN, JR.
COL. JOHN M. WENZEL
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. WESKAMP
COL. MICHAEL A. WILSON
COL. PHILIP A. WINN, JR.
COL. JASON L. WISEHART
COL. ROGER B. ZEIGLER

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. FRANCIS L. DONOVAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. MARCUS B. ANNIBALE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. SETH E. ANDERSON
COL. ROBERT B. FINNERAN
COL. EDMUND B. HIPPI
COL. ANDRE M. INGRAM
COL. LANCE J. LANGFELDT
COL. REGINALD J. MCCLAM
COL. THOMAS M. SIVERTS
COL. DANIEL J. SKUCE
COL. JOSHUA M. SMITH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. RICHARD E. SEIF, JR.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 18, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

HENRY MACK III, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JAMES PERCIVAL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.
PEDRO ALLENDE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL POWERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.
BENJAMIN KOHLMANN, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.
AMY HENNINGER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.
DAVID DENTON, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

BENJAMIN HOBBS, OF OHIO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.
RONALD KURTZ, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

JONATHAN BURKE, OF GEORGIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TERRORIST FINANCING, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.
CHRIS PILKERTON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR INVESTMENT SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DAVID COURCELLE, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JEREMIAH WORKMAN, OF OHIO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DEREK THEURER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.
JONATHAN GREENSTEIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

CRYSTAL CAREY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ROSARIO PALMIERI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

JAMES MURPHY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2027.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

KIRSTEN DAVIES, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.
DERRICK ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.
JAMES MAZOL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BRADEN BOUCEK, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DOMINICK GERACE II, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

JEROME FRANCIS GORGON, JR., OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

BRYAN STIRLING, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THOMAS WHEELER II, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THOMAS ALBUS, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ADAM MILDRED, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

HARRY KUMAR, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

JOYCE MEYER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANDREW VEPREK, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION).

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JOHN BARTRUM, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

WILLIAM KIRK, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JEFFREY HALL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

MITCH GRAVES, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2029.

JEFF HAGOOD, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF EXPIRING MAY 18, 2029.

RANDALL JONES, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2028.

ARTHUR GRAHAM, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DOUGLAS TROUTMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PLATTE MORING, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MINDY BRASHEARS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SAFETY.
STELLA HERRELL, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

PETER METZGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

CHARLES ARRINGTON, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2030.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

EDWARD FORST, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES.

THE JUDICIARY

STEPHEN F. RICKARD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

ELANA S. SUTTENBERG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

JOHN CUONG TRUONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

THOMAS FERGUSON III, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ROBERT KADLEC, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

MARC BERKOWITZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

JOSEPH JEWELL, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

BRENDAN ROGERS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DAVID BECK, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR DEFENSE PROGRAMS, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

CHARLES YOUNG III, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

MICHAEL BORDERS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

WILLIAM LANE III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE.

JOHN NOH, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

JAMES CAGGY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

TIMOTHY DILL, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

MICHAEL PAYNE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

MAURICE TODD, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ETHAN KLEIN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STEPHEN CARMEL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

TIMOTHY PETTY, OF INDIANA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

LAURA DIBELLA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2028.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

TRENT MORSE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2030.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MICHELLE A. SCHULTZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 30, 2030.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

PAUL HOLLIS, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

FRANCIS CASSIDY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

JOSEPH GORMLEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

TRAVIS HILL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JEFFREY GOETTMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (AFRICA, WESTERN HEMISPHERE, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, ENVIRONMENT, LABOR, AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

ARJUN MODY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2031.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JULIE CALLAHAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHIEF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEO BRENT BOZELL III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

BENJAMIN LEON, JR., OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA.

BRENT CHRISTENSEN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUN-

SELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

MORVARED NAMDAKHAH, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (CONSULAR AFFAIRS).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THOMAS BELL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JOHN WALK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANDREW DUVA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

ERIN CREGGAN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

RYAN ANTHONY KRIEGSHAUSER, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

JAMES KRUGER, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

SCOTT LEARY, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

MICHAEL SELIG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION.

MICHAEL SELIG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2029.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MELISSA ARGYROS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA.

YEHUDA KAPLOUN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

BERNARDO NAVARRO, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PERU.

DARRYL NIRENBERG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ROMANIA.

TAMMY BRUCE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY; THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS; AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

CHRISTOPHER YEAW, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ARMS CONTROL, NON-PROLIFERATION, AND STABILITY).

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

MARY ANNE CARTER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

SCOTT MAYER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2029.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 302:

To be admiral

ADM. KEVIN E. LUNDAY

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING EAST TEXAS UIL STATE FOOTBALL PARTICIPANTS

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kilgore, Carthage, and Joaquin school districts for their participation in the UIL State Football Championships in Texas this week.

Kilgore will face Stephenville in the 4A Division I Championship, and Carthage will face West Orange-Stark in the 4A Division II Championship. Both of these football organizations are East Texas powerhouses. Both have demonstrated incredible resilience, grit, and determination throughout the season.

Kilgore is eyeing its second State Championship, after its first championship came in 2004. Head Coach Clint Fuller is ready to lead the team to a win this week.

Carthage has appeared in the State Championship 12 times, 11 of those under the leadership of current Head Coach Scott Surratt. All 10 championship wins in those games came under his leadership as well.

Last night, Joaquin played in the 2A Division I Championship against Hamilton. Head Coach Jared Jones led the team to a historic first State Championship appearance. Making the game is an incredible accomplishment in the football program's history.

Each team has incredible leaders who help shape their players on and off the field. I am grateful for their work ethic and dedication to the game.

I wish good luck to Carthage, Kilgore and congratulations to Joaquin. What excellent football dominance from Texas' 1st District.

REMEMBERING JANE SANDERSON

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to longtime Memphis society columnist and entertainment reporter Jane Sanderson, who passed on December 13, 2025, at the age of 100.

Ms. Sanderson interviewed many of the biggest stars of the late 20th century as the society writer for The Commercial Appeal from 1950 to 1958, when she had her first daughter. She then worked for The Delta Review, covering Southern culture, then returned to newspaper journalism in 1971 as an entertainment and lifestyles reporter at The Memphis Press-Scimitar until it closed down in 1983. After that, she was the Memphis-Nashville entertainment writer for People magazine. Among the bold-face names she interviewed and wrote about were comedians Jack Benny, Phyllis Diller, and Lucille Ball; movie stars Gin-

ger Rogers, Audrey Hepburn, Burt Reynolds and Jack Nicholson; and Memphis music giants Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Isaac Hayes. Ms. Sanderson went to Memphis public schools and graduated from Central High School before attending the University of Alabama and graduating with a journalism degree in 1947. She married Robert Wright Sanderson, a gallery owner, who passed in 1999.

I extend my condolences to her daughters, Laura Sanderson Healy and Lisa Sanderson, her two grandchildren, and her many admirers. She lived her life in the limelight, and will be missed.

HONORING THE 40 YEARS OF SERVICE OF DANNY CORTEZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Danny Cortez for his remarkable 40 years of dedicated service to our community through his career with Central Power & Light and later American Electric Power (AEP).

Mr. Cortez began his career on March 12, 1984, selected from a competitive pool of 448 applicants, and started his service as a meter reader with Central Power & Light. Through hard work, reliability, and a strong commitment to public service, he earned a promotion in 1985 to meter reader specialist, where he took on critical connect and disconnect responsibilities that ensured families and businesses across South Texas received reliable electric service.

Following the merger of Central Power & Light with American Electric Power, Mr. Cortez continued to distinguish himself. In 2000, he was promoted to supervisor. In this role, he led with professionalism and integrity, mentoring others and upholding the high standards essential to maintaining safe and dependable power infrastructure for our region.

After four decades of faithful service, Mr. Cortez retired in June 2024, leaving behind a legacy defined by dedication, perseverance, and pride in a job well done. His career reflects the vital role that utility workers play in keeping our communities running and our families safe.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Danny Cortez for his outstanding contributions and to thank him for a lifetime of service. His commitment exemplifies the professionalism and hard work that strengthen South Texas every day. I wish him continued health and happiness in his well-earned retirement.

WAR CRIMINAL PUTIN ATTACKS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on the very day war criminal Putin, in Moscow, boasted he would achieve his goals by "negotiations or war" by annexing Ukraine into a failed resurrected Soviet Union, he unleashed a murderous assault on civilians in Odessa, as exposed by Ukrainian Prayer Breakfast Leader Pavel Unguryan. I include in the RECORD, the following statement:

"Dear friend, dear brother, my country—and especially my city, Odesa—has endured the most intense attacks in the entire time since the war began.

Just try to grasp this: for the second day in a row, more than three hundred different missiles—hypersonic, cruise missiles, Kinzhal systems, and many other types of weapons in the arsenal of the Russian Federation—have been launched against our city.

At this moment, Odesa is completely without electricity. There is no water, no heating.

People are living in fear and deep uncertainty, not knowing how they will survive the coming days. Tomorrow is Sunday—the day we gather to go to church.

We have already experienced worship services without electricity many times, relying on generators. But to hold a service without water is something we have never faced before, and honestly, we do not yet know how to handle this situation.

A city of more than one million people is now without water, without electricity, and without heating.

This is how the criminal Putin demonstrates today—to European leaders, to President Trump, and to the entire world—his so-called readiness to end the war, his desire for peace negotiations, and his "good intentions."

I humbly and urgently ask you to stand with us in prayer these days—for our people, for our city, and for our country.

This is truly an extremely heavy and painful time for all of us.

With love and deep gratitude, your brother, Pavel."

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE E. HARDY, THE LAST TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished veteran of the Army Air Forces who served the United States during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War by fighting in the skies. The country lost Retired Air Force Lt. Col. George E. Hardy, the last surviving member of the famed original Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-

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

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

American combat pilots, on September 25, 2025. He was 100 years old.

Lt. Colonel Hardy was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1925, as the second oldest of seven children. He was the youngest Red Tail fighter pilot among the Tuskegee Airmen and one of the first African American aviators at the age of 19.

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Hardy deployed in 1945 to Italy, joining the African American 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group. He flew 21 combat missions over Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe in P-51 Mustangs, helping escort heavy B-17 and B-24 bombers.

America's bomber crews grew to value and respect the "Red Tails," a nickname derived from the strikingly painted red tails of the Tuskegee fighter planes and often requested to be escorted by them.

Before then, African Americans could not serve as United States military pilots, and their service did not stop the segregation and racism they faced while they fought for our country. During this time, our military was racially segregated, and black Americans faced intense discrimination in the Jim Crow South where they trained. The Tuskegee Airmen faced resistance to their integration as pilots, and many were assigned to non-combat roles; Hardy experienced that himself.

Colonel Hardy faced segregation, like his fellow Tuskegee men, who were also restricted from attending social clubs and were under pressure to excel with outdated aircraft and biased personnel. Yet, he never let that stop him.

After World War II, Hardy was deployed to Japan in 1950 during the Korean War. He was assigned as a co-pilot for B-29 bombers, but his commander doubted the abilities of a Black pilot. He remembered the moment when then-Lt. Col. Fred W. Miller ordered him, "Hardy, get down out of the airplane," as he was preparing for his first mission. But eventually, that senior officer commended his talents. Hardy then served in the Vietnam War, flying an additional 70 combat missions.

Leaving a lasting legacy, he and his Tuskegee Airmen comrades were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, alongside his decorations. Hardy was described as a "humble man" with a deep passion for aviation by the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum. He attended air shows and speaking events, inspiring future generations to pursue careers in aviation.

We are forever grateful for Hardy's courage, sacrifice, and perseverance. The legacy of all the original Tuskegee Airmen will continue to live on for future generations.

May we continue to honor and celebrate the progress our American military has made from the service of people of all colors. America is a better country today because of the bravery and resilience of the Tuskegee Airmen. America's promise is that all citizens will be treated equally under the law and can equally attain life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the land of the opportunity. Lt. Col. Hardy helped make this reality. We must never forget.

RECOGNIZING MIDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE SPIRIT CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school cheerleading team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young student athletes of the Midview High School cheerleading team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division III State Spirit Title. In their effort to surpass all other teams in the Division III State Spirit Competition, the Midview Middies overcame the challenges posed by intense competition.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Middies defeated their competitors to win their first state spirit championship. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the floor, in achieving this accomplishment, is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Midview High School cheerleading team. On behalf of the people of the 5th District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

RECOGNIZING MARY ANN GRANT PETTY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a trailblazer, dedicated public servant, and lifelong resident of Southwest Georgia, Ms. Mary Ann Grant Petty, as she retires after over 53 years with the City of Albany's Administrative Services Department. A "Legacy Celebration" will be held on December 19, 2025, at the Albany Civic Center to honor her over five decades of service.

Ms. Petty was born in Dougherty County to the union of T.W. and Annie Mae Grant on September 1, 1953. The second of seven siblings, she graduated from Monroe High School in June 1971 and thereafter graduated from Albany Technical College with a degree in Business Administration.

On May 29, 1972, as a result of a Federal Civil Rights Court Injunction for the City of Albany to desegregate its downtown offices, Ms. Petty was hired as a Customer Service Records Clerk with the City of Albany's Water, Gas & Light Commission, and was the only black employee in the front office for many months, during which she endured countless acts of discrimination from management, co-workers, and city residents. Ms. Petty, however, remained steadfast and resilient in the face of adversity; she remained at her post, upheld the highest levels of professionalism, and was promoted to the position of Customer Service Supervisor, for the Water, Gas & Light Commission, in 1977, and then to the position of Administrative Services Director, in 1997.

While she may have been the first black woman to hold these roles, she blazed a new trail ahead for many others to follow in her footsteps.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this Earth." Ms. Mary Ann Grant Petty has paid her rent and paid it well. Over the years, she has worked tirelessly in the aftermath of tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and other community disasters, to provide the city and its residents with continued service and support. She is a long-time member of First Monumental Faith Ministries Church and has served on various governmental committees, organizations, and forums, earning numerous awards, certificates, and vast forms of recognition.

Ms. Petty has accomplished so much during her life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of her late husband, Hillard Key Petty; two children, Hillary Keyanna Petty-Jackson, and Heather Keyronica Petty; and a host of extended family and beloved friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the over 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in honoring and commending Ms. Mary Ann Grant Petty for over 53 years of dedicated service to her city and her community. We send her and her loved ones best wishes as she retires and begins the next chapter in her life.

HONORING THE QUILTS OF VALOR RECIPIENTS

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five veterans who were presented with Quilts of Valor: Marine Corps veteran Ben Gallagher, Air Force veteran Bill Presson, Texas National Guard veteran David Baker, Army veteran Dick Wood, and Air Force veteran Mike Mathea.

These five veterans from Arabella of Longview Senior Living received blankets made just for them by members of Longview's Country Patches Quilt Guild, in conjunction with the Quilts of Valor Foundation. This is a small way to honor their service and sacrifice. As they are wrapped in this quilt, I hope they feel wrapped in the arms of a grateful Nation.

I thank the Arabella Military Veterans for creating a space where veterans and their families can gather, support one another, and be recognized.

I also want to thank the Longview Country Patches Quilt Guild for the time, care, and love stitched into every one of these quilts. These are not simple blankets; they are symbols of appreciation from a thankful community to those who have answered the call to serve.

The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our Nation." Their service is remembered by East Texas—a place that is stronger because of them.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSAGE OF
THE WOUNDED KNEE SACRED
SITE AND MEMORIAL ACT

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the unanimous passage of the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

This legislation represents an important step toward preserving one of the most tragic and painful sites in our Nation's history, as we prepare to commemorate the 135th anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre on December 29, 1890. The land at Wounded Knee bears witness to the massacre of hundreds of Lakota men, women, and children on December 29, 1890. For generations, this ground has held deep spiritual and historical significance for the Lakota people, and it deserves to be protected and honored accordingly.

In 2023, I had the opportunity to visit the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre, where I met with descendants of survivors and saw firsthand the remnants of that tragic day, including the bloodstained floorboards of St. John's Church where the wounded were treated. That experience underscores the responsibility we share as a Nation to acknowledge our past wrongdoings and ensure that such a tragedy is never forgotten.

This bill was developed in close partnership with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, whose leadership and guidance were essential in shaping legislation that respects tribal jurisdiction and the sacred nature of the land. I am grateful to President Frank Star Comes Out of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Chairman Ryman LeBeau of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for their continued collaboration and advocacy to preserve the memory and legacy of their ancestors.

Mr. Speaker, on the 100th anniversary of the massacre, Congress issued a formal apology, expressing deep regret for the actions of the federal government and acknowledging the historical significance of this event. As descendants prepare to remember the lives lost on the 135th anniversary, the House and Senate have reaffirmed our commitment to reconciliation and remembrance by passing the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act unanimously, and I was honored to lead this legislation that preserves the sacred ground and respects the legacy of the Lakota people.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
JEREMY D. SMITH

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Master Sergeant Jeremy D. Smith upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after more than 33 years of service to our Nation.

Master Sergeant Smith entered the USAF in April 1992, completing Basic Training at

Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He initially trained as a Munitions Systems Specialist and served in various roles and locations, including missile technician, munitions material handling crew member, and munitions inspector, in Hawaii, North Carolina, and Florida. From 1999 to 2002, he transitioned to the Air Force Reserve, continuing as a Munitions Systems Specialist. In 2002, he cross-trained into the C-130 Loadmaster career field with the 193d Special Operations Squadron (SOS), Pennsylvania Air National Guard, and qualified on the C-130E, EC-130E, C-130J, EC-130J, HC-130J, and MC-130J variants. He served as an EC-130J instructor and evaluator, and held positions in Current Operations, the Formal Training Unit, Squadron Training, and the Squadron Tactics office.

At the time of his retirement, Master Sergeant Smith serves as an MC-130J Special Missions Aviator/Tactician assigned to the 193d SOS in Middletown, Pennsylvania. As a Special Missions Aviator Tactician in the Squadron Tactics office, he advises squadron aviators on the tactical employment of the MC-130J and related mission sets, ensuring mission readiness. His duties include managing the Drop Zone Control and Malfunction offices and the Joint Airdrop Inspectors program that monitors all airdrop inspections and supplies for mission success.

Master Sergeant Smith has deployed in support of myriad missions, including Operations Southern Watch, Desert Strike/Desert Fox, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, New Dawn, Unified Response, Unified Protector, Odyssey Dawn, Inherent Resolve, and Freedom's Sentinel.

Throughout his illustrious career, Master Sergeant Smith has earned a multitude of awards and decorations, including, but not limited to the: Air Force Air Medal (w/2 OLC); Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon (w/Gold Border and 2 OLC); Air Force Good Conduct Medal (w/7 Devices); Pennsylvania Keystone Freedom Medal (w/7 Devices); Pennsylvania 20-Year Service Medal (w/1 Device); Major General Thomas R. White, Jr. Medal; and the General Thomas J. Stewart Medal (w/3 Devices).

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged to recognize Master Sergeant Jeremy D. Smith upon his retirement after more than 33 years of service to our Nation in uniform. His tireless, selfless, and honorable dedication to his fellow Airmen, the United States Air Force, and the United States of America set the standard by which all should be judged.

RECOGNIZING THE PLAYING OF
THE MONTANA SUPER BOWL AS
DELIVERED TO WAKE UP MON-
TANA ON NONSTOP LOCAL

HON. TROY DOWNING

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, in November, Montanans gathered in Missoula for the 124th Brawl of the Wild, a legendary matchup between the University of Montana Grizzlies and the Montana State University Bobcats.

On Saturday, December 20, Montanans across the country will be tuning in for what many are calling the Montana Super Bowl.

This is Brawl 2.0, and this time, it means more. With a spot in the FCS National Championship on the line, the stakes could not be higher.

For the first time in Montana history, the Grizzlies and Bobcats will face off in the FCS semifinals at Montana State University in Bozeman, placing our state in the national spotlight.

Montana's competitive spirit always shines on game day, and this weekend will be no exception. From living rooms to watch parties to packed stadium seats, Montanans will be united by pride, passion, and rivalry.

I thank Bradley Warren, "Touchdown" Tommy Mellott, and Marcus Welnel for covering the Montana Super Bowl. I'm looking forward to an electric game and wish both teams the best of luck.

CELEBRATING PRESTAR PACK-
AGING OF CHRISTIANSBURG,
VIRGINIA

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Prestar Packaging of Christiansburg, Virginia, on achieving the top honor in the 2025 Virginia Manufacturing Cup. This accomplishment has earned their product, the Pop-Up Gift Card Box, the honorary title of "The Coolest Thing in Virginia." The Virginia Manufacturers Association celebrates the passion and innovation that drive Virginia's manufacturing sector forward. Part of the foundation of a strong manufacturing sector depends on creative ideas that businesses like Prestar Packaging bring to the market.

Such creative ideas can lead to critical partnerships. Interest in Prestar Packaging products includes the likes of popular brands such as Under Armour, Coca-Cola, and even the United States Congress.

I was impressed to hear that Prestar Packaging has operated for three decades. It takes strong leadership, principled discipline and fantastic genius to sustain such a successful business.

Moreover, family-owned businesses like Prestar Packaging contribute to the manufacturing backbone of local economies, create job opportunities and highlight the power of American manufacturing.

Thanks in part to the great success of Prestar Packaging, Montgomery County continues to deliver in the manufacturing space.

I join Southwest Virginia communities in wishing a most sincere congratulations to Prestar Packaging.

May they use this success to fuel them in their future activities and endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF
THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES, EMS PROFESSION

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the emergency

medical services (EMS) profession who dedicate their lives to providing often lifesaving medical care and transport services to patients as well as entire communities. These health care professionals are on the frontlines of providing vital emergency 9–1–1 and interfacility ambulance services.

Every year, the dispatch of an ambulance is the first response to millions of medical emergencies. Often, the survival of a patient is enhanced by the prompt medical attention provided by paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) prior to the arrival at an emergency department. As a result of the selfless acts of these courageous and devoted professions, the lives of thousands of Americans are saved each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for their work, they deserve our outmost gratitude.

I would like to highlight a very special group of EMS professionals or “Stars of Life” who were recently honored by the American Ambulance Association. This year, the American Ambulance Association is recognizing 147 Stars of Life—by far the largest number of Stars of Life in the over 25 years of the program.

The American Ambulance Association honors each year those paramedics, emergency medical technicians, dispatchers and other ambulance service personnel who exemplify what is best about the EMS field. The American Ambulance Association has appropriately designated these individuals as “Stars of Life”. Past Stars of Life have included paramedics and EMTs who were part of evacuation and response efforts to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and public health emergencies. Members of this year’s Stars of Life program are no different and were involved with exceptional acts such as stabilizing an expecting mothers in medical distress and saving the life of both the mother and newborn baby and using quick thinking and their medical skills to save individuals involved in vehicle crashes.

Of equal importance, this program also pays tribute to those ambulance service personnel whose heroic acts or community service activities may not have made the news, but were just as meaningful to the people they aided. They are truly America’s health care safety net.

I am especially proud of the four Stars of Life from Minnesota being recognized this year who serve Minnesota with pride. They are John Harding, Stacy Jensen, Daniel McIntosh and Daniel Rohe. I had the opportunity to meet with John Harding with Mayo Clinic Ambulance from North Mankato, Minnesota and can tell you he is a first-class EMS professional who deeply cares about his community and his patients.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names, organizations and hometowns of the 2025 American Ambulance Association Stars of Life honorees:

2025 AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION STARS OF LIFE

Jennifer Aguilar, Superior Mobile Health, San Antonio, Texas; Kayla Alderman, Sunstar Paramedics, Largo, Florida; Mark Allen, EMSA, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Zoe Allison, Metropolitan EMS, Little Rock, Arkansas; Anthony Arrigo, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Utica, New York; Domingo Barboa, Cascade Ambulance, Bellingham, Washington; Carlos Bautista, EagleMed, Dodge City, Kansas; Emma Beaupre, Armstrong Ambulance Service, Arlington, Massachusetts; Jonathan Bell, Metropolitan EMS, Little Rock, Arkan-

sas; Kathleen Benoit, Cataldo Ambulance Service, Somerville, Massachusetts; Cortney Bloxham, Pafford Medical Services, Inc., Stigler, Oklahoma; Scott Bodien, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte, North Carolina; Kandice Bogatz, Northwell Emergency Medical Services, Syosset, New York; Andre Joel Bower, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Fredericksburg, Virginia; Robert Brengartner, Hall Ambulance, Bakersfield, California; Richard Byerwalters, Mohawk Ambulance Service, Schenectady, New York; Alison Cagle, Acadian Ambulance, Lafayette, Louisiana; Nathan Cagna, Huron Valley Ambulance, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Jeremy Capps, Hall Ambulance, Bakersfield, California; Larry Christian, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Indianapolis, Indiana; Timothy Clark, Rescue, Inc., Brattleboro, Vermont; Hugh Coley, Northwell Emergency Medical Services, Syosset, New York; Jason Cooke, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Anderson, South Carolina; Chris Crawford, American Medical Response, Portland, Oregon; Naomi Crittendon, Olympic Ambulance, Tacoma, Washington; Talitha Crowe, American Medical Response, Temple, Texas; Nathanael Day, EagleMed, Wichita, Kansas; Krystal Daymonde, Hartford HealthCare EMS, Network, Meriden, Connecticut; Courtney De Weese, Life EMS Ambulance, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Trish Dickerson, Pafford Medical Services, Inc., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Sergey Dobrinin, Bell Ambulance, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Rudy Drago, River Medical, Lake Havasu City, Arizona; Aaron Durette, American Medical Response, West Hartford, Connecticut; Arianne Emling, Air Evac Lifeteam, Marion, Illinois; Jimi Estrada-Velazquez, American Medical Response, Riverside, California; Tom Felter, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Hebron, Indiana; Marc Flores, Air Evac Lifeteam, Abilene, Texas; Tyler Ford, REACT EMS, Shawnee, Oklahoma; Kara Fox, Ute Pass Regional Ambulance District, Woodland Park, Colorado; Neil Frame, Metro-Area Ambulance Service, Mandan, North Dakota; Eric Friedell, Northwell Emergency Medical Services, Syosset, New York; Will Gardam, Spirit EMS, Greenville, Ohio; Rusty Gilbert, Pafford EMS of Louisiana, Ruston, Louisiana; Kenny Glimme, REACH, Oceanside, California; Aaron Goodloe, American Medical Response, Kansas City, Kansas; Alex Gossett, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Rockman, Georgia; Dylan Graves, American Medical Response, Keizer, Oregon; Terry Gray, American Medical Response, Puyallup, Washington; Rachelle Hallett, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; John Harding, Mayo Clinic Ambulance, Rochester, Minnesota; Carol Harper, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Fremont County, Wyoming; Jeanine Hasenkopf, Mohawk Ambulance Service, Schenectady, New York; Jayeah Haske, Life EMS Inc., Enid, Oklahoma; Shelby Hawkins, Southern Paramedic Services, Brinkley, Arkansas; Brian Heisz, Gunderson Tri-State Ambulance, La Crosse, Wisconsin; Charles Henley, Pafford Medical Services, Inc., Quitman County, Mississippi; Connor Holt, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Jefferson County, Alabama; Athena Hopkins, Pafford Medical Services, Inc., Rogers County, Oklahoma; Ryan Horowitz, Falck USA, Orange, California; Julie Humes, Air Evac Lifeteam, Macomb, Illinois; Braxton Impson, East Baton Rouge Parish EMS, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Zachary Jahnke, Life EMS Ambulance, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Jeremy Jaime, Falck USA, Orange, California; Louann Jarreau, East Baton Rouge Parish EMS, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Stacy Jensen, M Health Fairview/HealthEast, St. Paul, Minnesota; Christopher Jerrell, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte, North Carolina; Jeff Kaufman, PatientCare EMS Solutions, Sioux

Falls, South Dakota; Daryl Kennedy, Advanced Life Systems, Spokane, Washington; Joseph Ketcham, MedicWest, North Las Vegas, Nevada; Stacy Kohn, Friendswood EMS, League City, Texas; Eric Korneffel, Northwell Health, Syosset, New York; Jason Lambeth, Sinor EMS, Butler, Oklahoma; Katie Leland, Ute Pass Regional Ambulance District, Woodland Park, Colorado; Josh Lewis, Life EMS Ambulance, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Antony Lockwood, Regional Ambulance Service, Rutland, Vermont; Paul Lopez, Falck USA, Orange, California; P.J. Lowe, American Medical Response, Jackson, Mississippi; Matt Magiera, Medstar EMS, Summerdale, Alabama; Samantha Mahan, Cataldo Ambulance Service, Somerville, Massachusetts; Dave Martens, Gunderson Lutheran MedLink AIR, La Crosse, Wisconsin; Matthew Matouk, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Elmhurst, Illinois; Eva Matyus-Bailey, Pafford EMS of Mississippi, Brandon, Mississippi; Caleb McDougal, Southern Paramedic Service, Brinkley, Arkansas; Beau McFarlin, Air Evac Lifeteam, Marion, Illinois; Daniel McIntosh, Lakes Region EMS, North Branch, Minnesota; Alyssa McMullen, Mohawk Ambulance Service, Schenectady, New York; Alexander Megquier, American Medical Response, West Hartford, Connecticut; Osvaldo Michel, Hall Ambulance, Bakersfield, California; William Miles, Hall Ambulance, Bakersfield, California; Douglas Milks, American Medical Response, Angola, New York; Ashley Miranda, Hartford HealthCare EMS Network, Meriden, Connecticut; Dillon Misenheimer, East Baton Rouge Parish EMS, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Edmund Moreshead, North East Mobile Health, Scarborough, Maine; Magen Morris, MedicWest, North Las Vegas, Nevada; Jon Mullaly, Armstrong Ambulance Service, Arlington, Massachusetts; Gheorghe Munteanu, Action Ambulance Service, Inc., Wilmington, Massachusetts; Holly Nasello, Life Line, Prescott, Arizona; Andrew Natoli, Medic Ambulance Service Inc., Sonoma, California; Daniel Norfleet, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Clarksville, Tennessee; Thomas Elliot Owen, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Forest, Mississippi; John Pagonis, Northwell Emergency Medical Services, Syosset, New York; Shrey Patel, Hall Ambulance, Bakersfield, California; Aaron Pearce, Sunstar Paramedics, Largo, Florida; Jonathan Penick, EMSA, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Trey Phillips, Air Evac Lifeteam, Snellville, Georgia; Mark Powers, Community Care Ambulance Network, Ashtabula, Ohio; Tarun Prajapati, MedEx Ambulance, Skokie, Illinois; Rick Pringle, American Medical Response, Temple, Texas; Julie Purick, American Medical Response, Rochester, New York; Gerardo Ramirez, Falck USA, Orange, California; Emma Reyes, Action Ambulance Service, Inc., Wilmington, Massachusetts; Dana Rhoades, Action Ambulance Service, Inc., Wilmington, Massachusetts; LeAnn Riley, American Medical Response, Modesto, California; Ryan Rizen, American Medical Response, Evansville, Indiana; Katelyn Roberts, REMSA Health, Reno, Nevada; Jess Robins, Medic Ambulance Service Inc., Vallejo, California; Darrell Rohe, Lakes Region EMS, North Branch, Minnesota; Daniel Rooney, Priority Ambulance, LLC, Maricopa County, Arizona; Samantha Sabol, American Medical Response, Temple, Texas; Joannie Sanchez, Acadian Ambulance, Lafayette, Louisiana; Sara Sanders, Mohawk Ambulance Service, Schenectady, New York; Missy Satterfield, Air Evac Lifeteam, Abilene, Texas; Joseph Sisneros, Del Norte, Ambulance, Crescent City, California; Jamon Smith, Gold Cross Services, Salt Lake City, Utah; Christopher Spilde, Woodburn Ambulance Service, Woodburn, Oregon; Mark Staley, Pafford

Medical Services, Inc., Chicot & Drew Counties, Arkansas; Morgan Stanley, American Medical Response, Independence, Missouri; Jason Staszko, Bell Ambulance, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Jonathan Stocker, Superior Mobile Health, San Antonio, Texas; Doug Struble, Mercy Ambulance Service, Inc., Savannah, Georgia; Sarah Stump, Spirit EMS, Greenville, Ohio; Samantha Sukel, Emergent Health Partners, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Tristan Tomlins, Medic Ambulance Service Inc., Vallejo, California; Jonathan Tseng, Falck USA, Orange, California; Corey Tucker, Century Ambulance, Orange Park, Florida; Stone Volkmer, Community Care Ambulance Network, Ashtabula, Ohio; Julianna Wadsworth, Olympic Ambulance, Poulosbo, Washington; Adam Wagh, Superior Mobile Health, San Antonio, Texas; Parker Wallace, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte, North Carolina; Michelle Walsh, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Lancaster, Ohio; April Weisler, Southern Oklahoma Ambulance Service, Ardmore, Oklahoma; Alisha Welicki, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Sterling Heights, Michigan; Melissa White, Metropolitan EMS, Little Rock, Arkansas; Dustin Williams, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Schaumburg, Illinois; Dustin Wilson, American Medical Response, Stockton, California; Ryan Zavada, Advanced Medical Transport, Peoria, Illinois; and Brannen Zilka, American Medical Response, Concord, California.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I missed the first vote during the second voting series on December 17, 2025, as I was detained in a time-sensitive meeting at that time.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 345, H. Con. Res. 61.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. MIKE JENKINS

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Dr. Mike Jenkins of Kilgore, Texas, whose passing is deeply felt across the Kilgore College community and throughout East Texas.

Dr. Jenkins faithfully served Kilgore College for 35 years and most recently held the role of Executive Vice President of Internal Collaboration and Strategic Initiatives. Throughout his long career, he impacted countless students, educators, and staff members with a positive, encouraging spirit and a deep commitment to the mission of education.

Those who worked alongside Dr. Jenkins consistently describe him as a leader who used his influence for good, offered grace and guidance to others, and created a culture of care, kindness, and support. He was known as a mentor, a trusted colleague, and a steady presence who lifted people up and made them feel valued, regardless of title or circumstance.

As Interim President, Dr. Staci Martin shared, Dr. Jenkins truly had a servant's heart

and will be greatly missed. I join the Kilgore College family and the broader East Texas community in offering condolences to his loved ones and honoring a life devoted to service, faith, and education.

HONORING GARY ACOSTA

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Acosta for his many contributions to our community.

Gary is an entrepreneur, investor, and advocate for the Latino community, and the co-founder and CEO of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP), whose mission is to advance sustainable Hispanic homeownership.

Under Gary's leadership, NAHREP has grown to be the largest Latino business organization in the Nation with more than 58,000 members and 100 local chapters, and created the Hispanic Wealth Project, a non-profit committed to increasing household wealth in the Latino community.

Gary is a founding partner of L'ATTITUDE Ventures, the largest venture capital fund in the Nation that invests exclusively in Latino-led startups and has also launched and led several companies in real estate, mortgage, and technology.

Additionally, Gary founded both AVANCE Sports and the National Hispanic Construction Alliance (NHCA), business organizations focused on advancing the professional and economic mobility of Latinos in these industries.

Gary has been recognized by REALTOR as one of the 25 Most Influential People in Real Estate and by Latino Leaders Magazine as one of the 101 Most Influential Latinos in America.

Gary originally studied chemistry at the University of California, San Diego and Pomona College, worked at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego, and became a junior underwriter at a community bank, where he learned firsthand about real estate and finance.

I am glad to recognize Gary for his countless accomplishments and commend him for his exemplary efforts as one of the most influential Latino leaders in the country.

HONORING COMPTROLLER GENERAL GENE DODARO

HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Honorable Gene Dodaro, the eighth Comptroller General of the United States and head of the Government Accountability Office, Congress's nonpartisan investigatory arm. Mr. Dodaro's fifteen-year term as the Comptroller General ends on December 29 and his service to GAO, Congress, and our Nation has been remarkable.

Mr. Dodaro began his career at GAO more than fifty years ago. During his time as the

head of GAO, Mr. Dodaro has adapted the agency to meet Congress's needs in a time of extraordinary technological change. While maintaining GAO's stringent quality assurance standards, Mr. Dodaro expanded GAO's work to examine how changes in science and technology affect our government's ability to make sure every federal dollar is spent as Congress intends.

A stalwart commitment to GAO's core values of accountability, integrity, and reliability have defined Mr. Dodaro's tenure. During his term as Comptroller General, GAO's work has led to over one trillion dollars in financial benefits.

Mr. Dodaro has testified before Congress more than 200 times. A cornerstone of his work is GAO's "High Risk List," which highlights specific challenges in programs that involve substantial resources and provide critical services to the public.

GAO's real value, however, goes far beyond what any dollar amount can tell us. GAO's value derives from its ability to independently report the facts and speak truth to power.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Mr. Dodaro for his more than 50 years of service in helping us perform the Constitutional duties of the legislative branch and in wishing him well as he completes his term.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. STEVE BACHMANN FROM THE BOEING COMPANY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Steve Bachmann for his many years of dedication to our country, both through his military service in the United States Air Force and through his time at The Boeing Company.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia, Steve became an officer in the United States Air Force. During this time, he earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology. In 2006, after twenty years of military service, Steve went on to join The Boeing Company as Vice President for Legislative Affairs. Throughout his time at Boeing, Steve was known as a dedicated mentor who always made the time to share his knowledge and expertise. An honest and forthcoming friend, Steve brought humor and lightheartedness to tough conversations. After retirement, Steve plans to spend time with his grandkids and enjoying traveling in his RV. It has been a pleasure to work with him for the past twenty years and I wish him all the best.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Steve Bachmann for a lifetime of service to the United States of America and to his community. His legacy will not be forgotten.

REMEMBERING BREGGIE LEJUANE
GILKEY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise sadly today to remember one of my constituents, Breggie Lejuane Gilkey—a lifelong servant to the city of Memphis, a musician and the devoted father of my outstanding former staffer with a bright political future, Kyler Gilkey—who passed on December 13 at the age of 54.

Mr. Gilkey was born September 24, 1971, in Memphis, Tennessee, to Lilly R. Faulkner and Everett Gilkey. He attended Vollentine Elementary and Snowden School in Memphis, and graduated from Overton High School in 1989. He was a member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church. On September 23, 1995, he married his high school sweetheart, Roniece N. Gilkey, and they were together for 36 years, raising five sons: my former staffer Kyler and his brothers Bryson, Carson, Conner, and Bre'dyn. For years, he served the City of Memphis as a skilled mechanic. He was someone friends could rely on, not just for his expertise, but for his honesty, generosity, and willingness to help anyone in need. Beyond his work, Breggie had a deep love for music and played a meaningful role in Memphis' rich musical heritage. He worked with such legendary artists as The Bar-Kays and Shirley Brown and was a vocalist for Unexpected and The Temprees, contributing quietly but significantly to the sound and soul of the city he loved. He was also a volunteer with the STAX Music Academy and his sons' education while being an influential father figure to other young students who affectionately called him "Pops." Above all else, Breggie was a family man. He found his greatest joy in spending time with his loved ones and was known for his warmth, laughter, and calm presence. His compassion and love left an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Breggie L. Gilkey leaves to cherish his memory, his loving and devoted wife Roniece; his five sons, Kyler Gilkey, Bryson Gilkey, Carson Gilkey, Conner Gilkey, and Bre'dyn Lovett; his parents, Lilly Gilkey, Everett Gilkey (Margree) and his siblings, Brandon Gilkey, Marvin Pride, Tinica Mitchell (Brandon), and Daphane Tyms (Eldon) and his many friends and colleagues. I extend my profound condolences to them all. Breggie Gilkey was a proud Memphian whose life was defined by hard work, creativity, and compassion. His was a life well lived.

THANKING LAURA FALENDER

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of and express my deep gratitude for my Veterans Affairs Policy Fellow, Laura Falender, and her outstanding service to my office over the past year.

Since joining my team from the Department of Veterans Affairs earlier this year, Laura be-

came an integral member of my policy staff and helped spearhead my work on Veterans Affairs issues—especially as I have taken on the role of Ranking Member of the Technology and Modernization Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. During her time in my office, Laura proved invaluable to both me and my staff, while also serving as a strong voice for veterans across my district and throughout the country. Upon joining our office, Laura also led several legislative initiatives. These include, but are certainly not limited to, the VA Mental Health Engagement Act, the Improving Veterans' Experience Act of 2025, and the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act, which unanimously passed the House of Representatives earlier this year. Laura's dedication to improving access to benefits for our Nation's more than 18 million veterans played a significant role in her ability to expertly introduce and advance legislation in support of those who have served.

Beyond her policy contributions, Laura has been a key member of our team, helping to foster a culture of collaboration, camaraderie, and hard work.

While I am saddened to see Laura's time in my office come to an end, I am encouraged that she will continue her public service by returning to the Veterans Experience Office at the Department of Veterans Affairs, where she will build on her important work on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

I want to once again thank Laura Falender for her service to my office, our Nation's veterans, and my constituents. While she will be missed, I am confident she has a bright future ahead in public service.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to introduce a resolution recognizing the 90th anniversary of the National Council of Negro Women, one of the most enduring and consequential organizations in the history of our country.

Ninety years ago, the incomparable Mary McLeod Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women with a singular purpose: to unite Black women's organizations and strengthen our collective power to make a better world. She believed deeply in the strength of organized womanhood and the necessity of Black women's leadership in shaping the future of this Nation.

For generations, NCNW has carried that mission forward. It has stood at the forefront of movements for justice, equality, economic empowerment, and educational opportunity. It has been a training ground for advocates, a safe harbor for families, and a beacon of civic leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to speak of NCNW without honoring the extraordinary legacy of my dear friend, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. For 42 years, Dr. Height served as President of NCNW and transformed it into a

national powerhouse for civil and human rights. She was an advisor to presidents, a strategist for the movement, and a fierce defender of Black women's dignity and advancement.

Dr. Height's vision gave birth to programs that continue to shape our communities today—most notably the Black Family Reunion, a national celebration of culture, unity, and intergenerational strength. This gathering has helped reinforce the bonds that hold families together and affirm the values that empower us to overcome the challenges Black people face in America.

Today, under the leadership of Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley, NCNW continues to grow its reach and impact. Its programs promote health equity, economic mobility, STEM education for girls, and community wellness. Its membership now represents more than two million women, spanning hundreds of community and collegiate sections and more than 330 affiliate organizations.

And for decades, its headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue has stood as a symbol of NCNW's enduring place in the civic landscape of Washington, D.C. The only Black-owned building on this historic avenue in our Nation's capital, it is a center of excellence, and a national treasure.

Mr. Speaker, as NCNW marks 90 years of service, it is important that this Congress acknowledge its contributions to the Nation, honor the women who built its legacy, and celebrate the generations who continue to carry its mission forward.

With this resolution, we recognize NCNW's historic work, its transformative leadership, and its unwavering commitment to strengthening Black families and communities. We honor the legacies of Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. Dorothy Height, and we express our deep gratitude to Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley and the millions of women who make NCNW a force for good in our country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and in celebrating the National Council of Negro Women on its 90th anniversary.

HONORING HAYNES KING

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Longview, Texas native Haynes King, on being named the Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year and ACC Offensive Player of the Year. These honors reflect an outstanding season and place him among the top players in one of college football's premier conferences.

Haynes King attended Longview High School, where he played for the Longview Lobos under his father, John King, who has served as head coach since 2004. As a junior in 2018, Haynes led Longview to its first state championship in 81 years, an achievement that brought a proud East Texas community together and remains a defining moment in Longview football history.

Longview football is known for toughness, discipline, and accountability. Those values shaped Haynes King early and followed him to

Georgia Tech, where he earned conference-wide recognition for his leadership, resilience, and performance under pressure.

His journey from Longview to the collegiate stage reflects the strength of East Texas families, coaches, and communities. Longview is proud of Haynes King, and I commend him, his family, and his coaches on this well-earned achievement.

HONORING MICHAEL KEANE ON 30
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Mr. Michael Keane on his retirement after 30 years of dedicated service to the United States House of Representatives. For three decades, Michael has been a steadfast presence within the Chief Administrative Office, and those of us who have had the privilege of working alongside him know just how deeply he has contributed to the strength and continuity of this institution.

Michael's journey to the House began with a deep appreciation for American history, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University, Northridge. That grounding in history was evident in the pride he took in serving this institution, an institution he understood not just as a workplace, but as a living part of our Nation's democratic story.

From his earliest days as a Customer Account Counselor in Office Systems Management, Michael distinguished himself through his professionalism, his patience, and his commitment to helping others. His work ethic and reliability earned him a series of promotions, culminating in leadership roles in the Immediate Office of Logistics and Support, and later in Workflow Management. In each position, he brought clarity, steadiness, and a remarkable ability to solve problems before they became crises.

Michael played a key role in implementing major systems that improved the efficiency of House operations. He was also part of the first group of Office Coordinators, helping Member offices navigate services with greater ease. In his role managing Workflow Management, he strengthened communication between Logistics and Furnishings and became a trusted guide for departing Members navigating the close of their service.

Beyond the technical expertise and institutional knowledge, what stands out most about Michael is his character. Over the past 30 years, he has been a calm and reassuring presence through some of the most challenging moments in modern congressional history, including 9/11, the anthrax attacks, the pandemic, numerous transitions of Congress, and multiple changes in House leadership. His steady hand and quiet confidence helped keep this institution functioning when it mattered most.

As he enters retirement, Michael looks forward to spending more time with his children, his daughter Siobhan and his sons Rory and Colin, and embracing new opportunities and adventures. Knowing Michael, he will bring the

same dedication and good humor to this next chapter that he brought to his decades of service here.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend my deepest gratitude to Michael Keane. His contributions have strengthened this institution, supported countless Members and staff, and upheld the dignity of public service. We wish him many years of happiness, fulfillment, and well-earned rest in retirement.

LOWER HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS
FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my opposition to H.R. 6703, the so-called Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act. This bill does nothing to address the health care affordability crisis and is full of tired, failed ideas from previous GOP efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Donald Trump and House Republicans have never had a health care plan for the American people. Despite having fifteen years to plan and come up with ways to improve or replace the ACA, they've only tried to repeal it—over 50 times. Republicans' failure to extend the ACA tax credits means that more than 20 million Americans will be paying twice as much on average to buy the same health care plan they have today. President Trump had no problem extending tax cuts for millionaires, billionaires, and large corporations in his Big Ugly Bill—yet he and his GOP cronies won't even extend temporary tax credits to help Americans afford their health care.

This did not need to happen. We're here because Republicans refused to work with Democrats and allowed for the longest government shutdown in U.S. history rather than come to the table and negotiate. The clock is ticking, and while I'm pleased that a few Republicans joined Democrats in an effort to extend the tax credits, this effort came too late. Americans are receiving notices about their premiums doubling and are making decisions right now to either pay exorbitantly higher rates, opt for a plan that offers less coverage, or go without health coverage altogether.

President Trump has put forward a fake alternative—junk health care plans and a \$1,000 HSA that will keep folks paying more for less. Do not be misled. This proposal will put millions of Americans health coverage at risk and will leave as many as 4 million Americans uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats have been sounding the alarm about the ACA tax credits for months, yet Republicans spent their time cutting a trillion dollars from the health care system instead. It is insulting to the American people that they waited until two weeks before the tax credits expire to introduce a half-baked plan that doesn't help anyone afford the skyrocketing prices and that they knew Democrats would not support. I oppose this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

LOWER HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS
FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD, two letters of opposition to H.R. 6703, the Lower Health Care Premiums for Americans Act, from AFL-CIO and AFSCME.

AFL-CIO,

December 16, 2025.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, a federation of 64 affiliate unions representing 15 million working people across our economy, I urge you to oppose the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act (H.R. 6703) when it is considered on the House floor. Instead, we urge you to join Rep. Hakeem Jeffries's discharge petition to move a clean, three-year extension of the enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits which will expire on December 31.

H.R. 6703 is billed as the House Republicans' alternative to a straightforward extension of the ACA tax credits that lower health care premiums for millions of Americans. However, this legislation is a fundamentally flawed approach to health care coverage because it shifts costs to workers as it reduces costs for employers and insurance companies. It allows health plans to provide stripped-down coverage that does not comply with ACA essential benefits requirements in order to lower premium costs and claims expenses for employers and insurers. The costs of this policy, however, are borne by people with pre-existing conditions and chronic diseases that find their insurance does not cover the services they need. Further, it rewards low-road employers that seek a competitive edge by skimping on coverage for their workers.

The bill will steer workers into association health plans (AHPs), expanding plans that evade ACA requirements to cover essential health benefits. Providing skimpier coverage will lower premiums for employers but increase costs for people who find that needed services are not covered. In addition, AHPs have a track record of poor management and insolvency, and plan bankruptcies have left thousands of working people with unpaid medical bills.

The legislation would also allow employer health plans to avoid the ACA requirement that insured plans cover essential health benefits. The policy allows plans that are unable to self-fund with adequate reserves to instead purchase a high level of stop-loss insurance to become 'self-insured' and evade ACA requirements. Lack of adequate reserves leave many of these plans, and their enrollees, at risk since stop-loss insurers often retain the right to drop the insurance if medical costs for the group begin to climb. The bill prevents states from ensuring that plans have the reserves necessary to protect enrollees with high medical expenses from financial ruin if their health plan becomes insolvent.

It is imperative that the House reject H.R. 6703 and move to advance Rep. Jeffries's discharge petition to hold a floor vote on a three-year extension of the ACA tax credits. With only weeks to spare before the 2026 plan year begins, Congress must act to prevent premiums from doubling or tripling for more than 20 million people, and to keep almost 4 million people from losing their health coverage altogether. Action is also needed to

keep hundreds of hospitals, nursing homes, maternity clinics, and primary care providers from closing as this latest round of funding cuts will compound the trillion-dollar loss enacted as part of the 'Big Beautiful' Bill Act (H.R. 1). Provider closures will cause many communities to lose crucial services altogether and will incur job losses of more than 600,000 in the health care sector.

The choices are clear, and on behalf of America's working families, we urge you to vote against the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act and to join the Jeffries discharge petition.

Sincerely,

JODY CALEMINI,
Director, Government Affairs.

—
AFSCME,
December 16, 2025.

*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), we write to express our opposition to the lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act (H.R. 6703), which is scheduled for a vote this week.

At a moment when millions of Americans are facing a looming health care cliff, this legislation fails to address the urgent reality before Congress. Without action to extend the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits, families will see sharp premium increases or lose coverage altogether. Instead of advancing meaningful solutions to protect coverage and affordability, this bill puts the health and financial security of millions at risk and would make health care less affordable.

This bill prioritizes the expansion of Association Health Plans (AHPs), coverage arrangements that are exempt from key Affordable Care Act consumer protections. Rather than strengthening coverage, AHPs have a documented history of insolvency, inadequate coverage, and higher out-of-pocket costs for workers and families. These plans allow employers and self-employed individuals to band together outside the ACAs regulated markets and pull healthier individuals out of comprehensive coverage, weaken insurance risk pools, and increase costs for those who remain.

While we appreciate that the bill includes provisions to improve transparency and oversight of pharmacy benefit managers (PBM), these reforms are overshadowed by other provisions that undermine comprehensive coverage and affordability. PBM transparency is important and should be included as part of a broader package to extend the ACA enhanced premium tax credits, not used to advance policies that weaken consumer protections.

Congress already has a clear and workable solution, a three-year, clean extension of the ACA enhanced premium tax credits. This would prevent premium spikes, protect coverage for millions, and provide families with much needed certainty before Congress recesses for the holidays.

AFSCME urges Congress to vote no on the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act and instead act swiftly to extend the ACA enhanced premium tax credits, ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH S. WATSON,
Director of Federal Government Affairs.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HAL SMITH

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember Hal Smith of Springfield, Illinois, a devoted public servant, respected community leader, and most importantly, a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Hal passed away on December 3, 2025, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of leadership and service.

A proud 1968 graduate of Springfield High School, Hal went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts in Business from Sangamon State University in 1972 and later a master's degree in public administration in 1976. From the very beginning of his career, Hal embodied the best qualities of a servant leader. His work for U.S. Senator Charles H. Percy beginning in 1977, quickly established him as a trusted member of the district team, known for his warm personality, strategic insight, and unwavering commitment to helping others.

In 1984, Hal transitioned to the private sector, beginning a thirty-year career with three global gaming and entertainment companies. His love for history and Illinois heritage led him to serve as executive director of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition from 2008 to 2010, where he shared lessons of leadership drawn from Abraham Lincoln and other notable Illinois leaders.

After decades of private sector success, Hal announced his retirement, but public service called him back. In 2016, newly elected Congressman DARIN LAHOOD asked Hal to join his district team, where he oversaw operations of the Springfield office. In that role, Hal once again served his community with humility, kindness, and deep respect for the people of Central Illinois.

Always embracing new challenges, Hal left the congressional office in 2019 to become Executive Director for Development at the SIU Foundation at the School of Medicine. His exceptional communication skills and genuine passion for people made him an invaluable asset, earning admiration from colleagues throughout the School of Medicine.

Above all, Hal was grounded by faith and family. He was an active member of Blessed Sacrament Church and the devoted husband of forty-two years to Meg Moore Smith. He was a loving father to Elizabeth Lucin and David Reid and a proud granddad to Madison and Caden. Hal will be deeply missed by all who knew him and will be remembered as the epitome of a servant leader whose faith, character, and dedication to his community will endure for years to come.

CELEBRATING A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR MONTANA COLLEGE FOOTBALL

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate an extraordinary moment

for not only Montana college football, but for our entire state.

This Saturday, the Montana State Bobcats and the University of Montana Grizzlies will face off in the semifinal round of the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) Playoffs, continuing a rivalry that has defined Montana sports for more than a century.

These two programs have met on the gridiron 124 times in the "Brawl of the Wild", a rivalry that began on Thanksgiving of 1897 and is among the oldest and most storied in college football. For decades, the winner of this annual clash has brought home the coveted Great Divide Trophy and united Montanans from across the state in spirited competition and pride.

This weekend's meeting carries even greater significance. For the first time in history, the Bobcats and the Grizzlies will face each other in the post season, the 2025 FCS Playoffs, with a berth in the national championship game on the line.

In the regular season, these teams showed just how closely matched they are. The teams have each been ranked 2nd and 3rd nationally, with Montana State narrowly defeating Montana 31-28 in their November matchup to secure a share of the Big Sky Conference title and home-field advantage. Since then, both programs have continued their playoff runs with commanding performances, dominating the field to set up this historic rematch.

No matter the outcome this weekend, Montanans everywhere will be proud that our state is represented on one of college football's biggest stages. That pride is rooted not just in wins and losses, but in the character of the players and coaches who represent our communities, many of whom grew up pulling calves, floating rivers, and playing pee-wee football right here in Montana. Notably, the Montana teams include a combined 76 Montana high school graduates who are suited up for the semifinals, showcasing the ability of Treasure State communities to develop exceptional student-athletes able to compete on a national stage.

As our state prepares for a weekend filled with camaraderie, friendly rivalry, and spirited support for our teams, I want to extend my gratitude to the athletes, coaches, staff, athletes' parents, and fans who have made this season one to remember. Bravo Zulu on a remarkable journey thus far. Mr. Speaker, I wish them good luck this weekend. Win or lose, Montanans will be watching and cheering them on. I include in the RECORD the names of the players and coaches for the University of Montana and Montana State University:

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA PLAYERS

Monte Gillman, Terahiti Wolfe, Drew Deck, Micah Harper, Brooks Davis, Jeilani Davis, Blake Bohannon, Dane Parker, Ian Finch, Kyon Loud, Prince Ford, Michael Wortham, Malae Fonoti, Kash Goicoechea, Keali'i Ah Yat, Kenzel Lawler, Justus Breston, Jordan Dever, Eli Gillman, TJ Rausch, Cameron Gurnsey, Elijahah Tolbert, Elijah Brady, Gage Sliter, Brock Beaner, Lekeldrick Bridges, DeAnte Gentry, Korbin Hendrix, Jake Jensen, Kade Boyd, Luke Flowers, Cody Schweikert, Drew Price, Sage Salopek, Stevie Rucker Jr., Rashid Mansour, Diezel Wilkinson, Brady Beaner, Chase Cook, Hashim Jones, Tanner Huff, Kade Cutler, Tommy Running Rabbit, Geno Leonard, Peyton Wing, Taylor Jones, Talen Reynolds,

Grady Walker, Ty Morrison, Garrett Speer, Clay Oven, Caleb Moran, Fynn Ridgeway, Colton Lentz, Giovanni Pifferini, Grayson Pibal, Titus Rohrer, Caleb Otlewski, Jo Silver, Kellen Detrick, Styles Goodman, Isaac Keim, Sam Merriman, Spencer Tripp, Cy Stevenson, Bridger Salveold, Austin Buehler, Hunter Peck, Jake Mason, Solomon Tuliaupupu, Hayden Opitz, Dillon Botner, Lincoln Hoefler, Everett Johnson, Kaikoa Kanakaole, Matt Hilden, Dylan Jemtegaard, Ezra Meyer, Torin Jeske, Cannon Panfiloff, Colin Amick, Quinlan Hyatt, Cade Klimczak, Trevor Steinbach, Tate Templeton, Jose Balver-Mendoza, Patrick Matan, Carter Bowen, Lucas Freitas, Liam Brown, Jammel Ward, Josh Gale, Evan Shafer, Bridger Smith, Weston Adams, Jake Olson, Danny Sirmon, Jareb Ramos, Cooper Buffington, Zekiel Seumalo, Cole Muilenburg, Cole Harpole, Derek Moreland, Logan Knaevelsrud, Hayden Schwartz, Matai Mata'afa, Braydon Bailey.

COACHES

Bobby Hauck, Brent Pease, Roger Cooper, Tim Hauck, Rob Phenicie, Justin Green, Bobby Kennedy, Kim McCloud, Cameron Norcross, Mike Linehan, Dan Ryan, Jimmy Morimoto, Keaton Johnson, Will McFarland, Kent Baer, Alex Gubner, Eric Price, Tanner Sneed, Max Milton, Brayton Boyer.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

PLAYERS

Takhari Carr, Chris Long, Jhase McMillan, Taki Uluilakepa, Kory Boyd, Jared White, Jacob Trimble, Caden Dowler, Javonte King, Bryant Meredith, River Warren, Tayden Gray, Justin Lamson, Carson Williams, Seth Johnson, Ryan King, Bryce Grebe, Jabez Woods, Kenneth Eiden IV, Maxwell Hendrick, Ryan Bowles, Jordan Reed, Jackson Harmon, Chance Wilson, Taco Dowler, Patrick Duchien, Ife Ohalete, Brendon Ross, Hayden Gunlock, Grant Vigen, Parker Mady, Tim Thomas II, Tom Carter, Neil Dally, Kee Christiansen, Marcus Coleman II, Shanko Kornachuk, Adam Jones, Colter Petre, Nick Seymour, Cale Breslin, Luke Oxarart, Malachi Claunch, Brock Steel, Colson Coon, JJ Dolan, Colby Frokjer, Vinnie Souza, Julius Davis, Mason Dethman, Cole Taylor, Tommy Springman, Zac Crews, Josh Woodberry, Michael Rubich, Myles Sansted, Brody Johnson, Paul Brott, Ryan Krahe, Xavier Ahrens, Jake Vigen, Hunter Parsons, Logan Fredericksen, George Helms, Blaine Downing, Zac Waible, Zack Black, Dalton Noble, Nicholas Maloff, Zac Nyland, JT Reed, AJ Tanupo, Samora Ezekiel, Everett Carr, Dominic Solano, Tommy Nilson, Aiden Kaplan, Dylan Rollins, Burke Mastel, Vaughn Wirkus, Titan Fleischmann, Nate Thornton, Jaren Perkins, Braden Zimmer, Cedric Jefferson, Ben Winters, Jonathan Luhmann, Luvens Valcin, Carter Cocke, Luke Smith, Kash Embry, Dane Steel, Carter Curnow, Hunter Provience, Thomas Buchanan, Rylan Schlepp, Rocky Lencioni, Hunter Sharbono, Seth Brock, Grayson Schneider, Josaiiah Asuega, Major Thornhill, Alec Eckert, Hudson Wiens, Talon Marsh.

COACHES

Brent Vigen, Shawn Howe, Pete Sterbick, Marcus Monaco, Jody Owens, Nick Jean-Baptiste, Sam Mix, Bryan Shepherd, Matt Smith, Jordan Walsh, Josh Firm, Trenton Greene, Jake Dusenbury, Jesse Moser, Sean Chambers, Kianté Goudeau, Derek Griebel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, I was not able to cast a vote on Roll Call No. 343, H. Res. 953. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 343.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, at the end of a long series of votes today, I missed the final vote on Representative CRENSHAW's misnamed Do No Harm in Medicaid Act, which would prohibit Medicaid from covering gender-affirming care for youth. I would have voted No, just as I did when Republicans proposed this outrageous policy earlier this year.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 361, and NAY on Roll Call No. 362.

HONORING TEXARKANA BEING DESIGNATED AS A MILITARY FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the cities of Texarkana, Texas, and Arkansas, recently designated as a Military Friendly Community.

This is a proud moment for Texarkana, on both sides of the state line. I want to congratulate the Texarkana USA Regional Chamber of Commerce, the cities of Texarkana in Arkansas and Texas, and community partners on this meaningful recognition.

This recognition reflects the deep values of East Texas. For generations, Texarkana has been shaped by the service and sacrifice of the men and women serving our country. Our community has long understood that supporting our military means creating real opportunities, strong partnerships, and a welcoming environment for service members, veterans, and their families.

I am especially proud of the Chamber's leadership in leading this effort and bringing together businesses, employers, and organizations that recognize the skills and leadership our military community brings to the workforce.

Texarkana continues to set an example of what a supportive military community looks like. I am grateful for the commitment to duty and honor that leads our community.

I congratulate them on this important accomplishment. Together, we will continue to stand united in support of those who have served and those who continue to serve our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE HERBIE L. SOLOMON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished jurist, public servant, and Navy veteran as he retires after over two decades serving as a Juvenile Court Judge in Dougherty County, Georgia. A community event to celebrate his retirement will be held on December 30, 2025, in Dougherty County.

Originally from Milledgeville, Georgia, Judge Solomon is a graduate of J.F. Boddie High School, and he received his Bachelor of Science in History from Tuskegee University with honors in 1972. He was awarded a Juris Doctor from The National Law Center, George Washington University, in 1975, before earning the Master Advocate from the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Emory University, College of Law.

After law school Judge Solomon served in the United States Navy as a Judge Advocate General at NLSO San Diego, California from 1976 to 1980, as defense and prosecuting attorney in over 300 Special and General Court Martials. He continued his military service in the Naval Reserve until the year 2000 when he retired with the rank of Commander.

Judge Solomon is an attorney who has fulfilled many legal roles in service to others. From 1980 to 1994 he served as Senior Staff Attorney with the Georgia Legal Services Program, a nonprofit organization that provides free civil legal help for low-income people and seniors. In this role he was able to practice law throughout Southwest Georgia and help countless families in need. He also taught Military Justice NROTC at Morehouse College, has served on the State Supreme Court Committee for Justice for Children, has been a lecturer on legal trial advocacy, and has argued several cases before the Georgia Court of Appeals. In December 1999, he was appointed as the Juvenile Court Judge of Dougherty County and was appointed as Dougherty County's first full-time Juvenile Court Judge in July 2005, where he currently serves today.

Judge Solomon is a member of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church where he serves as a trustee. He is a member of the National Bar Association, American Bar Association, National Naval Officers Association, and past president of The Criterion Club of Albany, Georgia, charter president of Albany Midtown Optimist Club, and past board member at the YMCA. He previously coached youth basketball at the local YMCA, helping his teams capture three state championships.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this Earth." Judge Herbie L. Solomon has paid his rent and paid it well. Whether he was serving our country in the U.S. Navy, providing free legal services to Georgia families, or teaching in the classroom, or presiding at the bench, Judge Solomon has consistently served others and worked to uplift humankind.

Judge Solomon has accomplished so much throughout his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his late wife, Jean Wright Solomon, and his two children, Tamara and Herbie Solomon, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the over 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in congratulating Judge Herbie L. Solomon on his retirement after 20 years of service to the Juvenile Court of Dougherty County. We send him all the best as he begins an exciting next chapter.

RECOGNIZING PAUL
STECHSCHULTE FOR WINNING
THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF
TITLE

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school athlete from Ohio's 5th Congressional District. Paul Stechschulte, a sophomore at Kalida High School, has represented his school ably on his way to achieving the Division III State Golf Title. Paul overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in his effort to win the title.

In pursuing the State Championship, Paul defeated his opponents with an impressive final total of 140. His hard work and dedication, both on and off the course, in achieving this accomplishment is truly outstanding. He has achieved an impressive season, bringing pride to his school and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Paul Stechschulte of Kalida High School. On behalf of the people of the 5th District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE INDUCTEES OF
OMAHA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
2025 HALL OF FAME

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the twelve distinguished inductees of the Omaha Central High School Hall of Fame. On October 9, 2025, the Central High School Alumni Association and Foundation honored alumni for their outstanding accomplishments in the realms of business, education, and public service. In honoring them I hope to inspire students across Omaha to excel in a similar way by building a legacy of excellence and community leadership.

I include in the RECORD, the names of the inductees who embody such dedication:

Hazel Hempel Abel, the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Nebraska; Stuart Oberman, for technological advancement as a computer engineer; Pete Festersen, the longest-serving Omaha City Council member who has demonstrated decades of dedication to public service; Joel Rogers, a courageous veteran and international affairs specialist who is a dedicated volunteer, continuously supporting JROTC students and veterans; Donald Goldstein, who has tirelessly promoted human rights and Holocaust education; Quatesha Kern, who was recognized

as Texas Teacher of the Year and is a prominent advocate of inclusion and civic engagement; Gary and Cheryl Marks Willis, who have shown astounding commitment to Central High's alumni association and advancing nonprofit organizations; the late Paul Semrad, a distinguished educator at Central High for 32 years who mentored students and led his teams to record setting victories; Jeannene Rice Mason and Jeannette Rice Johnson who worked to preserve Central High's history; and Patricia Wright Brown, a renowned civil rights activist.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the recipients of this year's Hall of Fame class and thank the Central High School Foundation, faculty, and students who made these awards possible. I am excited to see how these deserving Nebraskans can continue to make a positive impact on our wonderful community.

HONORING NORMAN PODHORETZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2025, America lost a Devoted Patriot with the death of Norman Podhoretz. As Hugh Hewitt, Fox News contributor said, "What a great American Norman Podhoretz was." I include in the RECORD a grateful review of his accomplishments in his obituary below, published and written by Legacy:

Norman Harold Podhoretz, a towering and often contentious figure in American political thought whose editorial leadership at Commentary magazine helped shape the neoconservative movement, died December 16, 2025, in New York City at the age of 95.

Born January 16, 1930, Podhoretz grew up in New York City, in Brooklyn's Brownsville neighborhood. He was the son of Jewish immigrants.

Podhoretz attended Boys High School in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood and earned his undergraduate degree in English literature from Columbia University in 1950. He also studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and received degrees from Clare College, Cambridge University.

After serving in the U.S. Army in the 1950s, Podhoretz began his career as a promising young literary critic, contributing to Commentary by the early '50s. By 1960, at just 30 years old, he was named editor-in-chief of Commentary, the influential magazine of the American Jewish Committee. Under his stewardship until 1995, he transformed it from a relatively modest journal into a leading platform for neoconservative thought.

His editorial tenure helped launch and elevate the careers of figures such as Jeane Kirkpatrick and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, whose essays in Commentary contributed to their later roles in public service.

Podhoretz authored numerous books, most notably his 1967 memoir "Making It," which candidly recounted his rise from a Brooklyn upbringing to the center of American intellectual life.

His political evolution from liberal literary critic to one of the nation's most vocal conservative commentators marked much of his career. Often provocative, he pressed for assertive U.S. foreign policy and became a leading voice against Soviet détente and later, in the post-9/11 era, global radical Islam.

In 2004, Podhoretz received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor, from President George W. Bush in recognition of his influence on public discourse.

Podhoretz was married to Midge Decter, a fellow conservative writer and editor, from 1956 until her death in 2022. They had two children together: John Podhoretz, a conservative columnist and editor, and Ruthie Blum, a journalist. He also was stepfather to Rachel Decter Abrams, who predeceased him.

In announcing his death, his son said his father was "a man of great wit and a man of deep wisdom and he lived an astonishing and uniquely American life."

HONORING ABRAHAM ISSAC
QUINTANILLA, JR.

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Abraham Isaac Quintanilla, Jr., a devoted father and cultural figure whose influence helped shape one of the most iconic stories in American and Latin music.

Born on February 20, 1939, Quintanilla's life paralleled the gradual rise of Mexican American representation in U.S. popular culture. His story is intertwined with the history of Tejano music, a genre that celebrates two cultures by blending traditional Mexican folk sounds and American musical elements. Abraham Quintanilla was a Tejano artist and part of the musical group, Los Dinos. Throughout this time, Abraham had to navigate an industry that routinely dismissed Spanish-language music.

After marrying Marcella Samora in 1963 and eventually settling in Lake Jackson, Texas, he and his wife raised their three children, A.B., Suzette, and Selena, where he created a home that shared a love for music. After economic hardship in the early 1980's, Mr. Quintanilla committed to managing his children as a family band, Selena y Los Dinos, guiding them through years of performances across Texas and the Southwest. He devoted particular care to Selena's development, ensuring she mastered Spanish-language performance in a genre where women were typically overlooked.

Under his management, Selena rose to become the "Queen of Tejano Music." She broke barriers in a male-dominated genre, earned the admiration of millions, and achieved milestones that reshaped the industry, including a Grammy Award and a multi-platinum album. Her career offered representation and pride to Mexican Americans nationwide and demonstrated the power of cultural authenticity.

Following Selena's tragic death in 1995, Mr. Quintanilla dedicated his life to preserving her legacy. Through Q-Productions and the Selena Foundation, he worked to honor her memory and support underprivileged children, ensuring that her impact would endure.

Mr. Speaker, Abraham Quintanilla, Jr.'s legacy highlights the importance of family, perseverance, and cultural appreciation. His life's work helped expand the American musical landscape and uplift South Texas voices. May his legacy continue to inspire others.

CONGRATULATING ANTHONY
“AMP” ELMORE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Memphis native, African cultural ambassador, and five-time world heavyweight karate-kickboxing champion Anthony “Amp” Elmore, a resident of the historic Orange Mound neighborhood in Memphis, which was the Nation’s first subdivision planned specifically for African Americans.

Mr. Elmore gave President Obama a custom-made African Mudcloth Tuxedo from Ghana for his inauguration in 2009. Mudcloth is a traditional handmade cotton fabric with geometric patterns made with dyes from fermented mud. I had the honor of delivering the suit to the White House at Mr. Elmore’s request. The White House said at the time that the tuxedo would be displayed at the Obama Presidential Library on the South Side of Chicago when it opened, which is now scheduled for next year. In a note to Mr. Elmore dated July 14, 2009, President Obama thanked him for the gift. “Your thoughtfulness and generosity are much appreciated,” the president wrote. Earlier this month, Mr. Elmore learned that a digital picture of the tuxedo is now on display at the National Archives and Records

Administration. Mr. Elmore traveled to Africa for the first time in 1998 and became familiar with its traditional clothing making. He now operates Elmore African Imports from Memphis, selling African artifacts and rugs.

He is also known for “The Contemporary Gladiator,” a film about kick-boxing that Mr. Elmore wrote, directed, and starred in. I have long appreciated Mr. Elmore’s efforts to bridge Africa and African Americans with commerce and made a speech from the House floor in 2009 praising those efforts. I have visited him at his home where African artifacts are on display. I plan to visit the Obama Presidential Library soon after it opens and look forward to being reacquainted with the historic Mudcloth Tuxedo.

HONORING DANVILLE FARMS IN
KILGORE, TEXAS

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danville Farms in Kilgore, which enters its final season this month after 40 years as one of East Texas’s most cherished Christmas traditions.

For four decades, James and Mary Robinson welcomed families from across our region

to their farm in the Piney Woods, offering not just Christmas trees, but an experience rooted in faith, family, hard work, and hospitality. Generations of East Texans built traditions at Danville Farms, walking the fields together, cutting their own trees, riding the tractor, warming up by the fire, and sharing hot chocolate on cold December days. Many families speak of returning year after year, first with their children and later with their grandchildren, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Many of my own staff, who grew up in this part of Texas, fondly recall their childhood trips to Danville Farms. For them, and for thousands of others across East Texas, the Christmas season simply was not complete without that annual visit.

The Robinson family created something truly special. They built a place where relationships mattered, where visitors were treated like family, and where the joy of the Christmas season was shared generously with all who came through the gates. As they step away from the business, we honor not only their dedication, but the countless moments of joy, reflection, and togetherness they provided to our community.

Danville Farms may close its gates, but its legacy will live on in the families it served and in the memories that continue to be passed down from one generation to the next across East Texas.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8877–S8940

Measures Introduced: Twenty-two bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3558–3579, and S. Res. 568–573. **Page S8920**

Measures Passed:

Diplomatic Relations between the United States and Vietnam: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 321, commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 2025, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S8891–93**

Thune (for Merkley/Daines) Amendment No. 4140, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S8891–92**

Thune (for Merkley/Daines) Amendment No. 4141, to amend the preamble. **Page S8892**

Naval Air Station Pensacola Terrorist Attack: Senate agreed to S. Res. 571, remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty. **Page S8893**

Honoring National Guard Members killed in Syria: Senate agreed to S. Res. 572, 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. **Pages S8893–94**

Trafficking Survivors Relief Act: Senate passed H.R. 4323, to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking. **Page S8894**

Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act: Senate passed S. 1383, to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S8894–95**

Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1204, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain spouses eligible for services under the disabled veterans' outreach program, and the bill was then passed. **Page S8895**

FAST VETS Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4446, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and the bill was then passed. **Page S8895**

VA Budget Shortfall Accountability Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1823, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the bill was then passed. **Page S8895**

VetPAC Act of 2025: Senate passed S. 787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S8895–98**

Thune (for Moran) Amendment No. 4142, to remove the authorization of appropriations for such sums as may be necessary. **Pages S8897–98**

Improving Veteran Access to Care Act: Senate passed S. 607, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and implement a plan to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the committee amendment to the title. **Pages S8898–99**

Measures Failed:

Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act: By 50 yeas to 50 nays (Vote

No. 654), Senate failed to pass S.J. Res. 82, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to “Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act”.

Page S8888

Appointments:

United States-China Economic and Security Review: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Honorable Randall Schriver of Virginia.

Pages S8938, S8939

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

Page S8938

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate convene for pro forma sessions, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times: Friday, December 19, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.; Friday, December 26, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at 11 a.m.; Friday, January 2, 2026, at 3 p.m.; Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 12 noon; and that when the Senate adjourns on Saturday, January 3, 2026, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Pages S8938–39

Simmons Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Joshua Simmons, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Pages S8899, S8901–02

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 656), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S8901

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, if cloture is invoked on the nominations of Joshua Simmons, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intel-

ligence Agency, Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, and Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, all post-cloture time be expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, no earlier than January 5, 2026.

Page S8902

Bass Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Page S8902

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 58 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. EX. 657), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S8902

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, January 5, 2026, Senate execute the order of Thursday, December 18, 2025, in relation to the nomination.

Pages S8938–39

Van Hook Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Page S8902

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 60 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 658), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S8902

Bailey Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

Pages S8902–03

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 659), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S8903

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, the only nominations received by the Senate during the 119th Congress, first session, to remain in status quo, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, be the following: Exec. Cal. No. 241 and 503, and PN No. 415, 446, 587, 588, 593, 595, 620, 621, 622, 658, 675, 676, 677, 680, 681, 682, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712–1, 712–2, 713, 714, 715–1, 715–2, 716, 717, 718, 719, and 720.

Page S8938

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 655), Senate confirmed the following nominations en bloc:

Robert Kadlec, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Henry Mack III, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Harry Kumar, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

James Percival, of Florida, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

Andrew Veprek, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

Melissa Argyros, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia.

Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

Leo Brent Bozell III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa.

Crystal Carey, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for term of four years.

Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Andorra.

Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Derek Theurer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor.

Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

David Beck, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Amy Henninger, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

Charles Young III, of West Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army.

Pedro Allende, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

Charles Arrington, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term expiring July 1, 2030.

Michael Borders, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense.

David Denton, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Benjamin Hobbs, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

Ronald Kurtz, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

William Lane III, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

Jonathan Burke, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury.

Jeffrey Goettman, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Africa, Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Environment, Labor, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the Rank of Ambassador.

Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense.

John Noh, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Chris Pilkerton, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security.

Stella Herrell, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Yehuda Kaploun, of Florida, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador.

Morvared Namdarkhan, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs).

Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru.

Darryl Nirenberg, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Romania.

Braden Boucek, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

James Caggy, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

David Courcelle, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Dominick Gerace II, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of four years.

Mitch Graves, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029.

Jeff Hagood, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029.

Randall Jones, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2028.

James Kruger, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

Scott Leary, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Adam Mildred, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of four years.

Arjun Mody, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Commissioner Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2031.

Rosario Palmieri, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Bryan Stirling, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years.

Thomas Wheeler II, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of four years.

Julie Callahan, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Jerome Francis Gorgon, Jr., of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years.

Arthur Graham, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2026.

Paul Hollis, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years.

Ryan Anthony Kriegshauser, of Kansas, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas for the term of four years.

Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2029.

James Murphy, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2027.

John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture.

Thomas Albus, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of four years.

Timothy Dill, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Andrew Duva, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Thomas Ferguson III, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Michael Payne, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense.

Maurice Todd, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Douglas Troutman, of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services.

Francis Cassidy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Joseph Gormley, of Maryland, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association.

Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

Tammy Bruce, of California, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador; the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations; and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her

tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Brent Christensen, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Stephen F. Rickard, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Elana S. Suttenger, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

Peter Metzger, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

Trent Morse, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2030.

Christopher Yeaw, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Stability).

Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring November 30, 2030.

Erin Creggan, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years.

Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years.

Michael Selig, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Michael Selig, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2029.

Pages S8899–8901, 8903–04

1 Coast Guard nomination in the rank of admiral.

Page S8938

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

95 Army nominations in the rank of general.

11 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Pages S8939–40

Messages from the House:

Page S8919

Measures Referred:

Page S8919

Measures Discharged:

Page S8919

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Pages S8919–20

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S8921–23

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S8923–24

Additional Statements:

Pages S8917–19

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S8924–38

Notices of Intent:

Page S8938

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—659)

Pages S8888, S8899, S8901–03

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:07 p.m., until 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 19, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8939.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 77 public bills, H.R. 6833–6909; and 11 resolutions, H.J. Res. 135; and H. Res. 959–968, were introduced.

Pages H6112–16

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H6118–19

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2270, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude child and dependent care services and payments from the rate used to compute overtime compensation, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–413); and

H.R. 4054, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reform accreditation, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–414).

Page H6112

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Carol Miller (WV) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6027**

Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act: The House passed 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, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 221 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 356.

Pages H6029–33, H6033–44, H6065–69

Rejected the Lee (NV) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources by a yeas-and-nays vote of 206 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 355. **Page H6068**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Pages H6037–40**

Rejected:

Clyde amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 119–410) that sought to clarify that direct harm does not include emotional, aesthetic, or recreational harm unaccompanied by a material physical or property harm (by a recorded vote of 205 yeas to 220 noes, Roll No. 352); **Pages H6040–41, H6066**

Roy amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 119–410) that sought to revise the scope of review clause so the bill clarifies that NEPA review only applies to environmental impacts that the lead agency or cooperating federal agencies have the legal authority to regulate (by a recorded vote of 208 yeas to 214 noes, Roll No. 353); and

Pages H6041–42, H6066–67

Roy amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 119–410) that sought to define further what significant effects will trigger an Environmental Impact Statement (by a recorded vote of 204 yeas to 217 noes, Roll No. 354). **Pages H6042–44, H6067**

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 Tuesday, December 16th.

Mining Regulatory Clarity Act: The House passed H.R. 1366, to provide for the location of multiple hardrock mining mill sites, to establish the Abandoned Hardrock Mine Fund. by a yeas-and-nays vote of 219 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 358.

Pages H6044–49, H6069–70

Rejected the Leger Fernandez motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources by a yeas-and-nays vote of 205 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 357. **Pages H6069–70**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H6044**

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 Tuesday, December 16th.

Pet and Livestock Protection Act: The House passed H.R. 845, to require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 211 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 360.

Pages H6049–56, H6070–72

Rejected the Huffman motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources by a yeas-and-nays vote of 204 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 359. **Pages H6056, H6070–71**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Pages H6049–50**

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 Tuesday, December 16th.

Do No Harm in Medicaid Act: The House passed H.R. 498, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for gender transition procedures for minors, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 215 yeas to 201 nays, Roll No. 362.

Pages H6057–65, H6072–73

Rejected the Soto motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a yeas-and-nays vote of 204 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 361.

Page H6072

H. Res. 953, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 6703), (H.R. 498), and (H.R. 3492) was agreed to yesterday, December 17th.

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Thursday, December 18, 2025, through Monday, January 5, 2026 as a “district work period” under clause 13 of rule 1. **Page H6073**

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication: Read a letter from Chairman Graves wherein he transmitted copies of three resolutions included in the General Services Administration’s Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. The resolutions were adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 18, 2025. **Pages H6073–94**

Senate Referrals: S. 2393 was held at the desk. S. 2503 was held at the desk. S. 3436 was held at the desk.

Page H6033

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page H6033.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Eight yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H6066, H6066–67, H6067, H6068, H6068–69, H6069–70, H6070, H6070–71, H6071–72, H6072, and H6072–73.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT DESIGNATION FOR TWO PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES CHEMISTRIES AND POTENTIAL POLICY RESPONSES TO SUPERFUND LIABILITY CONCERNS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled "Examining the Impact of EPA's CERCLA Designation for Two PFAS Chemistries and Potential Policy Responses to Superfund Liability Concerns.". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on 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. 3497, the "Medal of Sacrifice Act"; and H.R. 5625, the "Cashless Bail Reporting Act". H.R. 6719, H.R. 6732, H.R. 6715, H.R. 3497, and H.R. 5625 were ordered reported, as amended.

RESEARCH SECURITY: EXAMINING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT AND NATIONAL SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM 33

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled "Research Security: Examining the Implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act and NSPM-33". Testimony was heard from Rebecca Keiser, Acting Chief of Staff, National Science Foundation; Daniel Evans, Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Research, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Patricia Valdez, Chief Ex-

tramural Research Integrity Officer, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; and Jay Tilden, Director of Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, Department of Energy.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6422, the "American Water Stewardship Act"; H.R. 5663, the "ACPAC Modernization Act"; H.R. 6427, the "Airport Regulatory Relief Act of 2025"; H.R. 6086, the "Aviation Funding Solvency Act"; H.R. 3410, the "Supersonic Aviation Modernization Act"; H.R. 6267, the "Aviation Supply Chain Safety and Security Digitization Act of 2025"; H.R. 6460, the "Recreational Drone Empowerment Act"; H.R. 5783, the "State Actions for Employing Transportation Risk Assessments and Crossing Knowledge Strategies 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; and H.R. 6481, the "Federal Building Threat Notification Act". H.R. 6422, H.R. 5663, H.R. 6427, H.R. 6086, and H.R. 3410 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 6267, H.R. 6460, H.R. 5783, H.R. 6480, and H.R. 6481 were ordered reported without amendment.

EXAMINING THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY'S USE OF COMMERCIAL INFORMATION

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Examining the Intelligence Community's use of Commercial Information". Testimony was heard from Aaron Lukas, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence; Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; and Lieutenant General Michele Bredenkamp, Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine Bosnia and Herzegovina at a crossroads, focusing on thirty years after Dayton, after receiving testimony from Christopher Chivvis, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and Clint Williamson, Georgetown University.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 19, 2025**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11:30 a.m., Friday, December 19

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2:30 p.m., Friday, December 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 2:30 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bacon, Don, Nebr., E1223, E1232
 Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E1224, E1231
 Budzinski, Nikki, Ill., E1228
 Cohen, Steve, Tenn., E1223, E1228, E1233
 Diaz-Balart, Mario, Fla., E1227
 Doggett, Lloyd, Tex., E1231
 Downing, Troy, Mont., E1225
 Espaillat, Adriano, N.Y., E1231

Finstad, Brad, Minn., E1225
 Garcia, Robert, Calif., E1227
 Gonzalez, Vicente, Tex., E1223, E1232
 Griffith, H. Morgan, Va., E1225
 Johnson, Dusty, S.D., E1225
 LaHood, Darin, Ill., E1230
 Latta, Robert E., Ohio, E1224, E1232
 McCollum, Betty, Minn., E1229
 Moran, Nathaniel, Tex., E1223, E1224, E1227, E1228, E1231, E1233

Neal, Richard E., Mass., E1229
 Perry, Scott, Pa., E1225
 Scott, Robert C. "Bobby", Va., E1229
 Smith, Adam, Wash., E1227
 Vargas, Juan, Calif., E1227
 Waters, Maxine, Calif., E1228
 Wilson, Joe, S.C., E1223, E1232
 Zinke, Ryan K., Mont., E1230



Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at www.govinfo.gov, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, contactcenter@gpo.gov. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087-390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are